

Spiritual Leadership Development

NEWSLETTER

SLD Newsletter

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The Newsletter

This month's SLD Newsletter includes:

- Where to go when you have questions about Lads-to-Leaders
- A new segment to Family Focus
- Info on The Challenge in 2010

Glenn

"... he who leads; with diligence..."
Romans 12.8

Have L2L Questions?

1. Contact the coordinator of the event in question. You may view a listing of our current coordinators by visiting:

www.gtownchurchofchrist.org

2. Checkout the Lads-to-Leaders website at:

www.lads-to-leaders.org

3. Contact the Germantown Group Coordinators:

Glenn and Dee Daily

Family Focus

Family Focus is a section in the SLD Newsletter which provides a way for us to learn more about new members and families to our congregation. If you are new to the congregation please fill out the questionnaire in your new member packet so we can get to know you better!

Beginning in 2010 we will have Family Focus sections on our elders and wives. This will allow us to know more about our shepherds.

Use the knowledge you gain to start a conversation and build a friendship!

The Challenge

10 Men
10 Weeks
10 Challenges

Men:

Do you want:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| to grow spiritually? | have closer friendships? |
| use your talents? | strengthen your trust in God? |
| serve others? | display Christ in your life? |
| build confidence? | better conform to the image of Christ? |

Then you need to take **The Challenge!**

Mark your calendar now! During January, February and early March the Men's Leadership Challenge will meet on Tuesday nights. Look for sign-up sheets in the South hallway beginning November 29. More info to come in next month's newsletter.

Have questions? See Jason Speed, who will be the facilitator again in 2010. Want to ask someone who has taken The Challenge if you are a good candidate? See Glenn Daily for a contact to ask. There are 37 men who have already taken The Challenge!

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Prepared by
Glenn Daily

for the members
of the Germantown
church of Christ as
we lead by being
Christian servants.

On Wednesday nights we continue in **A Walk through the Old Testament..** Over a period of 2+ years we have studied Genesis through Isaiah chapter by chapter; discussing the major themes of each book and specific texts within the books. We are currently in Jeremiah and have discussed the balm of Gilead. This phrase is familiar to us since we sing a Christian hymn about the balm of Gilead.

This month **PAGE 2** of the SLD Newsletter provides some more detail behind the region of Gilead, the balm, the context within the book of Jeremiah and an application to us today.

Come join us on **A Walk through the Old Testament** on Wednesday nights.

Is there no balm in Gilead? Jeremiah 8.22

The Balm of Gilead

Gilead was an area on the east side of the Jordan River (Judg 10.8) included in the territory settled by the tribes of Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh (Deut 3.12-17). Gilead means "hill of testimony or mound of witness" and comes from a root word which means "curly (of hair) or difficult (of terrain)." The region was hill country (Gen 31.21).

The area of Gilead was known for the product balm (Jer 46.11). The Hebrew word, *sôrî*, which is translated balm, is found in the OT only 6 times.

Scholars believe balm was a resin or sap extracted from one or more of the few types of trees which grew in the Gilead region. Balm was exported from Gilead to places such as Egypt and Tyre (Gen 37.25; 43.11; Ezek 27.17). Some references to balm suggest a soothing salve applied for medicinal purposes (Jer 51.8). The people of many regions had a high regard for the balm, which was specifically found in Gilead, as a healing salve to either ease pain or cover the smell of festering wounds.



Is there no balm in Gilead?

Through Jeremiah the prophet God brought many judgment speeches and laments to the people of Judah and the capital city of Jerusalem. Because of the sins of the people God would bring an enemy from the north upon Judah. The prophet's words have a pattern of speeches on sin to oracles on judgment to laments of grief.

An example of this pattern by Jeremiah is found in chapter 8. Jeremiah describes the sins (Jer 8.4-8), announces the judgment (8.9-10) and laments over the distress of the people (8.14-9.1). Although we do not know the specific date of the prophecy described in this text the Babylonians did overtake the city of Jerusalem in 587-586 BC. The people of Jerusalem suffered greatly and many were taken into captivity.

As the fall of Jerusalem nears the prophet laments for the people. Disaster, destruction and devastation approach as the enemy comes from the north. Many will die or be taken into captivity; others will become sick or be wounded. The people need healing and closing of their wounds.

My sorrow is beyond healing,
My heart is faint within me!
Jeremiah 8.18

Harvest is past, summer has ended,
And we are not saved.
Jeremiah 8.20

Is there no balm in Gilead?
Is there no physician there?
Why then has not the health of the
daughter of my people been
restored?
Jeremiah 8.22

There is no relief. The healing cannot be found so they look to a known source of relief - the balm of Gilead. Even the balm cannot be found; the people are in great distress with little or no hope of a remedy.

There is a Balm in Gilead

At times we can find ourselves in need of a healing; literally, with an illness or a disease or broken bones. Also, we can be in life situations which bring us distress. Issues with family, friendships, finances, employment and other aspects of life can cause wounds which need a remedy. We may feel there is no place to go for our healing. We may have tried so many ways to resolve our pain that we feel there is nowhere else to go. Is there no balm in Gilead for us?

There is a balm in Gilead. Our balm in Gilead is Jesus. We have remedy and comfort in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. An old-time African-American hymn states the thought this way:

There is a balm in Gilead
To make the wounded whole;
There is a balm in Gilead
To heal the sin sick soul.

Jesus is the great physician. He healed the people of their diseases and their sins.

And He answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up the poor have the gospel preached to them."

Luke 7.22

And hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Mark 2.13

And He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

1 Peter 2.24