



# Forest Home Church

Forest Home Church  
1751 Old Natchez Trace  
Franklin, TN 37069

[www.ForestHomeChurch.org](http://www.ForestHomeChurch.org)

February 20th, 2011

"Sharing, Loving & Exploring Life in Christ"

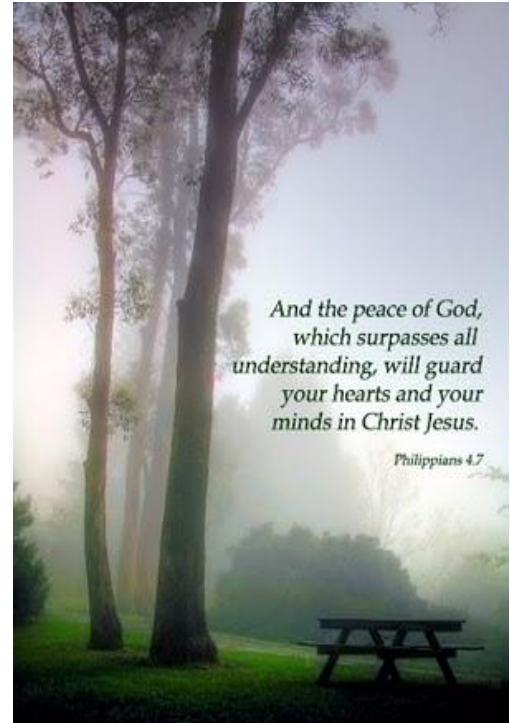
Send announcements, praises, and prayer requests to: [newsletter@foresthomechurch.org](mailto:newsletter@foresthomechurch.org)

## Going With the Grain

Is there one among us who has never had a splinter? Most everyone can recall the striking irritation of a sliver of wood stuck in our skin from rubbing against the wooden grain.

This very common experience happens on a universal scale as well. There are times we might even run against the grain of the universe. E. Stanley Jones illustrates with the story of how one young man experienced it.

"A young man decided he would give up the Christian faith and try the way of sin and do everything in the book that was unchristian. He wanted to see whether he belonged to this life of sin. At the end of the year, he wrote to a friend saying, 'Please help me to come home!' Goodness was home; sin was foreign. The young man thought that sin was natural, and that the Christian way made you out of step with everybody else in the universe. He read in one of my books that the Christian way was the natural way and that sin and evil were unnatural. He doubted the fact, but he was wrong. When he was a Christian, the sum total of reality was standing behind him, reinforcing him. The young man thought that being a Christian was out of step with the universe. Sitting in a restaurant, he surrendered to Christ. When he left the restaurant, he was clapping his hands in tune with nature. The trees were clapping their hands, nature was in tune with him, and the sum total of reality was behind him. Nevermore would he feel 'not at home' when he was a Christian. When we live this way, we have a sense of eternal belonging! We feel eternally at home." Walking with Jesus means we are going with the grain of the universe. That encourages us to hope and means a lot less pain in the long run. LH



## Prayers and Praises

- Our brothers/sisters in Africa: Jac Agak, Charles Ngoje, Jacob Randiek, and your orphan(s)
- Lord be near Jason Jordan & family in loss of Jason's grandfather
- Asking God's grace with Iris Cassidy's grandfather who is in hospice
- Lord's comfort with Kathleen and Sarah in loss of their mother/grandmother Doris
- Lord's comfort for Pat Prince in loss of her mother
- Thank you Lord that Lynn's brother Kelly is doing better
- Lord grant us repentance that sin may have no power over us
- Lord's continued anointing on Tommy's "Next Right Step" Ministry
- May Larry's brother continue to recover well from surgery
- Thank You for friends who share our ups and downs
- Lord grant freedom and flow of expression for Jim McAlister's writing
- Lord we pray and work for the good of our city
- Lord hound our wandering loved ones with your relentless love
- Lord please let those running find home in You
- Dawn Costello's uncle who has cancer
- Thank you Lord for those showing mercy and help in the body
- Thank You for blessing Azad in the Kurdish ministry
- Lord preserve and strengthen Frank's prison & neighborhood work
- Lord like the almond, let us Awake O Sleeper and Rise from the Dead
- We ask that all our young ones may grow to love You
- Thank you Lord for your healing ways
- Let our dreams and visions be of the Lord
- Let us hear Your voice our Great Shepherd
- Lisa Grimenstein in her time of Pregnancy and the health of the baby



Almond Trees Bloom This Week in California and Around the World

Even though it is still winter, the almond tree is blooming around the world. Sure enough, there will be more cold days, even frosts that kill blossoms at places for a time. But the almond makes no mistake, for the trees witness forth hope for a new world that is called Spring. The tree is living in view of the inevitable future season, and blossoming as a witness to its coming. It is on a different time clock, in step with what the world is coming to be, while still having roots in winter ground. The almond cannot help but appear out of place presently, but it is nonetheless beautiful. And it is more than beautiful; it is highly productive, wasting not a moment on the way to bearing fruit in the summer sun that confirms, "Your blooms were right all along."

As the almond is the first tree to awake from its winter dormancy in Israel, its Hebrew name is "Shaqed", meaning "the waker," from the word for watchful, awake, diligent or alert. At the start of Jeremiah the prophet's ministry, the almond played a symbolic role.

"The word of the Lord came to me, saying, 'Jeremiah, what do you see?' And I said, 'I see a branch of an almond tree (shaqed).' Then the Lord said to me, 'You have seen well, for I am watching (shoqed) over my word to perform it.' " (Jeremiah 1:11-12). The almond message encouraged Jeremiah to trust and hope in a future where God's word is true.

The almond inspired much artwork. It was the model for the branches of the lamp in the Tabernacle. The distinctive oval shape of its seed has been imitated through the halos in many paintings and stained glass. The halo was called a mandoria, the Italian word for almond. A musical instrument was also fashioned after the almond shape, called appropriately, the mandolin.

In development, almonds start off bitter and become sweet in growth. This is in contrast to another kind of nut called luz, which starts off sweet and becomes bitter. No wonder the almond is a sign for hope. Cold and bitter days are being transformed toward sweetness; there is momentary beauty that points toward a substantial future, for the almond is rooted in what is and what is to be. This is fitting parable of the Christian flowering of hope. LH

Older African Woman Wise as Serpent Harmless as Dove

When one comes to Jesus there is an awakening of the general personality. The Divine Yes [of Jesus] can be seen in a woman who came to Christ, and she felt that she wanted to do something for Jesus. But she was blind and seventy years of age, and, therefore her contributions did not seem to be very promising. She was uneducated, but she came to the missionary with her French Bible and said, "Would you mind underscoring John 3:16 in my Bible in red?" The missionary was very intrigued to see what she was going to do.

She took the French Bible and sat in front of a boy's school in the afternoon. When school was dismissed, she called these boys and said, "Boys come here please. Do you know French?" Very proudly they said that they did. "Please read to me this passage underscored in red in my Bible." They did. Then she would ask, "What does this mean to you, boys?" They said, "We don't know." Then she said, "I'll tell you what it means to me." And she told the story of the Gospel. Twenty-four young men became pastors or assistant pastors due to the work of that blind beggar. She was so transformed that people would call her "madame." She reached out and helped convert more than two dozen young people. She was no longer just a blind old woman; she was now a creative personality. (as told by E. Stanley Jones in his last writing, *The Divine Yes*)

God of the prophets, bless the prophet's sons;  
Elijah's mantle o'er Elisha cast.  
Each age its solemn task may claim but once;  
Make each one nobler, stronger, than the last.

Anoint them prophets ....  
Anoint them priests. Strong intercessors, ....  
Anoint them kings . . . .

Make them apostles, heralds of Thy Cross;  
Forth may they go to tell all realms Thy grace.  
Inspired of Thee, may they count all but loss  
And stand at last with joy before Thy face.

Denis Wortman 1884

Why was Aaron's rod that bloomed with almonds put in the ark?  
(See Numbers 17; Hebrews 9:4)



**CLASSES AND WORSHIP SCHEDULE @ FOREST HOME:**

Classes begin at 9 am. Worship begins at 10 am.

Grades and ages break down as follow:

Pre-K – Kindergarten

1<sup>st</sup> grade – 4<sup>th</sup> grade

5<sup>th</sup> grade and up

**2011 Calendar**

EACH TUES6:30 am @ the church, Men's Ministry

EACH WED5:00 pm @ the church, Women's Bible Study

Feb 25 Youth Night @ The Church 6pm-9pm

Feb 26 Church Work Day 9-Noon

Fe 27 Oscar Party @ Tim & Karen's (see Dee or Lauren for details)

March 10 Bryan & Isaac go to Togo

DATE	NURSERY (Infants to 2 yrs old) During sermon only	LORD'S SUPPER PREPARATION		WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER PREP	
		Feb/Mar	Allens Apr/May Grimensteins	Feb 23	Lisa/Liz
Feb 20	D'Ann McAlister			Mar 2	Linda/Lois
Feb 27	Ronna King			Mar 9	Ocie/Shannon
Mar 6	Kathy Grimenstein			Mar 16	Pat/Karen
Mar 13	Cecile Allen			Mar 23	Sarah/Kathleen
Mar 20	Jane Ann Myers			Mar 30	Lisa/Liz
Mar 27	Lois McAlister		(Sub-Grimensteins) See Jim G. with questions.		