

Reaching the Lost

Maybe you read the story online or saw it presented on the news, but in case you haven't seen it, let me share with you an excerpt from an article taken from www.cnn.com.

"A family stuck in a rip current narrowly avoided a tragedy when a crowd of strangers linked together to bring them back to land. Nine beachgoers, including two children and an elderly woman, were trapped in the current at Panama City Beach in Florida on Saturday. Bystanders on the shore saw them yelling and waving their arms, and they jumped into action.

"I saw a group of people, a few at first, and then more and more, start forming a human chain," witness Rosalind Beckton told CNN.

The chain grew to around 70 to 80 strangers, all holding hands and stretching to reach the trapped group. All of the swimmers made it out."

When I go to the beach, I don't usually get in the water for very long for this very reason. I am terrified of the rip current. I cannot imagine being one of those children or adults stuck in it and being swept further and further from safety. I cannot imagine being someone standing on the beach at a distance and watching as 80 total strangers came together to prevent this great tragedy. Furthermore, I cannot imagine being the first person to suggest going into the water, into the current and rescuing this family.

Jesus once asked a group of people, *"4 What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing,"* (Luke 15:4-5 ESV).

Clearly, this parable speaks to the love and determination with which God seeks after each person that is lost in their sin, however, let us consider it briefly from a different perspective. How many of us know someone that is not in a saving relationship with Jesus Christ? I would suggest that 100% of those present today do. Now let me ask this: **Are we doing everything that we can to bring them into the saving arms of the Lord?**

There are billions of people in this world that would go to extreme lengths to save a person's life. If we, as the church, do not resemble this in a constant, passion filled, determination to reach lost souls, then we are no more than a bystander actively choosing to do nothing. That is not someone I wish to be. Likewise, I cannot imagine it being someone that you want to be.

Church family, let's reach the lost.

Josh

Leachville church of Christ
609 S. Main St.
Leachville, AR 72438

Leachville Church of Christ



609 S. Main St.
Leachville, AR 72438
(870) 539-2274

www.leachvillechurchofchrist.org

Elders: Larry Brooks, Rudi Cagle, and Ken Beach
Deacons: Jerry Bolar, Joel Ingram, and Matthew Sills
Ministers: Raymond Lasley and Josh Vires
(870) 565-5097 (832) 904-2917

Sunday, July 16, 2017

<p align="center">Prayer List Updates</p> <p>Frankie Towell – had procedure for pain management</p> <p>Terry Elliott – Deanna Cagle’s uncle; passed away last week</p> <p>Terry and Corrigan Lafferty – arrived back home safely</p> <p>many members traveling</p> <p align="center">Birthday</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Renell Beach</td><td>July 19</td></tr> <tr><td>June Towell</td><td>July 19</td></tr> <tr><td>Rita Towell</td><td>July 21</td></tr> <tr><td>Jordan Whitaker</td><td>July 22</td></tr> </table>	Renell Beach	July 19	June Towell	July 19	Rita Towell	July 21	Jordan Whitaker	July 22	<p align="center">Upcoming Events</p> <p>July 23 2 pm baby shower for Kimberly Vires in the activity building; it’s a boy!</p> <p>July 30 fifth Sunday potluck after morning services; Sunday night singing</p> <p align="center">Memory Verse</p> <p>For this reason God highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow— of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth— and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.</p> <p align="center">Philippians 2:9-11</p>	<p align="center">Correspondence Course Ministry</p> <p align="center">week of July 10-15: 4 lessons graded</p> <hr/> <p align="center">July Haiti Needs</p> <p align="center">pencils/pens pencil sharpeners</p> <hr/> <p align="center">Last Week’s Attendance</p> <p align="center">Sunday morning: 48 Sunday evening: 31 Wednesday evening: 32</p>
Renell Beach	July 19									
June Towell	July 19									
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Weekly Service Assignments

Sunday Morning	Bible class: 9:45 am worship: 10:45 am	Sunday Evening	6:00 pm
First Prayer	Ken Beach	First Prayer	Larry Towell
Announcements	Matthew Sills	Closing Prayer	Josh Vires
Scripture Reading	Larry Towell	Lord’s Supper	Matthew Sills Rudi Cagle
Lord’s Supper	1. Braden Drury 2. Matthew Sills	Wednesday Evening	7:00 pm
	3. Ken Beach 4. Peter Salley	First Prayer	Raymond Lasley
Second Prayer	Raymond Lasley	Closing Prayer	Joel Ingram
Closing Prayer	Matt Greer		