

# Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

## Lost And Not Found

December 15, 2013

Issue 141

On New Year's Eve last year, Reese McKee of New Zealand, 25, encountered a girl named Katie on a sidewalk in Hong Kong. She was crying because she was separated from her friends, so Reese consoled her. Once her mood changed, Reese said that he and Katie spent all night talking and enjoying the city. Just before the two parted ways, Reese took a picture of Katie on his phone, and Katie said, "Find me," before disappearing into the night. He only knew her first name and that she was from Washington, D.C.

Throughout 2013, Reese became obsessed with finding Katie. He set up a Facebook page with Katie's pic-

ture and encouraged people to help him find her. But what seemed like a scene from a cheesy romantic movie quickly turned into a mild case of Internet harassment. Katie, who was easily found on Facebook, received over 2,000 messages from well-wishers who wanted Reese and Katie to reconnect. But she was so intimidated by the experience that she deleted all of her social media accounts. In the end, Katie didn't want to see Reese again. She didn't want to be found.

Jesus said that His purpose was to seek and save that which is lost. He shed enough blood to cover the sins of anyone who would

come to Him. Unfortunately, there are many who do not want to be found. They enjoy this world. They have stored up their treasures on earth. Their consciences are clear. They will die in their sins unless they change their paths.

Jesus did not come to this world to condemn, but to save (John 3:17). Those who are lost should not see Jesus as One whose arms are crossed. They should not see Him as One who wants to scold them. They should see him like the loving Father in the parable of the Prodigal Son. That image should cause the lost to run to their Savior.

James Hayes

### Items of Note:

- Jessica Humston did not receive a good report from her last scan. Continue to pray for her.
- Russell Wilson, Elaine Crabtree's father, has been in Vanderbilt Hospital this week.
- If you'd like to ring in the new year with some of your church family, meet at the building at 7:30 on Dec. 31 for food, games, and fun!

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A.M. Sermon: "Groanings Too Deep For Words" (Rom. 8:26)

P.M. Sermon: "Mocking The Poor" (Prov. 17:5)

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: M. Newell

Pray: T. Walker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: J. Newell

Serve: Demonbreum, Trent, J. Walker

Pray: Baker

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Pleasant View church of Christ  
2500 Highway 49 East  
P.O. Box 189  
Pleasant View, TN 37146

Sunday School: 9:30  
A.M. Worship: 10:30  
P.M. Worship: 6:00  
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 pm  
Phone: 924-9714

Ephesians 5:1-2  
“Therefore be imitators of  
God, as beloved children;  
and walk in love, just as  
Christ also loved you and  
gave Himself up for us, an  
offering and a sacrifice to  
God as a fragrant aroma.”

“Indeed the safest road to hell is the gradual  
one—the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without  
sudden turnings, without milestones, without  
signposts.”

C.S. Lewis

“The saints may enjoy the grace of God more  
abundantly if they were permitted to see the  
punishment of the damned in hell.”

Thomas Aquinas

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## The Sanitation of Scripture

If the entire Bible were filmed as a movie documentary, it would be rated “R.” No doubt about it. The Bible has extreme violence, murder, graphic descriptions and depictions of both moral and immoral sex, drunkenness, lying, cheating, and stealing. It features suicide and genocide. The most honest Hollywood portrayal of Scripture in movies was the R-rated “The Passion of the Christ,” not the family-friendly “The Ten Commandments.” As a matter of propriety, we do not show or discuss the graphic passages of Scripture in children’s Sunday School classes, and we use proper language when teaching those passages in adult classes. That’s good. But we

should be careful not to sanitize Scripture in our effort to be tasteful.

Years ago I was in a one-on-one Bible study with a teenage girl. She was the daughter of Christian parents, and she faithfully attended Sunday School her entire life. As we studied various passages of Scripture, she suddenly had an “I get it!” look on her face. She was stunned, not because she understood baptism better or because she finally grasped the gospel message, but because Scripture became *real* to her. She finally realized that we were studying the real lives of real people, who lived in a real place on earth, when other real events that she studied in her World History class were happening.

If we sanitize Scripture, if we continue to view Bible people, places, and events in a Sunday School felt board fashion, we will be putting Scripture on the same level as a history textbook or a childhood fairy tale.

We not only need to live our faith in a real way, we need to teach it in a real way. We need to show people how awful sin is, and how beautiful grace is. We need to teach Scripture as honestly and forcefully as Jesus did. If we do so, the lost will see us as real people, not people who have committed their lives to an interesting story.

James Hayes

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