

# Pleasant View Proclaimer

**Pleasant View church of Christ**

## What Do The Stats Mean?

**February 2, 2014**

**Issue 148**

I recently heard boxing champion Floyd Mayweather, Jr. say, "Men lie. Women lie. Numbers don't lie." Statistics are void of emotion and bias. They can be manipulated, for sure, but an 0-12 football team cannot make a compelling case that they are the best team in the league.

When it comes to church work, some think that statistics are irrelevant, while others believe that church statistics are the only true measure of a church's health. Having been a member at a 2,000-member church, a 250-member church, and an 85-member church (and been the preacher for the last two), I believe that both groups are

right. Statistics—worship and Sunday School attendance, contribution totals, etc.—are helpful for understanding the health of a church, but they do not always tell the full story.

If a church's attendance steadily declines over a period of several years, one could say that the church is not thriving. But that church might be near a military base or a large factory, so the attendance greatly depends on the migration of soldiers and workers. Conversely, the contribution might spike upward in a short period of time and therefore relieve some budgetary woes in the congregation. It would seem like that church is on

solid footing. But the sudden spike in contribution might be the result of a few new families who happen to be both wealthy and generous.

My point is this: Celebrate any statistic that is favorable to a church. It was important for us to know that 3,000 people were baptized at Pentecost. That number is there to impress us about the health of the Jerusalem church. If the church statistics trend downward, there is no need to make rash decisions about the preacher or the budget. Study the situation, and then react prayerfully and honestly.

James Hayes

### Items of Note:

- Sympathy is extended to Canetha Walker, on the loss of her sister, Frances Mitchell. That funeral was Monday.
- Mike Reed's father had a heart cath at Vandy this week.
- Pray for Alison Guy as she begins her training to work at Riverbend Prison.
- Pray for Mildred Walker, Jay Newell, Addie Farmer, and the Billingsley family.

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## Hillcrest Nursing Home Service Today at 2:30 Youth Activities Planning Meeting After Morning Worship

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Garrett

Pray: J. Walker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: E. Walker

Serve: Stuard, Reed, T. Walker

Pray: M. Newell

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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

Titus 3:1-2

“Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed, to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.”

“Guard your spare moments. They are like uncut diamonds. Discard them and their value will never be known. Improve them and they will become the brightest gems in a useful life.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

“My father taught me to work, but not to love it.”

Abraham Lincoln

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## Go, And Sin No More

On October 14, 1987, Cissy McClure and her 18-month-old daughter, Jessica, were visiting Cissy's sister in Midland, Texas. Cissy went inside to take a phone call, and left Jessica in the yard to play. When Cissy return, she realized that her daughter had plummeted 22 feet down an 8-inch well shaft. Rescuers worked around the clock until Jessica was finally retrieved on October 16. She eventually lost a toe due to gangrene, and to this day she has a scar from her forehead down her nose.

The Jessica McClure rescue was a media circus. The story was headline news around the world. The most important part of the story, however,

was the part that was the least reported. Without fanfare and with little effort, the hole that Jessica fell into was covered. It was the obvious thing to do. That hole in the ground caused so much pain, worry, heartache, and sorrow that there was no way that another child would even have the opportunity to fall in there again.

We all have fallen into the pit of sin (Rom. 3:23). Some slipped into the pit quietly; others jumped in head first. No matter how we got there, we were helpless to get out. But God sent Jesus to earth so He would reach out His hand and pull us out (John 3:16; Eph. 2:4-5; Phil. 2:5-11). At baptism, those sins were washed

away and we became new creatures (Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:4-7).

But did you remember to cover the top of the pit when you got out? Have you truly repented of your sins? Or do you jump back into the pit of sin from time to time? The apostle Paul asked this pointed question: “How shall we who died to sin still live in it?” (Rom. 6:2). He later wrote, “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age” (Titus 2:11-12).

James Hayes

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