

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Testing God

February 23, 2014

Issue 150

“There’s death in that box.”

That’s how Jamie Coots, the pastor of the Full Gospel Tabernacle in Middlesboro, KY, began every service. He was referring to the decorated wooden boxes on the floor of his church building that contained several poisonous snakes. Coots is part of a small group of Pentecostals who believe that a true Spirit-filled Christian will not die if bitten by a venomous snake. But during a service on February 15, Coots was bitten and passed out. Emergency medical personnel arrived on the scene, but Coots’ family refused treatment.

Jamie Coots died that

night. He was 42.

Did Jamie Coots die because his faith was weak? Did he die because God lied to him? Did he die because it was God’s will that he died that night? The answer is, “none of the above.” Jamie Coots died because if a poisonous snake bite goes untreated, the victim will die.

Ira North, the longtime preacher for the Madison church of Christ, often said, “I could have all of the faith in the world, but if I lie down on those train tracks [which were just a mile or so from the building], a train is going to run over me at 4:00.”

Snake handlers point to

Mark 16:17-18 as the basis of their practice. But they need to consider a few things: (1) The text also refers to drinking deadly poison. Why don’t they do that as well? (2) The promise was for the apostles, and Paul was bitten by a snake and survived, but even he didn’t purposefully handle the snake (Acts 28:3-5). (3) The Bible says we should never put God to the test. Even Jesus could’ve jumped off of the temple and dared God to save Him, but He didn’t (Matt. 4:7).

“Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents” (I Cor. 10:9).

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Remember J.R. Mitchell, nephew of Canetha Walker. He is in Centennial Hospital.
- Also pray for Mike’s dad, Rick Reed, who is having heart issues.
- Becky Rose’s grandparents are each struggling with health issues that have affected their lifestyle.
- March is a 5-Sunday month, so our building fund contribution will be on March 30.

**Maxine Hearn Decided To Place Membership With Us
2455 Pleasant View, Rd. PV, TN. 37146 (Ph. # 398-5052)**

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Buchanan

Pray: Rose

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Reed

Serve: Demonbreum, Trent, Billingsley

Pray: Crabtree

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

Proverbs 31:10-11
“An excellent wife, who can
find? For her worth is far
above jewels. The heart of
her husband trusts in her,
and he will have no lack of
gain.”

“The two hardest tests on the spiritual road are
the patience to wait for the right moment and
the courage not to be disappointed with what
we encounter.”

Paulo Coelho

“Rivers know this: there is no hurry. We shall
get there some day.”

A.A. Milne

Unintended Consequences

Amy Reed is a doctor in Boston who treated many of the victims of the Boston Marathon bombing. Recently she became one of the 500,000 women a year who have a hysterectomy. Hers was done because she had bleeding fibroids on her uterus, which were benign. In order to have a much faster recovery (3-5 days instead of 4-6 weeks), she opted for the morcellation method. In morcellation, the uterus is removed through a very small tube that pulverizes the uterus as it is being withdrawn. But there was a problem: Dr. Reed had previously undetectable cancer cells on her uterus, which spread throughout her abdomen when the morcellation

happened. A traditional hysterectomy would've contained the cells. She now has Stage 4 cancer.

No one can blame Dr. Reed for wanting the morcellation procedure. It seemed safe. It seemed effective (it's preferred by 11% of hysterectomy patients each year). But her decision had deadly consequences.

That's life, isn't it? Even when we think we are doing the right thing, we might be doing the wrong thing. What is your response when that happens? There are several paths to take from that point forward.

(1) *The path of guilt.* There is nothing you can do today to change yesterday. It happened. All you can do

today is learn your lesson, and try to prevent the thing from happening again.

(2) *The path of blame.* Someone once said, “We judge others based on their actions; we judge ourselves based on our intentions.” Blaming others is not a fruit of the Spirit. Accept responsibility.

(3) *The path of faith.* Horrible things have happened to faithful people (Heb. 11:37-40), but the ones who maintained their faith received their reward in heaven.

No one goes through life undefeated. Trust in the Lord.

James Hayes
