

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

The Ugly Path To Prosperity

January 20, 2019

Issue 397

Would you live in a town that had no heating services, no plumbing, and no sanitation services (people either leave their trash where they last used it, or burn it on the street)? What if that same town was built on ground that was saturated with mercury? What's even more, the town is located 1,000 feet higher than the highest peak in the Alps mountain range. So...what do you think? Are you interested?

If you are thinking, "No, thanks!" you are passing on the opportunity to live in La Rinconada, Peru. It is a town of over 50,000 people, situated in the Peru Andes, 16,732 feet above sea level. Some claim it is

the highest city in the world. It is only accessible by a 3-4 day truck drive. Its residents are impoverished. So the question is, why would 50,000 people choose to live in such dire conditions? The answer is simple: The chance at wealth. The only industry in La Rinconada is a gold mine run by *Corporacion Ananea*. The company uses a unique salary system: The employees receive no pay for 30 days, but on the 31st day they are allowed to keep as much ore from the mine as they can carry. Whatever they can extract from that ore is theirs.

Before you judge the residents of La Rinconada too harshly, understand that

the ugly path to prosperity is traveled every day by many who live in much better conditions. They are the minimum wage employees who spend half of their paychecks on lottery tickets; the greedy investors who buy risky stocks hoping to make it big; and the bright-eyed young people who accept morally-questionable employment because the salary is so large.

Heed God's word: "Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have..." (Heb. 13:5).

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Randy Gupton is being treated at home and is not doing well. His address is 3550 Bear Hollow Rd., Whites Creek, 37189.
- Randy Baker is cancer free!
- Happy Haven contribution is today. Pleasant View is one of Happy Haven's biggest contributors.
- Pray for Rick Reed, Kristine Garrett, Paula Lee, and our missionaries.

Morning Sermon: "The Morality In Our Speech" Singing Tonight At 6:00

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: John Hayes

Pray: Gupton

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Baker

Serve: D. Demonbreum, J. Walker, E. Walker

Pray: Brown

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

I John 5:14

"This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."

Mani Pagidipalli reported these results for 2018:

3234 baptisms

80 church plants throughout India

75 evangelists graduated from our training program and are ministering in two dozen different districts.

290 surgeries

1500 dental procedures

30 cataract surgeries

Chet and Rachel Duke's address:

24331 Town Walk Dr., Hamden, CT 06518.

Unmet Expectations

I was excited but nervous when I was asked to officiate my first wedding. The bride was a long-time friend from high school who was marrying a great guy. It was going to be an outdoor wedding in June in a backyard that bordered Old Hickory Lake. After the rehearsal on Friday afternoon, I asked the wedding planner what we would do if it rained the next day. She said, "We're not going to think like that." I thought, "I didn't know our thoughts controlled the weather. The forecast calls for thunderstorms." But I didn't say anything.

On Saturday, the backyard was arranged for the wedding. The chairs were set, the flowers were in place,

the tuxedos and dresses were pressed and perfect. But just as we finished the pictures, I looked down the lake and saw the blackest cloud imaginable, and it was headed our way. The wedding party rushed back toward the house, making it inside just before the rain started. And it poured. Hard. Two trees fell onto the road that lead to the house, and the groomsmen had to clear them away. The decorations were ruined. The bride was upstairs crying and worrying and staring at the Weather Channel, hoping for a break. The break never came. Nearly two hours after the scheduled time for the wedding, we had the ceremony under the reception tent, as light rain con-

tinued to fall.

What's the lesson in all of that? Well, what *should* happen does not always match what *does* happen. Our reach sometimes exceeds our grasp. The bride, the wedding planner, the family, everybody had a vision for what that day should look like. But the vision was not fulfilled...and everyone was disappointed. But did you notice the most important part? They still got married, and they are still happily married today with two beautiful children.

Make each day an "If the Lord wills" kind of day, and you will avoid many disappointments (James 4:15).

James Hayes
