



BLODGETT CHURCH OF CHRIST

9278 FM127, Pittsburg, TX 75686

Email: blodgettcofc@gmail.com

Website: blodgettcofc.com

Time of Services:

Sunday: 10:00 A.M. class, 11:00 A.M. worship, and 6:00 P.M. worship

Wednesday: 7:00 P.M. class

Preacher:

Larry Black (cell) 903-588-4253 email: lblk@peoplescom.net

Benevolence – Rick Toland: 903-452-1887

Evangelism - Heath Hines: 903-717-1423

Edification - H. L. Robertson: 903-856-5461

Building Maintenance - Dwayne Porter: 903-285-5548

Grounds & Van - John D. Porter: 903-563-5945

Finance - Larry Reynolds: 903-767-0742

Wednesday Devotional Speaker: Clem Williams



BLODGETT CHURCH OF CHRIST

PUTTING YOU ON THE RIGHT PATH

BLODGETT CHURCH of CHRIST Bulletin

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What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Irish born Joseph M. Scriven (1819-1896) was 25 years old, deeply in love and was to soon be married. The day before his wedding his fiancé had gone out to celebrate with a boat ride with some of her friends. A storm blew up and the boat was capsized. Everyone survived except Joseph's fiancé who drowned in this tragic accident. As an outlet to the heartache and grief that Joseph felt, he wrote the song *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*. Being a Christian, he had learned to not bear his burdens but that Jesus would bear them for him. Taking this grief and burden to God in prayer is what sustained Joseph through this difficult time. Several months later Joseph sailed from his homeland to start a new life in Canada. While in Canada working as a teacher, he fell in love again and became engaged to Eliza Roche, a relative of one of his students. Once again Joseph's hopes and dreams were shattered when Eliza became ill and died before the wedding could take place.

Although one can only imagine the turmoil within this young man, history tells us that his faith in God sustained him. Soon after Eliza's death Joseph joined the Plymouth Brethren and began preaching. He never married but spent the remainder of his life giving all his time, money and even the clothes off his own back to help the less fortunate and to spread the love and compassion of Jesus wherever he went.

Around the same time that Eliza died, Joseph received word from Ireland that his mother was ill. He could not go to be with her, so he wrote a letter of comfort and enclosed one of his poems entitled *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*.

Many years later a friend was sitting with Joseph, as he was very ill. During this visit, the friend was very impressed when he ran across his poems, including *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*. As a result of this visit, almost 30 years after his letter of comfort to his mother, Joseph's poems were published in a book called *Hymns and Other Verses*. Soon thereafter, noted musician Charles C. Converse put music to one of those poems: *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*.

Well-known musician Ira D. Sankey was a great admirer of Joseph Scriven. In

1875, Sankey came upon the music and words for *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*. He included it as the last entry into his well-known publication *Sankey's Gospel Hymns Number 1*.

After Joseph Scriven's death, the citizens of Port Hope, Ontario, Canada, where he gave so much of himself, erected a monument to his life. The seemingly sad and obscure life of one man resulted in so many lives being uplifted, both in his own time, and for many years after whenever the beautiful and comforting words of *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* are sung.

Notice carefully to the words.

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and grief's to bear:

*What a privilege to carry, **everything** to God in prayer.*

O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,

All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?

*We should **never** be discouraged, Take it to the Lord in prayer.*

Can we find a friend so faithful, Who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our every weakness: Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?

Precious Savior still our refuge, Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Do thy friends despise forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

In his arms he'll take and shield thee, Thou wilt find a solace there.

Lighter Side of Marriage:

Many girls like to marry a military man — he can cook, sew, make beds, is in good health...and he's already used to taking orders.

Troubles in marriage often start when a man gets so busy earning his salt that he forgets his sugar.

If a man has enough sense to treat his wife like a thoroughbred, then she will never be an old nag.

On anniversaries the wise husband always forgets the past...but never the present.

Family News

- Tomorrow **Sharon Fields** receives the doctor's test results regarding her back.
- **Clem Williams** is in room 111 of the Pittsburg hospital with pneumonia and dehydration.
- **Dalton Davis** is recovering from surgery that re-attached his fingers lost in a farming accident.
- Both **Mack** and **Sue Hendrix** had some respiratory problems last week.
- July pantry item for HRR is potato soup.

Sometimes you make choices in life and sometimes choices make you.

When you think of yesterday without regret, and tomorrow without fear, you are near contentment.

Water for the Willow

It is not uncommon to drive down an East Texas country road and see a cluster of willow trees off in the distance. While you might not see it, from the trees you can assume that there is a pond nearby because a willow bush requires lots of water. I don't know where they come from. A few years ago I dug a pond behind our house. Not a willow anywhere. Today the dam and banks are lined with them. They just seem to appear where there is water, their proper nourishment.

The story is told about a couple of hikers hiking in a desolate canyon of almost pure rock, and nothing seemed to live between the hot dry walls of rock. In the bottom, they found and followed a dry creek bed until they came upon a thriving willow tree. Understanding the nature of a willow tree's requirement for water, and since it hadn't rained for months, they concluded that the secret for the growth of the willow tree must have been an underground stream. While no water was visible, there must have been a source of water not seen.

That portrays the life of a Christian. Many who are not Christians do not understand how Christians can come through tough times that would break others. They are not able to see the hidden source of strength that the Christian has. We have tapped into the source of provision given by our Father in Heaven. We have available to us the "water of life (living water)" as mentioned by Jesus in John 4 to the Samaritan woman. The Christian can be assured that God will not leave him alone to die of thirst. ~ Larry