

### Breaking News: Bears Rip Apart 42 Boys!

#### Elders:

John Deffenbaugh  
Wayne Douthitt  
Glen Honeycutt  
Rick Hyder  
Bill Reiboldt

#### Deacons:

Pete Babb  
Carl Cobb  
Alan Cook  
Barry Flint  
Casey Flint  
Josh King  
Mike Kidwell  
Tim Murray  
Bryan Reiboldt  
Jim Scott  
Peter Wald  
Don Watson, Jr.

#### Local Evangelists:

Danny Boggs  
Salvador Sanchez  
Luke Yates

#### Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday  
6 p.m. Sunday

#### Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday  
7 p.m. Wednesday

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“Bears Rip Apart 42 Boys!” What a headline that would be in our papers and on our news sites today! If you are worrying about if this recently happened around here, don’t worry. If you are thinking this took place somewhere else in the world of late, take a deep breath and be relieved that forty-two boys were not killed by a couple of bears. If you are wondering if this tragic event has ever occurred in times past, the answer is yes – about 3,000 years ago.

Not long after the prophet Elijah was taken up to heaven in a whirlwind (II Kings 2:11), Elisha took over the prophetic role that Elijah was previously given. After healing the bad water in the city of Jericho, II Kings 2:23-25 reads, “He [Elisha] went up from there to Bethel, and while he was going up on the way, some small boys came out of the city and jeered at him, saying, ‘Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!’ And he turned around, and when he saw them, he cursed them in the name of the Lord. And two she-bears came out of the woods and tore forty-two of the boys” (ESV). We may look at this particular passage of Scripture and find the account to be a little odd, but at least one important lesson can be learned by what transpired. Before going into that lesson, let’s examine some parts to the passage.

Elisha was a representative of God. He was prophesying to the people, as well as doing various miracles to confirm what he spoke. These boys were seemingly aware of who Elisha was, as their ridiculing suggests. The expression “go up” (v. 23) most likely refers to Elijah’s recent ascension into heaven. The boys were basically telling Elisha, “Go up into heaven like you claim Elijah did!” The words “you baldhead” (v. 23) was most likely an expression one would give to cast a curse upon someone else (cf. Isaiah 3:17),

and does not refer to the boys making fun of Elisha because he had no hair. Because they were aware of who Elisha was – God’s prophet – they mocked him. Their cursing of Elisha was as if they looked straight up to heaven and cursed God Himself. And here is the lesson for us – just as the boys’ mocking of God’s messenger reflected how they ultimately felt about God, our treatment of God’s people and His Word reflects how we feel about God.

When Jesus sent out His disciples in the limited commission, He told them, “The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects Him who sent me” (Luke 10:16). In a nutshell, Jesus said that if someone rejected the gospel His disciples taught, that person rejected God the Father. When Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, he wrote that if they disregarded his instructions, they were really disregarding God (I Thessalonians 4:8). In considering how we treat our brothers and sisters in Christ, John wrote, “If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him: whoever loves God must also love his brother” (I John 4:20-21). And finally, in the parable of the sheep and the goats, Jesus said that we treat Him the exact same way we treat the least of our brothers, whether good or bad (Matthew 25:40, 45).

Our attitude towards the Bible and other Christians shows our attitude towards God, and we would do well to always remember that fact – because hell will be a lot worse than having a bear rip you into pieces.

*Luke Yates*



Kay Anderson, Rick Armstrong, Mindy Bartley, Melinda Barton, Jack Brodie, Frank Carrothers, Glenda Daniels, Retha Dunn, Wilma Fair, Jerry Faules, Louise Faules, Memphis Ferguson, Leon Fiscus, Joe Freund, Teresa Freund, Gunner Gonzales, Faye Haught, Betty Hill, Bob Holland, Wilba Hopkins, David Irvin, Joe Johnson, Larry Jones, Mike Kidwell, Brenda Kimbrough, Cecile Kimbrough, John Kimbrough, Wilma Knoll, Pearl McCleary, Brownie McNeely, Phyllis Middleton, Meghan Newsom, Price Naramore, Cindy Patton, Mary Pearson, Michael Richmond, Marcia Robertson, Harriet Shipman, Gordon Stanton, Glenn Strickland, Nadine Stipp, Jeanette Tomlin, Susie Tomlin, Bobbie Tuggle, Andrea Wald, Don Watson, and Treva Wolgamott.

- Keep Glen Honeycutt and Rick Hyder in your prayers while they are visiting with the brethren in Honduras this week.

**Note of Thanks:**

“Neosho Christian School just had the most successful Labor of Love auction we have ever had. We want to thank all of those from Hillcrest that made donations, donated items, brought items, or supported us in any way. Your support is greatly appreciated. Keep us in your prayers.”

*Mr. Sanders and NCS*

**Pantry items needed:** chicken noodle soup and canned fruit.

**Typhoon Aid:** Hillcrest has sent \$2000 to help Christians affected by the typhoon in the Philippines. If you would like to give more to this cause, please hand it to one of the elders by Sunday, December 1.

**Juice boxes:** Help us gather juice boxes to help nourish needy Neosho school students over the weekends. Place your donations on the counter at the west side of the foyer.



**This Sunday's Sermons:**

- A.M. *To the Cross*  
(1 Corinthians 11:17-34, Danny Boggs)
- P.M. *Bible Answers to Questions about the Church* (Luke Yates)

**College students and singles** are invited to free dinner in the fellowship room every Wednesday night at 6:00.

**Lads to Leaders** will have a training session this Sunday at 4:45.

**Does your yard need raking?** This Saturday Lads to Leaders, the youth group, and the 20s & 30s class will all be blitzing leaf-covered lawns for FREE. Let Luke or Danny know if we can come help you or one of your neighbors.



**Updates:** Our calendar/directory for 2014 is coming together. Please stop by the bulletin board and make sure that we have your name, address and phone number listed correctly.

**Bible Classes:** Our adult Bible classes will begin the winter quarter of study Sunday, December 1, and Wednesday, December 4. Watch next week's bulletin for the lineup, and dive in with us.

**Thanks** to everyone who made our holiday dinner last Friday night such a good time to spend with friends and spiritual family!



**3 Invitations from Jesus**

Sunday night, December 8, is

**“Bring Someone Sunday Night.”**

Invite someone to come to 6:00 worship with you and stay for chili afterward.

Our numerical goal is to have more people here that night than were here that morning.

*Take invitations from the welcome desk!*

**ASSIGNMENTS**

**Prayers Sunday, November 24**

- AM Opening: Bill Reiboldt
- AM Closing: Dee Epperson
- PM Opening: Miles Wolgamott
- PM Closing: Fred Bukowich

**Scripture Reading Sunday, November 24**

- Matthew 26:26-29, Nolan Murray
- Prayers Wednesday, November 27**
- Opening: Joe Johnson
- Closing: Kaden King

RECORDS	11-17-13	11-18-12
Bible Study	151	151
AM Worship	178	184
AM Spanish	10	7
PM Worship	130	135
PM Spanish	7	9
Wednesday	141	137
Contribution	\$5,503.56	\$5,219.53
Budget	\$5,475.75	\$5,220.46