

From the Family Room

Creekwood Church of Christ

18 March, 2018

Mobile, AL

"Don't Give Up On Me."



This past week Freda and Kyle went to visit Mr. Warren Cornelius at his house. He acted like he felt really good and was “getting around” amazingly well. For those who may not know, Mr. Cornelius just celebrated his 96th birthday. He lives alone in a house that has been his home for about 50 years, I am not sure of the exact number of years. He recently fell and fractured his pelvis in two places. The doctors decided that surgery was not appropriate and he spent 21 days in a rehab facility. He came home a little more than a week ago. They had a great visit filled with a lot of reminiscing, turkey hunting tips, and laughter. He also asked about the people at Creekwood. He loves the church at Creekwood and the members of his spiritual family here. He misses being here. He is anxiously waiting for the day he can return to church and “hold court” in Dawn’s office drinking coffee Martha brings to him. Near the end of the visit, he said “Don’t give up on me. I’ll be back.”

Mr. Cornelius’ comment made us think about people we have known in the past who are not meeting with the church now. Some have passed from this life. Some would love to assemble with the church but are physically unable to be here. Some have lost their faith. We thought of some who in the past strayed from the faith and did not meet with the church for many years, but later in life they returned. Some we remembered were not Christians for decades but later came to the Lord and became Christians after many years of patient prayer and teaching by their family and friends. Their love was patient.

There are many examples of patience throughout the Bible. One that is of great importance is seen in the father of the prodigal son. We know that the son took his inheritance and went to a far country where he lived in sin and wasted all of his money. After a time he realized that he needed to return home. He humbled himself and returned to his father ready to become a servant. We are told that his father saw him a long ways off and ran to meet his prodigal son. He showered him with love and restored him to his former status. The patience of the father paid off! He did not give up on his son and he came back.

Think of some around us that need our love and our patience. This week let them know that they are missed. We could do this in a number of different ways like a visit, a call, a card, an e-mail, or a text. Most importantly, we definitely should remember them in our prayers.

Let’s remember Mr. Cornelius’ comment, “Don’t give up on me. I’ll be back.” Let’s also remember others who need our encouragement and prayers. Love is patient.

RICKY