



# Prime Timer's Newsletter

Mission Statement: Provide opportunities for the senior members to be involved in the fellowship, service and evangelism activities of Meadow view, assisting the congregation in its outreach and growth.

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## Never Neglect Joy and Laughter

**Bible thought: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4, NIV)**

Jesus amazed friend and foe alike by being unpredictable. Yet every act and word served to highlight the kingdom of heaven. Thus He rejoiced, laughed, ate and drank with publicans and sinners. True, He was "man of sorrows," but at times He enjoyed what some might call "the good life." Jesus' critics expected Him to be soberly fasting and so serious there would be no time for joy and laughter.

Have you ever burst into uproarious laughter over some unpredictable event in your life? Over a good, clean joke? Over something that happened to someone in your family or to a friend? Even over something funny that happened in a church service or Bible class?

Sure, the older we become there will be occasional that elicit our profound sorrow and tears. Not to mourn would be a betrayal of loving and caring. On other occasions, not to experience true joy and laughter would also be a betrayal of both the human nature which God gave us, but of the example His Son gave us.

Never neglect—nor ever apologize for—wholesome joy and laughter.

-Perry C. Cotham  
Brentwood, Tennessee



## Blessed are the Poor—Unloading It All

Two longtime friends – a highly esteemed mentor and his wife – have just finished downsizing from a full-sized residence to an assisted-living apartment.

After 60-plus years of married life and ministry, these dear people have compacted all their earthly possessions into a thousand square feet of real estate.

To accomplish this feat, my friends spent several stressful weeks sorting treasures, holding garage sales, parceling out to kids, and tossing long-stored goodies into the trash. When it came time to move, they still had way too much junk to fit into their new diggings.

A person who has not gone through this probably can't begin to imagine what kind of havoc divesting a lifetime of acquisitions wrecks on a person's psyche.

Most of us spend our adult days increasing our holdings. For multiple decades we stack attics, stuff garages, clutter rooms, overflow rented storage space. We're bent on acquiring. Then one day the time comes to unload all the paraphernalia we've accumulated, and the sudden shift leaves us disoriented and reeling.

All of our lives we learn to grasp and grab and gather and grow our inventory. Then suddenly we have to re-

verse our strategy. Instead of getting, now we must give away. Instead of adding to our loot, we must trim it to the bare essentials.

I remember when, almost overnight, my grandparents downsized from a house, a barn, a shed and four acres to an 8x12 bedroom in my aunt's tiny home.

All of us are headed in that direction, aren't we?

My lady and I dare at times to contemplate what this means for us. Our kids live in houses crammed to the gills. They have nowhere to put our junk.

Our situation is aggravated by the ridiculously large pastor's library I have amassed during half a century of ministry. Sometimes I think I should have my grandkids start eBay-ing my books volume by volume to snag some cash for college expenses.

Jesus was right. Not only does life not consist "of the abundance of our possessions." In our old age, life can be considerably complicated by that abundance.

After those difficult days of downsizing when they watched strangers haul away their most cherished belongings, my wise friends concluded that they still possessed everything that really mattered.

By Gene Shelburne  
"The Christian Appeal" Magazine

August Activities:

Potluck Luncheon: Monday 13th @ 12:00

Steering Committee Meeting: Monday 20th @ 2:00 p.m.



“The yoke of the Lord will never fit a stiff neck.”

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