Forest Hill lost a jewel with the passing of Helen Newsom on the Lord’s day, July 1, 2018. Sister Helen was one of the matriarchs of our congregation and we deeply loved her and already miss her. No word can better summarize her life than the word service. She lived by Jesus’ words, “So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do” (Luke 17:10). Helen was 89.

Helen Newsom was born to Edward and Elsie Stinson on October 17, 1928 in Walnut, Mississippi. At the age of 17 she married Waymon Newsom, also of Walnut. Later they made their home in Memphis and were faithful members of the Getwell and Knight Arnold/Forest Hill congregations. Waymon went home to be with the Lord in 2001.

Nothing was more important to this godly couple than family. Born to this union were four children: Edwyna, Elise, Tom, and Olivia. By the time of Helen’s passing, 13 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and 11 great-great-grandchildren had been added to this family. In all of my years of preaching I do not believe I have seen such a large family that was as close and loving as this family. Regularly they had family reunions and took family vacations together. It was my privilege to be introduced to Waymon and Helen when I first arrived in Memphis in 1990 to attend the Memphis School of Preaching. This family adopted me as one of their own and I have been privileged to be a part of many of their family gatherings. From Waymon and Helen their family learned the value of hard work and the virtue of kindness toward all. Nothing pleased Helen any more than knowing her family was close to her side during her final days.

There was another family that meant so very much to Waymon and Helen. This family is spiritual in nature and belongs to God. Through the influence of Waymon, Helen learned the truth of the gospel and was baptized into Christ in 1951 by brother Marvin Rainey. Hence, at that moment she was added to the church of Christ (Acts 2:47). Waymon and Helen did not seek the spotlight, yet their service was pivotal to the Lord’s cause. After we completed our first youth day in 1994, Helen made recommendations concerning a better way to serve lunch. I asked her if she would take charge of that in the future and she gladly did so and continued doing so until just recently when she no longer had the strength to do it.

One of Helen’s favorite passages was the 23rd Psalm and from that passage I preached her funeral sermon. The Lord was her shepherd. Like the psalmist, she did not fear death. Now she is at rest in the House of the Lord where she will dwell forever. Her funeral was conducted at the Forest Hill church building, July 10, 2018. Keith Mosher, Sr. joined me in officiating at the service. Cason Grider led the congregational singing. The service closed with the singing of her favorite hymn, Be With Me Lord. He always will be, for he hath said, “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Heb. 13:5). God bless the memory of Helen Stinson Newsom.

Barry
Laziness: A National Sin

J. J. Turner

One of the major concerns in America is unemployment. During May of this year (1977) the unemployment figure was 6.9 percent. The popular cry is, “We need more jobs!” In response to this, the government is sinking millions of dollars into efforts to provide jobs for the unemployed. In some cases jobs are created where jobs don’t really exist. A job for everyone is the goal of most politicians.

Two things constantly perplex me in light of this great concern for unemployment: first, why do all major newspapers have page after page of job offers, if jobs aren’t available; second, why do many businessmen say they can’t find anyone to work, if so many persons are looking for jobs? I think a recent statement by an employer hit the nail on the head. He said, “Many of the so-called unemployed don’t want to work, while others lose their jobs because after they have them, they are too lazy to work as they should.” I know that this statement does not apply to all unemployed persons, because many want to work, but it certainly describes many of them.

Laziness, which the Bible calls slothfulness, has always been a plight of man. Time after time God’s word speaks out against the person who is lazy and a sluggard. It’s high time we stressed these truths within the home, church, government, and in the job market. In order to do this, let’s notice a few biblical truths concerning the nature of the lazy person.

First, a lazy person loves to sleep excessively: “Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger” (Proverbs 19:15). Thus, “How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?” (Prov. 6:9). There are jobs available for the man who will get up early.

Second, they are wishful thinkers: “The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat” (Prov. 13:4). Thus, “So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and they want as an armed man” (Prov. 24:34; cf verses 27-33). The lazy expect to have the same things that the worker has; the government seems to agree with this view.

Third, a lazy person is irritating to others: “As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that send him” (Prov. 10:26). It hurts to see the lazy person, who is on welfare, fare better than the worker.

Fourth, the lazy have a life full of troubles: “The way of the slothful man is an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous is made plain” (Prov. 15:19). Laziness is wrong and its consequences will always hurt.

Fifth, wastefulness is another trait of the lazy: “He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster” (Prov. 18:9). A person, as a general rule, doesn’t appreciate what he has if he doesn’t have to work for it.

Sixth, they are careless, indifferent and unteachable. These facts are sustained in Proverbs 6:6-9, i.e., they won’t learn from the ant. Job training programs won’t help the lazy and unmotivated.

Seventh, a lazy person will not even cook what he has caught: “The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious” (Prov. 12:27). Some lazy, nonworkers, want only the best; if they can’t have it, they don’t want anything.

Eighth, the lazy man will not work: “The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing” (Prov. 20:4). Thus, “The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labor” (Prov. 21:25).

Ninth, the lazy can come up with some ridiculous excuses for not working: “The slothful man saith, There is a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets” (Prov. 22:13). Many will make every excuse “under the sun” to keep from going to work. Lazy men all have this in common.

Tenth, some are even too lazy to eat: “The slothful hideth his hand in his bosom; it grieveth him to bring it to his mouth” (Prov. 26:15). This has to be the very height of laziness.

Eleventh, a lazy person can be very conceited: “The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason” (Prov. 26:16). Laziness causes a person to act foolish and deceptive.

Twelfth, the lazy will permit property to ruin because they are void of understanding. A reading of Proverbs 24:30-34 will show that this is true.

Thirteenth, like a door on hinges never goes any place, so the lazy man never moves from his bed to do any work in life (Cf. Pro 26:15). Sometimes the lazy make motions, but they aren’t really going anywhere.

Fourteenth, the lazy person will always be a servant of others: “The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute” (Prov. 12:24). The lazy person will never get ahead. He will always look to others for a handout.

These passages provide ample proof that laziness is wrong. Jesus said, “…cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness…” (Matt.25:30). This one being cast out is the slothful servant under consideration in verse 26 of the same chapter. The apostle Paul told the Romans not to be slothful in business (Cf. Rom. 12:10, 11).

The fathers and mothers of our land must instill the work ethic within their children, if we ever hope to defeat the enemy of laziness. Many want to learn the “tricks of the trade” without the trouble of learning the trade. This will never work! Laziness is costing us dearly, and will continue to do so if we don’t fight it. We are as lazy as our circumstances permit us to be. Therefore, soldiers of Christ must arise and be about their Father’s business, as well as giving a full day’s work for a full day’s pay.

(Gospel Advocate, September 1977)
HEARTS AND HANDS
TEAM “C” (DANNY BRADDOCK) will meet Friday, July 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Danny and Melinda Braddock for a covered dish meal.
TEAM “E” (JIM WOODY) will receive assignment cards Sunday, July 22.

EVENTS
LADIES AND MEN’S COMBINED CLASSES meet each Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.

SALT (for ladies) will meet July 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.
KIRBY PINES Retirement Community worship service each fourth Sunday 8:00-8:45 a.m., conducted by Forest Hill. Our next service will be Sunday, July 22.
ICE CREAM SUPPER and finger food fellowship after Bible Study Wednesday, July 25.
YOUNG ADULT DEVOTIONAL at the home of C.J. and Lindsay Stafford, Saturday, July 28 at 6:00 p.m.

Cakes/Servers are needed for the Southaven lectureship on Tuesday, July 24. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you can help. 20 cakes and 12 servers are needed.

Dear Forest Hill Family
Mere words are not adequate to express the appreciation in our hearts for all you did for us during Mother’s hospital stay and death. Your prayers, the many visits, shared memories and laughs, and the beautiful flowers have been so comforting.
Thank you for the delicious meal after the funeral. Your acts of kindness and service was noticed by our family members.

In Christian love,
Jim & Edwyna Woody and the family of Helen Newsom

Last week’s solution:
This I say then, Walk in O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not! Luke 13:34 Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. Galatians 5:16

CORNERSTONE
Scripogram: Each letter in the passage is replaced with another. IRHHRV SR BKV, RFRY GMR ZDGMR A KZ CA KAV PRHC HJMAQHG, GMR ZDGMR A KZ URAJQRH, DYZ GMR BKV KZ DII JKVZKAG; EMK JKVZKAGRGM CH QY DII KCA GAQSCIDGQKY, GMDG ER UDW SR DSR GK JKVZKAG GMRU EMQIM DAR QY DYZ GAKCSR, SW GMR JKVZKAG EMRAREQGM ER KCAHFRHR DAR JKVZKAGRV KZ BKV.
E=W Solution next week. Z=F
World’s Largest Cemetery
Ken Joines

Today I checked with LifeNews.com to ask how many abortions have been performed in the U.S. since Roe vs. Wade took effect. The total is a staggering 60,069,971. This is shockingly close to 20% of the entire present population of the United States.

I started wondering how large the cemetery would need to be if we buried each baby in a regular burial plot. So I called a mortician friend and got some statistics.

Have you ever visited Arlington National Cemetery in Washington? Huge, isn’t it? Well, Arlington has just 624 acres—less than a square mile—and holds 400,000 graves. But the cemetery I’m trying to describe would be 78,0000 acres, or 62.5 square miles, holding over 60 million little kids!

This is a good time to recall how Jesus thought of little children. Luke 18:15-16 reads: “People were also bringing babies to Jesus to have him touch them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to him and said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.’”

I hope these facts will cause just one person to consider just how much evil our culture presently tolerates. What determines when an embryo is a “person”? According to a U.S. Supreme Court definition it is a heartbeat! And that happens between 6 and 7 weeks. Just sayin.

(Ken’s Newsletter, July 2018)