



Reflections

“Spiritual Savants” by Stefano Mugnaini

I met a man several years ago who had a unique talent. Tell him your birthday, (or any other date) and he could immediately tell you what day of the week it would fall on any year in the future. He could also tell you how many days until that date would arrive. You could not stump him. He was a savant. What is “Savant Syndrome?” First named in the 1800’s by J. Langdon Down, it involves what one writer referred to as “islands of genius.” A savant displays absolute, unmatched brilliance in one or more very specific areas. His test subject could recite the entirety of Edward Gibbon’s *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*; a monumental tome originally published in six volumes.

My abridged copy is well over one thousand pages; I would do well to memorize one of them. Brilliance is rare, and all of us could use more than we have.

Thus, most of us would love the idea of ourselves or our children having prodigious talents or knowledge. However, few would relish the thought of them being savants. Why? Because generally speaking, Savant syndrome is accompanied by some form of autism, retardation, or psychological

malady. The most famous case, the inspiration for the movie “Rain Man,” is missing several parts of his brain altogether! We would rather excel at nothing than specialize in one area to the detriment of all others. This is logical and practical, except in one situation we take the opposite approach: Our relationship to God and His word.

Because of the sheer volume of knowledge in the Bible, the amount of things to be gleaned from the text and the relative amount of time spent in study, we tend to specialize in one area to the detriment of our understanding of the whole. We may understand and preach water baptism so completely that we forget the blood that lends purpose to the ritual. We may so focus on the grace and mercy of our Heavenly Father that we parody that grace by our rejection of the responsibility that accompanies conversion. We may so emphasize the proper acts of worship that when the time comes to praise, it is as lifeless and dead as the seatbelt demonstration on an airplane. We may decry others’ misuse of scripture, but ask someone what they think about social drinking or fellowship meals and you may witness a distortion of the Bible that will give you a headache. I have

known men who could quote more Bible than I know how to read, but they have never been touched by the message to produce any appreciable change in their lives.

Far too many of us are spiritual, biblical savants. We know a lot about a little, and nothing about the rest. We act a lot like a Christian once in a while, but remain unspotted by the faith most days of the week. It has been said that every book of the Bible drips with the saving blood of Christ; perhaps that is an overstatement, but we do clearly see the progression and execution of God’s plan to redeem us from Genesis to Revelation. We cannot approach the Bible as trivia; it must be our bread and drink. In John 6:51, Jesus said: “I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.” He spoke of His word. It cannot be sampled; it must be consumed, digested if it is to give nourishment and life. Let us strive to excel in knowledge, but moreover, let us be prodigious in our application of the things we know and believe.

Church Office : 843-556-1792

Church Fax: 843-556-6085

Email: church@essexvillage.org

Website: www.essexvillage.org

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Class: 9:00 am

Worship: 10:00 am

Worship: 6:00 pm

Wednesday

7:00 pm



For the Record Week of 02-10-08

Communion & Baptismal Garments

Program of Worship

Ava Bullard

Helen Embry

Mark Embry

Scotty Hall

Mildred Inabinett

Leonard McNeill

Lois Ott

Bible Classes: 68
AM Worship: 122
PM Worship: 61
Wednesday Evening: 65
Contribution: 2,801.00

Prepare Communion:
Rose Ann Such
Baptismal Garments:
Christine Herman
Elder of the Month:
David Wakeland 766-3601

Announcements:
David Wakeland
Song Service:
Keith Dee
Opening Prayer:
Howard Streets
Communion:
Herman Porter
Sermon:
Stefano Mugnaini
Closing Prayer:
John Jenkins

We Are Praying For...



Military

Robert Bagley

Kristopher Black

Adam Bowles

Chris Branham

Adam Carlucci

Russell Coble

Barry Collins

James Dalton

Mark Fiorey

Ellis Flenoid

Steven Hilton

Michael Hilton

Matthew Lemieux

Katie McCaskill

Kevin Mitchell

Dixie Akers, Royce's sister-in-law, doing much better now. Thank you for your prayers.

Mike Allen, preacher for Chesapeake Church of Christ, has bone cancer. Gary Moody has requested prayers for him.

Ray Armstrong, a coworker of Carl Bowles, is being treated with medication and doing much better. Thanks for your prayers.

Larry Cooper, Ruby's son, was recently diagnosed with lung cancer.

Jessie Crosby passed away on Thursday and the funeral was on Saturday. Thank you for your prayers.

Maxine Doll had a pacemaker put in and has other health problems. Maxine is Pam Ragland's mother.

John Donan, Norma's cousin, has terminal bladder cancer.

Dennis Flatley, a friend of Jim Lamm, is currently undergoing chemo to treat his cancer.

Duke Gregory, Doris & Janie's brother, is in the hospi-

tal. Cards would be appreciated. The address is:
4056 Manchester Highway
McMinnville, TN 37110

Wesley Hahn is in need of prayers for his health and employment. His mother is a close friend of Faye Spence.

Clara Haselden was diagnosed with cancer and is receiving chemo treatments.

Debra Langford, sister-in-law of Carl Bowles, is in therapy since her stroke. She is still not able to speak clearly or have full use of her right side.

Nell McIntire has cancer and is the sister of Lois Ott.

Margaret Mills, a member of Cairo Church of Christ, had a heart attack.

Melissa Murray is being treated for cancer, please keep Melissa and her family in your prayers.

Lauren Parker, a friend of Ginie Streets, has cancer and is not doing well.

John Price, a friend of Faye Spence, has cancer and is in stage 4. Faye has requested

prayers for him and his wife, Pat.

Nikolas Riggs is in remission but will undergo chemo for two years and has a long road ahead. Nik is the nephew of Angela Noyes.

Violet Sharp, Nancy Walden's mother, is doing much better. Thank you for your prayers.

Candice Spence, needs our prayers for health problems and is the granddaughter of Chuck & Faye.

Marcia Speckle, a friend of Sharon Rush, is doing much better. Her tumor appears to be gone now and they will perform a lumpectomy in the next few weeks.

John Torres, Johnny Murray's brother-in-law, has cancer and is not doing well.

Tom Vergne, Matt's father, had by-pass surgery on Friday.

Verdie Whitson is in Trinity Rehab Center.

*Thanks for
praying!*



Here's What is Happening...

Ladies Bible Class

The ladies meet for Bible class on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 in the annex.

Contribution Report

If you would like an annual contribution report for income tax purposes, please make the request in writing and give to Eddie.

Bible Bowl

Practice for Bible Bowl will be from 1:00 to 5:00 Sunday afternoon.

Pot Luck

On Sunday, February 24th, everyone is invited to stay for a pot luck following the morning services. We will be celebrating with our Bible Bowl participants.



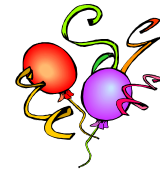
*Condolences...
Our dear sister Melissa Murray passed away on Friday morning. We would like to express our sympathy to her husband Johnny and their children Ashlynn, Blake and Johnny. We would also like to remember her parents Harvey & Diana and her sister Kim in our prayers.*



Happy Anniversary!

2/22

Durwood & Lara
Collins



Happy Birthday!

2/17

Mary Crabtree

2/19

Ashlyn Brown
Marshall Swindall

2/20

Norma Ashburn
Kinslee Moseley

2/21

Louise Rogers

2/22

Durwood Collins
Lara Collins

Knowledge Tree

As you walk down the classroom hallway you may notice that we have a "Knowledge Tree". We would like our tree to bear lots of fruit. For this to happen, your help is needed. Children and adults are encouraged to memorize scriptures and books of the Bible written on the leaves of the tree. When you have memorized a

scripture or the books of the Bible, you then recite it to Keith Dee or Brenda Streets. You will then receive an "apple" with your name on it for you to place on the tree next to the leaf with the scripture or books of the Bible you have memorized. We are hoping for a wonderful harvest!

First Sunday Bible Class & Knowledge Tree

On the first Sunday of each month, we will have a combined class for the children. During this class they will be rewarded for points they earned during the previous month of Sunday school and Wednesday evening classes.

The point system is as follows: attending Class—2 points, perfect attendance for Sunday & Wednesday classes for the month—10 points, bring Bible to class—2 points, know memory verse in class—2 points, bring a friend—5 points, participa-

tion and behavior—1 or more points, bring food for pantry—1 point.

Points can only be redeemed at First Sunday Bible Class. If you have any questions, please see Keith, Brenda or Mary Beth. Our goal is to promote growth in our Bible Classes by improving attendance and making it something the young people are excited about and committed to. Please encourage all of our young people and help them succeed.

Bulletin Board

Ladies Day at Walterboro Church of Christ

Theme: "The Power of Forgiveness"

When: Saturday, February 23rd Registration is from 8:00 - 9:00

Speaker: Kathy Long from the St. Mary's Church of Christ in Georgia.

"It's A Family Affair" Relationship Seminar

Where: Church of Christ Johns Island When: February 24th - 27th

Speaker: Dr. Stanley J. Hubbard from Indianapolis, Indiana

Please see the bulletin board for more information.

10th Annual Carolina Men's Fellowship

Sponsored by Charlotte Avenue Church of Christ

Theme: "Acts—the Old Jerusalem Gospel"

When: Saturday, March 8th Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Where: Gold Hill Road Church of Christ, Fort Mill, SC.

This is off I-77, between Rock Hill and Charlotte. Exit 88, turn west, building is on left .7 miles from I-77.

ELDERS

Larry Casbeer	795-0429
Howard Streets	766-7727
David Wakeland	766-3601

MINISTER

Stefano Mugnaini	329-3704
------------------	----------

DEACONS

Rick Porter	556-2679
Activities	
Jim Lamm	556-6756
Benevolence	
Lloyd McLawhorn	556-6709
Worship	
Roddy Akers	559-3565
Song Service	
Larry Polutta	795-5266
World Bible School	
Bill Ragland	556-6711
Building Maintenance	
Hilton Googe	766-4670
Lynn Smallwood	766-8579
Grounds	
Eddie Haselden	767-5511
Financial	
Durwood Collins	869-4199
Youth Activities	

Essex Village Church of Christ
736 Savage Road
Charleston, SC 29414