

Americans qualify as church adult women, this amounts to millions of women in the U.S. Today who feel discouraged by their experiences in churches," the survey concludes.

--with data from barna.org

### ***Family News***

The February potluck will be on the **second** Sunday of the month: February 10, 2013.

The target date for finalization of the adoption of the **Shorts' foster daughter** is February 11.

**Douglas and Jonda Gardner** will be living part-time in the Scottsdale area near the Mayo Clinic Cancer Center so that Douglas can pursue an option of trial drug treatments.

**Jonda Gardner:** We may have news on her this morning. We don't have dependable enough information to print.

**Ben Atchley** is experiencing troubling complications with his treatments and/or condition. As of print time, he is being treated at St. Mary's hospital in Tucson.

Back issues are posted at  
<http://saffordchurchofchrist.org>



### ***Prayer List:***

**Healing:** *Rick Nichols (friend of the Shorts), Tatyana's daughter Olga, Jerry Robinson's daughter Christie, Mike Cavasos, Sandy Cavasos, Ben Atchley, Faye Atchley, Nicolas Self, Annie Self, Douglas Gardner, Brandon (Gerry Clark's grandson), Inez's son Lee, Dave Morse, Richard Tuey.*

# Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

**3 February 2013**

**Sermon Topics**  
**A.M.: The Lord's Supper**  
Matthew 26:26-30  
**P.M.: Isaiah's Commission**  
Isaiah 6:1-13

Evangelist  
*Ken Knowlton: 428-5974*

Elders  
*Ben Atchley: 428-2246*  
*Greg Briggs: 428-8756*  
*John Cunningham: 428-0895*

### Services

Sunday Bible Class	10:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:30 P.M.
Wednesday Evening Class	6:30 P.M.
Thursday Ladies Bible Class	10:00 A.M.

## **In Flight**

2 Samuel 15-16

We can sense David's mood as he fled Jerusalem with just a few retainers. Absalom, with a large army, was in pursuit. The situation seemed hopeless. And to top it all off, Shimei cursed David, shouting that God was just paying David what David deserved for his bloody past.

Everything had gone wrong. Besides, David's conscience wasn't clear. There were grounds to think that Shimei might be right. No wonder David seemed despondent and depressed as he gathered his cloak around him, and hurried over the Brook Kidron in the late evening shadows.

How did David really feel? And what can we do when we find

ourselves feeling as he must have? The answer is in Psalm 3, which David penned “when he fled from his son Absalom.”

First, David looked around.

Yahweh, how my adversaries have increased! Many are those who rise up against me. Many there are who say of my soul, “There is no help for him in God” (Psalm 3:1-2, WEB).

Then David looked back.

But you, Yahweh, are a shield around me, my glory, and the one who lifts up my head. I cry to Yahweh with my voice, and he answers me out of his holy hill (vv. 3-4).

Then David looked up.

I laid myself down and slept. I awakened; for Yahweh sustains me. I will not be afraid of tens of thousands of people who have set themselves against me on every side. Arise, Yahweh! Save me, my God! For you have struck all of my enemies on the cheek bone. You have broken the teeth of the wicked (vv. 5-7).

Then David looked ahead.

Salvation belongs to Yahweh. Your blessing be on your people (v. 8).

Looking around, you and I see our difficulties realistically. But looking back, we remember that God has helped us in the past. Looking up, we find peace as we commit ourselves and our needs to the Lord. And looking ahead, we know we can expect good things from God.

### **Personal Application**

When we face difficulties, we need to follow the simple pattern of looking – around, back, up and ahead – with faith.

### **Quotable**

“Be not miserable about what may happen tomorrow. The same everlasting Father, who cares for you today, will care for you tomorrow and every day. Either He will shield you from suffering, or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it.” – Francis De Sales

Lawrence O. Richards, *Devotional Commentary* (Victor: Colorado Springs, 2002) 204-205.

## **Bienvenidos**

As Hispanics emerge as the largest minority group in the U.S., their influence on faith and national life is growing rapidly.

A new report by the Barna Research Group says 84% of Hispanics describe themselves as Christians. One-third of Hispanics in the U.S. identify as practicing Christians according to an evangelical definition of faith.

More traditional than other groups in America today, especially in the area of family life, 69% of Hispanics surveyed say a child is better off if the parents are married. Two-thirds would forbid divorce except for unfaithfulness or abuse.

According to Barna’s survey, 68% of Hispanics identify as Catholics and 16% as Protestants. Overall, 61% of all Hispanics say they have made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ that is still important in their lives today. Charismatic expressions are important in faith practices: 36% of Catholic Hispanics identify as charismatic, as well as 56% of Protestant Hispanics.

While Hispanics say the church is important in the lives of their children and grandchildren, its influence is relative: 21% say the church does “very well” at influencing youth, but that’s far behind other influencers: family (66%), friends (62%), educators (43%), and gangs (42%).

The numbers are clear: we can look forward to increased Hispanic and Latino influence on churches and neighborhoods well into the 21st century.

--with data from Barna Research Group, “Hispanic America Report 2012”

## **Are Women Happy With Church?**

Are women satisfied with their church experience? New research indicates the answer is yes, sort of. In short, it depends on the woman and it depends on the church. Three-quarters of church women say they are making the most of their gifts and potential (73%) and a similar proportion feel they are doing meaningful ministry (72%).

Assessing their influence, more than half say they have substantial influence in their church (59%) and a slight majority expect their influence to increase (55%).

But the poll also shows that many women have a very different experience of church, “frustrated by their lack of opportunities at church and feeling misunderstood and undervalued by their church leaders,” the survey says.

About a third (31%) say they are resigned to low expectations when it comes to church. They feel under-utilized (20%), limited by their gender (16%), under-appreciated (13%), and taken for granted (11%).

“Although these represent small percentages, given that about 70 million