

Free Lunch

Christ the Redeemer Church
June 21, 2009
Green Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 9:7-11
Rev Gary L. Smith

www.christredeemerchurch.com

Father's Day, Pamela's and Gary's 34th Anniversary, Farewell Sunday for Lt. Col Glenn Moore and family, Welcome Back Sunday for CTRC Youth from Glorieta Camp

Tom Vastine, 97-year-old saint up at William C. Martin Church in Bedford, Texas, got promoted yesterday.

Tom, a retired geophysicist, has volunteered for the past 34 years as a tutor and to read stories to the kindergartners and first graders in the Bedford School district. It all started when a fellow church member told Tom that the refrigerator was broken in the teacher's lounge. So Tom went to fix it. As he wife later said, "He went to fix the frig and never came home."

As he was approaching the end of his life recently he made arrangements to donate his body to a medical school for science. He joked that after being in kindergarten for the past 30 years he was now being promoted to medical school.

Mike Young said that every time he thinks about Tom he is reminded of a friend who said that the problem with the world is that "good people get tired of doing good before the bad people get tired of doing bad." Mike said that Tom never got tired of doing good.

May God give us the strength and will to never get tired of doing good. This is why we sent 9 youth to camp this past week...to learn how to live for God and to learn how to do good in life. This is why Lt. Col Glenn Moore spoke this morning...to thank God for leading him to never give up doing right in life against all odds.

Tom gave away stacks of quarters as calling cards in hospital visits for at least the last 34 years of his life. He and his wife Jane gave away \$5,000 of savings for new carpet for their house...gave it away to the new church building program back in 1984 to William C. Martin church family.

Yesterday was his promotion ceremony...his Memorial Service. He had the last say even in it. He requested that people not wear sad colors of mourning but that they wear colors of celebration. He wanted songs of Celebration.

When ever he was asked by someone how he was doing, even late in his life as his health was failing a bit, he would answer, "I am blessed." Yesterday at his Promotion Celebration one pastor said to the hundreds of attendees, "I am blessed." And the congregants responded, "I am blessed." What a tribute. I am blessed.

They say there is no such thing as a free lunch. But Tom was not finished doing good on

this earth yesterday. He gave every body a free lunch yesterday at his own funeral. Paid for it all ahead of time. The Lord has paid for our lives with His life so we are freed up to do good in life. We owe nothing except for to do good with our lives, like Tom.

Tom paid for lunch for everybody yesterday. He never got tired of doing good. When you live a life doing good like that, you will be a good friend, a good father, a good mate, a good man. We sent our youth to camp this week to help shape them into people that will do good their entire lives.

Pam asked me what I wanted today for Father's Day. I told her my dream day would be to eat lunch after church in Cabela's Outdoor Sports Store. Y'all are invited. No, I am not buying today. I will treat y'all to lunch later in life to follow Tom's lead. **Amen.**

(farewell Thanks to CTRC from Lt Col Glenn Moore, ROTC Commander at Texas State University, highly decorated Army helicopter pilot veteran of both the Afghanistan war and the War in Iraq, and transferring to Alabama unit as commander. He and his wife Lisa and sons Justin and Hunter have been a wonderful part of our church family for the past three years. His son Hunter was born here in San Marcos and had a stroke during birth, which resulted in partial paralysis. These words reflect the difficulty of the days since the discovery of that paralysis. You can go to these two web sites to read of Hunter and the encouraging news that Glenn shared today:

<http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/hunter-moore/guestbook>

<http://www.cordblood.com/azfamily.asp> (Duke University research)

Glenn's words this morning:

Lisa made an interesting observation this morning that some people here in the church do not even know us because we have been so involved with our own lives and Hunter. It really made me think and feel bad that we had disappointed so many great people here at CTRC. You all have definitely opened your arms to us and we let you down. So anyway,
Good morning, I will make this fast and I promise that I have no words of wisdom just simply wanted a chance to tell a wonderful group of people good bye and thank you all for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers this past 15 months. Being a military man I felt the need to put my words down on paper so that I can keep my thoughts straight and chronologically correct. Up front, I want everybody to understand that we never left the church. This where we joined as a family, Justin went from the shy little boy who was

too scared to go up front for children's sermon, to sneaking in communion for seconds on bread, heck this morning he said that he did not need breakfast because he would eat bread, When we joined CTRC it was in a skating rink, We announced the Lisa's pregnancy with Hunter here, I was promoted by Chaplain Gary here, and we were all baptized in the San Marcos river. We never left; we were and have been sidetracked with our problems dealing with Hunter. As most of you know Hunter was born on 15 November 2007 and it was a flawless birth and blessing given to us from God. At least we thought that it was without issues however; around 4 months of age Lisa noticed that Hunter was not using his left side; I simply thought that he was going to be like the rest of my family, right hand dominant. Thank God Lisa was persistent in getting Hunter checked. After chasing our tail for nearly 8 months trying to diagnose Hunter's problems, a pair of "Guardian Angels" stepped in and helped to facilitate us getting Hunter into Cook Children's Hospital in Fort Worth Texas. These two "Guardian Angels" have really played a major role in helping us to get Hunter taken care of. They are two of the most wonderful and special people on this earth. I cannot thank them enough. Because of them we were blessed to be seen by a great team at Cook Children's Hospital. Doctor Fernando Acosta who is Hunter's primary care doctor and Neurologist was the one who made the diagnosis of Hunter suffering a stroke in utero. He broke the news to us in his office on 16 January 2009. I felt like I had just been hit with a baseball bat and the anger was boiling over in my body over the incompetent Neurologist that we had left in San Antonio. Doctor Acosta had made this diagnosis using a copy of the same MRI... that the Neurologist had in San Antonio. That Neurologist in San Antonio had stated that it was inconclusive. Anyway, that was the past and now Hunter is under a great team in Fort Worth. So, on Jan 16 2009, our World was turned upside down with the news that Hunter had suffered a stroke, I took a baseball bat to the head, and I have handled this the wrong way by taking and making this fight

to get him fixed a personal one. One that simply took all our time and kept us out of church on Sunday because this fight has consumed Lisa and I for the past 15 months or so, with numerous trips to and from San Antonio and Fort Worth. And this seems to simply going be a way of life till I have exhausted every means to get him a chance at a normal life. The problem is that I took this fight personally and I did not allow God to help me, I am LTC Glenn Moore by God, I can and will fix any and everything. This was not a firefight in Iraq or Afghanistan, this would be easy. Well, this was not the right answer especially when you consider why we even banked his Cord Blood because, it almost did not happen. We were given information and a brochure on it about a week prior to Hunter's birth. I did a little research on it but really saw no reason, besides it was 2,000 dollars up front. Anyway, the night before his birth I kept thinking about it and around 9:30 at night I called the Cord Blood Registry and talked to them. They gave me all the pros on it and there are a lot of reasons to do it. I simply kept thinking about the 2,000 dollars and how we had already seen numerous sonograms of Hunter and he had all of his limbs and everything was pointing to a normal birth followed by a normal childhood. What I could not shake though was the "What If" factor and how could I look Hunter in the eye later in life if I had not done this and it could have helped him. In the big picture 2,000 dollars was not a lot and thank God I called them back and paid for it with a credit card. Cord Blood Registry immediately shipped out a kit to our hospital in Austin Texas. I received and signed for it there around 0515 am and Hunter was delivered at 0934 hours on the 15th of November. I felt like this was an insurance policy that we hoped to never have to use. However, I could not shake the thought that there was something wrong with Hunter that the Sonograms had not detected. If I had not banked his blood, it would have crushed me as a father and a parent. I know now that God was telling me that there was something wrong with Hunter and yet I still did not involve him as a teammate in this

fight till recently that is.... After numerous days and nights of stressing over the move, not being able to sell our house and Hunter's 24/7 care and work I was really at wits end and I simply had to give it all to God because the stress was and still is taking a toll on my life, my wife and family. So, shortly after a quiet prayer or two between God and me on the evening of the 8th of June, a young Captain who works for me sent me a copy of the "Chloe Levine video" and told me that I really needed to watch it. Funny but I had been encouraging him and his wife to bank their unborn child's Cord Blood and on the Cord Blood Registry website they found it. My wife and I watched and were totally amazed; of course again I felt the baseball bat hit me in the head once more. I was now angry at myself for not calling Cord Blood Registry on the day that we were told of Hunter's stroke. The next morning I called Cord Blood Registry and described my situation. The transplant coordinator from Cord Blood Registry made me feel really optimistic about this procedure and she started the ball rolling for us to be seen at Duke University for the Cord Blood Infusion. Within 4 days we received a call from the clinical operations director from Duke and since that call, we have a tentative date for his infusion on the 22nd of September 2009. The two individuals from Cord Blood Registry and Duke have given us a new sense of hope for Hunter being able to live a normal life. They have been extremely professional and answered all of my questions in very timely manner. I am very fortunate that we made that decision on 14 November 2007 to bank Hunter's Cord Blood because now he may have a chance for normalcy. If I had not done that, I do not know what I would have done when I saw that video, it would have crushed me. How could I have ever looked at Hunter in the eye and tell him that I gambled on his health for 2,000 dollars. Thank you God for guiding us to make that decision. And to you the members of CTRC, Thank you for keeping us in your prayers and thoughts. My biggest goal in life right now is to see Hunter walk and this may be a reality soon.

God Bless.