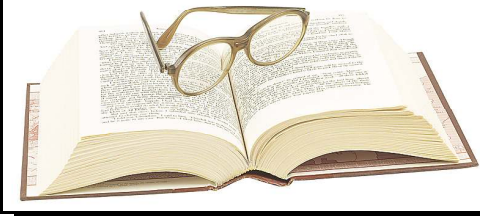


## MESSAGES FROM WAYNE'S STUDY



## WHAT DO YOU SMELL?

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If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

1 Corinthians 12:17-18 (KJV)

In the above passage, I have always wondered what use the sense of smell has in the church! But, seriously, in this section of 1 Corinthians, Paul talks about the various functions of the church and the people who perform them. Paul goes on to say *“On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 1 Corinthians 12:22 (NIV)*

We all know the “important people” in the church such as Pastors Jim and Randy. Then there are the Elders, Don, Rod, Keith, and Fred. And so we could continue. But this day’s study has to do with the “*less comely*” (“*weaker, NIV, or less presentable*” in the NASB) parts. I don’t need to mention Dick and Marilyn who have done so much to make a place that is pleasing to God (as well as to us). Some of you know about Lee who spends hours and hours painting and other such chores. I would venture a guess that very few of you know Ted who comes every noon to water the trees and spend a little time in the chapel. Do you know who painted the beautiful murals recently?

These, however, are not the ones I am thinking about today. I am thinking of two ladies who have performed an essential, even vital roll in our church (but not at the same time). No, I am not thinking about Euodia and Syntyche (Philippians 4:2) There is an old saying that, “behind every successful man there’s a woman.” I would modify that with “Behind every growing and loving church there is a woman.”

Berean Bible Church started (as Berean Bible Fellowship) on Father’s day, 1983. It would never have been established; it would never have grown; it would not be here today if it were not for one woman. That woman was Elvira Wickstrom, Pastor Jim’s mother. Without her consistent and constant prayers, we would have never made it. If Elvira said she was praying for something in particular, you could count on it coming into being. In January of 1985, when we were meeting in Judkins Middle School, Elvira called Gail one day in January and announced that we were going to be in our own facilities by Christmas, the Lord told her that and she was going to pray about it. “A typical response would be, Yeah, sure!” Well, in November of that year we merged with Bible Baptist Church and, by Christmas, here we were!

James wrote, “*The prayer of a righteous woman is powerful and effective.* (James 5:16b NIV, Corrected by McMorran) Yes, I know James said “man” but that was in the day when that was “politically correct.”

In 1993, the Lord must have decided that he needed Elvira’s services much more than we did so He took her home. Moses had said to Joshua, “*And the LORD, He is the one who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.*” Deuteronomy 31:8 (NKJV) The Lord did not take Elvira without providing for us. Since 1993 another lady has taken Elvira’s place in just as an effective way as she did, maybe even more. Sometimes when I have not been very well, she will call me and ask “How are you today?” I will tell her and then ask what she wanted. She just wanted, “to know how you are and that I am praying for you.” Recently, Dagne turned 98! I really didn’t think people actually lived that long (well . . . I guess they do).

Do you know why I think Dagne is now 98 and still the backbone of the church? I don’t think the Lord has found a replacement for her yet! I know of several ladies I think would be good candidates, but I suppose the Lord still hasn’t made up His mind; Dagne still has the job. She does it well! Will you be the next?