

Pleasant Valley
Church of Christ

3317 Amidon
Wichita KS 67204
(316) 838-4195
www.letjesusleadus.org

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Classes 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am
Evening 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Classes 7:30 pm

The Pleasant Valley Church of Christ is a non-denominational group of believers who are committed to following Jesus in our attitudes, our relationships, and our worship. If you want the same thing in your life, please contact us. We'd like to help.

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the New King James Version Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Wings



*"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31)*

May 4, 2008

Never give up!

by David King

I'm not a basketball fan, so normally the annual NCAA college basketball championship game holds no interest for me. However, in 1983, it was different. One of the teams in that game was the University of Houston — my alma mater. The Cougars were on a hot 26-game winning streak, and were heavily favored to beat their opponent, the North Carolina State Wolfpack, led by a passionate young coach, Jim Valvano.

Surprisingly, the scrappy NC State team held tough throughout the game. With less than a minute left, the game was tied 52-52, and NC State had the ball. They patiently worked the court, but couldn't get a shot off. Finally, with time running out, Dereck Whittenburg launched a shot from 30 feet out, and Lorenzo Charles dunked it at the buzzer. NC State had pulled off one of the greatest upsets in sports history.

Ten years later, Valvano gave a speech honoring his '83 team. In that speech, he described the lesson he learned from that season: "That team taught me the persistence, the idea of never, ever quitting. Don't ever give up, don't ever stop fighting!" Less than three months later, Coach V died of cancer. Today, the V Foundation for Cancer Research still honors his memory (www.jimmyv.org). Their motto: "Don't ever give up!"

Life is much more than a game, and there are bigger threats that we must face than even cancer. But the great lesson that each of us must learn in life is timeless and universal: "Don't ever give up!"

Isn't that one of the enduring messages of the Bible? "Therefore, do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise" (Heb. 10:35-36). "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1). "Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand" (Eph. 6:13).

There is something in the human heart that responds to the image of the epic hero, the ordinary person who, against overwhelming odds, holds true to his convictions, keeps on fighting, refusing to quit. Whatever the outcome of his struggles, his example of perseverance is an inspiration to the rest of us. But what we often fail to realize is that the same potential for epic heroism is in each one of us. However humble our circumstances, we, too, have the capacity to accomplish great things, if we will set our goals high, and never quit in pursuit of those goals.

The greatest goal, of course, is heaven itself. And the obstacles we must face are all the temptations, frustrations, and hardships that we encounter throughout our daily lives. Our victory may not make the headlines, but it will be just as satisfying, just as heroic, because no matter what others thought, we never stopped believing. We never gave up.