

Carry the Umbrella

Some parts of our country are experiencing heavy rains and flooding, and other areas are afflicted by drought. In a typical year, it is usually that way. In one region or another, the rains come in great abundance, or not enough to meet the needs.

Southeast Tennessee, for example, finished 2003 with rainfall 12 inches above its normal annual total of about 60 inches. This year, rain was in shorter supply, so that at one point, the area was about eight inches behind its average for the year. What brought all this to mind was a message I noticed this morning on the marquee of the Central Church of Christ on Henderson Avenue and 25th Street. It read:

Prayer is asking for rain. Faith is carrying the umbrella.

It is an important theological statement. And, apparently, some folks in this area must have been carrying their umbrellas. This past Saturday, we experienced 2.34 inches of rain. That, along with other recent showers, have narrowed our deficit to a little more than three inches behind our rainfall average.

Prayer is a wonderful privilege that God extends to His children. To be able to talk to the Creator of the universe is an awesome freedom that He encourages. No matter what you bring to God, He will respond in the best possible way to that need. You are not guaranteed to like it, but it is guaranteed to be God's best for you.

So, pray, but exercise faith in the process. Keep the umbrella handy.

--Beecher Hunter