

The Oak Grove Oracle

(Family News & Views of the Oak Grove Church of Christ)

Meeting Weekly At Our Building Located At:

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What Does Your Spiritual Wristband Say?

I spent all afternoon Friday at the Cardiac Imaging Center of *CTMF* (Tyler). After checking in, one of the first things they did was to attach a plastic wristband to identify me to the medical personnel who were working on me. The rest of the day nothing happened to me until someone, or several someone's either scanned or read my wristband, sometimes both. Often, after doing so, they would ask me to say my name and my date of birth. It happened so many times I thought I was about to get a surprise birthday party. My first thought was one of sadness, since Janice had been left behind in the waiting room, and would miss it, but I digress!

While I was sitting there in the wheelchair, or lying on the examining table, waiting, waiting, waiting..., I got to thinking about how important my name and my birth date were on that little wristband. After all I was not there for brain surgery or to have a toe amputated. However, all that stood between me and such unthinkable possibilities was that little white plastic band with some microscopic information and a "QR" code printed in one corner.

OK, I'm getting to it. What if when you became a member of Christ's church, Jesus were to affix a bracelet to your wrist to identify you to others as a Christian? Maybe it would have your name and your spiritual birthdate engraved upon it? But what else? What if attendance or contribution records, or maybe soul-winning efforts were attached? Would a spiritual heart transplant be indicated?

A few years ago when I was working in used car sales, I attended an auto auction almost every Friday in Longview. One of the gate guards stood out to me. He had that "2nd mile attitude and personality." He always had a smile on his face and an encouraging word on his lips. He treated everyone with kindness and respect. Just from observing his demeanor, I remember wondering if he might not be a Christian. It was really no surprise to me when I asked him one day where he went to church and he said, "I'm a member of the Longview church of Christ." Turns out, he was actually serving as one of the elders of that congregation. His name was Sam Phillips and I'll never forget him.

Can others tell you are a Christian just by the way you talk, dress, and live? Would they have to scan your wristband before they could tell for sure? "By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35).

David A. McCain