

THE WEEK THAT WAS

by Rod Rutherford

Perhaps some may remember a television news program years ago called “The Week That Was” when events of the past week were discussed. This past week was surely one of the most shocking, surprising, traumatic weeks in the history of the Smoky Mountains, the inhabitants of Gatlinburg, and the members of the Gatlinburg church of Christ! ! !

When we enjoyed a day of study, worship and fellowship together last Sunday, little did we know what was going to happen! Who would have thought they would have to evacuate their home? Who could have imagined their home might be burned to the ground as happened to Joann Tant and her family, Janet Howell and her family and Richard and Judy Sortore and their family? Who would have thought of the anguish and sadness we would feel when we learned our beautiful church building was burned? And then to see the first picture of the ruins of it?

But who would have thought of the great outpouring of love from our brothers and sisters in Christ that has come from all over our nation as well as some other nations. Brenda and I have spent most of the past week answering the telephone or responding to emails from Christians asking, “What can we do to help?” The fellowship hall of the Sevierville church is filled with items donated by our brethren for the use of those who are displaced from their homes and for our use in helping our neighbors and friends who have also lost much. The Sevierville church has kindly welcomed us into their building and congregation. Others have offered songbooks, church pews, chairs and communion ware. Churches are sending money to help the families who have lost their homes rebuild and to help the church rebuild our facility also. God is good! He has not forgotten His people! Let us praise Him for His goodness toward us (Psa. 100:1-5).