

October 2009

Blessings



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Pastor's column

A vision for re-planting



Andy Blankenship

Church planting seems to be at an all time high in recent years. I have no statistical information to validate that statement but I do have many friends and acquaintances that are planting churches all over the place. It also seems like every town is getting more and more of these “store front” churches; groups that split off of other groups or ministries

that were started up from scratch. When I spend time with my friends and I begin probing their minds about church and philosophy of ministry I always steer the conversation to one thing. “Why did you plant a new church?” The vast majority give me the same answer. They were not satisfied with the local, established church so they wanted to start something new and pure. Now when I say pure I mean free from doctrinal corruption, spiritual apathy and, to be honest, Pharisees, for these are the things that run pastors off and cause division in churches all the time.

Now I don't want there to be any question as to whether or not I support planting churches. I think this ministry is vital and very much needed. However, I also believe that some guys abandon ship and simply give up on the established church when as I heard a pastor say one time, “There's gold in them pews!” What that statement means is there is much potential in our churches but like mining for gold it will take work and diligence to acquire it.

You see something occurred to me this week. In my personal devotion time, sermon prep and even in conversations with my church family a truth has come out; Christian people forget. As you read that you are saying, “What a trivial statement!” “Of course we forget things.” But this is also, I believe, a profound answer to a great dilemma. You see my friends are right. Most established churches are doctrinally weak and spiritually apathetic and once again, to be honest, filled with some legalistic Pharisees. However, this does not mean she is beyond cure and without hope. I think she just needs to be reminded of her foundation.

Therefore, it is with great joy and excitement I share with you all a vision that God has put deep into my heart; a vision not for church planting but re-planting. I want to devote my life and ministry to “re-planting” the fundamental doctrines of scripture and the sound theological precepts that for centuries have encouraged evangelism, discipleship and revival in our midst. This will not be easy nor will it be quick. In all seriousness this will take hard work and prayer like never before and something that no Baptist wants to hear...fasting. It will take people honestly evaluating their personal walk as well as the ministries in which they serve. This vision will no doubt leave each of us tired and overwhelmed at moments but it will also leave us satisfied and worshipful.

As October marks the celebrations of the Protestant Reformation I am also excited as I anticipate a reformation in our church and Lord willing in other churches in our area. So to God be the Glory for the great things He has done but also for the great things He can do in our future. I look forward to preaching and teaching on this after New Years but until then being praying and seeking God's face on how you will fit into this vision.

Because He Lives
Brother Andy

Transferred to the Church Triumphant



Ann Tucker
September 2, 2009

Kids, read your Bible and get to go on a fun mystery trip

Discover the treasures in God's Word for yourselves by reading the Bible everyday. And an added bonus will be that you get to go on a fun trip.

Here's how it works: Read the verses on the bookmarks and turn them in to your Sunday School teacher or Rhonda Youngblood each Sunday. Ten completed bookmarks in a quarter qualifies you to go on the mystery trip for that quarter.

Mandy Smith, Kaleb West, Kate West, Kylee West, Russ Wilkes and Matthew Youngblood enjoyed last quarter's mystery trip which included seeing the movie *Cloudy With A Chance of Meatballs* and supper at McDonalds.

For more information about the Bible Bookmark Club, contact Rhonda Youngblood.



Hey kids, there's now a choir just for you!

Beginning October 4, children in grades one and up can enjoy music, games and a lot more at Children's Choir every Sunday at 5:00 p.m. For more information, contact choir leaders Jill Brannen (433-2156) and Rhonda Youngblood (268-7464).

WORLD HUNGER: IT'S TIME TO GET PERSONAL

Hungry people are our problem because they are made in the image of God. And because He cares about their welfare, we are to care about it as well.

"Offer yourself to the hungry."

Isaiah 58:10



Do we give hunger the attention it deserves? We shake our heads in pity when we see reports of the desperation wrought by poverty. We scour our pantries when the church conducts a food drive, looking for canned goods we bought on a whim but know we'll never use. And many of us are convinced the federal government should be doing a better job of alleviating hunger and poverty, given the amount of taxes being withheld from our paychecks.

Yet through gifts to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund, many Southern Baptists are providing missionaries and volunteers in North America and around the world with resources to feed those in need. When possible, they teach people to grow their own food and raise their own livestock in order to help them become self-sufficient.

One hundred percent of every donation to the World Hunger Fund flows directly to the mission field, where the love of Christ is shared as an intentional part of every ministry. When an individual sacrificially gives to the fund, God blesses that gift.

However, we can be assured that God expects Southern Baptists to do more. He expects us to demonstrate an urgency to pray, to give and to

minister on behalf of those who are hungry—both physically and spiritually. When will you get personal about hunger?

The World Hunger Fund at work in 2008

In North America, Southern Baptist missionaries and volunteers provided more than 5 million meals through over 2,000 hunger ministries. There were more than 90,000 volunteers working in hunger ministries, and nearly 17,000 new volunteers were trained in evangelism. They were able to share the gospel over 785,000 times because of the opportunities provided through hunger ministries, and they reported over 36,000 professions of faith.

At the Calvary House shelter in Beaumont, Texas, \$50 provides food assistance of a homeless or transient family for a week.

Internationally, Southern Baptist missionaries and their Great Commission partners implemented over 500 projects. They addressed acute needs resulting from natural disaster as well as the chronic issues of poverty, hunger and poor water quality.

In India, a dozen widows and abandoned women were living in desperate poverty until they were each provided a dairy cow and calf. Through the sale of milk, the women were able to repay the cost of the livestock and support their families.

What can you do?

Pray that God will help you see others as He sees them and for boldness to reach beyond your comfort zone to someone in need.

Give money to the World Hunger Offering this month and canned and packaged food for local hunger needs (see page 5).

Learn more how hunger affects those in our community, the United States and around the world by visiting www.worldhungerfund.com.

Associational news

Continue to pray for associational missionary search

Please continue to pray for the associational missionary (aka director of missions) search. The search committee is presently reviewing resumes. Committee members are Craig Busse, Carroll Camp, Rob Gray, Krista Harris, Brenda Lockerman and Ray Sullivan.

Northern Heights Church to host 179th Annual Meeting October 20

This year's featured guest preacher will be Fayiz Saknini, Georgia Baptist missionary to middle easterners. Also preaching will be Bobby Sheffield and James Spires. State missionary Clyde Evans and Georgia Baptist Foundation's Ray Sullivan will give reports as well as a representative from the Georgia Baptist Children's Home. Harolene Shingler will provide beautiful and inspiring special music. The meeting is 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with lunch provided.



Walk for Jesus in the Big Pig Jig Parade on Oct. 31. Meet at the First Baptist Church in Vienna at 9:30 a.m. Line up is at 10:00 a.m., and the parade begins at 11:00 a.m. For more information contact Danny Kimbrel at 229-947-1212.

October
is
pastor appreciation
month

Women on Mission groups select officers for the new year



The Women on Mission Day Group elected new officers at their September 21 meeting after enjoying a covered dish lunch and birthday cake and ice cream. (It was Louise Kirksey's 90th birthday.) New officers are: President—Elizabeth Taylor, Vice-president—Mary Beth Reed, Secretary—Sally Averill, Treasurer—Mary Lizzie Lamberth, Assistant Treasurer—Martha Peavy, Sunshine Girl—Inez Collier, Nursing Home Ministry Coordinator—Mary Greer and Mission Study Coordinator—Brenda Lockerman. Several fall projects were discussed, and a program on state missions was presented.



The GEMS started the new year off with a brunch on September 26. After discussing several upcoming projects, the following officers were elected: President—Jill Brannen, Vice-president—Terri Gregory, Secretary—Sue, Treasurer—Paula Smith, Social Director—Vicki Lamberth, and Missions Leader—Brenda Lockerman.

All ladies in the church are invited to join one or both of these groups. Women on Mission is a missions organization for women (ages 18 and up) through which women pray for and give to missions, do missions, learn about missions, grow spiritually toward a missions lifestyle, and participate in the work of the church and the denomination.

Bring food for local hunger needs

As part of our world hunger emphasis this month, we will collect canned and packaged foods, and collection boxes have been placed in both the sanctuary and connecting foyer. Half of the collected food will be taken to the Dooly County Department of Family and Children's Services and half to the Food Pantry at Houston Baptist Center in Cordele.

Schedule of Volunteers for October					
Please remember it is up to you to arrange coverage if you are unable to serve on your scheduled day.					
Date	Flowers	Nursery for Sunday School	Nursery for Morning Worship	Deacon of the Week	Ushers
Oct. 4	Open	Suzy Grantham	Sue Thompson Sharon Thompson	Mark Smith	Bob Latimer Kyle West
Oct. 11	Elaine Phelps	Kim Godfrey	Jill Brannen Sarah Averill Brannen	Frank Thompson	Clinton Brannen Ronnie Hatcher
Oct. 18	Open	Mary Kathryn Blankenship	Paula/Mark Smith	Curtis Lamberth	Frank Thompson Matthew Youngblood
Oct. 25	Brenda Lockerman	Laura Lamberth	Katrina West Mary K. Blankenship	Jimmy Lockerman	Jimmy L. Hendrix George Massey

September Sunday School Stats

Senior Adults	12
FBIC	11
CIA	5
VOC	7
Young Adults	9
Older Youth	4
6 th , 7 th & 8 th Graders	4
3 rd , 4 th , & 5 th Graders	7
1 st & 2 nd Graders	7
Older Preschoolers	2
Younger Preschoolers	5
Nursery	0
General Officers	3
TOTAL	75

Financial Summary

<u>August receipts</u>	
General offerings	\$9,198.65
Memorials	85.00
Special-stove	47.00
TOTAL	9,330.65
<u>August disbursements</u>	
General expenses	7,156.67
Mailbox Club	200.00
Church plant support	100.00
Local missions/evangelism	200.00
Cooperative Program	1,113.88
Houston Baptist Association	428.41
TOTAL	\$9,198.96



Coming up





Lots more pictures on website.



Top left: Louise Kirksey blowing candles out on her 90th birthday cake at the Women on Mission meeting September 21.

Top right: The Seasoned Saints at Snellgroves' Restaurant on Sept. 17.

Bottom left: Our Girls in Action with North American missionary Grace McGraw on their trip to Birmingham on Sept. 12 to deliver the *Christmas in August* gifts.

Cover: Four of our most Seasoned Saints: (standing) Elizabeth Taylor, Martha Hill; (sitting) Louise Kirksey, Lucy Thompson.



Fall Festival

October 24

4:00–6:00 p.m.

Food, games, cake walk,
bingo, face painting,
hay ride, and lots more

Fun for EVERYONE!



Blessings is published monthly by Byromville Baptist Church. Send news items and/or comments to Editor Brenda Lockerman at POB 217, Byromville, GA 31007, email to brendalockerman@windstream.net or call 478-433-2791.

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