

The Good News

Newsletter— August 2016

A Publication of University Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, MS

The purpose of University Baptist Church is, through guidance of the Holy Spirit, to assemble and worship God, to love and encourage one another, to proclaim the gospel of Christ, to minister to all people, and to live in peace.

In a world where difficult issues remain, University Baptist Church continues its commitment to be a church where “there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male or female, for (we) are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28)

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19: 7-10)

Glory capped mountains above; blanketed in divine glow; the valley floor in
spectacular flowers dressed below; earthly clouds dance the rhythm of angelic
sounds sung by saints above.

Harmony escapes heaven's banquet hall though eastern star portals in the night's
velvet sky fueled by the Son's light of grace; Immaculate roses on the banks of
the Jordan dance in tune; with not one thorn to be found.

The fowls of Heaven can bear it no longer—now they join in as over the river's
air they flow.

The holy mountain of Zion speaks as it plays in laughter with the eternal snow
flake, and I too, here on the earth below—even in my cell at death row, delight
myself in the lord even tho: knowing I shall die by execution's blow.

So let death try me—vanity will be his reward, for in my chains a joyful noise
unto the king of kings I shall partake.

By Jesus and David C.

Death Row

Remembering

The Memorial holiday always leads to happy memories that I look back on about my grandfathers. Both of them were from the hardship school. The Milligan side came from Ireland because of persecution of Protestants. The English didn't help either. Nelson told me a story of the war—on Easter the churches would give food, coffee and sandwiches to the horse drawn Salvation Army wagon and the pastor would lead it over to the Catholic stronghold while the Protestants would shoot at it knowing it was going for the enemy. The Catholics would do the same as it passed over to the Protestant side. The real hero was the Salvation Army pastor who manned the wagon. Nelson would say that wagon was really fortified.

When Nelson came to America, Henry Ford was hiring. He was looking for cheap labor for the first automobile assembly line in Detroit Michigan. My grandpa figured out that the prohibition liquor was from Canada and he was working to build new trucks. My other grandfather Evans was from Canada and had the liquor. So, you know what that led to.

My father told me as WWII ended all the young boys looked up to the veterans. The new president was General Eisenhower and the Korean War was on. After that they purged men out of the Army and my grandfather was in the air force and saw “problems coming.”

Doctor Martin Luther King was going to march in Detroit. My Grandpa and Dad walked with them and a lot of bigots threw eggs on the cars at both (their) car dealerships. I remember hearing Grandpa on TV saying that all Americans were welcome at our family dealerships and went so far as to tell them that with a job and credit anyone could buy. The banks balked at this! He told them he would carry the notes. He sold the most Lincolns that model year as word got out. You see there are 14 cities around Detroit. In its heyday all the automotive plants were running 2 and 3 shifts around the clock. A new car cost as little as \$2,400 to \$5,000 + tax out the door. Now my dad told me that church played a big part in all families back then, that the Divorce note was non-existent, and a lot of families went to church.

Then came the Vietnam war and civil rights, Kennedy assassinations, both in the sixties which changed a lot. My Dad and Uncle both divorced their wives and that was a big effect on a seven year old boy. I remember when the Catholic church excommunicated the whole family. I also remember when my brother came home from Vietnam and how proud we were as a family and then to see people yell at him in uniform really hurt. These young men went to war for their country and Americans were blaming them for the whole situation.

Moving on, if you see a veteran today, thank them. Now we have soldiers serving in the Middle East since 2001. Pray for all services and remember all the dads too as Father's Day has passed by... Thank you for the time & space the Good News affords us through the church for all Death Row men & supporters. Happy Fourth of July.

God Speed: T.N. Evans

Saved To Serve

(life through the eyes of a servant)

Grace has paved the way for the path of servanthood.

“Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee, and before thou comest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee . . . “ Jeremiah 1:5

John 6:35-40; Hebrews 10:14; John 10:28-30 speaks directly to our destiny as believers as being settled. Eternity in heaven, home sweet home! But even though our new lives with Christ let us not lay aside the truth of Ephesians 2:10 where Paul wrote “For we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” Beloved make no mistake about it, we are at this very moment “A work in progress.” And this same moment there are believers that are insistent that God make them into what “they” want to be. Once again Paul's letter to the church at Galatia. (Galatians 5:13) is necessary. Ask God what He wants you to be become. Christ (our model) spoke to this issue directly in John 4:34 with these words, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to accomplish His work.” The secular world speaks the exact opposite. We, as believers are Holy Spirit empowered, through his indwelling to do the divine. That being divinely inspired actions that glorify God as well as being beneficial to others. Our Father before He created you already them in mind. The “others” will be revealed in your spirit as you yield yourself to God. Less of me and more of you Jesus!

In your daily prayers profess to God your availability. God cares more about our availability than our ability. Humble yourself before the Lord Jesus Christ, willing to serve, and you will see your humility build character. In Philippians 2:12-13 Paul makes this very point through his encouragement, “Work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.” A genuine desire to serve the Lord Jesus Christ is God's good pleasure dwelling inside us! May you humble yourself before God so that you may one day be called good and faithful servant. God Bless.

Tony B.

Going to Church . . . Being the Church
(Read Luke 10:30-37)

Every Tuesday and Thursday Susan shows up at the church to faithfully pray and have Bible study with other members. On Sundays she enjoys the joyful sermons from the pastor and how passionate everyone is about the word of God. During the days of Bible study everyone takes turns talking about a specific subject of their choosing and they question one another to see if everyone understands the message of the scriptures.

On Tuesday and Thursday Susan has recently become absent at the church for Bible study and some of the members are very concerned about that. It's very abnormal to some that she's not a part of something so very dear to her. One Sunday some of the members decided to have a talk with Susan to see if everything was okay, but she left the church in a hurry. A few of the members went to Susan's home but one of her neighbors informed them that she had gone down to a nearby nursing home. When they arrived at the nursing home they found Susan reading to the elders and helping them with every day needs. One of Susan's neighbors used to do these duties, but she became unwell so Susan started to fill in for her.

At times we are so consumed with our own lives that we forget about others who need God's love and attention. Everywhere around us there's someone in need, and as believers we have to listen, to sympathize, to pray for others, and to offer our help toward their needs. Susan may not be able to get to Bible study as she had in the past, but she has taken the time usually reserved for studying the Lord to now sharing His love with others in difficult situations. Faith is seen in our actions and I commend everyone that takes a part of themselves to help build up others that are in need of God's unconditional and eternal love.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help me and prepare me to be your hands and your feet to those that are in need. In Jesus name we pray—amen.

Going to Church... Being the Church

I'm up early after a good night
of rest,
on my way to church dressed in my
Sunday's best.
Greeted with the sunrise that brings
darkness to light,
ready to take my spiritual growth to a
new height.

Lord, teach me your ways so that I
may prosper,
always on bended knee giving praise
to my Father.
Use me each day to be your mighty
hands and feet,
to all the weary souls that have surrendered
in defeat.

My neighbors, my brothers, and my sisters
left in a lurch ,
my faith has given me the strength to
be the church.
Together we are one but divided we will
tumble and fall,
from the greatest of mankind even unto
the smallest of all.
In going to church to have fellowship in
His most holy name,
by being the church, I'm everything He
was risen to proclaim.

Justin U.

A Change Within Us

Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart,
from a good conscience, and from sincere faith. 1 Timothy 1:5

The following was written by Stephen P. in 2001. He suffered two strokes and currently has an aneurysm on his brain.

We as followers of the Lord Jesus Christ know that a change from within is the best thing that can happen to each and every one of us. And as believers we need to encourage others to make a change within themselves by accepting Jesus as their savior and Lord. We need to trust and believe in him. We must be willing to forgive those who have wronged and hurt us as well as the people that we love. We must be willing to give them another chance at life and love no matter what they have done. And we also need to admit that we are sinners and turn away from our sins.

We need to receive God's love into our hearts, souls, minds, and lives each and every day. We also need to watch out for the devil and his demons because they don't want us to change from within. They want us to be rude. They want us to hate and be selfish towards our brothers and sisters. They don't want us to be forgiving, but to hurt the people we love. We can make a change from within for the better and not for the worse. It is up to us whether we make this change in our lives or not. For our Lord and savior Jesus Christ has shown us and continues to show us just how to make that change from within. He died on the cross and now asks us to believe and trust in him with our hearts and souls.

We need to do just as this scripture says in Timothy 1:5. We need to believe in what it is saying to us within our whole hearts. For we must love from a pure heart because God's love is pure and it goes to the hearts and souls of each and every believer. And we must have a good conscience because if we have a good conscience everything we do will be good, but if we let our conscience be evil, then everything that we think of and do will be evil. And finally we must believe from sincere faith that whatever we ask the Father of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior will be granted to us because we believe honestly and did not doubt that the Lord wouldn't answer our request and our prayers. Our lives depend on whether we change from within. So let's let the devil and his demons know that our change from within came through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen and Amen.

Brother in Christ,

Stephen Elliott Powers

The Word of God

Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly...
But his delight is in the law of Lord... —Psalms 1:1-2

I have been teaching Sunday school for the adults as of late.
I really enjoy the word. —John 17;17

I try my very best not let nonsense take away my joy of church.
I love to be there to be fed. —Acts 20:28

We all know that the work is in the vineyard
and the word is needed to do that work. —John 15:1-17

God is good and sometimes we get caught up in the things we want
And miss out on the things that we need.—Hebrews 4:16

God bless everyone,

Fredrick Singleton
Flora, Ms

