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DOING GOD'S WORK, GOD'S WAY, FOR GOD'S GLORY

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NEWSLETTER

MARCH 14, 2008

Dear Friends in Christ,

As Peter concludes his 2nd evangelistic sermon, found in the book of Acts, he boldly and passionately declares the following invitation to his awakened congregation. **“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”** When you consider the content of his immediate audience, the apostle gives quite a fearless and amazing call to conversion. Many in this crowd had vehemently opposed the Lord Jesus Christ; slandered the Lord’s holy character; mocked His majestic teachings and ultimately they were guilty of murdering the Son of God! Up to this point, they were completely blinded and ignorant of God’s eternal purpose and plan, concerning the person and the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Peter courageously confronted their spiritual blindness, ignorance and rebellion, by saying, **“But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses.”** Yet friends, it was through this vicious act of the crucifixion of Jesus, that God fulfilled HIS GLORIOUS SALVATION PLAN. God used the most wicked crime that was ever committed by man, to bring about the greatest blessing that could ever be known by man! Our Sovereign Lord used all of their foul iniquities, their stiff-necked rebellion and their homicidal retribution, to serve HIS SAVING PURPOSES, in the redemption of sinners! Isn’t that absolutely astounding and amazing grace! The Holy Spirit put it this way in Acts 2:23, “Him, (Jesus), being delivered by the determined purpose and fore-knowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death.”

However, precious friends, Peter, does not conclude the message by only proclaiming the plan and purpose of God in the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. He passionately pleads with them to **‘repent and be converted’, so that their sins may be blotted out.** He compassionately tells them that if they will only turn from their sins and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, they will receive what he calls, **“times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord”**. By using this phrase, Peter is painting a beautiful picture of the glorious blessings of salvation. He is saying, that this salvation is comparable to a man who is confined in an enclosed prison cell, with no windows and no exit. The blazing heat of the sun has been shining upon the roof of this cell, which is without any ventilation. The sun’s penetrating rays have produced suffocating and sweltering temperatures, within this cell. The prisoner is at the point of complete asphyxiation from this condition. **When suddenly**, there is a wind of refreshing air that miraculously sweeps into the room. The prisoner is amazingly revived and restored by that ‘life-giving’ wind of fresh air. This cooling, regenerating wind has moved in and revitalized his very life! This is the picture Peter uses in attempting to describe the miraculous breath of the Holy Spirit!

On the day of Pentecost, the mighty Wind of the Spirit of God had swept into the lives of the disciples in that upper room; and now, they were filled with the Wind of God, (Holy Spirit), and the Word of God. It was just a few weeks prior, that this same Peter had denied His Lord before the accusation of a servant girl. Yet now, the presence and power of the Spirit of God has filled Peter with holy boldness, a confident compassion, and a steadfast assurance. He is unashamedly preaching the undiluted message of the Person of Jesus; the Work of Jesus; and the Terms of Jesus, to the very people who had brutally murdered the Lord Jesus Christ. Peter is pleading with them, concerning the claims of Christ; and longing that they might come to know these: **‘TIMES OF REFRESHING FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD’!**

Friends, do you see the lost men and women around you as “never-dying” souls, who are in bondage to the oppressive suffocation of their own desperately wicked hearts?

Do you see them as slaves who are imprisoned, under the tyranny of sin, darkness, and death?

Do you recognized that they are chasing all of the amusements, trinkets and distractions that this world has to offer; attempting to satisfy the longing of their thirsty souls, by things that are empty, futile, and leads to death?

Do you realize that only these ‘times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord’ can truly fulfill the longings of their soul and deliver them from the suffocation of their sin?

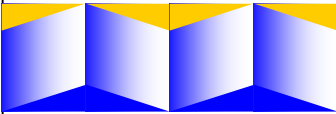
Oh, friends, may we make a new commitment to intercede, asking for the Wind of God to blow on their lives.



1 Peter 3:15 - But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to

give a defense to every one who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear

Oh, that all, who have been refreshed, would make a new commitment to “take opportunities and make opportunities” to share the truths concerning the Person of Jesus, the Work of Jesus, and the Terms of Jesus, with those within the realm of our lives. May the mighty Wind of God blow in our souls and through our lives.



Testimony from the Prayer Conference, by Pastor Allen Atkins.

Several years ago, our church began an active intercessory prayer ministry. For various reasons, we began to see that ministry decline. As we became burdened about this declension, the Lord led me to contact Ed about leading this prayer conference at Fairhaven. In trying to be ‘realistic’ about the week-night attendance, I thought we might have 25 or so, who would faithfully attend the entire conference. Thankfully, the Lord proved me quite wrong! In addition to the good attendance on Sunday morning and evening for the first 4 sessions, we averaged over 100 adults every night, for the entire 10 sessions! God did a mighty work in our hearts, that only He could do. The people were very receptive to Ed’s teaching. Believers were encouraged, but also challenged to a deeper walk with God and a more effective prayer life. Our people are still talking about the conference. Just last week, we experienced one of the **BEST MEN’S PRAYER MEETINGS** that we have ever had. Also, our intercessory prayer ministry has been revitalized! I thank God for His Word and the work of the Holy Spirit in our midst!

May we personally seek the Holy Spirit for a fresh enduing of His Power, His Passion, His Compassion, His Boldness and His Cour-

TIMES OF REFRESHING IN THE REGENERATING OPERATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In the last few ‘church meetings’ in Florida and Georgia, I have witnessed men, women and young people testifying of the supernatural regenerating work of the Holy Spirit, unto the conversion of their lives! Pastor, Dennis Brunet of Midway Baptist, a long-time friend and dear brother in the Lord, called me 2 weeks after the meeting concluded. He shared the following encouraging words. “Bro. Ed, the Sunday, following the crusade, there was an elderly lady who came to me, testifying publicly, that she had been born again during the crusade that you preached. The entire church looked on for quite a while, as she slowly made her way to me, with the aide of her walker, to make a public profession of her new birth. Also, a ‘middle aged man’ testified of the working of the Holy Spirit in mighty power in his soul and life. He personally discovered for the first-time in his life, what it meant to surrender unconditionally to the Lordship of Christ! Many youth also testified of the mighty power of the Gospel working in their souls, unto conversion. We are continuing to receive reports of the times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord in our midst! Hallelujah!

Two weeks later, I had the privilege to preach the Word of God at a church

in Cordele, Ga. The Holy Spirit was working mightily in the lives of His people, during the Sunday morning message. Throughout the week, there was great liberty to preach God’s word, accompanied by a sweet teach-ability among the people of God. On Wednesday, the Holy Spirit powerfully applied the preaching of His word unto the conversion of souls, for His Glory. Pastor Tommy Brett writes his thoughts on our time together at Pleasant View Baptist Church. “We all give glory to God, for the way He revealed Himself in our meetings this past week. The Word was delivered with the power and authority of the Holy Spirit. Bro. Ed, I am grateful that you are willing to be used of the Lord. Truly, God has raised you up for ‘such a time as this’. This past Sunday night, (that followed the crusade), the entire service was devoted to giving the saints an opportunity to share how the Lord worked in their lives. Precious testimonies declared the awe-

some work of our great God and King. The first testimony was from a 24 year old, young man, who testified of the Lord’s saving work in his life. He is, by nature, a very shy and introverted individual. Normally, he would never come back to church on a Sunday night. But he was the **FIRST ONE** to share a testimony of God’s saving work in his soul. He testified that during the week, he realized that he was never truly converted as a child. By his own confession, he now “knows” that he is on the strait path that leads to eternal life. He is manifesting that evidence with a hunger and thirst to study the “Fundamentals of the Faith”. The entire evening service was spent with our congregation opening up and sharing testimonies about the revival and how we are going to be changed because of it! We have witnessed the power of the ‘preached word’, in our midst throughout this past week. The precious Holy Spirit has invaded our lives and arrested our hearts. He graciously chose to teach, reprove, correct and instruct His people in a mighty manner. My prayer is that the Lord will continue to manifest His presence among us, as we strive and intend to practice, what we have heard.



THE BIBLICAL PATH TO AN EFFECTIVE PRAYER LIFE CONFERENCE!

The Lord graced me with another wonderful opportunity to teach my series on prayer, entitled, “The Biblical Path to an Effective Prayer Life”, at Fairhaven Baptist Church in Demopolis, Al. Pastor Allen Atkins and I have been very close friends in the Lord, for well over 20 years. God has given me many precious opportunities to preach and teach in the different churches that Allen has served in through the years. This week was one of the highlights of our times of service together.

In many churches, when you announce there is going to be a conference on the subject of “Prayer”, which is going to take 10 sessions to thoroughly cover, it would be like screaming “FIRE” in a crowded building! But, Fairhaven Baptist Church responded in quite another manner, with their exceptional attendance; with their undivided attention and with their teachable and receptive hearts! There were many, many personal testimonies from men and women, sharing how the Holy Spirit used His profound, yet practical truths, to revive and refresh their personal prayer lives.

(Please read Pastor Allen’s Testimony found in left column)

MEN'S RETREAT IN LOUISIANA

Last weekend, I had yet another glorious opportunity, to be the speaker at the annual men's retreat for First Baptist Church of Gonzales, Louisiana, as well as preaching both morning and evening services on Sunday. I entitled the teachings for that weekend, "Being a Godly Man in an Ungodly World". It was apparent that the Holy Spirit was, powerfully and personally, applying these truths of practical living, into the lives of those in attendance. It was sweet to witness the Holy Spirit working wonderfully in the lives of these men of various age groups, young and old alike!

What a joy it was to serve at First Baptist for the first time and fellowship with the precious pastoral team. Senior Pastor, Dr. Jim Law, shared the following words of testimony, which flowed out of the staff meeting that followed the weekend retreat.

Dr. Law writes, "What a wonderful weekend in the Lord! Thank you for your labor in the Word! The Lord has done some marvelous things in our Church Body through your ministry among us. I have been meditating on 2 Corinthians 3:18 and remembering your outline of: **Contemplation, Reflection, and Transformation.** The Lord woke me up this morning at 4:30 to pray and seek Him in the Word.

In our staff meeting yesterday, we talked about the weekend, and the men shared episodes of how they were impacted by the straightforward exposition of God's Word. Perhaps the greatest impact has been and will be our consideration of how to **'communicate the gospel'**. We want to be faithful in our proclamation of the Good News. Pray for us as we search the Scriptures and teach the Church-Body to give a **'Christ-centered'** witness.

Thank you for your materials. I promise they will be put to great use, both here and to the ends of the earth.

Very soon, Pastor Jim will be travelling to China to teach pastors.

We concluded our staff meeting by saying collectively, "We sure look forward to him coming back." When I think about your ministry to us, I think of the Apostle Paul's statement in I Corinthians 2:1-5, "And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified....and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.' We sensed God's power and pleasure upon your ministry to us. Thank you for giving to the Lord!"



Oh brothers and sisters, what a sweet joy and blessing it is, to be an earthen vessel through which the Holy Spirit can apply the Word of the Living God and bring times of refreshing from the manifest presence of the Lord! What an awesome delight it is, to see the regenerating and reviving work of the Wind of God, when He mightily blows upon the souls of men and women.



We continue to receive wonderful reports from all over the U.S. and many other nations, from people that are listening to some of Ed's Sermons on sermonaudio.com. Listed below are the countries, in which people have downloaded Ed's messages for the month of February 2008, alone. In the United States, people in 42 states, have listen to some of these messages.

UNITED KINGDOM
CANADA
KOREA
SOUTH AFRICA
CHINA
NETHERLANDS
AUSTRALIA
INDIA

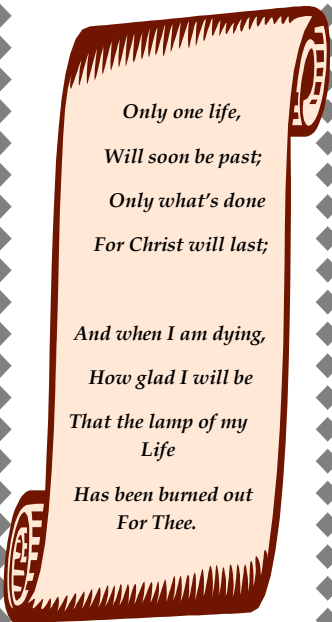
TAIWAN
LATVIA
BRAZIL
IRELAND
MALAYSIA
SWEDEN
PHILIPPINES
SAUDI ARABIA



SEYCHELLES
SINGAPORE
LITHUANIA
INDONESIA
AUSTRIA
BELGIUM
FRANCE
GERMANY
GHANA
HONG KONG
HUNGARY
NEW ZEALAND
NORWAY
TURKEY
VIRGIN ISLANDS
UNITED STATES

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

May the followings words, from the old hymn writer, be true in everyone of our lives.



Just last week, Pastor Jim Law, of First Baptist Gonzales, was inquiring about our doors of opportunities. I begin to share with him, the awesome privileges I have been given over these last few years, to preach the gospel all over the world. I spoke of the various open doors to train pastors, church planters and laymen, on the foreign mission fields; as well as hold evangelistic crusades. We spoke of the multiplicity of our work, not only aboard, but also in the United States, that includes: churches - prisons - one on one witnessing and discipleship.

Pastor Law was interested in how our ministry is able to undertake these tasks, as related to the needed funds to carry out these various missions. With much joy, I shared that from the time the Lord called us into the ministry, we have lived by faith. In our conversation, I told him that we are totally dependent upon the Lord, not only to open the doors of opportunity; but also the financial provision for that ministry. As I recounted the faithfulness of God to meet every need in our lives, my heart was filled once again with the awesomeness of the great God that we serve.

Then with tremendous joy, I spoke of our precious supporters. I told Bro. Jim, how the Lord has used special servants in our lives, to pray for us and to support us financially. I continued to communicate to

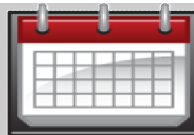
him, that we never solicit funds, nor do we seek after people to become our supporters. Yet, God has been faithful to unite us with people who have a heart to pray for us and invest in what the Lord is doing through this ministry. Needless to say, Bro. Law was in awe of our Lord.

My heart was filled with adoration and thanksgiving, as I gave testimony of you and your faithfulness to stand with us. Once again, we just want to say a special thank you for co-laboring us. We hope you know how grateful we are for your investments into our lives and ministry. Your prayers and support are used, not only to meet the needs of the ministry, but also to encourage us, in the faith. Dianne and I want you to know that we never forget your sacrifice and love toward us; and your heart to be on mission with the Lord. Friends, as I was speaking to Bro. Law, I was boasting of my Loving Father, the Lord our God; and you, the gracious family, the Lord has surrounded us with. We love you and thank our Lord upon every remembrance of you.

Your Servants for Jesus' Sake,

Ed & Dianne Lacy

UPCOMING



SCHEDULE

- MARCH 16-19.....CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH - GROVE HILL, AL - BEATITUDES CONFERENCE
- MARCH 30—APRIL 2GRACE COVENANT BAPTIST CHURCH - LAKE CITY, FL - BEATITUDES CONFERENCE
- APRIL 4-5.....BOARD MEETING—(HAD TO BE RESCHEDULED FROM JANUARY DATE)
- APRIL 11-13.....DON AVENUE BAPTIST - DENHAM SPRINGS, LA
(MEN'S & LADIES RETREAT) ED & DIANNE SPEAKING
- APRIL 20-23.....MOUNT VERNON BAPTIST CHURCH - JASPER, AL - REVIVAL
- APRIL 27-30.....SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH - SARDIS, AL - EVANGELISTIC
- MAY 4-7.....FIRST BAPTIST FRISCO CITY - FRISCO CITY, AL - PRAYER CONFERENCE
- MAY 18-21.....FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - BULL SHOALS, AR - PRAYER CONFERENCE