

Faith Talk

The Shield of Faith Church
Hanahan, SC

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In Grief...



During the holidays we tend to think of family and friends who have gone before us. We miss them greatly. We pray that the following Scriptures will bring comfort to you during this time. Know that we love you and are here for you...

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we

believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. —1 Thessalonians 4:13,14

For the Lord hath comforted His people, and will have mercy upon His afflicted. —Isaiah 49:13b

When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.—Isaiah 43:2

Now our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and stablish you in every good word and work.

—2 Thessalonians 2:16, 17

This is my comfort in my affliction: for Thy word hath quickened me. —Psalms 119:50

Casting all your care upon Him: for He careth for you. —1 Peter 5:7

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. —1 Corinthians 15:55-57

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. —Psalm 23:4

For we have a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace to help in time of need.

—Hebrews 4:15, 16

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Youth Talk
“Things Won’t Always Be This Way”

A wise man once told me that “things won’t always be this way...” He was right. Things change from day to day, hour to hour, and sometimes minute by minute. We never know what’s going to happen next. As we are traveling on this uncertain journey, we can sometimes feel like we are trying to walk on a tight rope about 80 stories in the air with nothing to save us if we fall. However, that’s what the enemy wants us to feel like.

Fortunately, Jesus made a way for us so that we can stand on solid ground while ‘all around us sinking sand.’ We can be confident that no matter what changes around us, we have a sure footing in which to keep our balance. He is our protector and will carry us through any and all changes that we face.

This Christmas season, let’s take the time to appreciate change... Just think, if Jesus didn’t come to this planet, there wouldn’t have been change. We are to embrace those around us while we are shopping and running errands. Ask them if they would like to see a ‘change.’ Sometimes, the change that we need is to just simply acknowledge that we aren’t the only ones in this world and that people are God’s priority. If we can recognize this important point, then we can help others embrace the ultimate change that they have been needing to find their whole lives.

Folks are so sensitive this time of year. Many are celebrating the holidays without their loved ones. Many are unable to travel due to limited funds. Many are alone... Let’s allow change to manifest in our lives by inviting others to enjoy some great fellowship time in our home during Christmas. How awesome it is when brethren dwell in unity!

Merry Christmas to all of the very special Youth that I continue to have the pleasure of teaching each week. What a blessing they all are to me!!!

And the Youth wish YOU a happy and healthy Christmas with lots of blessings from our Lord and Savior.

Blessings,

Floyd & Michele Dotter

A Word of Wisdom

One hundred years from now, it will not matter what my bank account was,
the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove...
but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child...

Church Sign

**We are like snowflakes. Alone, we are insignificant.
But we can sure do a lot when we stick together.**

Recipe of the Month Coconut-Lemon Cake

Ingredients:

1 cup unsalted butter, softened	1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 cups sugar	1/8 teaspoon salt
4 large eggs, separated	*Lemon Filling
3 cups all-purpose flour	**Fluffy White Frosting
1 tablespoon baking powder	1 cup flaked coconut
1 cup milk	Garnishes: fresh cranberries, fresh boxwood sprigs



Directions:

1. Beat butter at medium speed with an electric mixer until fluffy; gradually add sugar, beating well. Add egg yolks, one at a time, beating after each addition.
2. Combine flour and baking powder; add to butter mixture alternately with milk, beginning and ending with flour mixture. Beat at low speed until blended after each addition. Stir in 1 tsp. vanilla.
3. Beat egg whites and salt at high speed with an electric mixer until stiff peaks form. Stir about one-third of egg whites into batter; fold in remaining egg whites. Spoon batter into 3 greased and floured 9-inch round cake pans.
4. Bake at 350° for 18 to 20 minutes or until a wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pans on wire racks 10 minutes; remove from pans, and cool completely on wire racks.
5. Spread Lemon Filling between layers. Spread Fluffy White Frosting on top and sides of cake. Sprinkle top and sides with coconut; garnish, if desired.

Note: Boxwood is poisonous if ingested. If boxwood sprigs are used as garnish, cut small circle of heavy-duty plastic wrap, and position in center of cake before arranging sprigs and cranberries on top of cake. **Remove garnish before serving.**

*Lemon Filling

1 cup sugar	4 egg yolks, lightly beaten
1/4 cup cornstarch	1/3 cup fresh lemon juice
1 cup boiling water	2 tablespoons butter

1. Combine sugar and cornstarch in a medium saucepan; stir in 1 cup boiling water. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until sugar and cornstarch dissolve (about 3 minutes). Gradually stir about one-fourth of hot mixture into yolks; add to remaining hot mixture, stirring constantly with a wire whisk. Stir in lemon juice.
2. Cook, stirring constantly, until thickened. Remove from heat; stir in butter. Cool, stirring occasionally.

**Fluffy White Frosting

1 cup sugar	4 egg whites
1 1/2 cups water	1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar
2 tablespoons light corn syrup	

1. Combine first 3 ingredients in a small heavy saucepan; cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until clear. Cook, without stirring, until mixture reaches soft-ball stage or candy thermometer registers 240°.
2. Beat egg whites and cream of tartar at high speed with an electric mixer until soft peaks form; slowly add syrup, beating constantly. Beat until stiff peaks form and frosting is desired consistency.

<http://www.myrecipes.com/recipe/coconut-lemon-cake>

Chillie's Corner

"What Time Is It?"



A man had been driving all night and by morning was still far from his destination. He decided to stop at the next city he came to, and park somewhere quiet so he could get an hour or two of sleep.

As luck would have it, the quiet place he chose happened to be on one of the city's major jogging routes. No sooner had he settled back to snooze when there came a knocking on his window. He looked out and saw a jogger running in place.

"Yes?"

"Excuse me, sir," the jogger said, "do you have the time?"

The man looked at the car clock and answered, "8:15."

The jogger said thanks and left. The man settled back again, and was just dozing off when there was another knock on the window and another jogger.

"Excuse me, sir, do you have the time?"

"8:25!"

The jogger said thanks and left. Now the man could see other joggers passing by and he knew it was only a matter of time before another one disturbed him. To avoid the problem, he got out a pen and paper and put a sign in his window saying, "I do not know the time!"

Once again he settled back to sleep. He was just dozing off when there was another knock on the window.

"Sir, sir? It's 8:45!."

Bible Trivia—I Didn't Know That!

- A) Isaiah was the son of *whom*?
- B) Isaiah had his famous vision of the Lord on the throne during the last days of the king named *what*?
- C) In Isaiah's vision, the temple was filled with *what*?
- D) What did one of the angels touch Isaiah's lips with?
- E) In Isaiah 14, the term "morning star" refers to *what*?
- F) In Isaiah 26:3, the prophet writes that he "whose mind is steadfast" will *what*?
- G) What did God tell Job's friends to sacrifice?
- H) Twice Isaiah says, "There is no peace for" *whom*?
- I) In Isaiah 62:4, the prophet predicts that the people and their city of Zion will someday be called *what*?

(See page 6 for answers)

Keep Focused

BILLY GRAHAM

Evangelistic Association

Always Good News.

Question:

Every year, we say we're going to try to keep our children's attention focused on the real meaning of Christmas, but then all our good intentions go out the window once the holiday approaches. Is it hopeless to keep trying?

Answer:

No, it's not hopeless — and even if it seems difficult, I believe it's important to keep trying. After all, if your children don't learn the true meaning of Christmas at home, where will they learn it in today's world? They probably won't.

At the same time, be sure you take into account their ages and attention spans. Children don't necessarily respond to long Bible readings or extended prayers; they may even rebel against them if we aren't careful. Instead, you may want to take a few minutes each day to focus on one truth about Jesus and one fact about His birth. Simply but clearly teach your children who Jesus was and why He came into the world. Underline, too, that Jesus came because God loves us and wants us to be part of His family forever — and we will be, as we ask Jesus to come into our hearts.

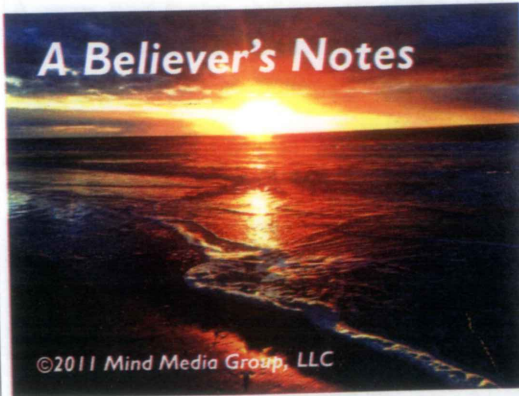
Remember that the greatest "teacher" your children will ever have isn't only our words, but our lives. Do we tell them Jesus is important to us, but then act as if He isn't? Do we become so preoccupied with shopping and other activities this time of year that they conclude this must be all there is to Christmas?

Christmastime gives parents a great opportunity to help their children discover who Jesus is and what He wants to do for them. Remember the Bible's promise: "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

<http://billygraham.org/answer/dont-give-up-trying-to-teach-your-children-about-the-true-meaning-of-christmas/>

The Lord is Good to ALL!

***“O taste and see that the Lord is good:
blessed is the man that trusteth in Him.”***
—Psalm 34:8



What does it mean to ‘fear’ the Lord? It means to give Him respect, to honor Him, to let Him be God in your life. If you fear the Lord, whatever He says, you’ll do. When you find something in His word you implement it immediately; you’re quick to make changes. God says that people who live that way have no want! No want! That is a vast statement. But read the Bible and you can see that it’s true. God has always taken total care of His people when they follow Him.

God doesn’t have any problem backing up His word. The only problem He’s had since the Garden of Eden has been finding people who would do what He says and allow Him to be God in their lives. God knows exactly how to get you out of trouble. He never changes.

When God finds somebody who is loyal to Him, He’s loyal to them. 2 Chronicle 16:9 says, “For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to show Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him. The word ‘perfect’ doesn’t mean ‘one who doesn’t make mistakes.’ It means ‘one who is loyal.’ God isn’t just willing to deliver you from trouble, He wants to deliver you. He is constantly searching for opportunities to show Himself strong on your behalf; but He will not force it on you. You’ll have to fear Him, give Him total respect, and honor Him. If you want to walk in the delivering power of God, you will have to want it enough to let God be God every day of your life.

Reverently fear the Lord. Respect and Honor Him and you will not lack any good thing!

Bible Trivia **-I Didn't Know That!** **(From Page 4)**

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| A) Amoz
2 Kings 19:2 | D) A Live Coal
Isaiah 6:6 | G) Cyrus
Isaiah 45:1 |
| B) Uzziah
Isaiah 6:1 | E) Lucifer
Isaiah 14:12 | H) The Wicked
Isaiah 48:22; 57:21 |
| C) The Lord's Train
Isaiah 6:1 | F) Have Perfect Peace
Isaiah 26:3 | I) Hephzibah and Beulah
Isaiah 62:4 |

In Grief... - Continued from Page 1

Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted.—Matthew 5:4

Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.—2 Corinthians 1:3, 4

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek, He hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified.

—Isaiah 61:1-3

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness. —Isaiah 41:10

Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.

—Isaiah 51:11

We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

- 2 Corinthians 5:8

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. -Revelation 21:4

-In the Wonderful Name of Jesus, Pastor Bob and Susan Tilton

Upside Down?

Even amid increased secularization, God makes a core Christmas message known. Take, for example, the story of a "winter pageant" a mother attended at her son's grade school. Songs of reindeer, snow, and Santa included one titled "Christmas Love," in which the youngest performers held up letters as the song progressed. "C," "H," etc.

When a little girl unknowingly held her "M" upside down, the older kids snickered and the adult audience smiled acceptingly. But as the song drew to a close and all the letters were revealed, surprised recognition struck the Christians in the room. "CHRISTWAS LOVE," read the string of student-borne letters. God's truth had penetrated the human clutter and confusion around Christmas - as it has power to do throughout our lives. "Christ was love." And of course, He still is.

Tidings of Great Joy



The holidays are almost upon us, and usually this is the time of year where my hopes and dreams tend to be renewed within my heart. This was not the case a few years back, however.

I felt like my life had fallen to a new low when my Jewish neighbor asked me to watch her dog so she could celebrate Christmas with her in-laws. When I initially declined she said, "Oh come on. You are single with no family. What does it matter if you stay at my house? You don't have anywhere to go."

Emotionally, I knew it mattered a great deal, but I had grown weary from the years of praying for the healing I needed in order to be connected with my loved ones so I could spend the holidays (and life in general) with them. I reluctantly agreed to watch the dog and stayed at her home, but as the days crept toward the 24th, my heart became more and more despondent.

It's been a longtime habit of mine to slip outside on Christmas Eve to pray, and that night was no different. The stillness of the December air that manages to turn crisp just in the nick of time in South Carolina and the extraordinarily bright moonlight somehow have always made the atmosphere seem truly holy to me. I am usually then moved to offer up my deepest, most heartfelt thoughts and feelings to God with ease. It's not uncommon for me to pray for a "Christmas miracle," either, and that year I did have a particular one in mind.

But rather than being able to speak, unexpectedly there were no words. There were not even tears. Instead I stood in the depths of a lifetime of emptiness. Not being able to take the pain of the disconnect even with Jesus, I told Him, "I have nothing to say. My hope is gone. I don't believe in Christmas miracles anymore. Your birth was probably it--the only Christmas miracle necessary, and that should be enough for me." Then I dejectedly went back into the house without even saying an amen.

It wasn't long after that when the dog and I headed to bed. Normally, it takes me well over an hour to fall asleep, yet within minutes I was out. Visions of sugarplums did not dance in my head, but sometime during the night I began to dream, and in my dream, I sat at a writing desk in a small room.

I tried hard to put pen to paper but because of an overwhelming anxiety, I got up from the desk and then began to pace. I was so caught up in my fear that when three men appeared in the room, I almost didn't notice them. They all had dark hair and were dressed like monks. Their habits were brown and the men wore golden sashes tied around their waists. They also all held golden tablets in their hands.

One of the men stepped forward. He simply said, "My name is Sean. I have a message for you. Do not be afraid." As soon as he said this, peace flooded me so deeply that I felt a change in my body even in my sleep, which caused me to wake with a joyful start.

I excitedly thought, "If the name Sean has anything to do with God, then my dream was from the Lord!" I sprang out of bed and tripped over the dog which nearly sent me flying head first down the stairs, but I hardly cared. I just wanted to get to the computer to find out about this name.

Sean, it turns out, is the Gaelic form of John which means, "God is gracious." This discovery only heightened my joy. By giving me that dream, the Lord indeed had shown Himself to be gracious to me.

-Continued on Page 15

Kids' Corner

A	B	C	D	E	G	H	I	J	L
▽	♥	I	☆	●	★	◆	○	✖	☆
N	O	P	R	S	T	V	W	Y	
■	*	▷	⊙	▲	†	◇	□	*	

I bring you _____
 ★ * * ☆ ■ ● □ ▲

of great _____ that will be for
 ✖ * *

_____. Today in the
 ▽ ☆ ☆ ▷ ● * ▷ ☆ ●

town of David a _____ has
 ▲ ▽ ◆ ○ * ⊙

been _____ to you; he is
 ♥ * ⊙ ■

_____ the _____
 I ◆ ⊙ ○ ▲ † ☆ * ⊙ ☆

Kids' Corner

“The Christmas Story”

Luke 2:1-20 - Amplified Bible

¹ In those days it occurred that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole Roman empire should be registered.

² This was the first enrollment, and it was made when Quirinius was governor of Syria.

³ And all the people were going to be registered, each to his own city or town.

⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David,

⁵ To be enrolled with Mary, his espoused (married) wife, who was about to become a mother.

⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her delivery,

⁷ And she gave birth to her Son, her Firstborn; and she wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room or place for them in the inn.

⁸ And in that vicinity there were shepherds living [out under the open sky] in the field, watching [in shifts] over their flock by night.

⁹ And *behold*, an angel of the Lord stood by them, and the glory of the Lord flashed *and* shone all about them, and they were terribly frightened.

¹⁰ But the angel said to them, Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people.

¹¹ For to you is born this day in the town of David a Savior, Who is Christ (the Messiah) the Lord!

¹² And this will be a sign for you [by which you will recognize Him]: you will find [after searching] a Baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

¹³ Then suddenly there appeared with the angel an army of the troops of heaven (a heavenly knighthood), praising God and saying,

¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest [heaven], and on earth peace among men with whom He is well pleased [men of goodwill, of His favor].

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing (saying) that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.

¹⁶ So they went with haste and [by searching] found Mary and Joseph, and the Baby lying in a manger.

¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known what had been told them concerning this Child,

¹⁸ And all who heard it were astounded *and* marveled at what the shepherds told them.

¹⁹ But Mary was keeping within herself all these things (sayings), weighing *and* pondering them in her heart.

²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.



Kids' Corner
"The Nativity Scene"



Kids Corner

“Books of the Bible”



Alpha and Omega

Amen

Author of Life

Bread of Life

Chief Shepherd

Christ

First and Last

Great Shepherd

I Am

Image of God

King Eternal

King of kings

King of the Ages

King of the Jews

Lamb of God

Lord of All

Man from Heaven

Our Holiness

Our Protection

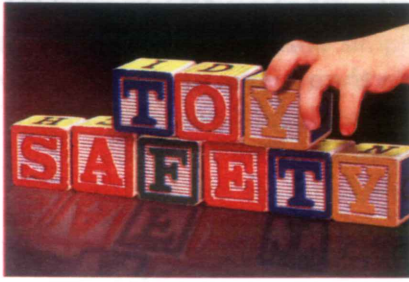
Our Redemption

Rabbi

Righteous One

Son of Man

Health Check



**“The Lord is my Strength and my [impenetrable] Shield;
my heart trusts in, relies on, and confidently leans on Him,
and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoices,
and with my song will I praise Him.”**
—Psalms 28:7

As the holiday season marches ahead, so does toy shopping for the special children in our lives. There are thousands of toys to choose from and selecting the right one can be a challenge, especially as new toys appear on the shelves every year. Toys are intended to be fun and enjoyable for children, but they can pose serious health risks if they are not properly made and designed.

In 2011, an estimated 262,300 toy-related injuries were treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments — 72 percent of which happened to children 15 years old or younger. Sometimes, choosing the right toy can be difficult, and a typical toy store can easily overwhelm even the shrewdest shopper. When evaluating what toys to buy this year, consider the following:

1. Children under three years old tend to put everything in their mouths, so avoid buying toys that have small parts and may pose a choking danger. Look for quality in design and construction, and follow age and safety recommendations on labels.
2. Consider purchasing a small parts tester to determine whether small toys for children under the age of three might present a choking hazard.
3. Toys with strings, straps, or cords longer than seven inches may pose a risk of strangulation.
4. Toys that are constructed with thin, brittle plastic might easily break into small pieces or leave jagged edges.
5. Avoid cap guns because the caps can be ignited by the slightest friction and cause serious burns.
6. Avoid toys with sharp points or edges, toys that produce loud sounds, or projectiles (such as dart and firing rockets).
7. If you buy a bicycle for a child, buy a helmet too and make sure the child wears it.
8. Make recommendations to family members and friends about gifts that you feel are appropriate for your child.
9. Inspect all toys as much as possible before taking them out of the box. Once opened, go through each part of the toy to make sure there are no small parts that could be choking hazards.

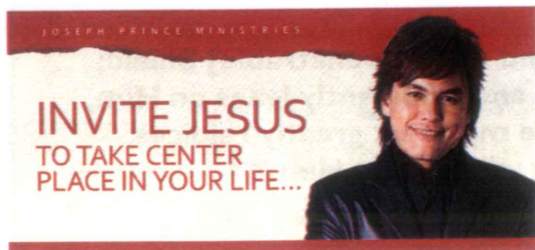
The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) oversees the safety of toys and many other consumer products, and requires toy manufacturers to meet stringent safety standards. For more information about purchasing safe toys and gifts, call the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Hot Line at (800) 638-2772.

REFERENCES:

<http://blog.mass.gov/blog/safety/december-is-safe-toys-and-gifts-month-9-tips-to-keep-kids-safe/>

***These articles are for information purposes only and, as always, consult with your doctor before assuming you have any condition.**

- Alisa Wetzig

Joseph Prince“Pray the Prayer of Jabez!”

“Jabez was more honorable than his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez, saying, “I gave birth to him in pain.” Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, “Oh, that You would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let Your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain.” And God granted his request.”
-1 Chronicles 4:9–10, NIV

There was once a boy named Sorrow. His mother gave him that name because she bore him in pain. You can imagine that with a name like that, it's quite likely no one liked him.

So do you know what Sorrow, otherwise known as Jabez in the Old Testament, did? He called on the God of Israel to BLESS him! “Oh, that You would bless me and enlarge my territory...” That's asking God for provision and increase. He also asked for God's hand to be with him so that he would be blessed in all that he did and be protected from harm. God not only granted Jabez his request, but He also considered Jabez more honorable than his brothers!

As you meditate on the Word for today, do the honorable thing—ask the Lord to increase and enlarge the favor, wisdom, abilities and opportunities for growth you currently have *to a whole new level*. Ask Him for divine wisdom to protect you from making unwise decisions that could lead to painful consequences. God is waiting to grant your request!

“Transformation and Victory Through Beholding Jesus”

“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”
-2 Corinthians 3:18

The greatest miracle that Peter experienced happened one night when he stepped out of his boat in the middle of a storm at Jesus' word. That night, the winds were wild and the waves boisterous. As long as Peter kept his eyes on Jesus, he did the impossible—he walked on water.

Jesus was walking on the water and when Peter looked at Jesus, he became like Jesus and did the supernatural. God's Word declares that “we all, with unveiled face, **beholding** as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being **transformed into the same image** from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

Beloved, when you keep your focus on Jesus, you are transformed into His image from glory to glory. You are transformed by beholding, not by working. When you see that Jesus is above the storms of your life, you will effortlessly rise above those storms.

So instead of looking at how insurmountable your circumstances and challenges are, turn away from them and keep your eyes on Jesus. While it may sound impractical, it is the most powerful thing you can do, and Jesus will cause you to reign over every storm in your life!

Tidings of Great Joy—Continued From Page 8

Yet later on Christmas Day, after happily sharing my story with a friend (who has been a church leader for more than 35 years), she simply smiled but did not comment. Concerned, I asked, "Do you not think this was from God?" She answered, "Yes it was, but those men were not monks, and that was not a dream. They were angels, and you experienced a visitation."

I fell silent. I realized God's graciousness to me had been far greater than I initially understood. To begin with, many people pray to see angels and often ask how that happens. There is no definitive answer, but I've slowly come to the realization that angels are visible when we need them to be visible, but only God knows when we truly are in that place of need. This is not something we can force upon Him. Additionally having a spiritual experience does not make a person holy, which is not a claim I could ever make about myself. I am just as human as anyone else.

Secondly, I told the Lord I didn't believe in Christmas miracles anymore, but He performed one simply to restore my hope. It's been six years since that night, but I think of it more frequently now because like the angels announcing Christ's birth, they too brought me great tidings of joy that is just now beginning to manifest in my life.

Two thousand years ago, Christ entered the world as Emmanuel and became God with us. There are times we think He has left us, but because of His graciousness, even on Christmas Eve, He finds His ways, sometimes plainly and sometimes miraculously to let us know, "I am still here. Do not be afraid."

God bless you and peace be with you always. Fear not and Merry Christmas, for the Lord is with us all.

- Kelly Noll

Note to Self

Speaking of "extra biblical," we are never going to grow to maturity with teaching like this:

"We teach that speaking in tongues, the working of sign miracles, and healing in the first century church were temporary sign gifts and are not for the church today. They were for the purpose of pointing to and authenticating Jesus Christ and the Apostles as revealers of divine truth."

I am afraid if this is what you believe, you have been disconnected from the life giving flow of real church. Search your churches doctrine for stuff like this.

Ephesians 4 speaks of "until" unity and a built up church... look around you... there is much work to do and these were the tools given to make us complete. Only the devil would want to take the tools that would bring the church into its completion.

Today is the day that the teachings and trickery that are not in the Bible need to get out of our doctrines. Let God be God, the church is His dwelling place and by the move of the Spirit He will establish us to maturity. There is no other way true church can happen.

Otherwise, enjoy your social clubs today...

- Darren Cole Butcher



Beautiful Shades



UPCOMING EVENTS:

On Friday, December 19, 2014 at 6:00pm
we will have our Ceremony and Dinner.
All who have supported Beautiful Shades
are welcome to join us as we celebrate
those who have completed this year's course!
We will be handing out certificates so
let's congratulate them on a job well done!

If you have any questions, or need directions to our meeting,
please don't hesitate to contact us at (843) 509-1653.

Thank you again for your prayers and support!

-Sheila Adams

Upcoming Events

“THE SHIELD OF FAITH SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2014”

Sunday, December 14, 2014 – CHRISTMAS DINNER – in the new building. NO SUNDAY SCHOOL AND NO PRAYER MEETING. We will have praise, worship, and preaching at 11:00a.m. in the sanctuary.

Please bring your special food dishes for everyone to enjoy together, after the morning service.

FRIED & ROTISSERIE CHICKEN, ALSO CHICKEN FINGERS, ROLLS, DRINKS & ICE WILL BE FURNISHED BY THE CHURCH.

Wednesday, December 24, 2014 – NO SERVICES

Wednesday, December 31, 2014 – 9:00p.m. – until midnight – in the church sanctuary, there will be a NEW YEAR'S EVE COMMUNION SERVICE, WITH TESTIMONIES, SINGING, AND REFRESHMENTS FOLLOWING IN THE NEW BUILDING.

Please bring your finger foods, light sandwiches, fruit trays, vegetable trays, chips & dips & etc. Drinks and ice will be furnished by the church.

Thursday, January 1, 2015 – NO SERVICES

ALL DATES OF DECEMBER NOT MENTIONED REMAIN THE SAME AS USUAL.

PLEASE COME AND LET'S CELEBRATE AS WE CLOSE OUT THIS WONDERFUL SUCCESSFUL YEAR OF 2014 AND ENTER IN THE NEW YEAR OF 2015 WITH JOY, GLADNESS OF HEART, THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE TO OUR GOD. HE HAS DONE GREAT THINGS FOR US. HE IS HOLY, RIGHTEOUS AND WORTHY TO BE PRAISED ALWAYS. Psalms 100.

MAY OUR LORD BLESS, PROTECT AND KEEP EACH ONE AS WE ALL CELEBRATE JESUS AND GIVE HIM GLORY EACH DAY OF THE NEW YEAR OF 2015.

IN THE WONDERFUL NAME OF JESUS, OUR SAVIOR, LORD, AND REDEEMER.

WE SPEAK GOD'S LOVE, BLESSINGS, AND DIVINE FAVOR TO EACH OF YOU,

-Pastor Bob and Susan Tilton

Sunday School Events

Children's Sunday School

Ages 6-11






For the month of December, the Children's Sunday school class will be taking a trip back to Bethlehem. Our scripture reading will primarily be focused in Luke 2. In this class, the children will learn about God's promise that a Messiah would be born in the town of Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). We will be referring back to the verses in the Old Testament where it was prophesied that God would send us a Savior (2 Samuel 7:12-16). How important it is for the kids to know that God always keeps His promises, and His promise was fulfilled all the way to Calvary and beyond! Hallelujah! After His promise to send a Savior came to pass, we will speak further on God's promise of salvation to all who believe (John 3:16).

We will talk about the history of Bethlehem (also known as the town of David) before the birth of Jesus, and then what kind of town it was like during the time of His birth. As we walk through our journey with Mary and Joseph, we will encounter Gabriel and the shepherds who received the good news of His birth. In order to get a perspective on what these shepherds experienced, we are going to pretend how it must have been to be a shepherd in this day. This was not the ideal job even during the birth of Jesus; however, someone needed to do it, and these shepherds were obedient to their calling. It was during this time of responsibility when they were protecting their sheep that they received the good news of a Savior being born. When they received the message from the angels, they acted upon it, and went to see the Savior of the world. When they arrived in Bethlehem, they praised God for this great gift!

In addition, we will talk about the symbolism of the sheep's blood. In the Old Testament, the lamb was sacrificed for the purpose of covering their sins. So even though being a shepherd wasn't a popular job, it was quite an important one. The symbolism of the death of a Lamb was later shown to the world when Jesus was sacrificed, and His blood was shed at Calvary for the remission of our sins. (Hebrews 9:16). Just as the shepherds received the good news of a Savior being born, we are to share the Good News of His birth, burial and resurrection with others. We ALL require a Savior!

Of course, we go more in depth in our class, and I highly suggest you have your kids come to Sunday school. This is an important time that should not be wasted. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14).

-Rachel Ferguson

*The Lord has given you a  for
service. You are the  and 
of Jesus. You share God's Word, and
your efforts bear fruit . You're
a  shining God's love! 1 Cor.12:5*

Men's Sunday School

Join us for Men's Sunday School and let us dive into the Word of God together!

Sunday School Events—Continued

Ladies Sunday School

We bring in a new month with a new book and a new unit. The overall theme of this book is **Acts of Worship** with a unit theme of **In Awe of God**; which places a continued emphasis on Awe and Wonder. **Lesson 1: Worship Christ's Majesty.** This lesson uses Hebrews 1:1-9. *The Lesson Focus* says, "We worship Christ because of who He is." *In the Life Connection* we will discuss what we worship and why. *In the Bible Exploration* we will discuss how the Scriptures confirm that Jesus is God. *In The Bible Interaction* we will examine the reasons why we worship Jesus. *The Life Response* will show us how and why we should worship Jesus for who He is.



**We look forward
to seeing you on
Sunday at 9:45am!**

Webster's Dictionary defines worship as the following: *Worship is to honor with extravagant love and extreme submission. Old English origin of worship means worth + ship.* Worship is not something we do; it defines who we are. Whatever or whoever we spend the most time with, the something or someone we put first in our lives, that is likely what or who we worship. Jesus is worthy of all of our praise. Jesus also deserves our highest adoration and praise because of who He is and also because of what He has done in securing our salvation (with what He did on the Cross for us).

Jesus was declared to be God: God spoke through His Son Jesus, who is the heir of all things and creator of the universe; Worshipped by the Angels: Jesus is superior to the angels and has a superior name. The angels worship Jesus and do His will; and Exalted by the Father: God anointed Jesus above everyone and all things with the oil of gladness. When God exalted Jesus, it revealed Christ's majesty and that's why He deserves our worship. Once we understand who Jesus is, we cannot help but worship Him. **"Lord, may the worship in our hearts show through all our being, body, mind, and soul to Your glory."**
Troy D. Stuart

-Yolanda Wilson

September

Psalm 91:1 (KJV)

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

October

Psalm 91:2 (KJV)

I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust.

November

Psalm 91:3 (KJV)

Surely He shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

December

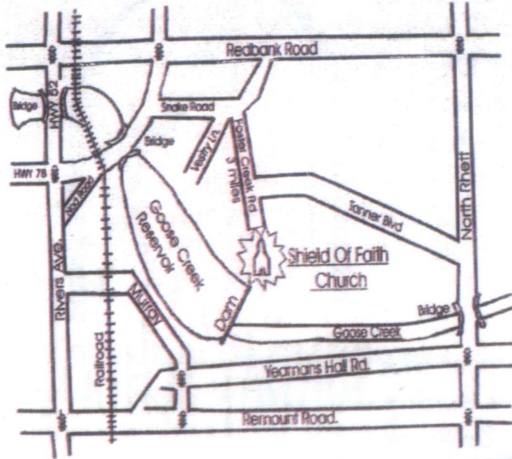
Psalm 91:4 (KJV)

He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shalt thou trust: His truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

**The Shield of Faith Church
Hanahan, SC**

1612 Foster Creek Road
Hanahan, SC 29410
Phone: 843-553-1823

Deepening our Relationship with Him...



We're on the Web!
www.shieldoffaithchurch.net

Next deadline to submit articles is:
Wednesday, December 17th

December 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1	2	3 Youth Birthday Bash	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 Family Movie Night	13 Dotter's Drop-In 4-6pm
14 Christmas Dinner NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	15	16	17 Hanukah Article Deadline	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 NO SERVICES	25 Christmas	26	27
28	29	30	31 New Years Eve Service 9pm-12am	1 New Years Day	2	3