

FAITH TALK

The Shield of Faith Church
Hanahan, SC

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Families That Succeed

1. Where love is openly evident and communicated first by husband and wife and also with the children. Let the children see expressions of affection in ways they can understand it (a hug, a touch, a kiss, a gentle pat, a hello, a card, a note, a smile).

2. Where respect for an individual is assured. We respect their opinion, allow them to speak, respect their property, give others a chance to talk without interrupting. Never enter someone's room without knocking first. Never take something that belongs to another without asking.

3. Where rules and boundaries are understood and communicated. Parents and children should be accountable and responsible.

4. Where problems are confronted openly and given proper weight.

5. Where homes are committed to process. Life is a process, we go through different stages or phases, sometimes growth will take care of certain phases.

6. Where Christ is the head of the parents and the children. Submitting, and co-operating with one another, and caring for one another.

Dr. Jay Kesler made these observations and the findings showed:

1. Children in this atmosphere had a high self esteem and knew they were loved and appreciated at home.

2. They knew they were important to their parents and had a special place in the family.

3. Parents were strict and consistent in their discipline.

4. Reasonable boundaries with love, gave the children security.

5. Parents were open, and cared enough to get involved with their child.

6. Families ties remained strong where reasonable discipline and self control had been a way of life.

Note: One of the greatest securities to children is for parents to love one another and show it in word and deed.

Dear God, thank You for families, You had a great idea!

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Youth TalkGive Me A Chance

So many times I hear the youth say, "It's not fair." They feel left out, inferior to siblings, rejected by their peers and adults around them. Many have been humiliated by their parents, siblings, and friends, and they do not know how to process these emotions in a healthy manner. They feel that someone else gets better treatment than they do and they live life believing that they aren't good enough. Anger begins to set in...

As a child grows up in this falsehood of belief, they try to get the attention of those around them. Many become overachievers and many rebel and go totally against those who want to mold them into anything but what they want to be. They are looking for someone, anyone to say "job well done."

Noticing the signs of a child who feels rejected is important for adults who really want to make a positive impact on children. Sometimes a hug and a reassuring word of encouragement is what they need. Sometimes we as parents need to make sure that our ten children each get an amount of our time daily so that they can draw strength from parental relationships. Sometimes a child may need counseling to overcome deep hurt and rejection. Sometimes a stranger can make all the difference in the world.

Beware of the signs that children (and adults) show when they feel rejected and treated unfairly:

1. Stays in their room most of the time because they feel disconnected to the other parts of the family.
2. Stay on the phone seeking approval from others on their issues in life.
3. Enjoy drama because it allows them to feel like they're a part of someone's whirlwind.
4. The need to fit in or be accepted by others and be a part of everything.
5. Fabricated personalities (being somebody they aren't, in order to be accepted)
6. The tendency to reject others, so that they aren't the first one to be rejected.
7. Inability to be corrected or receive constructive criticism.
8. Rejection creates an environment where they are starved for love or just don't fit in.
9. A tendency to blame God ("Why did He give me this big nose? Why did God make me so short?").
10. A sense of pride that says, "How dare they reject me!"
11. Opinionated personality and the need to be right about things.
12. Feelings of worthlessness, insecurity, or hopelessness.
13. Seeking a parent's approval is a sign that they're basing their identity upon what you think of them.
14. Envy, jealousy, and even hate can be rooted in rejection.
15. Fear of confrontation (because their identity is based upon what others think of them).

If you see these signs in a child, whether they are your child or not, pray for them. Interact with them in a positive way. Help them to overcome their inferiority by spending quality time telling them how wonderful they are.

God has created people in His image... even the little people. He did come as a child you know... Jesus didn't reject the children but said allow them to come to me. Let's not reject a child. Give them a hug and tell them you are praying for them and that you love them.

-Michele C. Dotter



The Dash Poem

By Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak
At the funeral of a friend.
He referred to the dates on her tombstone
From the beginning to the end.

He noted that first came the date of her birth
And spoke the following date with tears
But he said what mattered most of all
Was *the dash* between those years.

For *that dash* represents all the time
That she spent alive on earth
And now only those who loved her
Know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not how much we own
The cars, the house, the cash,
What matters is how we live and love
And how we spent *our dash*.

Recipe of the Month

Tex Mex

1 pound of Velveeta cheese
4 1/2—5 pounds of beef
1 can Golden Mushroom Soup
16 ounces of Picante Sauce

Brown beef in pan and drain.

Cut Velveeta into cubes and place in crock pot or a thick bottomed pot.

Place beef, Mushroom Sauce, and Picante Sauce into the cheese and melt together until the cubes of cheese have melted.

Serve with sour cream and chips.

-Michele C. Dotter

Chillie's Corner

Which Sermon to Deliver?

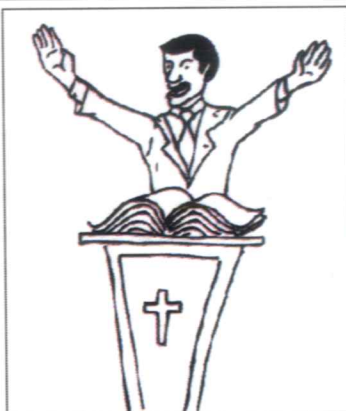
One beautiful Sunday morning, Samuel, a priest, announced to his congregation: "My good people, I have here in my hands, three sermons...a \$100 sermon that lasts five minutes, a \$50 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes, and a \$10 sermon that lasts a full hour.

"Now, we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver..."

Bible Trivia—I Didn't Know That!

- A) The name Jacob means what?
- B) After deceiving his father, Isaac, Jacob ran off to where?
- C) After dreaming of a stairway to heaven, Jacob renamed the place where he'd slept Bethel, which had previously been called what?
- D) Jacob fell in love with Rachel and was tricked into marrying Leah. Later he also married Rachel's maid and Leah's maid, the latter of whom was named what?
- E) Name two of the eleven children borne to Jacob by Leah?
- F) In Genesis 30:37, what kind of fresh-cut tree branches did Jacob put before the sheep in an attempt to make them speckled, spotted, or brown?
- G) Jacob struggled with God in Mahanaim, and because the now-limping Jacob prevailed, the battle site was renamed Peniel, which means what?
- H) Psalm 105:23 states, "Jacob resided as a foreigner in the land of" what?
- I) In Isaiah 41:14, what descriptive insect-like term is used before the name Jacob to denote Israel's feeble and hated condition in exile?

(See page 6 for answers)



It is easier to preach ten sermons than to live one...



He Qualifies the Called

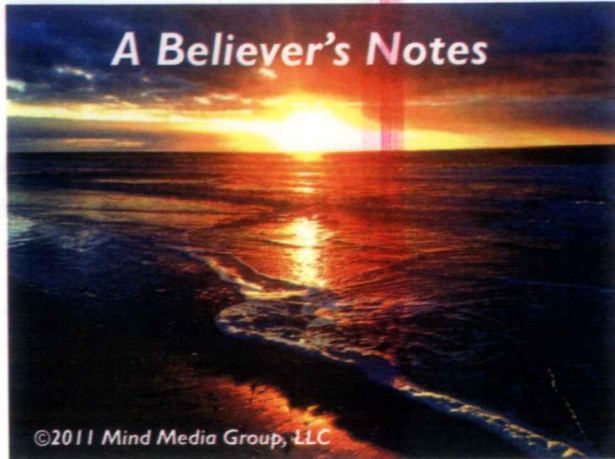
Jacob was a cheater
Peter had a temper
David had an affair
Noah got drunk
Jonah ran from God
Paul was a murderer
Miriam was a gossip
Martha was a worrier
Gideon was insecure
Thomas was a doubter
Sarah was impatient
Elijah was depressed
Moses stuttered
Zacheus was short
Abraham was old
Lazarus was dead

God doesn't call the qualified...

He qualifies the called!

AMEN!

A Believer's Notes



Unforgiveness

Unforgiveness—lots of people talk about it. But many fail to actually do it. The word of God doesn't say "try" to forgive one another, "even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

God never commanded us to do anything without providing us with the ability to do it. He has given every believer the power to forgive in any and every situation. Forgiving in your own strength is hard, but nothing you do by the power of God is hard.

If you'll learn to rest in God through faith in His word, the struggle will disappear. Trust God's word, that word will fight for you in any area of your life. Just open your Bible and start speaking God's word about your situation. Release your faith in that word and it will conquer any problem, including unforgiveness. The word will fight unforgiveness for you.

Ephesians 4:31-32 (Amplified)

31 Let all bitterness and indignation *and* wrath (passion, rage, bad temper) and resentment (anger, animosity) and quarreling (brawling, clamor, contention) and slander (evil-speaking, abusive or blasphemous language) be banished from you, with all malice (spite, ill will, or baseness of any kind). 32 And become useful *and* helpful *and* kind to one another, tenderhearted (compassionate, understanding, loving-hearted), forgiving one another [readily and freely], as God in Christ forgave you.

Bible Trivia

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

- A) Heel Catcher
Genesis 25:26
- B) Paddan Aram
Genesis 28:5
- C) Luz
Genesis 28:19
- D) Zilpah
Genesis 30:9

- E) Issachar and Zebulun
Genesis 35:23
- F) Poplar, almond, and plane
Genesis 30:37
- G) Face of God
Genesis 32:30
- H) Ham
Psalm 105:23
- I) Worm
Isaiah 41:14

Here is another great quote:

“Character can't be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired and success achieved.”

- Helen Keller



Hope

When you find yourself feeling hopeless, think of the letters in the word hope and allow them to guide you as you begin to look forward to HOPE...

H = is for Help

The quickest way to look past a feeling of hopelessness is to find someone with a need and then extend a hand of comfort, or help them to meet a need in their lives whether physical or spiritual. You will find that helping others really helps you to overcome any hopelessness you may be experiencing.

O = is for Overcoming

You can overcome hopelessness by reading God's word. Listening to spiritual uplifting music as well as focusing on the Lord and His great love for you.

P = is for Prayer and Praise

Pray about whatever is on your heart that is making you feel hopeless. Talk to Father. He is there to listen. He is there to help, guide, counsel you, and to help meet your every need.

After you have prayed, begin to praise Him for who He is. Praise Him for the many things you do have. Praising God will help you to refocus from yourself, removing all self doubt and the feelings of hopelessness. Remember, feelings can be deceiving.

E = is for Expect

When you have done all you know to do according to God's Word, expect God to move on your behalf and bring about a change in your emotions, your thinking, and in the area of that greatest need.

Get excited as you wait, expecting an answer, knowing Father never fails. Should Father fail you, then you will be the first person He has ever failed.

He is God and He does not change!

-Rosemary Baker

I have officially moved! My new address is:

410 Beltline Road
Summerville, SC 29483

My new phone number is:

(843) 377-8884

Christian One-Liners

Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited, until you try to sit in their pews..

Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisors.

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.

People are funny; They want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and back of the church.

Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn't belong.

If a church wants a better pastor, it only needs to pray for the one it has..

God Himself doesn't propose to judge a man until he is dead. So why should you?

Some minds are like concrete—thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

Peace starts with a smile.

I don't know why some people change churches; what difference does it make which one you stay home from?

A lot of church members singing 'Standing on the Promises' are just sitting on the premises.

Be ye fishers of men. You catch 'em - He'll clean 'em.

Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.

Don't put a question mark where God put a period.

Forbidden fruits create many jams.

God grades on the cross, not the curve.

God loves everyone, but probably prefers 'fruits of the spirit' over 'religious nuts!'

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

He who angers you, controls you!

Prayer: Don't give God instructions, just report for duty!

The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.

The Will of God never takes you to where the Grace of God will not protect you.

We don't change the message, the message changes us.

You can tell how big a person is by what it takes to discourage him.

The best mathematical equation I have ever seen: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.



Kids Corner
(We are ALL His kids!)

Luke 10:42—But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part,
which shall not be taken away from her.



Kids Corner**“Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead”****John 11:19-45**

¹⁹ And many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.

²⁰ Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat still in the house.

²¹ Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

²² But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.

²³ Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.

²⁴ Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

²⁵ Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

²⁶ And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

²⁷ She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

²⁸ And when she had so said, she went her way, and called Mary her sister secretly, saying, The Master is come, and calleth for thee.

²⁹ As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly, and came unto him.

³⁰ Now Jesus was not yet come into the town, but was in that place where Martha met him.

³¹ The Jews then which were with her in the house, and comforted her, when they saw Mary, that she rose up hastily and went out, followed her, saying, She goeth unto the grave to weep there.

³² Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

³³ When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled.

³⁴ And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see.

³⁵ Jesus wept.

³⁶ Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him!

³⁷ And some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died?

³⁸ Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.

³⁹ Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.

⁴⁰ Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?

⁴¹ Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

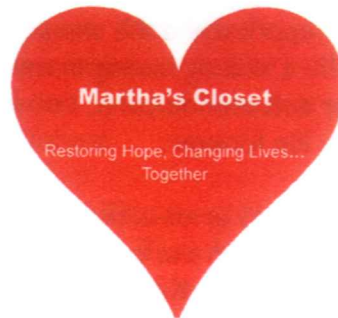
⁴² And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

⁴³ And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

⁴⁴ And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

⁴⁵ Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him.

Special Insert—Favorite Teacher



Many of you have asked... "How did 'Martha's Closet' begin?" Well, here's the story behind the story as written by Kristina Litzenberger:

It was a beautiful Spring morning in April 2007 full of blue skies and sunshine, but for me I was enveloped in darkness. My two oldest daughters were 8 and 9 years old and it seemed that they would drag their feet in the morning. Without fail, they couldn't find shoes or book bags or their hairbrushes and it seemed we were always scrambling to get out of the house and race off to school. As a single mother, it was often a daunting task to get everything done and to keep on schedule so that I wasn't late for work. As seemed the norm, it was the same old story on this particular morning.

I hurriedly got the older girls dropped off at their school and I had about an 8 mile drive to get my little Emmy to the daycare at the Naval Weapons Station Child Development Center. Emmy was a little over a year old and loved her school, she was very happy there and seemed quite fond of her teachers, one of them in particular.

On the way to the daycare all of my thoughts seemed to run together as I drove faster than I probably should have. All I could think about was the recent ordeal I had suffered through and all of the problems that seemed to mount up every day. More often than not I would find myself wishing that someone would put me out of my misery. I don't think I could have actually taken my own life, but I surely didn't want to live any more. When I was alone in my car, thoughts of which bridge I could run off or which tractor trailer I could drive in front of had become quite regular. I had not shared my pain and hurt, nor the details of my suffering with any one, not one single person. I couldn't help but wonder if even God knew or if He had given up on me, like I was giving up on me. On most days a smile from my children or a sound of laughter from their room would jolt me out of my depressing thoughts but it seemed even that wouldn't produce a smile. Gloom seemed to consume me and even the bright sunny skies that morning couldn't penetrate it.

As we arrived at the daycare, I was greeted by the secretary in the foyer (despite my efforts to slip past her to avoid her daily warnings about my bill being overdue, *again*). We got to Emmy's classroom and she ran straight to her favorite teacher for her morning hug. While they were both occupied I began putting away her diaper bag, hoping to go unnoticed as to not have to hear the soft but seemingly (to my overwhelmed mind) condemning words that I had heard before; "Mrs. Kristina, Emmy needs to be here by 7:30. Schedules are very important for little ones and she needs to be on time for breakfast". All I could ever manage to do is stammer out an excuse and vindicate myself by defensively explaining that I am doing my best and I would try harder.

- Continued on Next Page

On this morning however, when her teacher approached me she smiled and asked if she could talk to me privately in the hall, I said "of course" with a sinking feeling in my stomach. After hugging my sweet little girl and planting a kiss on the top of her soft blonde curls, I obediently met the teacher in the hall way. What happened next would change my life forever.

As I stood there anxiously tapping my foot with my arms crossed, I silently wished this teacher would hurry and scold me so I could race off to my job. On the contrary, she gently placed her hand on my arm and said the craziest thing I had ever heard; "Mrs. Kristina, I just want you to know that God has shown me what you are going through. He wants you to know that He has great plans for you and even though you are hurting and feeling lonely, you are not alone. God loves you and I want you to know I am praying for you". I was speechless, I was reeling with doubt, how could anyone "know what I was going through" or love me enough to have "great plans" for me? I mumbled a "thank you" and left as quickly as I had walked in.

When I got in to my car all I could do was cry. "How could *anyone* possibly know what I was going through"? I had not told anyone. Why would she pray for me? How could my daughter's teacher, a stranger, possibly know and why would she care enough to say those things to me? She just talked about God at her job. She could get in trouble for that, right? Why would she jeopardize her job to say that? I couldn't understand it and it would be a good bit of time before I would. What I did know was that it didn't take long for the darkness that had consumed me, to dissipate. I didn't have my "daily driving thoughts" any more and I began praying more often and began believing that God was listening. Shortly after that conversation, we moved away and my daughter went to a different school. Quite often when I was down or sad, a memory of that day and the heartfelt words of a woman I hardly knew, reminded me that I was not alone.

In October 2008 my friend Melanie invited me to her church and eventually I decided to go and see what her excitement was about. On a crisp, autumn morning, my girls and I walked in to the Shield of Faith Church for the first time. As we found my friend and took our seats, I began looking around at all of the beautiful decorations and a feeling of "home" washed over me. I looked around at all the smiling faces, and I remember thinking that this new church seemed to be a large family.

Sitting there on the end of the second row, scanning the faces of the congregation, my gaze stopped on a familiar face a few rows back and my heart flip-flopped. No way! it couldn't be, could it? I stood up and walked toward what was unmistakably the warm, smiling woman that encouraged me over a year before. Mrs. Martha Preston walked up to me and wrapped me in a big hug and said, "Welcome to the Shield of Faith". It didn't take me long to realize that this was where I belonged. I knew I had found a church home. I also knew that there was no question about where this woman learned to be so bold in her love for Jesus and others around her.

As I got to know her over the next few years, I watched a woman who gave so unselfishly to everyone around her, working with the children and doing whatever was asked of her. I learned so much watching her and the other women in my church family and applying what they were teaching. I had no idea that I was being taught and led right where I was supposed to be and that everything in my life had



brought me here. Mrs. Martha was right. God really did have a plan for me! The Bible says in Jeremiah 29:11 - "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Our pastor, Bob Tilton and his beautiful wife Susan teach us with love and obedience to God. They feed our spirits with the Word and show us how to trust and obey God in our own lives. Every church member is encouraged to find where they are gifted and are encouraged to actively grow in that gift as a functioning part of the Body of Christ.

Mrs. Martha and her husband Mr. Willie had a gift for serving others with love and providing whatever they could, to help those in need. It was so natural to them to obey God in serving others. In a small room in our church, she had a "closet" that was full of clothing, shoes and household items. If anyone was in need they were welcome to it and if it wasn't there, all they had to do was ask and she would do everything she could to get it for them. What Mrs. Martha probably didn't know was that sometimes what people needed was love and she gave that without being asked, what a blessing!

As the body of Christ we are all called to "minister" and to help one another. It is important to remember that we each have an important function and calling as a Christian and more importantly, we must answer when the Lord calls and gives us direction.

As time passed and I grew in the Word, my prayer regarding God's plan for my own life, became prayer for guidance and for God to show me what my gifts were and for courage and strength to grow in that gift. I was blown away when God revealed his calling for me! It was more than I ever could have imagined. I have had several prophetic words spoken over me (that have been confirmed) and on many occasions God has made it clear that I am to take care of the needs of others (material things, food, shelter, etc.) and that my obedience to Him will affect others to do the same. Because of that obedience, many will come to know Him (they will be fed spiritually) and "the church" will be revived.

Many times this prophecy and calling has scared me and I have often questioned, "Who am I? I am nobody! I am not worthy to do this. What if I mess it up?!" As the body of Christ we are all called to "minister" and to help one another, it is important to remember that. More importantly, we must answer when the Lord gives us direction and obey. In this process, I am constantly reminded of God's promises as found in Joshua 1:9 - "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

In April of this year, the Lord called Mrs. Martha to her heavenly home. She is greatly missed and not a day goes by that I don't think about her smiling face or that spring day, when she spoke hope and love to a stranger when it was so desperately needed.

During my time of mourning her passing and celebrating her life, God spoke to me and I knew it was time to answer my calling. Uncertainty about how to move forward was present and I prayed God would open a door for me to move forward. On June 1 of this year, that is exactly what happened.

Disaster struck in our community when a meth lab exploded and a fire consumed an entire apartment complex. This deadly fire claimed the lives of three people and left 46 people without a home. With the help of the Shield of Faith Church and our entire community, a donation drive was planned for the following day to provide immediate access to clothing, food and toiletry items for the victims of the fire. On Saturday June 2, 2012 the "first family" affected by the fire, came to us to seek hope when there seemed to be none. It was then that the mission was clear and the ministry of "Martha's Closet" was born.



It is an honor and a blessing to continue serving others and carrying on the heart and service of Mrs. Martha Preston. Our prayer is that we will be able to continue to serve those who are forced to start over and rebuild their lives. Our mission is to provide not only necessary material items during their time of need but to restore hope, show love and help build futures for each person we serve. This ministry was born because of the love, faith and compassion that came from the heart of a woman after God's own heart.

Five years have passed since I first met Mrs. Martha and I now understand that God does love me and He does have a plan for my future. I know she was purposefully placed in my life at just the instant I needed it most and as a result of the love in her heart, I was given hope. I am often amazed when I think back to a season that seems so long ago, to the moment when my life would be forever changed by my daughter's favorite teacher.

Martha Ellen Preston

January 22, 1949 – April 23, 2012

Martha's Closet

Restoring Hope, Changing Lives...
Together

Kids Corner

“Jesus Raises Lazarus”



Kids CornerWord Find—"Psalm 37"

Abundance
Blessed
Borroweth
Cease
Delight
Depart
Destroyed
Diligently
Dwell
Earth
Evildoers

Fret
Gnasheth
Great power
Inherit
Judgment
Keep his way
Land
Lord
Mercy
Patiently
Perfect man

Plotteth
Preserved
Prospereth
Rest
Salvation
Satisfied
Shall exalt
Strength, Trust
Upholdeth
Wicked
Wrath

T	I	R	E	H	N	I	S	T	R	E	N	G	T	H
R	D	R	O	L	D	E	V	R	E	S	E	R	P	I
D	E	K	C	I	W	E	V	I	L	D	O	E	R	S
N	L	Y	H	T	E	D	L	O	H	P	U	A	H	M
G	I	S	L	P	R	O	S	P	E	R	E	T	H	E
J	G	H	H	T	E	W	O	R	R	O	B	P	E	R
U	H	A	T	S	N	D	F	D	T	U	E	O	S	C
D	T	L	R	U	K	E	E	P	H	I	S	W	A	Y
G	E	L	A	R	C	P	G	S	S	T	A	E	T	B
M	H	E	E	T	A	O	W	I	T	S	E	R	I	L
E	S	X	M	R	E	R	L	S	L	R	C	R	S	E
N	A	A	T	S	A	L	V	A	T	I	O	N	F	S
T	N	L	H	T	E	T	T	O	L	P	D	Y	I	S
S	G	T	H	W	A	B	U	N	D	A	N	C	E	E
L	A	N	D	P	A	T	I	E	N	T	L	Y	D	D

Things Could Have Been Better

When one reads the New Testament epistles, several verses appear to indicate that at least some in the early church looked forward to the return of Christ in their generation. We know today that it didn't materialize that way, because it still hasn't happened! But I believe it was offered then, even though the early church didn't rise sufficiently to the occasion. In Rev. 2-3 we read how the seven churches of Asia were operating at a lower level than what Jesus had outlined in the Great Commission.

After their deliverance out of Egypt, the Israelites could have entered Canaan after spending two years in the desert. Their failure to do so, recorded in Num. 13-14, meant that their entrance was delayed for 38 years. Not only that, they were exposed to the judgments of I Cor. 10:8-9, which could have been avoided entirely if all had agreed to possess the land with Caleb and Joshua right after the spy expedition.

Other examples of missed opportunities appear in scripture. I can mention the rich young ruler, the reign of King Saul, Judah's response to the warnings of Jeremiah, and more. But here is one that is easy to skip over: Solomon's weakness for collecting wives was not his primary problem.

In I Kings 9:4-5 God promises Solomon blessings for continued obedience and faithfulness, and then comes I Kings 9:6-7, saying, "But if ye shall at all turn from following me, ye or your children, and will not keep my commandments and my statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods, and worship them; Then I will cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; and this house, which I have hallowed for my name, will I cast out of my sight, and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people."

The nation of Israel did very well during the entire reign of Solomon, even while he was turning to the wrong choices, but afterward things started to go sour, beginning with the division of the kingdom. Before the completion of Jeremiah's ministry, the Babylonians did in fact carry away the people into captivity, and did destroy the Temple. History details for us I Kings 9:6-7, not I Kings 9:4-5.

The Lord can answer all the "what if" questions, but He hasn't revealed them to me. So here are some of my speculations on how "things could have been better." First, the blessings of Deut. 28:1-14 would have been a real testimony throughout Israel's history. Much of the suffering under the evil kings of Israel and Judah could have been bypassed. The timeline for the Messiah's coming was given to Daniel during the captivity, but I believe the coming of Jesus could have been significantly fast-tracked if Israel had been obedient and the captivity had never occurred. In addition, I propose that there didn't necessarily have to be a 400 year period of prophetic silence between Malachi and Matthew.

The good news is, in spite of all the failures of sinful man, God always has a solution. He is full of grace and mercy, and in the end Jesus will be revealed to all to be King of kings and Lord of lords. Our goal is to be participants in His victory!

-Phil Rust

If God is your co-pilot, swap seats!!

Law of Moses in the New Testament



American culture is undergoing rapid change. Not so long ago, if the average sinner were asked to think of one verse in the Bible, he would reply with John 3:16. Today, the verse most likely to be mentioned is Matt. 7:1, "Judge not, lest ye be judged." In the past, people have disliked accountability, but now they hate it. Martin Luther King's dream was that we would be judged not by the color of the skin, but the content of the character. Many are now saying, "Don't judge me by the content of my character either." Some have observed that when the woman taken in adultery was accused by the Pharisees, Jesus let her go free. The implication is, don't notice my sins, and maybe they're not even sins at all.

My claim is that John 8:1-11 has not been examined in sufficient detail. The Pharisees brought the woman, recited the Law, and asked Jesus for His view. They were testing Him. But here are a few things that Jesus did not say: "Moses said the penalty for adultery is death, but I am reducing it to five years in prison." "Prosecuting attorneys should all quit their jobs, because charging people with crimes is being pharisaical." "If the guilty male partner isn't brought also, it's sexist and your accusation doesn't count." "I can pardon her if I want to, because I'm the Messiah." Not saying the wrong thing is wisdom too!

Jesus had already declared on the mountain, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say to you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." (Matt. 5:17-18) The Pharisees were trying to distract Jesus, and the attention of the people, away from the earthly ministry of mercy and grace that the Father had assigned to Him. So how did Jesus avoid their trap?

Jesus turned the tables on them by speaking, "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone." This saying was specific to that situation; I believe it was a "rhema" from the Father. He never denied the woman's guilt nor changed the penalty. The Law prescribed execution, regardless of any sin in those carrying out the sentence, and the Pharisees could well have challenged Jesus on this point. The reason they did not, I believe, is that when Jesus was writing on the ground, He was writing the names of women that certain Pharisees had slept with. Thus these men were revealed as capital criminals themselves. And as without sin, Jesus could have cast the first stone! No wonder they departed instead of pressing the issue!

After the Pharisees left, Jesus dismissed the case due to the lack of eyewitnesses. Deut. 17:6 required two or three witnesses in such situations. Even so, she was told, "Go, and sin no more." Clearly, our modernists try to overlook this part of the story. And God's grace is not blind to the condition of the heart of the person. Unsanctified mercy is something which man extends independently from God.

Jesus judges from a spiritual viewpoint. Even in the Old Testament, penalties could on occasion be reduced or suspended, as directed by the Lord. They could also be increased. Korah, Dathan, and Abiram were undoubtedly surprised to learn how severely they were punished, and likewise for Ananias and Sapphira in the New Testament. Many on earth today will be surprised also. But let us rather press into the Kingdom and instead be amazed by the riches of the glories of heaven, and by the abundance of His grace!

-Phil Rust

Sayings

To make a difference in the world,
you must be different from the world.

Say what you mean.
Mean what you say.
BUT DON'T SAY IT MEAN.

Don't let yesterday use up too much of today.—Cherokee Proverb

Opportunity make knock once,
but temptation bangs on the door forever.

Never chase love, affection, or attention...
If it isn't given freely by another person, it isn't worth having.



All About Me **“Faith Kaylin Cook”**

Birthday: April 30th 1993 (19-yrs old)

I've attended The Shield of Faith Church for about four years now. I've actually attended Shield of Faith when I was a baby before my family attended Christ Tabernacle of Praise which was our previous church. So, technically I've been to The Shield of Faith Church longer, but I've served here (consciously) for four years. I've been saved since I was 15 years old, so I've been in a relationship with Christ for 4 years.

As of this summer, I now work at Hardee's by Dorchester Lanes (which I'm sure our Pastor Bob is glad to hear). I had a good run with Chick-Fil-A, aka the Christian Chicken, and I'll carry what I learned there with me to my next job.

I am a college girl (Winthrop Eagles c/o 2015) going for her Bachelors of Science in Integrated Marketing Communications. Yes, my major has a long name. I know, and that's why I hate saying it. As part of it, I'm studying, making friends along the way and “teaching them something” as Mr. Charles and Willie like to say.

-Continued on Next Page



All About Me—Continued From Page 15

“Faith Kaylin Cook”

I do not have any children or grandchildren at the moment! Haha! But I do have a dog who’s pretty amazing—Booster, a black/white lab mixed with awesomeness. He’s like a four-legged, furry son to me who likes to throw high-fives when he’s excited.

My hobbies are ‘tweeting’ on Twitter, listening to and keeping up with fantastic artists like Family Force 5, drawing cartoons, watching TV shows like Victorious, Danny Phantom, and Fairly Odd Parents. I’m especially a fan of 90’s cartoons (being that I’m a 90’s baby)! I enjoy watching squirrels and bunnies on my porch with binoculars—Nature watching, I guess. Haha! They’re so funny and I like adding dialogue sometimes to make it even funnier.

Something that people may not know about me...hmm. Well, it was my childhood dream to become a cartoonist. I even created my own characters and have a storyline based on the adventures of Max, a crime fighting mouse with a bionic tail. Maybe someday my cartoons will be on TV, because I feel bad for what kids have to watch now. Most of the cartoons on TV today don’t hold a candle to the one’s I had growing up.

If I could go anywhere and do anything, I would go to Dublin, Ireland and go on excursions to all over the country. My goal is to travel there for my 22nd birthday (which is my favorite number). Why Ireland? I want to see the sheep on the hillside, castles and the Book of Kells. I did a paper on it in high school and I want to see it in person someday.

My favorite scripture is Romans 12:2. It’s my favorite verse because when I began my relationship with Christ, it is was foundationally important for me, and for other Christian’s to renew their mind. I started a club at my high school based off of that verse (“Renewed”) and I have it on my class ring as a reminder that my mind is being renewed with God’s Word each day.

Honestly, I am not 100% sure of what God has called me to do with my life occupationally, like as a minister or preacher. However, looking at the things that He has called me to do in the past with “Renewed,” my life experiences and my own personal goals and desires, I have no doubt that He’s called me to encourage others with the hope He provided in Christ.

I’d like to share a few words to my pals in middle/high school—God will always be there. Middle school was one of the roughest times in my life because everyone had to be a part of a clique and have an x-amount of friends. I had friends that made stupid mistakes and even I made mistakes that I’m embarrassed to recall. As a freshman in high school, I hung out with upperclassmen who weren’t exactly the best role models. Even though I tried to fit in with them, my attempts failed and I felt that God was deliberately blocking me. He was. I never fit in with the crowd not because I couldn’t always afford to rock new clothes every week, manage to attract a somewhat decent guy, or be the prettiest girl in the group. It was God that was protecting me from being superficial and heartbroken. I’m not perfect and no one is, except Christ. Just know that friends come and go, and sometimes even parents don’t understand: but you will always, always, always have God to turn to. He knows the good, the bad, and the ugly about you and still sent His Son to pay for your sin.

(Shout out to my little sis: Little Faith! I hope you see this! I want you to know that you’re an amazing girl and your smile is something I look forward to every time I come to the Shield! Hopefully one day I’ll teach you the dance. ;))

Upcoming Events

Fun, Fashion and Friends

“Women After God’s Own Heart”

Doris Cook is inviting all the ladies to join her for a
‘Premier Designs Fashion Show Fundraiser’
at Perkins Restaurant on Old Trolley Road in Summerville
on July 28 from 2:00—4:00 pm.

There will be ‘Donation Drawings’ too!

Please contact Doris if you should have any questions
at (843) 871-0740.



Save the Date!

Shield of Faith Ladies Tea
Saturday, August 4, 2012
10:00am - 12:00pm



“Do You Serve Your Family Tea?”

Time

Effort

Availability

If you would like to set one of the tables with your linen table cloth
and fine china, please contact Linda or Dawn.

Annie's DVD Ministry

Don't forget that the following DVD's are now available to check out through Annie's DVD Ministry:

The Passion of the Christ
Fireproof

Louie Giglio's—Indescribable Series
The Secrets of Johnathan Sperry

Among others!

Sunday School Events

Children's Sunday School

Ages 6-11

For the month of July, the Children's Sunday School class will be focusing on love and our family unit. First, we will begin our study in the book of Ezra. We will read the story how Ezra was disappointed in some of the Jews who had decided to marry idol worshippers. Thankfully, God's people realized that they had done wrong and confessed their sins to the Lord. Everyone does wrong sometimes, but God is faithful to forgive us when we admit that we have done wrong. What an example of God's unfailing love.

For the following weeks in July, we will be turning to the New Testament. We will learn of the woman who was persistent to receive healing for her daughter who possessed an evil spirit. She had faith and refused to give up on seeking help for her family. We will talk about how we can apply this principle with our present day family members. Then, we will learn the story of Mary and Martha when they were preparing their home for a visit from Jesus. Jesus (gently) made it clear to Martha that it was more important to spend time with Him than to finish her chores. How true this is today! There are so many other things to occupy our time and keep us from Him. We will also hear the story of Lazarus, one of my all-time favorites! If Jesus showed His care for Lazarus' family by bringing him back to life, what do you think he would do for us today? Lazarus had been dead for 4 days!

Finally, we will learn about doubting Thomas. God said in John 20:27, "Stop doubting and believe". This is what we are supposed to do. When we get frustrated and caught up in hard times, we need to believe and remain confident of who God is and what He did for us. John 14:14 says, "You may ask for anything in My name, and I will do it". Thank you, Father, for your promises. We believe and receive your provision and blessings for our lives.

Please be faithful and bring your children to Sunday School. They are so open to learn, and are having fun, too! One special young lady commented that she wished Sunday School lasted for 2 hours!

- Rachel Ferguson

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

The Ladies are entering into a new month and a new unit. **Unit 2: Justice Enacted** will take us through Fairness. *Lesson 5 – Samuel Administers Justice:* This lesson discusses the ways that you can help those who are not yet believers. *Lesson 6 – True to the End;* *Lesson 7 – Wisdom and Justice;* *Lesson 8 Return to Justice.*

This unit begins with a lesson that will help us to see the importance of confession and repentance. Confession and repentance are two characteristics that should be evident in the lives of Christians; however, both are things that most churches fail to teach about or practice in their activities and worship. The people who come in contact with the Shield of Faith Church (SOFC) as well as its members are able to see that they are being taught about confession and repentance. They are also being shown how to live a life with confession and repentance incorporated into it. Pastor Bob, Sister Susan and the leaders of the SOFC are openly putting into practice all that is being taught there. They are showing us all how to live a life based on the Word of God. That is not to say that they never make mistakes; it is to say that if they do, they are willing to be obedient to whatever the Lord tells them to do. They freely make open confessions and repentances when needed or as they are led by the Holy Spirit to do so.

We are compelled by nature to want to hide when we have done or said something that is wrong. What did Adam do when he ate from the tree that God told him not to eat from? He hid. Don't focus on what people may say or think when it comes to confessing or repenting, do what you know is right or better yet, do what the Lord places on your heart to do. He will never steer you down the wrong path. You can trust God with your every care; stay on the path that He built and the Holy Spirit will get you there. Continue to work on memorizing the scriptures. Committing the scriptures to memory will help you mature spiritually, help you to minister to those in need in your community, state, and nation.

-Yolanda Wilson

January

Psalm 37:5 (KJV)

⁵Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass.

Psalm 62:5-6 (KJV)

⁵My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him. ⁶He only is my rock and my salvation: He is my defense; I shall not be moved.

February

Proverbs 29:25 (KJV)

²⁵The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

I John 4:7-8 (KJV)

⁷Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. ⁸He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

March

I John 4:16 (KJV)

¹⁶And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

Galatians 6:10 (KJV)

¹⁰As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

April

Romans 8:18 (KJV)

¹⁸For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

May

James 1:19 (KJV)

¹⁹Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

June

Hebrews 4:16 (KJV)

¹⁶Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

July

Proverbs 30:5 (KJV)

⁵Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

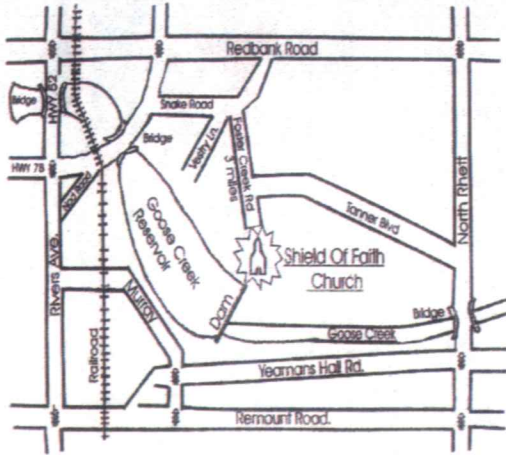


We look forward to
seeing you on
Sunday at 9:45am!

**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:
Sunday, July 22nd.

July 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7
8	9	10 Praise Team Practice 7-8pm	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 Family Night 6pm	21 Youth Explosion North Charleston
22 Baptism Parents Day Article Submittal Deadline	23	24 Praise Team Practice 7-8pm	25	26 Plantation Singers at Dorchester Road Library 2-3pm	27	28 Women After God's Own Heart Fundraiser at Perkins Old Trolley Rd Summerville from 2-4pm
YOUTH LEADERS & TEEN LEADERS "JOY CREATIVE ARTS CAMP" 8:30AM-12:45PM						
29	30	31	1	2	3	4 Tea Party 10am-12noon