

Bridge

December, 2009



Therefore I urge you, brethren, **by the mercies of God**, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. Romans 12:1 NASB

31 Churches Working Together in 3 counties

Carroll Baptist Association

Bogard, First
Bosworth
Carrollton, First
Coloma
DeWitt, First
Enon
Hale
Hurricane
McCroskie Creek
Mount Pleasant
Norborne, First
Southside
Tina
Union
Wakenda

Saline Baptist Association

Bethany
Fish Creek
Gill Memorial
Gilliam
Heath Creek
Marshall, First
Midway
Mt. Leonard, First
Nelson, First
New Prospect
New Salem
Primera Mision
Bautista
Hispana
Slater, First
Union
Upper Room
Zoar

It has been said that grace is God's giving us what we do not deserve, and mercy is His not giving us what we do deserve.

His grace is amply defined in the first eleven chapters of Romans, where Paul clearly lays out the great salvation that God has freely given to those who believe on His Son. Now he is asking that we consider the mercy that God has freely offered us.

Living in a society that has come to accept nearly everything as ok, where there is not a clear boundary between right and wrong, where even those in His church have failed to distinguish the difference, we also often fail to reflect on how great His mercy is.

We truly only appreciate how great His mercy is if we remember how pathetic we are. Each and every one of us is capable of being the most vilely imagined person if we were put in the right circumstances. We become proud that we are not like _____, when in fact we are just like that person if not for the grace of God. **WE deserve** the same punishments as every non-saved person there is, but God has offered us His mercy. That punishment, ultimately, is eternity in hell.

I am convinced that the modern church has come to a point they do not truly believe in a literal, physical, burning hell. We say we do. We preach that there is such a place. But if we truly believed it we would have more concern for family and friends that are destined to spend eternity there. That is the test of what we truly believe about God and about His Word. If we believed that our children would be destined for hell if they do not become followers of Christ, we would put that concern before all the distractions of the gospel message that we allow in their lives. If we do not even see the need to campaign the cause of Christ as if it were life or death (which it is) to our own children, how can we claim to have any concern for the dying world around us. Hell cannot be a reality to us if we fail to be concerned about those who are the most dear to us.

EACH AND EVERY SINGLE ONE OF US DESERVE HELL. No matter what we have done in our lives for the good of mankind or of God, we still *deserve* hell! This is a Biblical fact. God is so holy and pure that any miniscule flaw we may have makes us unworthy of His Kingdom.

And yet, He has saw fit to provide a means of which we may be a member of His Kingdom.

That is His mercy.

Yes, God is a loving God. That is why He provided His Son as our sacrifice that we have a means of being reconciled to Him and become a part of His Kingdom. But He also is a just God, and justice demands that sin be paid for by someone. For those who do not accept the payment Christ made, they must make their own payment. And that payment is eternal punishment in hell.

Each and every one of us needs to take time and reflect on His mercy. We fail to give Him the appreciation He so richly deserves because we come to a point of taking it all for granted. And then we grow apathetic.

His mercy is a wonder. How great a love He has for His creation that He would strive with her for this long. With all the ways we, His people, choose to mock Him and reduce Him to a finite concept, I would not blame Him for just destroying everything.

But He has not chosen to operate that way. He has chosen to give us all a chance to become what He designed us to be...in fellowship with Him. **Mercy.**

As you listen to the news, or watch your favorite crime show that reflects the sick mentality of humankind, think of His mercy. How He has shown mercy to those who believe. And how we are to show mercy to those we deal with daily.

Is there a place where we can show others a picture of Him? Would an act of mercy reflect something of Him?

Now, I must clarify that mercy is not tolerance. Tolerance ignores that a sinful act was done. It does not hold any kind of accountability for the crime.

Mercy, however, fully acknowledges the crime and the consequences of that crime. But mercy purposely chooses to grant a pardon from the crime. It chooses to take the responsibility of the penalty upon oneself, and relieve the criminal of his burden.

They know they have done wrong. They have felt the weight of justice demanded of them. And they recognize the freedom of forgiveness.

Yes, there is a big difference between mercy and tolerance.

Today we have a lot of tolerance in our churches. What we need is God's mercy in our churches.

I urge you to take some time and reflect on the mercy God has extended to you.

Bro. Patrick



WINTER YOUTH RETREAT

WHY?

January 22-23 2010

DADEVILLE BC SEEKING MISSION OPPORTUNITY

Dadeville Baptist Church is looking for a mission opportunity for next summer. They will be available for a trip in the time frame from end of May until the end of June. Their team would consist of about 20-35 people including youth age 12 years and up. Some of the things they could do would be backyard Bible Clubs and construction work but are also open to doing whatever is needed. For those of you who may not be familiar with Dadeville Baptist, they are located in the Southwest Region of the state. If you have something for them or know of a church that could possible use their help, contact Ted Pringle at 417-840-2169.

OUR OFFICE NOTIFIED OF THIS OPPORTUNITY BY LINDA STOCKTON, PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS MINISTRY ASST. OF THE MISSOURI BAPTIST CONVENTION



TIME TO BE PLANNING YOUR

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING

WEEK OF PRAYER: NOV. 29- DEC 6

NATIONAL GOAL: \$175 MILLION
MBC GOAL: \$4 MILLION

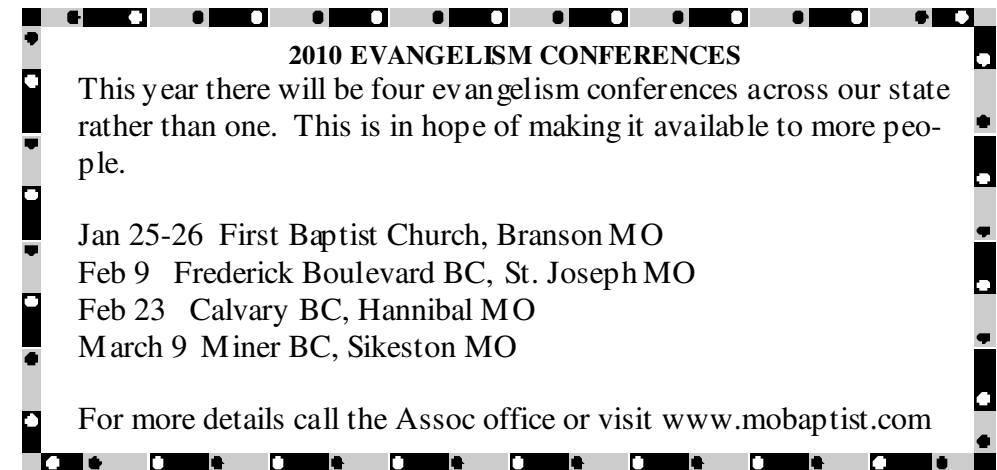
THEME: "WHO'S MISSING?
WHOSE MISSION?"

2010 EVANGELISM CONFERENCES

This year there will be four evangelism conferences across our state rather than one. This is in hope of making it available to more people.

- Jan 25-26 First Baptist Church, Branson MO
- Feb 9 Frederick Boulevard BC, St. Joseph MO
- Feb 23 Calvary BC, Hannibal MO
- March 9 Miner BC, Sikeston MO

For more details call the Assoc office or visit www.mobaptist.com



Pray for Revival

Until Revival Comes!!

...how few there are among us who know what prevailing prayer really is! Every one of us would confess that we believe in prayer, yet how many of us truly believe in the *power* of prayer?

Why are many Christians so often defeated? Because they pray so little. Why are many church-workers so often discouraged and disheartened? Because they pray so little.

Why do most men see so few brought “out of darkness to light” by their ministry? Because they pray so little.

Why are not our churches simply on fire for God? Because there is so little real prayer.

The Lord Jesus is as powerful today as ever before. The Lord Jesus is as anxious for men to be saved as ever before. His arm is not shortened that it cannot save, but He cannot stretch forth His arm unless we pray more—and more.

We may be assured of this: the secret of all failure is our failure in secret prayer.

Taken from “the Kneeling Christian”, author unknown.

Carroll Baptist Association

Thursday, December 17, 2009-7:00 pm

Mt Pleasant Baptist Church

John Mahler

CBA Brotherhood Director

Saline Baptist Association

Tuesday, December 15, 2009-7:00 pm

Gill Memorial Baptist Church

Vernon Maxted

SBA Prayer Coordinator

We need to learn that truth consists not in correct doctrine, but in correct

Our Prayer Ministry

Pastorless churches:

CBA—DeWitt, Bosworth, Virginia Street.

SBA—New Salem, FBC Slater, Gill

Memorial



Vivian McCaughn (MBC WMU)—restarting chemo treatments.

Congratulations!

December

Birthdays

Susan Sandwith 12-5

Jeremy Payne 12-15

Wedding Anniversaries

Phil & Ronda Soto 12-7

Lee & Arlene Borders 12-12

Russ & Pam Johnson 12-27

Church Anniversaries

Bob Stewart 12-22-04

Did we miss your birthday/anniversary?

Call the Missions Center Office at **660-529-9780**.

Money and time are the heaviest burdens of life; and the unhappiest of all mortals are those who have more of either than they know how to use.

Old Union Reminder

The chains of habit are too small to be felt until they become too strong to be broken. Sparks

Some people, no matter how old they get, never lose their beauty—it just moves from their faces to their heart.

If you disagree with your preacher pray for him every day. One of you will change.

Selfishness, like a dirty face, is much easier to see on the other fellow. Sparks

CONTACT INFORMATION

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GPS

God's Plan for Sharing ACROSS MISSOURI Every Believer Sharing, Every Person Hearing

Carroll Association had the privilege of hearing Dr. Gary Taylor explain this evangelistic outreach campaign at their annual meeting.

This campaign is intended to get the gospel into Missouri's 2.3 million households by Easter 2010. The plan is simple and non-aggressive.

During January and February, 2010, each church participating will determine the areas around their church where they will prayer walk and begin preparing their church for Easter services.

March 6 & 13 are the suggested Saturdays to Prayer walk your area asking God to bless families and open hearts to the Gospel.

March 20 & 27 are the suggested Saturdays to distribute a plastic bag on each door of the area you prayer walked. Each bag will contain a presentation of the Gospel and a brochure from your church inviting residents to worship service on Easter Sunday, April 4.

There will be corresponding media presentations and other promotional material available as the time draws closer.

If your church would like to participate in this campaign, please let your associational office know so we can all plan together.

Bro. Patrick

You can preview the television spots at www.findithere.com.

December

- 6 SBA Executive Board meeting, 2:30,
- 6-12 IMB week of prayer
- 7 Hymn Sing, FBC Norborne, 6:30
- 10 CBA/SBA Pastors & Wives Christmas Dinner
- 15 SBA Prayer Rally, 7:00 pm, Gill Memorial BC
- 17 CBA Prayer Rally, 7:00 pm, Mt Pleasant BC
- 24-Jan 4 Local Missions Office Closed

January

- 1 New Year's Day--Local Missions Office closed since Dec. 24, 2009
- 10 CBA Executive Board, 2:30 P.M., FBC-Carrollton
- 14 Pastors & Wives fellowship, 6:30 P.M., J.B.'s. Carrollton
- 17 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
- 18 SBA Nominating Committee, 7 P.M., LMC
- 21 Joint Mission Board, 6 P.M. Chili & Soup Supper, 7 P.M. Meeting, Location TBA
- 21 CBA Prayer Rally, 7 P.M., Mt Pleasant BC
- 22 SBA Men's Brotherhood Chili Supper, 6 P.M., FBC Marshall
- 23 CBA Men's Brotherhood Wild Game Supper, 6:30 P.M., Location TBA
- 23 WOM/WMU Leaders Planning Meeting; 9:00 am, Southside BC
- 22-23 Winter Youth Retreat, Grand Oaks, Chillicothe
- 25 SBA Prayer Rally, 7 pm, Gill Memorial BC

Merry Christmas
&
a Happy
New Year