

New Hope Newsletter

A Publication of Winter Garden Primitive Baptist Church

Volume 18, Issue 1, January 2012

Elder Tim McCool and his family were with us for our November meeting. It was a most blessed time in the Lord.



Pastor's Letter

Elder Glenn Blanchard

Several months ago I was writing a check and put 1996 on the date line. I don't know what I was thinking about but it must have been way out there. I used to say that it took me awhile to get accustomed to writing the new year when in January. As I have gotten older I have to admit, I never get accustomed to writing the new year.

Time is fleeting! This would be a good time to resolve to read the Bible through this year. It's always amazing to me that so many want to give their opinions on what the Bible says yet, when asked, they have to admit they haven't read the whole book through. Imagine discussing a book with someone that hasn't read the book. A complete reading of God's holy word has changed lives. Please, give it a try this year.

Special thanks to all that have supported this publication this year with articles, pictures and financial support. May God bless you all to have a blessed New Year.

The Gift

Elder Sonny Phelan

“Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift” – II Corinthians 9:15

Indefinable by the mortal tongue the gift was given. From heaven to earth, from glory to a sin cursed world, the gift would descend. Without tinsel or ribbon, no gift has ever graced the halls of humanity as the gift of the Christ child. The gift was not for pomp or show. The king was not invited. Lowly shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night would witness

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Worship Service
Sunday 10:30am
Bible Study
Wednesday 7:30pm

Elder Glenn Blanchard
771 Bending Oak Trail
Winter Garden, FL 34787
407-905-5627
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Tapes (subscription or
address information):
tapes@wintergardenpbc.com



Frank Roberson of Winter Garden joined our church by baptism recently. He is a delightful and welcome addition.

The Gift (cont'd)

the gift, the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a lowly manger.

This was no ordinary babe. Verily man, verily God, Mary held within her arms her own savior, the Creator of all worlds. Is not the gift unspeakable?

Every gift has its price. The unspeakable gift cost the Father an unspeakable price: His only begotten Son. It came from the heart of a loving God. Who could comprehend it? Even in its price, the gift was unspeakable.

But the gift was not appreciated. As a babe it was hunted by kings and soldiers. As a man, the gift was rejected by his own. The gift was spat upon, ridiculed, beaten, despised, rejected and ultimately crucified. But this did not diminish the value of the gift. It only added to its beauty. Is not this unspeakable?

The gift was not without significance. Amidst the proclamation of the majestic event, the purpose of the gift was disclosed by the angelic chorus, "A Saviour, which is Christ the Lord". Sin is addressed here! The purpose: A Saviour. God has come to us, in human form, to save sinners. There was really no other way. The law couldn't do it; the priests could not do it; the tabernacle could not do it; the god of the temple could not do it; the blood of bulls and goats could not do it; their religion could not do it; but the gift, He will do it. Unspeakable!

It is certain that the gift was not offered to man. It was man that crucified the gift. Therefore, we are most thankful the gift was not entrusted to man. As with the types and shadows of the gift in the Old Testament, so we observe with the gift. The wave offering, the heave offering, the bull and the goat, were they not all offered to God for a particular people? After all, they sought Jehovah's approval and acceptance, not man's. And did not these offerings, when accepted by Jehovah, sanctify the exact people for whom they were offered? Therefore, the gift was offered to God for man, not to man for man. Paul said it like this, "And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour" – Ephesians 5:2.....for us....to God. That was the order of the gift. It should be observed as such today.

If accepted by the Father, the purpose of the gift would be achieved. The people for whom He died would be sanctified, set apart, His blood atoning for their sin. And behold, we now see the gift through the eye of faith. He has risen from the grave. The angels are present once again to speak concerning the gift, "he is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay" – Mathew 28:6. We see the gift stand before the Father with His garments dipped in blood saying, "Behold, I and the children which God has given me". The purpose of the gift unfolds as His victory is certain. But our question today is this: "Was the gift offered for you?" If it was, you may say with us, "Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift."

Meeting Notices

Smoky Mountain Spring Meeting

The 2012 Smoky Mountain Spring Meeting will be held at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center in Pigeon Forge, beginning Monday night, April 2nd and continuing morning and night through Thursday morning April 5th. Rooms are available at \$45 per night at the Ramada which is on the same property. The Ramada and the Convention Center share the

same parking lot. The Convention Center is on the South end of town on the Parkway. It is just behind a Cracker Barrel. To make reservations call 1-800-523-3919. You stand a better chance of getting a ground floor room if you call by March 2nd. For more information you may call Elder Harold Hunt at 865-982-3012.

Gulf Coast Fellowship Meeting 2012

Piney Grove Primitive Baptist Church of Headland, Alabama, is sending this general invitation to all our brethren to come worship with us as we plan to host the 2012 Gulf Coast Fellowship Meeting on Friday, March 23rd and Saturday, March 24th, 2012.

The meeting is set to begin on Friday morning at 10:00 AM. There will be a morning, afternoon, and evening service on Friday (with lunch and supper), then on Saturday, there will be a morning service, lunch, and then an afternoon service to conclude the meeting. (However, Piney Grove will have its regular Sunday morning service at 10:30 AM.)

Piney Grove is located at 1947 Broad Street, Headland, Alabama, just 2 miles north of the town square on AL Hwy 173. Information is included for area motels and some of our members are hoping to entertain guests. For more information, call Elder Clayton Nowell, pastor, at 334-693-5700 or Royce Sellers, deacon, at 334-693-5385.

May the Lord our God richly bless and keep you in His most tender care.

Hotel Information Near Piney Grove: Hampton Inn and Suites, 4684 Montgomery Hwy, Dothan, AL (334) 671-7672 – 10.1 miles from church; Holiday Inn Express Hotel North,

4090 Ross Clark Circle, Dothan, AL 36303 (334) 699-6868; 6.7 miles from church.

-Your Brother in Christ, Elder Clayton Nowell, Pastor, Piney Grove PB Church

Florida Fellowship Meeting 2012

Little Union PBC is scheduled to host the 2012 Florida Fellowship Meeting. The dates are Thursday, February 16th through Sunday, February 19th. The meeting will begin at 7:30 PM on Thursday. Friday and Saturday there will be three services: 10:00 AM, 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM. Lunch and dinner will be served at 12:00 and 6:00. Sunday's service will begin at 10:30 AM and be followed by lunch.

Little Union is located at 15510 US Highway 39 South, Lithia, Florida, 33547. This is about 18 miles south of Plant City. The phone number for the church is 813-634-4754. There are camper hook-up available at the meeting house.

For those who need a hotel room: Red Rose Inn & Suites, 2011 N. Wheeler Street, Plant City, Florida, 33563. 813-752-3141. \$65 per night, this is a special rate good only through January 16, 2012.

Please come and join us for a good time in the Lord.

We enjoyed the company of Judy and Kenny Mercer from Crossville, TN.

North Georgia Fellowship Meeting

The Dallas Primitive Baptist Church of Dallas, GA will host the 2012 North Georgia Fellowship meeting at our worship facility in Dallas, GA.

You can find the building using the following address:
227 Legion Road Dallas, GA 30132

January 19-21, 2012

Schedule of Services: Thursday at 7:00 pm Friday at 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, and 7:00 pm. Saturday at 10:00 am with an afternoon time of fellowship.

Breakfast will be served on Friday and Saturday at 8:30 am. Lunch and dinner will be served on Friday. Lunch will be served on Saturday.

Hotels in the Area:

Country Inn & Suites - 70 Enterprise Path Rd., Hiram, GA 30141 (770) 222-0456

Sleep Inn & Suites - 181 Metromont Rd., Hiram, GA 30141 (770) 222-9161

Hiram Inn and Suites - 1340 Pace Road, Hiram, GA 30141 (770) 222-9494

Note: We are collecting school supplies for our local foster families in Paulding County, GA. Our first school supplies drive will end on January 22nd.

If you would like to contribute, feel free to bring some paper, pencils, pens, glue, etc. to the meeting, and we will make sure that it is put to good use.



Widening our Perception of Idolatry

Elder Dolph Painter

“Too often, idolatry is the pursuit of something that is otherwise good. That’s what makes idolatry so tricky. Idolatry is enslavement to something we love. We love our spouse, our kids, our job, our health, our hobbies...all of which is perfectly fine” (Resisting Idols by Mark Driscoll). I like the way this man widened my perception of idolatry. Very few of us have golden calves, totem poles, or statues in our homes and church buildings, but we have idols.

Let’s say a person defines Hell as being poor. His/her idol might be work, money, or budgeting. Work and money become this person’s functional savior, saving them from their Hell. Let’s say another person defines Hell as being unattractive. Their idol might be make-up, clothing, exercise and/or diet. When fear of our “hells” cause us to choose saviors other than God, we become idolaters. And the thing we chose is our idol.

Consider King Saul. What was his idol? Saul had many shortcomings but graven images, groves, and Baal were not among them. But Saul had an idol. What was it? To answer this question we must address Saul’s greatest fear. Saul feared losing prominence. Maintaining prestige was behind many of Saul’s irrational behaviors (I Sa 15:28-30, 18:7-11, 19:8-10, 20:30-33, 22:13-16). Status was Saul’s functional savior; it was his idol.

What advice might help such a man? I suspect Saul would have been a whole lot better off if he could have ever grabbed hold of the concept: I am not important, except for who I am in the Lord. Saul would have cast down his idol the moment he realized that his status in the Lord was the only status that mattered. And thus it is with us. May Jesus become our functional savior, in all areas of our lives.



Karen Kwon shares her little baby, Joshua.

Church News

Little Union PBC, Lithia, FL

We were pleased to discover that Little Union has called Elder Chris Crouse as their new pastor. We pray that his time there will be long and profitable for both him and the church. Welcome to Florida, Elder Crouse.



The ladies of Winter Garden were invited to a spa party by Sister Deborah Rees. It proved to be a very enjoyable evening.

New Year's Meditations

By Sister Bessie R. Kennamer

As the pages of the New Year begin to unfold,
Thou, God, Thou alone knowest what they may hold;
As in all ages past, so in this one today,
Omnipotent God, Thou still holdest sway.

The First and the Last and All in between,
Same unchangeable God Thou ever hast been;
Past, present, future, beginning and end,
All are in Thy hand on Whom we depend.

The portion Thou givest us, help us to give
All praise unto Thee in Whom we move and live;
Help us each month, week, hour of the day
Unflinching travel the Christian pathway.



We have been pleased to have Brother Charles Geisler from Michigan visiting with us.

Drug Problem Could Help U.S.

By Jim Worth, Barefoot Bay
Copied from the Today Newspaper -

I had a “drug” problem when I was a young person and teen-ager.

I was “drug” to church on Sunday morning.

I was “drug” to church for weddings and funerals.

I was “drug” to family reunions regardless of the weather.

I was “drug” to the bus stop to go to school every weekday.

I was “drug” by my ears when disrespectful to adults and teachers.

I was also “drug” to the woodshed, when I disobeyed my parents.

Those “drugs” are still in my veins. They affect my behavior in everything I do, say and think. They are stronger than cocaine, crack or heroin.

If our children had this kind of “drug” problem, America would certainly be a better place.

Answers to This Month's Quiz

1. Solomon, 1Kng. 10:1
2. Eve, Gn.4:25
3. Ruth, Mt. 1:5
4. Barabbas, Mark 15:15
5. Jacob, Gn. 25:28
6. Rahab, Josh. 2:1
7. Baal, Jud. 6:25

Letters

[Dear Glenn and Pat]

I hope and pray that everyone is well. I sure miss Tuesday night Bible Study. Brother Glenn did a great job & the fellowship was the best.

Love, your sister in Christ
Rita Renfro, Cocoa, FL
[We miss you too, Sister Rita]

We enjoyed Josh and Monica Arnold from the Nashville area.



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*Help us keep costs low! Let us know **before** you
move! Thanks!*

Please come visit us!

New Hope Newsletter

Kid's Corner

Words

1. What king, whose name means "peaceable," hosted the queen of Sheba?
2. What woman, whose name means "living," was the mother to Seth?
3. What woman, whose name means "friendship," was the great-grandmother of King David?
4. What man, whose name means "son of the father," was released by Pilate?
5. What patriarch, whose name means "supplanter," was the favorite of his mother?
6. What woman, whose name means "insolence" or "large," was known for her scarlet cord?
7. What false god, whose name means "master," was destroyed by Gideon?