

New Hope Newsletter

A Publication of Winter Garden Primitive Baptist Church

Volume 18, Issue 5, May 2012

Traits of A Sheep

By Elder Dolph Painter

Ever wonder why God so often refers to saints as sheep? Let us consider their traits. Sheep are/have:

- ◆ Easily lost, unable to find their way home
- ◆ Excellent voice and face recognition
- ◆ Easily incapacitated; wet and upside down, sheep become stuck like turtles.
- ◆ Heft (settle) and must be forced to rotate pastures
- ◆ Closely related to goats: beards, upturned tails, and divided upper lips distinguish
- ◆ Defenselessness: depend upon guard donkeys, dogs, and shepherds for protection
- ◆ Rebellious, submission is taught with a broken leg
- ◆ Vulnerable when eating: four stomach compartments minimize the lowering of heads
- ◆ Easily scared, will not lie down until they feel safe
- ◆ Shepherd sits among sheep to calm them
- ◆ Lying down is important to digestion
- ◆ If one sheep bullies another, all become upset and food isn't digested
- ◆ Cannot differentiate between good and bad water, or poisonous and non-poisonous vegetation
- ◆ Will drink only quiet, still water, but dew can be a sufficient source if they eat early enough
- ◆ Cuts, scrapes, and bug bites must be anointed daily

(cont'd on page 3)

Elder Mike Hataway was the guest minister at Hebron Church's Annual meeting in Lithia, FL. Pictured here are Elder Hataway, his wife, Dana, and children, Joshua, Emily and Allie. Two new deacons were ordained at this meeting as well. (See photo pg. 5)



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Baptist Church
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www.wintergardenpbc.com

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

Elder Glenn Blanchard
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Winter Garden, FL 34787
407-905-5627
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Tapes (subscription or
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Pastor's Letter

Elder Glenn Blanchard

Since our last Newsletter, Pat and I have just been involved in daily activities of the church. Some weeks are very hectic, but thankfully, that condition is short lived. I enjoy the weeks where I can meditate on the Lord, and study His word, so that, as Elder Phelan so eloquently wrote in the Chapter that we are including in this Newsletter, I am prepared to "teach the people knowledge." Our world, and the Christian religion overall is so misguided, misled, or deliberately ignorant of the truth of Jesus and His teachings today, we must often ponder in our hearts how God allows the world that He created to continue standing and say with John, "Even so, Lord Jesus, come quickly!"

If you are in our area on Memorial Day weekend (May 25-27) please join us for our Annual Meeting. Elder Michael Gowens has promised to be with us. Elder Gowens is a renowned writer and has preached many

sermons in my presence that have been well blessed by the Holy Spirit. We will begin on Friday evening and proceed through Sunday morning. We would love to share the time with you. ■



Above: Brother Roy Miles enjoys the company of some of our future athletes.

Springtime on the Church Grounds

The good Lord has blessed us with glorious weather and the young people at Winter Garden have made use of it to spend time together. Below are a number of young men who meet regularly for football or basketball games.



Traits of a Sheep (Cont'd from pg 1)

- ◆ Very few recover from predatory injuries
- ◆ Will not walk in dark places without their shepherd
- ◆ Susceptible in valleys (wolves hide), but will follow a trusted shepherd into these places
- ◆ Over a billion on earth and many varieties
- ◆ The more sophisticated the economy, the less importance sheep play in the economy
- ◆ A shepherd sleeps across the mouth of a pen, keeping sheep in and wolves out

After reading these traits, we might better understand these sayings: "I am the good shepherd", "My sheep hear my voice", and "the sheep shall be scattered" (John 10:22, 27; Mark 14:27). Also, after reading these traits we might better appreciate all that our Shepherd does for us. ■

Meeting Notices

140th Annual Meeting, Orange PBC, Apopka, FL

It is with prayerful hearts and great expectations we look forward to our 140th Annual Meeting. We invite you to worship and fellowship with us. We will meet on Saturday, April 14th and Sunday April 15th at 10:30 AM with communion after lunch on Saturday. This invitation requested in our regular conference on the above date (March 18, 2012).

Church location: 3512 Clarcona Rd/ formerly Apopka Vineland Rd., Apopka, FL 32703

In Christian love,

Pastor Clayton Peterson

Clerk Jacqueline F. Fish

[We are sorry we received this too late to arrive in homes by meeting time, but we wanted to announce it anyway]

Elder Blanchard Appt, Ft. Valley, GA

May 4, 5, 6, 2012 – Fellowship PBC, Ft. Valley, GA. For more info: **Elder Garry Hall** at 478-962-3030 or Russell Grant at 478-971-3851.



Annual Meeting, Zion Rest PBC, Jasper, AL

We would like for you to come and join us for our Annual Meeting the fourth weekend in April at Zion Rest PBC in Jasper, AL. Services will be as follows:

Friday Night, Apr. 20, 2012 at 7:00 PM

Supper at 5:30 PM

Saturday Morning, April 21, 2012 at 10:00 AM

Afternoon at 1:30 PM

Supper at 5:30 PM

Night at 6:30 PM

Sunday Morning, April 22, 2012

10:30 AM

Afternoon-

Communion Service

Elder Paul Blair from Milan, TN & Elder Mike Ivey from Lewisville, TX will be the guest speakers during our meeting. We invite you to join us and ask for you to pray for these meetings. Come if you can.

Our homes will be open for lodging. Also, hotel accommodations can be made at the Hampton Inn 205-221-3334.

Contact Information: Pastor Elder Charles Kitchens at 205-384-4831

Deacon Ronald Mullen at 205-221-6529

Deacon Charles G. Kitchens at 205-686-7811

Deacon Eddie Key at 205-648-6281

In Christian love, **Elder Charles Kitchens,**
Pastor

We delighted in the visitation of Sister Robin King's parents and grandmother. LtoR- Sister Robin, Phil and Barbara Patsfield and Dorothy Hughes.

Winter Garden PBC, Winter Garden, FL

Please make plans to join us on May 25-27, 2012 for our Annual Meeting. The invited guest minister is Elder Michael Gowens and we are looking forward with great anticipation to a wonderful weekend. Our church is located at 943 W. Story Rd. Winter Garden, FL. For further details or meeting times, please contact Elder Glenn Blanchard at 321-917-1723.

Nebraska Fellowship Meeting, Mt. Zion PBC

Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church of Cozad, Nebraska will once again host the Nebraska Fellowship Meeting of Primitive Baptists. The meeting will begin on Thursday, June 7 with supper at 6:30 followed by an evening of prayer and singing. Services on Friday and Saturday will begin at 10:00 AM; 1:30 PM and 7:30 PM with lunch and supper being served both days. Services on Sunday, June 10, will begin at 10:00 AM with lunch being served afterwards.

Our homes are open to accommodate as many visitors as possible. There are 2 motels in Cozad, Roadway Inn at 308-784-4900, and America's Best Inn at 308-784-2290. We also have several camper hook-ups at the church.

For more information contact **Elder Thomas E. Bond** at 308-325-3957, thomasbond13@yahoo.com or Deacon Howard Halbgewachs (308-325-3302).



We have grown quite fond of Charles and Chris Geisler. While they return home to Michigan, they will be missed. Hurry back.

Annual Meeting, Antioch PBC, Vero Beach, FL

Please be in prayer for our church flock as we prepare to gather for worship in our annual meeting. All are invited to attend these services Friday May 4, 2012 through Sunday May 6, 2012 according to the following schedule:

Friday, May 4, 2012 7:30 P.M.

Saturday, May 5, 2012 10:30 A.M.

Lunch and Fellowship Noon

Preaching and Communion

Service 2:00 P.M.

Sunday, May 6, 2012 Regular Weekly

Services 10:30 A.M.

Our guest preacher will be Elder Marty Smith, Pastor of Union Primitive Baptist Church in Roswell, Georgia.

We sincerely invite each of you to visit and worship with us whenever you are in our area. May the Lord bless us all to grow in faith and sing praises to His Holy Name.

Sincerely,

Ann D. Mathis, Clerk

Math4A@EmbarqMail.com

The Church is located at 1210 Old Dixie Hwy, Vero Beach, FL 32960

Annual Meeting, Little Union PBC, Lithia, FL

Little Union's Annual July Meeting will be held July 12th - 15th, the meeting beginning at 7 PM on Thursday night. The meeting will continue with services at 7 PM on Friday night, and supper before at 5:45 PM. On Saturday the meeting will begin at 10 AM with lunch following, and then communion services at 7 PM on Saturday evening. The meeting will conclude with services at 10:30 AM on Sunday, with lunch following.

Elders Lonnie Mazingo, Jr., and David Crawford will be our guest ministers during this meeting.

We have homes available for visitors and welcome all to come and worship with us. For more information you can visit our website at www.littleunion.com, or contact the **Pastor, Elder Chris Crouse** at 813-634-4754.

2012 Indiana Fellowship Meeting

Hosted by: Fort Wayne Primitive Baptist Church

Schedule of Services:

Thursday, June 21, 2012 7 P.M. services

Friday, June 22, 2012 10 A.M. services,
Lunch, 2 P.M. services, Supper,
7 P.M. services

Saturday, June 23, 2012 10 A.M. services

Lunch, 2 P.M. services, Supper

Sunday, June 24, 2012 10:30 A.M. services,
Lunch

We invite all to attend this meeting. It has been a great encouragement to our little churches in Northern Indiana. Our homes are open to you, and hotel information is included for those who prefer alternative accommodations. Please consider visiting us during this meeting. If unable to attend, please pray the Lord will be with us! For additional information, contact: **Elder Michael Green, Jr.** at 260-446-1944.

Accommodations: Hilton Garden Inn, 8615 US 24 West, Fort Wayne, IN 46804



Brother Gary Ortega with his daughter, Megan, and growing granddaughter, Natalia, enjoy a Sunday together.

Answers to This Month's Quiz

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Deborah, Jdg. 4 | 5. Gaza, Jdg. 16:21 |
| 2. Samson, Jdg. 15:16 | 6. Ehud, Jdg. 3:15 |
| 3. Samuel, 1 Sam. 1:11 | 7. Gideon, Jdg. 8:27 |
| 4. Othniel, Jdg. 3:9 | 8. Jephthah, Jdg. 11:30 |
| | 9. Jephthah, Jdg. 12:7 |

Contributions

Rita Renfroe
P.C. & Gayle Smith

(L to R) Elder Mike Hataway, newly ordained deacons, Rob Sumner and Tommy Green, and Elder Tommy Green, Pastor of Hebron Church.

Church News

Zion PBC, Gordo, AL

Dear friends,

Just wanted to share some glorious news for the kingdom of God. My brother Chris McCool was ordained in a Spirit-filled service on Saturday. On Sunday morning he was blessed to baptize his entire family. Sunday night services were also blessed. 6 people who have been attending for the last 6 months requested baptism. The Lord's blessing of revival continues at Zion. In about 10 months they have gone from 1 member to 15. I ask continued prayers for the church at Zion, my brother, and the continued spread of the truth of salvation by grace.

May the Lord bless each of you.

Elder Tim McCool

Pastor

Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church
Echola AL



Knowledge and the Church

Article #19 from Elder Neil M. Phelan, Jr.'s Book "The Daily Record" – The First Year in Retrospect-Published 01/08/99

"And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, and set in order many proverbs" – Eccles. 12:9

Ecclesiastes, the book from which our passage is found, means "one who calls people out; a gatherer of the people". The purpose of the calling out, or gathering together, was to impart knowledge. Godly knowledge. This is a church scene. That is why Solomon refers to himself as "the preacher". He taught the people knowledge.

The whole book of Ecclesiastes is a sermon. Solomon's God given job was not to give his opinion, nor was it to tell people what they wanted to hear by tickling their ears (II Tim. 4:3). His job was not to devise programs and schemes to pack the house for the sake of money and numbers, nor was it to schedule entertainments to tickle their fancy. His job was the same as the preachers of 1999. Tell the people what God had revealed to him. Give them Godly knowledge and in doing so the people would prosper in the good hand of their Lord.

Knowledge has always been the lifeblood of the church. It always has been and it always will be. A church with a zeal for biblical knowledge, willing to conform to its teaching,

is a church whose light will shine brightly in a dark world as opposed to becoming like the world. The book of Acts begins with such a people. It was Peter who stood up on the day of Pentecost and said, "But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel" (Acts 2:16). Peter had his nose in the book. He had been studying the scriptures. It was

by the knowledge he had gained that he was able to stand up on that day and declare what was happening to them on that occasion. About three thousand souls were baptized on that day. Oh, how important knowledge is!

The desire for biblical knowledge is an evidence of grace, a token of divine favor. It is one of the first signs of spiritual life. Life, then hunger; that is the order. Saul of Tarsus was quite proud of his worldly accomplishments and his position among his peers. But after his experience with Jesus on the Damascus Road his desires changed. He had a hunger for something different. "I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord" – Philipp. 3:8a. Saul would say, "Tell me more about Jesus, about the power of his resurrection, about the fellowship of his sufferings" (Philipp. 3:10). He was hungry for knowledge. I am persuaded this has been the experience of God's people throughout the ages. When I meet a person who wants to know more about Jesus, I know I have met a brother or a sister in Christ.

There is a mystical union between knowledge and the soul. When a baby is born, it craves the milk of its mother. When one is born from above, they crave the "sincere milk of the word" which is food to the hungry soul. The Lord has made His people in such a way, to crave knowledge from above. This is for their own health. It is by the nutrition of such food, biblical knowledge, the soul grows and prospers. A sickly soul, a diseased soul, is one in which there is a lack of this kind of knowledge. We observe many such souls in our society today. Healthy souls are hungry souls fed with manna from on high: **biblical knowledge**.

Before we close we must give you four stumbling blocks to Godly knowledge: (1) **Fear**. When we are faced with a biblical truth that we have never heard before, we are quick to run. We all have our comfort zone. But we must remember: it is Godly knowledge that we are led only closer to the fount of every blessing. There is a difference between talking about the Bible and learning from the Bible. Let us be noble like the Bereans, who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so"

Brother Mike Mitchell from Alabama enjoying time with Brother Jay Blanchard.



– Acts 17:11. If it is in the book we must believe it. (2) **Sloth**. The study of God’s word was once the joy of every Christian. Have you sharpened your sword today? (3) **The wrong kind of knowledge**. James writes of a knowledge that descendeth not from above, but in earthly, sensual, devilish (James 3:15). Some knowledge is dangerous to the soul. (4) **Ignorance**. While Peter wrote of those who were “willingly ignorant”, they did not want to know (II Peter 3:5), Paul wrote of those who had a zeal, but not according to knowledge (Romans 10:1-4). Both are equally dangerous.

Yes, Solomon was wise, he taught the people knowledge. Lord, teach us knowledge that we may teach others.

Report from Mexico

By Elder Donnie Halbgewachs

We were blessed to begin holding worship services in Juarez, Mexico in June of 2006. After a regular routine of Wednesday and Sunday services for seven months, there were several who desired baptism. Since my membership was still with Providence Primitive Baptist Church in Davao, Philippines, the names of the newly baptized members were first connected with that church under the pastoral leadership of Elder Gus Harter. The Church there granted our letters to constitute the brothers and sisters into the Shekinah Primitive Baptist Church (Iglesia Bautista Primitiva) in January of 2007.

Some time later Brother Jose Luna Sanchez and his wife, Tina Sanchez, and their two children, Sarai and Francisco, began attending services. After the initial acquaintance, Brother Jose Luna began coming to our house every day for prayer and bible teaching. We first studied through the Articles of Faith, after which I prepared an exam over this material and he satisfactorily completed the questions.

Brother Jose Luna continued with this pattern from February – April of 2011, at which time he presented himself for baptism and was received as a member of Shekinah Iglesia Bautista Primitiva (Shekinah Primitive Baptist Church).

His interest for bible study grew stronger and he continued coming to the house each day to pray and work through more lessons, and exams over each of the sets. In June it was evident to me that he demonstrated a desire to speak publicly before the church. He began with 10 -20 minute messages which continued through July. Following this, he began to speak and present lessons for the complete worship service. He displayed a quality of respect and attention from the congregation and they were blessed by his messages. This arrangement has continued until the present, March, 2012. His diligence to read, study and work through the lessons and exams is still our present arrangement. As his pastor I am satisfied that he does have a call on his life to preach the gospel, and I have set him aside as a licensed speaker before the church to officially exercise the gift of preaching the gospel.

Since this is a work in Mexico, and the opportunity for other preachers to observe and become acquainted with Brother Jose Luna Sanchez, is difficult, I have prepared this short description of his church history.

It this present pattern continues, at some future date, I will recommend him to the church as a candidate for Ordination as an Ordained Gospel Minister. Then I would recommend to the church to call several ordained Primitive Baptist Elders to come and form a presbytery for his ordination. He is outgoing in the community to invite families to church, pray for their needs and read the bible with them. With his wife, they prepare and feed 80 children each week, as well as a special meal each week for several elderly men from the community.

May God be praised,

Elder Donnie Halbgewachs, Sr.

Pastor, Shekinah Primitive Baptist Church

Shekinah Iglesia Bautista Primitiva

Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico

Included were several pictures that I could not reprint. We'll try and get some for you in the future as this work continues. Please pray for the effort in this part of North America. GB



Regina Constantino (middle) brought special visitors, Rosa and Sergio Constantino, her brother and sister in law from Brazil.

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New Hope Newsletter

Kid's Corner

Judges

1. Who was the first woman judge?
2. Who killed the Philistines with the jawbone of an ass?
3. What judge's mother promised God that if God gave her a son, she would give that son back to God?
4. Who was the first judge of Israel?
5. Where was Samson forced to grind as a prisoner of the Philistines?
6. Who was known as the left-handed judge?
7. What judge made his own idol for the people to worship?
8. What judge sacrificed his daughter to keep a vow?
9. Who was judge for six years - the shortest recorded term?