

New Hope Newsletter

A Publication of Winter Garden Primitive Baptist Church

Volume 20, Issue 1, January/February 2014



Entertaining Strangers

On Saturday night 4 members of WGPBC were involved in an automobile accident in Tifton, GA while returning to Winter Garden from Alabama. We were trying to get back in time for church on Sunday morning, but were not in any particular rush mode since we had plenty of time (we thought). A driver turned in front of our van as we were traveling about 55 mph. Bill Blanchard used all the force he had available to stop; after braking and skidding about 25+ feet, we hit the turning car. Since everyone had seat belts on, our injuries were not too bad; however, Pat Blanchard and Jackie Watkins went to the ER. Don Watkins followed later where he discovered he had a small fracture in his hand. Miraculously, Bill had no injuries. Pain medication was given all around and we were dismissed about 3:00 a.m. praising God for his providential care!

We could not drive the van and, because of a musical concert in the area, Bill had a difficult time finding a motel. Meantime, Pat had called Elder Jamey

Tucker who lives near Tifton and he immediately came to the ER. He stayed with us until we were released.

Elder Jamey insisted that we go home with him where his wife and 3 of his 8 children greeted us warmly and sweetly at 3:30 a.m.! We slept, were treated so royally by the Tuckers in the morning and some of us attended church. Sister Jessica Tucker stayed home with Pat who suffered a severe bruising injury and had a migraine, plus Don who was in pain from fracture and chest bruises.

We were unable to rent a car because Enterprise doesn't open on Sunday (good for them) and Tifton is a small town without an airport where rental cars are more available. Before we could decide what to do, the Tuckers (Eld. Jamey and Sis. Jessica) had put a foam mattress in their huge van for Pat to lie on; had our luggage loaded; had provided for their children to stay with relatives; and we were on our way home. We made the 4-hour trip in comfort and with great friends' fellowship. When we arrived, Glenn expressed our feelings and thoughts best: "Jamey and Jessica, you are in our Primitive Baptists' Hall of Fame" and we will be always grateful. These two (and their well organized, thoughtful and friendly 8 children) certainly obeyed Christ's command: "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers..." Heb. 13:2

Composed by a grateful Sister, Jackie Watkins

Winter Garden Primitive
Baptist Church
P.O. Box 771048
Winter Garden, FL 34777
407-656-7007
www.wintergardenpbc.com

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

Elder Glenn Blanchard
771 Bending Oak Trail
Winter Garden, FL 34787
407-905-5627
primitivebaptist@embarqmail.com

Tapes (subscription or
address information):
tapes@wintergardenpbc.com

Volume 20, Issue 1

Florida Fellowship Meeting 2014

It is the privilege of the MacClenny Primitive Baptist Church to host the Florida Fellowship Meeting this year. We extend our warmest welcome to all who have a desire to worship with us during this meeting. The church is located at 94 North Blvd East, MacClenny, FL 32063. Phone number: 904-259-7806

Services – Thursday, Feb 6th @ 7:00 PM

Friday, Feb 7th @ 10:30 AM, 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Saturday, Feb 8th @ 10:30 AM, 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Sunday, Feb 9th @ 10:30 AM

Hotel – These are great rates for Florida during this time of year. Holiday Inn Express, 537 Chaffee Point Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32221.

Rate is \$69 per night for a room with 2 Queen Beds or 1 King Bed. Suites are also available for \$119 per night. All rooms are non-smoking.

Includes breakfast buffet.

Contract in place to hold 20 rooms for Thursday, Feb 6th & 40 rooms for Friday and Saturday, Feb 7th & 8th.

For reservations call the hotel at 904-652-2782 or 800-465-4329. Ask for Florida Fellowship Meeting or MacClenny Primitive Baptist Church rate.

Reservations must be made no later than January 13, 2014

Pastor's Letter

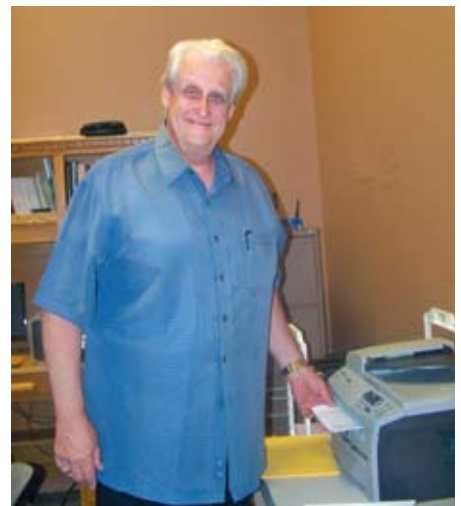
Elder Glenn Blanchard

I have just returned from the Georgia Preacher's Meeting. The fellowship and the presentations were worth the trip. Add the wonderful hospitality of Shoal Creek Primitive Baptist Church and their pastor, Elder Randall Cagle, and you have a winning combination.

The Defense of the Faith Seminar is right around the corner. December 30, 31 and January 1. You can get the details from the Bethany PBC website. This is a very profitable time for all who attend. Everyone is welcome. Bethany and their pastor, Elder Gus Harter always make this a grand event.

At our church we have handed out Thanksgiving baskets, sent out this newsletter, sent out CD's of our service, are now on our website in video, looking forward to our Christmas Eve service, and enjoying our young people as they grow in the faith.

Planning your life around the church instead of secular activities may be the solution to many family problems. I pray that each one of our churches will consider becoming more active in the coming year.



Your Adversary

By Elder Sonny Phelan

*“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour”.
1 Peter 5:8*

Have you considered your “adversary”? He doesn’t want you to. He doesn’t want you to know that he really exists. He would have you go merrily on your way, while he walks about, lurking in the shadows, destroying families and lives. If you love the Lord, I can assure you that he has his eye upon you and yours. He has sized you up and is at this very moment hatching some diabolical plot to destroy your life, your testimony, and what ever good that you may accomplish in this life. Jesus described him as a “liar” and a “murderer” (John 8:44). Considering these fitting titles, you have probably read or heard of some of his work over the past few weeks which is only a sure testimony that he is alive and active. Have you considered your “adversary”?

Peter knew a lot about him. He, too, had been caught unaware by this hideous monster. That is why Peter tells us to be “sober” and vigilant”. The word “sober” means “watch”. Keep your eyes open! Be aware! If you knew there was a lion loose in your neighborhood, one that was devouring men, women and children, would you not approach the day with caution? When you went out for the day, would you not survey your yard, look behind the shrubs and under your car before you walked out the door? But how many of God’s children look for Satan each day?

That is why Peter also uses the word, “vigilant”. Vigilant means “keep awake”. Don’t let your guard down even for a minute. We are not suggesting that God’s people live a life of paranoia. But we are encouraging them to be cognizant of his existence and abilities at all times. Whether you like it, know it, or want it, you have an adversary! Today, we expose him.

Many wonderful people have suffered from his assaults: David, Solomon and Job all had their bouts with this enemy. Are we less vulnerable than these great men? Should we not be on our guard? Consider a few of his methods:

- (1) PRIDE: He was ever present among the apostles. He hated their work. If he could not scare these men into seclusion with his roar, he would destroy them with pride. Thus, they began to argue who would be the greatest (Luke 22:24). But the eye of our Lord was always open to the devil and seeing Peter’s temptation He said, “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren” (Luke 22:31-32). “Only by pride cometh contention” (Proverbs 13:10a).
- (2) Lust: Lust is the desire for something that is not rightfully ours. It is setting the heart upon something that God has forbidden. Satan destroyed the first home with this tool and has succeeded countless times with this bait since that day. Solomon, in all of his wisdom fell prey to this temptation. Satan and Hollywood are co-partners in this method; they know what the flesh feeds upon. By their enticements, one will become dissatisfied with what God has provided and desire that which is forbidden.
- (3) The love of money: People will do anything for money. Judas betrayed the Lord of glory for a few pieces of silver. And who was behind that scheme? People will lie, cheat and steal for it and all the while Satan is sifting them as wheat.



We were thrilled to see longtime family, Angela, Brandon and Skyla Lurvey with friend, David Allen.

Sister Hannah Chu brought friend, Maria- Elana Garcia, to enjoy services.



(cont'd on page 4)



We welcomed Angie and Lester from Winter Garden, friends of Brother Reynold Sukal.

(Your Adversary Cont'd from page 3)

- (4) Compromise: He is behind compromises. David would have one more look, over the wall at Bathsheba. This is where we find the “white lie”; do everything once; and be open-minded about everything mind-set. Give him an inch and he will take a life.
- (5) Peer pressure: While parents will warn their children about peer pressure, it may come as a surprise to the parent to find themselves pleasing the neighbor and “keeping up with the Jones”. Christ is our example, we must seek to please Him and not man.
- (6) Fear: We must mention fear, because our text declares it. Many times, a lion will roar to scare and paralyze its victim. Let not his roar scare you. He has been conquered. Christ has wounded his head (Gen. 3:15). Alone, we are no match for him. But with Christ, we are more than his match. James said, “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7).

Remember, you have an adversary. Recognize him for what he is; look for him on every hand; and resist him. Lord, open our eyes to his schemes and pray for us as you prayed for Peter!

Church News

Ground Breaking, Providence PBC, Hartington, NE

Dear Kindred in Christ,

We are a small church in Northeast Nebraska, constituted in 1998, consisting of ten members in six households. We are prayerfully working towards getting a permanent meeting house. We have been “paying as we go” and to date have a country acreage with building site prepared, water and electricity ready. Enclosed is a picture of our spot standing on the bluff and looking down the driveway as one would leave.

An architect is working on building plans. We have in mind a small sanctuary with entryway and bathrooms. Later, we would hope to add a lunchroom.

Also enclosed is a photo of the youth as we “broke ground” and made our commitment before God and the world of our hope to build a church building. The picture shows, from left to right, Kirk Abbot, Amber Folkers, Bennett Jorgenson, Heather Folkers, Allison Folkers, Darren Folkers, Dillan Folkers, Tyler Abbott, Brianna Jorgenson, Brooke Jorgenson, Rachel



Abbott, and Katie Abbot. Since the photo was taken we have one new baby, Tanner Abbott.

We would like to invite brethren of like faith and order to come and worship with us and visit in our homes. We meet each third Sunday morning and Saturday night before with lunch on Sunday. You can contact Ivy Folkers at 402-586-2298 or Linda Abbott at 402-254-7202 or Doug Abbot at 308-368-5444.

We've undergone some individual trials, including home burning down, losing a business, job lay off, and stage four cancer, so our progress has been slow and strained, but our desire to worship in "spirit and in truth" in this area and build a permanent meeting house has not faded. God has provided us with a faithful pastor in Elder Mark Hatcher from Kansas City and we seek God's will. We humbly ask your prayers and if any feel inclined to help financially, it would be greatly appreciated. Special thanks and blessings to those who have already helped in this cause.

In Christian Bonds,
Sister Linda Abbott, Church Clerk
Providence Primitive Baptist Church
55521 Hwy 84
Hartington, NE 68739



Brother Ray Blanchard shared the day with friend, Justin.

All but two of four members are descendents of Deacon Harold Halbgewachs of Mt. Zion PB Church in Cozad, Nebraska (a daughter, grandchildren and great-grandchildren). See photo page 4.

With God

To talk with God, no breath is lost-
Talk on!

To walk with God, no strength is lost-
Walk on!

To wait on God, no time is lost-
Wait on!

-Words Fitly Spoken, **Marlene & Carson Melvin**

Deacon Ordination, Piney Grove PBC, Headland, AL

Special services were held on Saturday, October 12th. at Piney Grove PBC in Headland, AL. for the purpose of ordaining Brother Kenneth Nowell to the office of Deacon. The pastor, Elder Clayton Nowell, moderated the day's services which began Saturday morning with preaching by Elder Bobby Willis and Elder Buddy Abernathy.

Elder Clayton Nowell served as Moderator of the presbytery and Elder John Burkett served as Clerk. Elder David Johnson offered the opening prayer and questioned the church spokesman, Deacon Bro. Jim Davidson. Elder J.C. Stanaland questioned the candidate on the Articles of Faith followed by Elder Bobby Willis, who offered the Ordination Prayer. Elder Buddy Abernathy delivered an excellent charge to Brother Kenneth who had his wife, Sister Sarah, seated by his side. A number of the presbytery offered encouragement and admonition at the conclusion of the charge. All in attendance witnessed a blessed ordination service to the honor and glory of God. (photo on right)





Friends of WG, Derek and Jennifer, have visited on several occasions.

We were blessed with special visitors from Cincinnati, Gary and Vicki Beyer and sister, Brenda Toler.



Premarital Counseling

By Elder Dolph Painter

Consider the coursework and training required to secure a driver's license or a hunting license (gun safety courses, ordinance booklets, driving logs...). Now consider the coursework and training required to secure a teaching certificate or a CPA's license (bachelor degree, student teaching, apprenticeships...). Finally, consider the coursework and training required to secure a marriage license. Oops, there is none. Maybe a blood test, but the sign above the county clerk says, No experience required. No wonder half of all marriages fail, Christian and non-Christian.

This preacher will not officiate a single wedding ceremony if he thinks the odds are only fifty-fifty. Sound tough? Maybe, but consider the lives at stake. Besides the two getting married, one must consider the children which will come out of this union. What can we do? Premarital counseling, for one.

Assignment #1: Each of you write down a description of the perfect husband. If his destination is Point A, and she thinks his destination ought to be Point B, one can expect conflict five years down the road when they are miles apart. But in reality, points A & B are irrelevant. What really matters is Point C, God's description of a perfect husband (Eph. 5:22-24, 1 Ti. 5:8, Col 3:19, 1 Pe. 3:7-8, Gen. 2:18-25, Pr. 31:10:31.) Yes, Proverbs 31 is for him; there is a good husband supporting that virtuous woman. Find him.

Assignment #2: Each of you write down a description of the perfect wife. If her destination is Point D, and he thinks her destination ought to be Point E, one can expect conflict down the road. But in reality, points D & E are irrelevant. What really matters is God's description of a perfect wife (Eph. 5:22-24, Tit. 2:4-5, 1 Pe. 3:1-6, Gen. 2:18-25, Pr. 31:10-31, Pr. 7:10-11).

God created marriage, and He knows best how it will work. Only when God's mission statements are understood, targeted, and committed to by two people will this preacher consider officiating a ceremony.

Juarez Report

Update as of 9/3/2013 By Darrell Chambers

I spoke with Elder Donnie Halbgewachs after his visit to the Shekinah PBC in Juarez, Mexico on Sunday, September 1, 2013. He was excited about the day, and reported that Elder Sanchez had preached very powerfully and with great response from the congregation that morning. Then, they had baptized 9 new members after the worship services. There are also several others awaiting baptism soon. Since Elder Sanchez

was ordained on the previous Sunday, both he and Elder Halbgewachs performed the baptism of these new members. One of the new members is the son of Elder Sanchez. I am sure that this small congregation is thrilled with the addition of these new members. I am also excited about the Lord's work in this desolate part of the desert in Mexico.

Ironically, the baptisms were performed in a swimming pool belonging to a neighbor. The irony of this is that the neighbor has not always been on good terms with the church, the Halbgewachs', or Elder Sanchez. When the church was erected, it was the only building within a few blocks, and was somewhat isolated by design, from other homes and buildings so that there would not likely be any interference during the church services. This neighbor had purchased the land adjacent to the church after the church building was erected. The

neighbor built an expensive fence, several horse barns, other buildings, and installed a nice swimming pool. These are all very rare in this part of Mexico. The property was then used for partying for the well-off (also rare in this part of Mexico unless accompanied by illegal activity). There was often loud music, partying, etc. interrupting the simple worship services of the church members on the weekends.

Shortly after his baptism, Brother Sanchez began working for the Halbgewachs on the church property. One day, he was burning some old discarded tires that had been dumped on the property. In Mexico, like most places in the USA, burning tires is illegal because of the pollutants produced. So, the neighbor took the opportunity to call the police (most of which in Juarez are corrupt, according to the US Dept. of State). The police came and were threatening to arrest Bro. Sanchez and put him in prison. Instead of resisting, complaining, or offering them a bribe, Brother Sanchez complied and only requested that he be allowed to bring his Bible so that he could witness to the other inmates in prison. This attitude and this unusual request took the policemen aback, and they refrained from arresting him. This attitude in Bro. Sanchez also puzzled the neighbor. Since that incident, the neighbor has become friendlier with the Sanchez's and the Halbgewachs'.

The neighbor has recently had financial difficulties and has decided he has to sell his property. With the security fence, the pool and the buildings, this property is perfect for developing into the orphanage that Bro. Sanchez has dreamed of developing. He has a heart for the homeless children of Mexico. The pool would also make a great baptistery for the church. The neighbor has offered to sell the property and all the improvements and buildings for a bargain price of \$65,000. This would be a great investment to allow the property to be used as an orphanage, and protect other parties or possibly a drug cartel from purchasing the property and interrupting the church activities. If anyone wants to invest in such a worthy cause, this would be a great opportunity to do so.

How ironic that this neighbor, who once opposed the church activities, is now shutting down the disruptive activity, offering the use of his pool for baptisms, and offering to sell

the property at a greatly reduced, bargain price. The Lord does work in mysterious ways! Please pray that Elder Sanchez, with the help of some investors, will be able to purchase this property for an orphanage. Please keep this small church and her newly ordained elder, along with the Halbgewachs', in your prayers. Thank the Lord that the church has been blessed with a newly ordained elder and several new members. They do have financial needs just to maintain the property they already have and maintain the current operating expenses. The Halbgewachs' have given their lives and their possessions in service to God's children here. They are ever looking for the Lord's opened doors of opportunity to serve Him in other areas or different capacities.

May the Lord abundantly bless them.

Contributions

Fred & Jeannine Herrmann
Ivan & Linda Abbott



A real blessing to our church, the Fuller family, Eric, Joel, Peggy and Joe.

Marriage: Unconditional Love

Elder Buddy Abernathy 11/13/2013

Prior to becoming “one flesh” in the bonds of marriage, a man and woman should give much consideration to their compatibility. The couple’s ability to live together in harmony should be carefully evaluated by each party prior to the wedding day. Barriers and problems encountered during courtship will not be eliminated by a wedding ceremony and a common place of residence. Only true love can produce a strong, healthy marriage.

Unfortunately, Hollywood has convinced many people that true love is an inescapable feeling or mood by which one is taken captive. The idea is impressed upon our minds that we “fall in love” and that we have no more control over this “mental chemistry” than we do the weather. Therefore, it is not surprising that many marriages end in divorce when this philosophy is accepted as the foundation for marriage.

Feelings of excitement and romance should be an ongoing characteristic of a good relationship, even after marriage. However, true love is not an undetectable “virus” which overcomes you without warning. There’s more to marital love than what George Strait referred to as “The Love Bug”:

*“Oh that a little bitty teeny weeny thing called the love bug
Nobody’s ever seen it but it’s got the whole world shook up
It all started with a little bitty kiss and a hug
It’s a little bitty teeny weeny thing they called the love bug”*

In the Book of Ephesians, Paul writes, “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church...” (Ephesians 5:25) To love your wife is to regard her welfare. Rather than being an unpredictable mood, love is described here as a responsibility one has toward another. Once married, “feelings” are irrelevant to the obligation each spouse now has to love (regard the welfare of) one another. Long term, happy emotions and good feelings in marriage are the consequence of a firm commitment by husband and wife to unconditionally love one another. In order to experience pleasant feelings one for the other, couples should try reviewing and implementing their publicly professed wedding vows, “...to love, in sickness and in health, for better or for worse, till death alone shall separate you.”

One of the indicators of a breakdown in the commitment to unconditionally love one another is bitterness. In the Book of Colossians, Paul writes, “Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.” (Colossians 3:19) Occasionally, the husband and/or wife become irritated at the other because they feel like they are not being appreciated. Remember, true love is a relationship which concentrates on giving rather than receiving. The best way to root out bitterness is to love your spouse in the same way that, “Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.” Christ did not love his people because they were deserving of his love. To the contrary, “...God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

Are you willing to unconditionally love your husband or wife in the same way that Christ unconditionally loves you?



Frequent visitor, Erline Pierre-Louis with friend, Mireille Jean-Louis from Winter Garden.

Sister Sandra Kendrick was delighted to be in the company of her grandchildren.

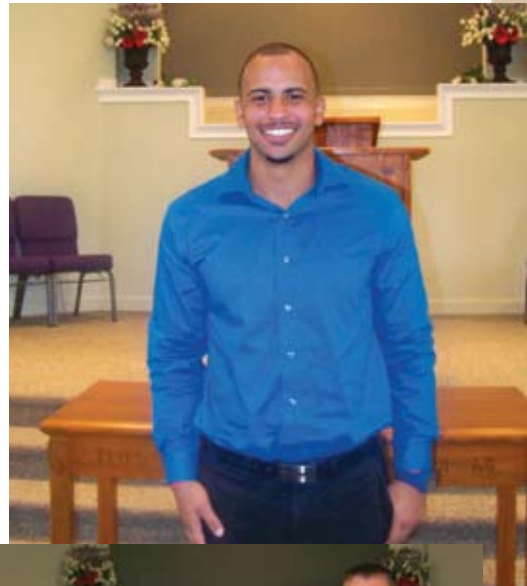


Answers to This Month's Quiz

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Egypt, Mt. 2:13 | 6. Gethsemane, Mt. 26:36 |
| 2. locusts, Mt. 3:4 | 7. slept, Mt. 26:40 |
| 3. Beatitudes | 8. angel, Mt. 28:2 |
| 4. heaven, Mt. 6:20 | 9. mother in law, Mt. 8:14 |
| 5. thirty, Mt. 26:15 | 10. Galilee, Mt. 28:10 |

Obituary for Sister Jetha Brooks

December 6, 2013, Sister Jetha Brooks was called home to be with our Lord. As she passed the hymn Rock of Ages was being gently sung. Knowing her has been one of the great joys of my ministry. She has missed two services in the 15 years that I have pastored. And, if the legend is accurate, since February 27, 1923, she has only missed one other service in those 90 years at Camp Creek. But to me, what I appreciated more than Sister Jetha's faithful attendance is the love and devotion she gave to her Lord and His cause. She spent countless hours preparing food for every meeting, every luncheon and for our shut-ins. Visitors to Camp Creek have always been greeted promptly with her shy smile. People who are hurting have always received a card, a note, or a phone call from her. And this pastor, in particular, always received grace and encouragement from her when I needed it most. ~ **Elder John Melvin** (photo below)



We were privileged to welcome guests, Tony (above), a local visitor and Alex Aken, pictured with friends, Bill and Ray Blanchard. (left)



NEW HOPE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH
c/o WINTER GARDEN PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH
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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

1. To keep him safe from Herod, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to _____.
2. The food John the Baptist ate was _____ and wild honey.
3. Another name for Jesus' Sermon on the Mount is _____.
4. Jesus said to store your treasures in _____.
5. Jesus was betrayed for _____ pieces of silver.
6. Jesus prayed before His crucifixion in the Garden of _____.
7. When Jesus asked his disciples to watch with Him as he prayed, they _____.
8. The stone on the door of Jesus' tomb was rolled back by an _____.
9. The relative of Peter's whom Jesus healed was Peter's _____.
10. The risen Jesus said he would meet His disciples at _____.