

NEW HOPE NEWSLETTER

Volume 21, Issue 1, January/February 2015



We delight in family visits around this time of year. Peyton and Rachel are working internships locally and were pleased to welcome (above) parents, Jacqueline and Douglas Downs from GA. (right) sister, Tori and Lucas Karr from MO.

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

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

Lukewarm

by Elder Dolph Painter

Two thousand years ago there existed a city called Laodecia. Laodecia was a little town located in Asia Minor (Southern Turkey as the region is known today). At the time, the town's water came from a hot spring located six miles to the south, so the townspeople collected their water and transported it six miles home. However, by the time the water reached their homes, it was not very useful.

You see, hot water was useful. Hot water could be used to bathe or wash clothes. And cold water was useful. Cold water could be used to drink or refresh, but lukewarm water was viewed

as good for nothing. When was the last time a waitress asked if you wanted your tea hot, iced, or lukewarm? Lukewarm? Yuck! Spew!

Jesus Christ knew the Laodecian's disdain for lukewarm water and used this relatable subject to describe the church's worship. Jesus was telling the Laodecians their worship was good for nothing – Rev 3:15-16. The Laodecian's prosperity caused them to become lukewarm - Rev 3:17-19. They had one foot in the church and the other in the world.

With the modern day conveniences of microwaves and refrigerators we can not fully appreciate the Lord's lukewarm analogy, but Revelations is not the first time such a rebuke was given:

- Joshua said, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve" Josh 24:14-24. Joshua was telling Israel
- to get off the fence, no lukewarmism tolerated with him.
- Elijah asked, "How long halt ye between two opinions?" 1King 18:21. Elijah was asking Israel to go one way or the other, but no lukewarmism.
- Jesus said, "Ye cannot serve God and mammon" Matt 6:24. Jesus preached against lukewarmism.

Lukewarmism, compromise, religious pretense, they are one in the same. How does one begin to fix it? Start by considering Psalm 4:4. It says: get still, consider the Lord, and obey what you know. May the Lord help us all to heat it up a bit- No, heat it up a lot is my prayer.

2015 Florida Fellowship Meeting

The Florida Fellowship consists of a group of churches primarily in Central Florida (Shout out to our newbies MacClenny who did an awesome job hosting the 2014 meeting!) that come together once a year in February to join in fellowship with one another. We enjoy singing, praying, and preaching from ministers of like faith from around the nation. In the past, we have enjoyed the visitation of primitive baptists and friends from all over the U.S.of A! Beginning Friday, February 27th, 2015, Winter Garden Primitive Baptist Church will be hosting this special event and we pray that you will be able to join us!

February 27March 1, 2015
WINTER GARDEN
Primitive Baptist Church

943 West Story Road, Winter Garden, FL

Winter Garden/Ocoee area accommodations

- 1.) Red Roof Inn- 407-347-0140
- 2.) Fairfield Inn & Suites-407-573-1010
- 3.) The Historic Edgewater Hotel: Downtown Winter Garden-407-654-6921
- 4.) Best Western-407-905-4450
- 5.) Stage Stop Campground-407-656-8000

For more information regarding times and accommodations, please refer to www.wintergardenpbc.com or https://www.facebook.com/groups/FloridaFellowship2015/



Pastor's Letter

Elder Glenn Blanchard

We hope and pray that the new year will be a happy and blessed one for all of you.

Please let us know how we can serve you better through our



newsletter. Would you rather receive it online? Would you be willing to send us

articles and news to share with others. While we have never charged a subscription price, contributions are always welcome. Send us your ideas and we promise to consider each one.

Meeting Notices

Gulf Coast Fellowship Meeting, St. Andrew PBC, Panama City, FL

2100 Michigan Ave.

Panama City, Florida 32405; 850-872-2146 Standrewprimitivebaptistchurch.com

We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of our Church family and friends, to join us in the 2015 Gulf Coast Fellowship Meeting, hosted by St. Andrew Primitive Baptist Church. It is our sincere prayer that the Lord will bless us with His presence during the meeting and He will inspire His Ministers to come with Godhonoring and edifying messages.

Services: Thursday, April 16 - Sandwich supper at 5:30, Services at 6:30.

Friday, April 17 - 10:00 AM, Lunch, Services after lunch, Supper at 5:30 PM, Services at 6:30.

Saturday, April 18 - 10:00 AM, Lunch, Services after lunch, Supper at 5:30 PM, Services at 6:30.

Sunday, April 19 - 10:00 AM, Lunch. The Gulf Coast Fellowship Meeting will conclude at noon Sunday.

Contact: Website:

standrewprimitivebaptistchurch.com

• **Elder J.C. Stanaland** – Home: 850-773-9942, Cell: 850-624-7124.

Email: jcstanaland1951@yahoo.com

Bro. Terry Sesco: 850-722-6558
 Brother Rick Howell: 890-8289

- **Bro. Larry Stephens**: 850-784-6397
- **Bro. Jim Wells** 850-769-7457
- **Bro. Lynn Braswell** 850-874-9515

Accommodations: Please call the motels for exact rates.

Quality Inn, 3602 West Hwy 98; 850-522-5200 – ¼ mile from Church. Estimated rates: Two Queen Beds or a King Bed \$89:99.

Best Western, 1025 E. 23rd St.; 850-784-7700 – 4.1 miles from Church. Two Queen Beds \$81.59. Tell them Niema gave us the "manager's rate"!

Comfort Inn, 1013 E. 23rd St.; 850-769-6969

– 4 miles from Church. Estimated rate: \$160.00 per night.

LaQuinta Inn, 1030 E. 23rd St.; 850-914-0022 - 4 miles from Church. Estimated rates:

Thursday night \$109.00, Friday and Saturday nights \$119.00 per night.

Days Inn, 4111 W. Hwy. 98, 850-784-1777 – 2 miles from Church. Estimated Rates: King bed \$128.00, two queen beds \$153.00.

Palmetto Inn & Suites Motel, 17255 Front Beach Road, Panama City Beach, 32413. 850-234-2121 -13 miles from the Church. Estimated rates: Beach Side \$110.00 per night; across the street from the beach \$85.00 per night. Frequent visitor, Elizabeth Lee, was joined by boyfriend, Nick.



Nebraska Fellowship Meeting, Mt.Zion PBC, Cozad, NE

The 2015 Nebraska Fellowship Meeting will be held at Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church in Cozad, Nebraska June 11, 12, 13 & 14. Schedule

Saturday at 10:00 AM; 1:30 PM & 7:30 PM

Sunday at 10:00 AM

[Lunch will be served Friday, Saturday and Sunday following morning services; Supper will be served Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 6:00 PM prior to evening services.]

Contact Info: Elder Thomas E. Bond P. O. Box 303 Cozad, NE 69130 308-784-5518 Home 308-325-3957 Cell -thomasbond13@yahoo.com 308-784-2441 Church

of services will be as follows: Thursday at 7:30 PM: Singing & Prayer Friday at 10:00 AM; 1:30 PM & 7:30 PM

Our desire is to accommodate as many of our guests in our homes as we can. There are two motels in Cozad. The two motels in Cozad offer a discount for the Fellowship meeting. Please be sure and ask for the discount when you make your reservation. Also, more motels are located

in nearby Lexington and Gothenburg. Thanks.

308-784-4320home or 308-325-3302 cell

Rodeway Inn 809 S. Meridian Cozad, NE 308-784-4900 www.rodewayinn.com

Deacon Howard Halbgewachs

75851 Road 419 Cozad, NE 69130

> Americas Best Value Inn 440 S. Meridian Cozad.NE 308-784-2290 or 308-784-2297

We also have some camper hook-ups available at the church.

Brother Jay brings his school friend, Ariel Obrycki, (top) and family friends, Susan and Mattie Kantor. (below)

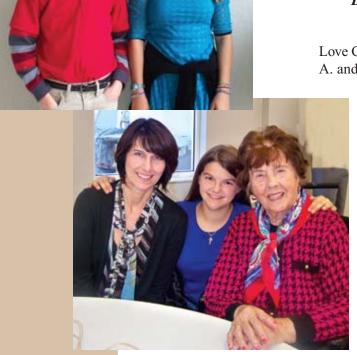
Biographical History of Primitive or Old School **Baptist Ministers Vol. II**

Elder W.A. (Sonny) Pyles

Elder W.A. (Sonny) Pyles was born February 22, 1939 in Love County, Oklahoma, the eldest of four children born to William A. and Eula Kingston Pyles. As a small child, he possessed a deep

> curiosity about God and the things of nature, which prompted him to read widely from an early age. He committed vast portions of scripture to memory as a young boy. He was first called upon to speak in church at the age of fifteen, and was ordained December 29, 1963 at the age of 24. He became pastor of Medlan Chapel Primitive Baptist Church located in the countryside near Graham, Texas, in 1965. He has labored diligently to serve God's people, in pastoring his home church as well as in traveling to appointments all across the United States, having flown over one million miles to preach the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. He has also maintained a radio ministry across the country through The Gospel of Grace Ministries broadcasts. The hallmarks of his preaching style include colorful illustrations, practical wisdom, abundant quotation of scripture, a gift for making profound truths understandable even for young children, and

a never-wavering focus on the glory and sovereignty of God.



Your Adversary

"From The Daily Record - The First Year in Retrospect" By Elder Neil M. Phelan, Jr.

"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 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 on 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 whatever good that you may accomplish in this life. Jesus described him as a "liar" and a "murderer" (John 8:44). Considering his 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.
- (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



We were pleased to welcome Roger and Carol Hotz from Orlando.

The Anderson family enjoyed a visit from Julie's parents, Dan and Lana Snurr, and grandmother, Dixie Akin.





Brother John Dombrowski enjoyed the company of his friend, Jennifer Shirley.

We welcomed visitors from Orange City, Gavin and Janice Newman. (bottom right) as well as the Poland family: Jim, Paige, Katie, Mattie, Cale and Ben. (below)



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 is behind that scheme? People will lie, cheat, and steal for it and all the while Satan is sifting them as wheat.

(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 then 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!

I'm fine--How About You?

There is nothing whatever the matter with me, I'm just as healthy as I can be.
I have arthritis in both my knees,
And when I walk, I walk with a wheeze.
My pulse is weak and my blood is thin,
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

Old age is golden, I've heard it said, But sometimes I wonder as I go to bed. My ears in a drawer, my teeth in a cup, My eyes on the shelf until I get up. When sleep dims my eyes, I say to myself, Is there anything else I should lay on the shelf?

When I was young, my shoes were bright red, I would kick my heels right over my head, When I grew older, my shoes were brown or blue.

But I could still dance the whole night through. Now I'm old, my shoes are dull and black, I walk to the corner and puff my way back.

The reason I know my youth has been spent, My getup-and-go has got up and went. But I really don't mind when I think, with a grin,

Of all the places my get-up has been.

I get up each morning and dust off my wits, I pick up the paper and read the "obits." If my name is missing, I know I'm not dead, So I eat a good breakfast and go back to bed.

The moral is this, as this tale we unfold; That for you and me, who are growing old, It's better to say, "I'm fine," with a grin, Than let people know the shape we are in. Anonymous – Submitted by David Grant





Brandon and Robin King share worship service with Robins's parents, Barb and Phil Patsfield. (photo on left)



Update on Gospel Labors in Africa

Dear Friends in Christ,

On Sunday afternoon, October 12th, 2014, Elder Vernon Johnson and I traveled from America to Tanzania in east Africa. We both arrived in Amsterdam, Holland about the same time and were on the same flight to Dar es Salaam, the capitol city of Tanzania. The Lord blessed us to arrive safely in Dar and all our bags arrived right on time. Travel time for both of us was about 27 hours.

I had invited 11 brethren (eight of them are ordained elders) from 4 east African countries (Zambia, Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania) to meet with us in Dar for 10 days. All of these brethren arrived safely as well. Many of them traveled by bus for 27-30 hours and were weary but so happy to be together. It was such a blessing to see all of them again and behold their love for one another and witness their fellowship in the gospel of grace.

We spent the next 10 days in a compound that was built back in 1980 by some people from Sweden. It has a high wall on every side with barbed wire on top of it. This was my 7th time to stay here and I have never felt any fear while in this compound. In the distance, you can see an inlet to the Indian Ocean and occasionally there will be a cool ocean breeze. There are 3 guest houses for rent, and, in addition to these houses, there are about 12 rooms for rent. It is only about 20 minutes from the airport. Through the years, I have been blessed to meet some very interesting people in this peaceful and friendly setting.

The compound has a kitchen and dining area and you can order 3 meals a day. I had enough funds to provide 3 meals a day for all these brethren. The African brethren enjoyed the food so much. They all thought they gained some much needed weight. Breakfast always consists of boiled eggs with toast and jelly, and instant coffee or hot tea. The cook allows me to cook my own breakfast and I scrambled or fried eggs and cooked country ham (that I brought from home) several mornings for Brother Vernon and me. Two mornings, I cooked for all the brethren. They think I am a good cook! The local cook (Mary) even liked my fried eggs and ham. I also took my French Press coffee maker and made delicious coffee. All you need is boiling water. It requires no electricity. I shared my coffee with some folks from the US one morning and I made some instant friends!

Every morning, we would have breakfast at 8am and then start our studies around 9am. We would study together until 12 noon. We would rest in the afternoon. We would meet again from 4 pm until 6pm. After supper, we would meet back for 2-3 hours.

On Tuesday the 14th, we started asking the African brethren to preach, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. They would usually stand for 20-30 minutes. Elder Martin Onyoni from Kenya was the first one to preach. His text was Hebrews 12:24 "And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel." He did a great job showing how the blood of Jesus was so much better than the blood of Abel!

We enjoyed a visit from Cynthia and Wayne Shaw, and Nancy and Bill Ruble from MD (Photo above)

Elder Silas Ford delighted us with a visit accompanied by his son, Brennan, and mother, Caroline.





In the afternoon, another brother would preach. This way, we got to hear all the African brethren preach. All of them speak English and I am glad to report that all of these brethren have a good gift to teach and preach the gospel of grace! Some of the gifts, I would say, are 5 talent gifts.

I served as moderator and arranged the schedule for each day. I also taught some on different subjects. Elder Johnson taught through his first note book in the morning and evening sessions, dealing with basic Bible doctrine. I would describe Elder Johnson as a systematic Bible scholar and teacher. (How he was led to start writing his essays for his first notebook a year before he was ever contacted by folks in Africa is a great story in God's extraordinary providence.) His faithful service has been the backbone of this work in Africa. This was his 14th trip to Africa to labor among the Primitive Baptists. (Last year, he almost died in south Africa due to a dangerous infection. He had to return to the US after only 2 days in south Africa. God was merciful and blessed him to return to Dallas, Texas for emergency medical

care.) He is truly a servant leader, willing to spend and be spent in God's service. His labor in the kingdom of God reminds me of one who is strong, faithful, steady and gets in no hurry! He just gets the job done. What a blessing it was to serve along side this humble servant.

Elder Johnson has met a number of other men from Zambia who have been studying his writings and corresponding with him for 2-3 years. He is planning 2 trips to Zambia early next year, the Lord willing, to help establish these men in the truth. Please keep him in your prayers concerning these trips.

Elder Johnson is providing rebuilt laptop computers for all these African brethren. He also provides them with a flash drive (no bigger than my thumb) that plugs into the laptop. These little flash drives have over a thousand audio sermons by many Primitive Baptist ministers plus the writings of many of our elders.

During our visit this year, He taught on the Attributes of God, the Total Depravity of man, the New Birth, Unconditional Election, Limited Atonement, Preservation of the Saints, and he spent a lot of time explaining the difference between Eternal and Time Salvation, a major key to understanding the scriptures. He explained in great detail the difference between Justification by Blood, by Faith, and by Works. He explained the Purpose of the Gospel. He also taught a lot on the Kingdom of God.

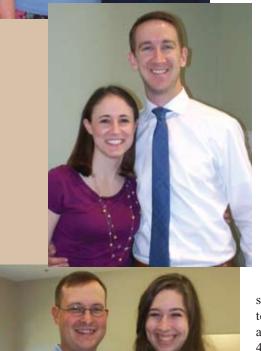
On the last night, I requested that Elder Johnson charge all of us from the scriptures. He started with Christ's charge to the apostles in Matthew 28. Then he went to the charge Jesus gave Peter in John 21. "feed my sheep and my lambs." Next, he spoke about Paul's charge to the elders at Ephesus in Acts 20. He explained the gifts in Ephesians 4. He reviewed Paul's charge to Timothy in II Timothy 4. He ended with Peter's charge to the elders in I Peter 5. It was the most complete charge I have ever heard. It was a fitting end to a wonderful time of fellowship with these 11 men around the word of God. All these brethren expressed a renewed zeal for the gospel work ahead of them.

Thankfully, we did not have to hurry through any of the subjects! We were together in a formal gathering for about 8 hours a day. However, during the meals and rest periods, there were a lot of Bible discussions going on. Many questions were asked and many answers given. Also, the African brethren did a lot of hymn singing!

When I was a young minister, I was so blessed to spend many hours in the homes of older ministers studying the Bible with them. Elders C.E. Darity, Pat Byrd, Ben and Raybon Lord and many others. Elder Ben Lord was considered by many as a very able fire side minister, meaning he would sit by the fire and open to us the word of God and answer lots of hard questions. During the 1970s and 1980s, I also got to spend a lot of

time with Elder Sonny Pyles. He was always preaching, whether in the pulpit or out. I look back on those times as some of the most profitable seasons in my life. Sadly, these brethren in Africa do not have older ministers to sit down and visit with and ask questions about the Bible. However, for 10 days, they did, and it was, I think, a most profitable time for all of us.

During 2 of our sessions, we discussed different ways the brethren could provide for their families by starting a business. Elder Kezala from Zambia knew a lot about the goat business and others knew a lot about the chicken business. They also talked about farming God's way. Basically they



The Taylor-Abernathy
wedding brought many
visitors to town.
(top) Janice and Doug
Rhoades, (middle) Laura
and Alan Rhoades, all
from Jasper, AL (bottom)
Ken and Sara Nowell from
Headland, AL

talked about organic farming. Some of them already have successful businesses such as planting banana trees and sweet potatoes. Two of the brethren had started photography businesses. Most people in Africa cook on charcoal and selling this product can be profitable. They gladly shared information and experiences in the world of business.

Due to the generosity of so many of you, I was able to help all these brethren financially. (Please accept this letter as a THANK YOU for your support) After all the expenses were paid, there was a lot of money left over and it was divided among these men. None of them were expecting any financial gifts. They left their jobs and families to travel to this 2 week gathering simply to learn all they could about the Bible. Thank God, there was enough money left over to share with them so that they received, as a blessing from God, a lot more money than they would have earned if they had stayed at home.

Physically, this was the easiest trip I have made to Africa. Last year, Elder Gowens and I were on 13 different flights during a 25 day trip. We were in 3 different parts of east Africa. We were exhausted most of the time. There was usually about an hour of preaching each day and half this time was taken by translators so that the folks could know what we were saying. I knew there had to be a better use of our time in Africa.

This year, there were only 4 flights. We spent every night in the same place. There was no need for translators, except on Sunday. The only time we left the compound was on Sunday when we traveled to Grace PBC in Dar for their regular worship service. By the way, this was a happy day as we met with about 50 members of this church and worshiped together. After church, we had communion and feet washing and then lunch.

Four of Elder Obey's children were at church on Sunday. The youngest twins, Grace and Nico, are away at a boarding school. The twins, Gift and Given, aged 16, were there, along with Barnabas and Junes. Sister Mary's neice, Theopista, was also there. She lives with them. Brother Gift has expressed a burden to preach and is speaking some in their regular services. These children wanted me to express to all of you their appreciation for your love and care of them since the death of their parents.

Elder Obey's youngest brother, Jonah, joined the PBC in April and he loves the doctrine of grace. He lives in Mbeya and has started a small fellowship there and is teaching them what he has learned about the grace of God. It was a joy to have him with us for these 2 weeks.

I have attached a picture that Elder Charles from Kenya sent me after he got home. He was able to buy 2 calves with some of the money I was able to give him. In most of Africa, you are considered well off if you can own a cow!!

In closing, I would like to mention that the brethren from Kenya and Tanzania are deeply thankful for the safe drinking water that is being provided for them due to the faithful labor of Brother John Blevins. They wished to thank all those who support this good work. There is no greater material need for people in 3rd world countries than safe drinking water.

Thanks again for all your prayers. Many of my family and friends did not want me to go to Africa this year due to the Ebola sickness. Thankfully, we did not hear of any one in east Africa with this disease. May we pray that soon, this plague will be removed from the earth.

In Jesus name, Brother Sam Bryant

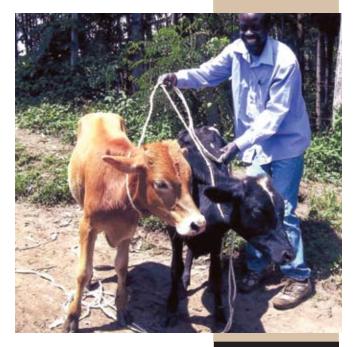
Contributions

Elder Michael & Lori Gowens Bill & Carolyn Liles John & Betsy Elliott

Photo on back cover depicts a group of our young men who recently participated in a paintball competition.



Brother
Trent Lewis
offered himself for
baptism on Dec.
7th at Palm Bethel
PBC in West Palm
Beach, FL. He was
joyfully received
and baptized by
his pastor, Elder
Charles Dennis.



NEW HOPE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH c/o WINTER GARDEN PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH P.O. BOX 771048 WINTER GARDEN, FL 34777

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New Hope Newsletter

