



# Green Run Tidings



Volume 4, Issue 2

Green Run Baptist Church

February 2013

## *Message from Dr. Koshy Kurien All-India Prayer Fellowship*



Dear Susan and Green Run Baptist Church:

Greetings and best wishes for the New Year.

I thought the Board meeting was quite good though I missed being there. It seemed as if we were all together in one room. Thanks for getting it all organized.

Please pray for us especially for Jonathan as he prepares for his Pre-Board and Board exams. (Note: Jonathan is Dr. Kurien's oldest son, who is in the 12th grade). I visited some remote villages in Manipur. They are probably 50-60 years behind. It was a different experience preaching and sharing God's Word with them.

On January 20 and 21st I plan to visit some villages in Uttar Pradesh about seven hours drive from Delhi to encourage and be of service to new believers. Please pray for us! I praise the Lord for the Sunday School we have started in Good Shepherd Primary school. Many Hindus and Muslims come for this. Here we tell them Bible stories, teach them songs and Bible verses and have some fun time together. I am hoping to start a Hindi congregation at Green Run Church (their name is the same as ours) this Sunday. Please uphold this need in your prayers. Through this we want to reach out to the community around us especially those who know only Hindi. Initially we may have a combined service with translation to Hindi. There is much to be done and so much we can do. Please give my love and regards to all of the Family and the Green Run Church. ~ *Koshy*

GRBC is the North American headquarters for AIPF. It is a missionary organization in India founded by Dr. P.N. Kurien in 1966. His son, Dr. Koshy Kurien now oversees the daily affairs of the ministry. We have been partnering with these men in their vision of reaching all of India with the gospel of Jesus Christ for many years. We provide financial support, oversee some general administrative responsibilities and make annual trips to their campus in New Dehli to teach and train men and women from the surrounding regions to go out and help gather in God's sheep. God has allowed us to help their ministry complete the AIPF Bible College and Seminary campus, a church located on the campus called the Green Run Church of India and the AIPF mission hospital also located on the campus. Under the ministry of AIPF over 4 million people in India have professed Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

# Green Run Tidings

## *Who are the Amish and what are their beliefs?*

The Amish are a group of people who follow the teachings of Jacob Ammann, a 17th-century citizen of Switzerland. It is a Protestant denomination, closely related to the Mennonites. The Amish, most of whom live in the United States, follow simple customs and refuse to take oaths, vote, or perform military service. They shun modern technology and conveniences. Transportation for the Amish is by horse and buggy. They do not have electricity or telephones in their homes. The men usually wear beards and pants with buttons instead of zippers. The women wear white head coverings and plain dresses, usually without buttons—they use straight pins to fasten the clothing.

The Amish believe that James 1:27 "...and to keep oneself unspotted from the world" means to stay away from things the "world" does—like driving autos, having a TV, going to movies, wearing make-up, and the enjoying the conveniences of electricity and phones. They often use generators to create power to run their equipment and use horses, instead of tractors, to do farm work. The bishop (leader) of an Amish community (district) sets up the rules of conduct allowed for his district. Some bishops are more lenient than others. The Amish have church services in their own homes, taking turns hosting on Sundays, and do not have church buildings. They usually only go to a formal school until age 15.

The Amish groups have problems, just like anyone else. Most of these church groups try to keep their problems concealed from the outside world. The youth are given the opportunity to taste of "the world" in their late teens to determine if they want to join the church. Many young Amish people get involved in drugs, alcohol, sex, and other vices during this time period while they are allowed to own a motor vehicle, but a large number then do give up the vehicle and join the church. Others determine they will not join the church and attempt to fit into the secular world.

Spiritually speaking, the Amish are very similar to the traditional Jews that keep the Old Testament Law. They have a long list of do's and don'ts. If they fail to keep the list, they are in trouble with the church and are in danger of being shunned. Shunning is a form of excommunication. If they partake of the "worldly" things, they are shunned by the church people.

The Amish believe that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, that He died for their sins, and that He is the way to salvation. However, many Amish also practice a works-based relationship with God. They view their good works as earning favor with God. If their good works outweigh the bad works, they feel God will allow them into heaven. The Amish are basically good, hard-working people, who have to make sure they stay on the right path, so they get final rewards in heaven when life is over. They say "Amish is a lifestyle," not a religion. They choose to keep the simple life so they can focus more time on family and home, rather than the things that require advanced modern technology.

As a group, the Amish do not believe in the security of salvation. They believe a person can lose his/her salvation if he/she strays from the path, or falls from grace. They do not believe in infant baptism, but do "sprinkle" for adult baptism, rather than immerse in water.

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## *Who are the Amish and what are their beliefs?*

Thankfully, some (or many) members of the Amish church do believe that Jesus paid the full price for their sins, and have truly received the grace so freely given by God. Sadly, others cling to the “works-based” philosophy, believing their salvation is based on their “right” actions. The Amish set a powerful example by literally trying to “keep themselves unspotted from the world” (James 1:27). At the same time, the Bible does not call us to completely separate ourselves from the world. We are called to go into all the world and preach the gospel (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8). We are not to withdraw and separate ourselves from those who most need to hear the gospel message.

There is much for which the Amish are to be commended. The powerful example of unconditional forgiveness the Amish showed after the 2006 Amish school shooting was a demonstration of the love and grace of God. The Amish are kind, respectful, hard-working, and God-loving people. At the same time, the legalism and works-based faith that is evident in some Amish communities is not to be followed.

<http://www.gotquestions.org/Amish-beliefs.html>

## *Listening and the Pastor*

Pastors sense deeply the frustration of trying to get our message through to our people. Almost daily, our mailboxes are filled with flyers offering seminars on how we can tailor our sermons and use social media more effectively to “break through the clutter” of our communication age. Given that we have been called to be heralds and stewards of a divine message, we cannot be blamed for wanting to make sure we are being heard. But in this jostling for the attention of the flock, we are prone to miss the importance of listening—listening not only to the Lord (which others in this issue have addressed), but listening also to our people, as well as to the advice of fellow pastors and elders. Yet it is the Lord Himself who tells us in His Word, “Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak” (James 1:19). “Every person” includes preachers, too.

We must, like Paul and the author of Hebrews, have our fingers on the pulse of our people in order to gauge how best to feed them from the pulpit. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 3:2, “I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it” (see also Hebrews 5:12). When I began my preaching ministry, one of my ninety-year old members gently chastened me after he heard a sermon in which I overshot the congregation. He said: “Can I give you a piece of advice from an old man? You need to keep the cookie jar within reach of the children’s hands.” It wasn’t until later that afternoon that I let his kind criticism penetrate my natural defenses, and I have been grateful for his feedback ever since. If we want to feed our people for real spiritual growth, we must know where they are at each stage along the way. “Know well the condition of your flocks” (Proverbs 27:23). That takes some listening.

We must also listen carefully to our members individually to discern where they really are with Christ. Paul says to the Galatians, “My little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!” (4:19). It is easy for pastors mistakenly to suppose that our supporters are spiritually healthy and our detractors are not. But there are always many who love the pastor who are far from Christ, and many who have complaints against the pastor that are well-grounded.

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# Green Run Tidings

## *Listening and the Pastor*

We must listen more deeply, and ask ourselves whether we hear Christ being formed in our people—in their passing requests for prayer, in their words spoken from the hospital bed, in the way they voice their angst about the state of the country, do we hear the grammar of union with Christ in His death and resurrection? Do we hear the doctrine of sanctification personally embraced? Do we hear a present enjoyment of the kingdom of God coupled with a pining for its future consummation? Or do we hear instead hopes and sighs pulsing with the beat of moralistic therapeutic deism? They may lead ministries in our churches with enthusiasm and competence, but are they still terrified of dying? These are the things we must listen for not only in their words, but even in their tones.

Lastly, we must listen to fellow elders and other pastors, as much for our personal well-being as for the sake of our ministries. Being ordained does not elevate us above the warning in Proverbs 21:2: “Every way of a man is right in his own eyes.” We all know men who lost their ministry positions not because of any great moral failure or glaring incompetence, but rather on account of stubbornness or discouragement that went unchecked with debilitating consequences. In such cases, it is not uncommon to learn that these men were relationally isolated, lacking the kinds of iron-sharpening-iron relationships with elders and other pastors that could have delivered a ministry saving rebuke or a soul-nourishing word of encouragement (Proverbs 27:17; 27:6; 12:25).

Years ago, J. Oswald Sanders observed in his classic *Spiritual Leadership*: “You can measure leaders by the number and quality of their friends.” Augustine was a man who prized friendship (reflections on friendship abound in *The Confessions* and in his sermons). John Calvin’s friendship with Pierre Viret (1511– 1571), as revealed in their many letters, shows Calvin’s longing for and great dependence on friendship. In our church’s recent search for a new director of music, my first question to the candidates was: “Tell me about your closest friends. Can you share any times when their counsel led you to change course?”

Pastors need friendships with co-laborers. Every Timothy needs a Paul, and every Paul needs a Titus (2 Corinthians 2:13; 8:23). If you find yourself without such friendships, you would do well to begin making this a matter of prayer. Sometimes the heart needs time to be prepared for friendship, so that our ears would then be open to what a godly friend might say.

Yes, we must hear and heed the Lord first and above all. But, according to His Word, we must also listen to those under and alongside us. The quality of our lives and ministries depends on it. ~ ***Reverend Matthew Miller - Senior Pastor of Greenville Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church - Greenville, S.C.***

## Do not Despise the Ten Commandments

Beware of despising the law of the Ten Commandments. Let us not suppose for a moment that it is set aside by the Gospel, or that Christians have nothing to do with it. The coming of Christ did not alter the position of the Ten Commandments one hair’s breadth. If anything, it exalted and raised their authority. (Romans 3:31) The law of the Ten Commandments is God’s eternal measure of right and wrong. By it, is the knowledge of sin. By it, the Spirit shows men their need of Christ, and drives them to Him. To it, Christ refers His people as their rule and guide for holy living. In its right place it is just as important as the glorious Gospel. It cannot save us. We cannot be justified by it. But never, never let us despise it. It is a symptom of an ignorant and unhealthy state of religion, when the law is lightly esteemed. The true Christian “delights in God’s law.” (Romans 7:22) ~ ***J.C. Ryle***

# Green Run Tidings

## *The Fence*

There once was a little boy who had a bad temper. His father gave him a bag of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper, he must hammer a nail into the fence. The first day the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence. Over the next few weeks as he learned to control his anger, the number of nails hammered daily, gradually dwindled down. He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence.

Finally the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all. He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper. The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone.

The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence. He said "you have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one." You can put a knife in a man and draw it out. It won't matter how many times you say I'm sorry, the wound is still there. Make sure you control your temper the next time you are tempted to say something you will regret later. ~ *Author Unknown*

## *The Sanctity of Life*

*"For you formed my inward parts, you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderfully are your works; my soul knows it very well. ~ Psalm 139:13-14.*

Whenever a potential nominee to the Supreme Court of the United States is vetted by the Senate, questions will invariably arise regarding that individual's opinion on the landmark Roe v. Wade decision. Many senators will not usually vote to confirm the justice if the appointee opposes abortion on demand.

Today we will look at the ethics of abortion. For decades, abortion on-demand — abortion for any reason whatsoever — within the first trimester has been a legal right in the United States. Note that we have called it a *legal* right. Legal rights from the government and moral rights from God can be, and too often are, entirely different things.

Supporters of the Roe v. Wade decision say they just want to give women "the right to control their bodies," and so those who endorse abortion on-demand are usually called "pro-choice." But make no mistake, this terminology is not accidental. Those who are adamantly pro-abortion chose this phrase years ago because they knew few could get enthusiastic about killing unborn babies. Framing the debate as a debate for women's rights and personal liberty, however, engenders more support. Ironically, this same concern for women's rights is not afforded to the female infants who are aborted each year.

Scripture forbids abortion on demand because it maintains that human beings are in the image of God at every stage of life. The Bible repeatedly refers to the unborn as persons, revealing that life begins at conception. Thus, wantonly ending the child's life is murder. Moreover, God's Word says children are a blessing ([Psalm 127:3](#)) and describes the great longing holy women like Hannah had for children (1 Samuel 1). The willing destruction of a developing life was unthinkable to faithful Israelites.

The moral right to govern our own bodies is biblical in principle, but the Bible recognizes that an individual's rights end where another's begin. From conception, the developing baby is a distinct individual with his own identity. To claim "women's rights" is grossly inappropriate, for in controlling her body, the woman who aborts a child is destroying the Lord's image. ~ *Dr. John MacArthur*

# Green Run Tidings

## *Is It True That God Blesses Those Who Bless Israel and Curses Those Who Curse Israel?*

It must be true, because this is what God says, isn't it? Well, actually God says this, "I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:3).

When God makes a promise we can know that it is certain, and that He will not change. The problem is, however, when we hear Him saying what He did not say. This text does say that God will bless those who bless Israel, but rather those who bless Abraham, to whom God is speaking. Later, however, in Numbers 24, it gets a little more clear. There Balaam, clearly speaking about the nation of Israel says, "Blessed is he who blesses you, And cursed is he who curses you."

That should settle the matter, should it not? The difficulty is still, however, answering about whom this promise is made. Does not Paul himself say, "But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they are not all Israel who are of Israel" (Romans 9:6). Here it is all too easy to get confused. What could it mean that not all Israel is of Israel?

If there are some who are Israel that are called Israel, and some that are not Israel that are called Israel, which of these are the ones that fit the promise? My dispensational friends suggest that the Israel to whom this promise is made matches up with the nation of Israel founded in 1948 in the Middle East. They hear in this promise that those who bless that nation of Israel will be blessed and those who curse that same nation will be cursed. This, in part, informs the politics of American foreign policy. As long as America sees this Israel as a friend, the reasoning seems to go, God will bless America. When America turns its back on that nation, God will curse this nation.

The Reformed perspective takes a different tack. It affirms that that Israel which is actually Israel, just as with the promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:3, applies to those who are in Christ, who trust in His finished work. Though we deny the moniker, this is what our dispensational friends call "replacement theology." The Reformed, however, see this is as the outworking of the truth of Galatians 3:7- "Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham." We who are Reformed do not believe God replaced Israel with the church. We believe instead that there has always been only one people of God, those who believe.

Israel is the sons of Abraham. Those who are of faith are the sons of Abraham. Those who are of faith are therefore Israel. And in turn, those who bless those who are of faith will be blessed, and those who curse those who are of faith will be cursed. It is how we treat the church that matters. What of ethnic Israel? What of that country in the Middle East? Many in the Reformed camp hold out hope that there will be one day a mass conversion of those who are not today the sons of Abraham, that virtually all of Israel will once again become Israel. That said, many of these likewise hold out hope that there will be a mass conversion of Arabs, and Persians, of every tongue and every tribe. All of the promises of God belong to the children of Abraham, those who are of faith, including the promise that through Abraham, all the world will be blessed. ~ **Dr. R.C. Sproul, Jr.**

# Green Run Tidings

## *Receiving Spiritual Enlightenment*

*“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened” (Ephesians 1:18)(NASB)*

Spiritual enlightenment doesn't come through self-effort or introspective meditation but through God's Holy Spirit.

Our society has been enamored with the pursuit of spiritual enlightenment, especially since the influx of Eastern thought into the West during the 1960s. Now we are drowning in a sea of false religions and New Age philosophies.

True enlightenment continues to elude many because they have denied its source and have turned to gurus and teachers who have no light to give. They propagate self-effort and introspective meditation, but spiritual enlightenment doesn't come through such means. It comes only through the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:14-16). That's why Paul prayed that God Himself would enlighten the hearts of the Ephesian believers (Ephesians 1:18).

We might expect Paul to pray for enlightened minds rather than hearts, but that's because we associate the word heart with emotions rather than with thought. But in Hebrew and Greek thinking, the heart was considered the seat of knowledge, thinking, and understanding. For example, Jesus said that evil thoughts come out of the heart (Matthew 15:19). Emotions are important, but they must be guided and controlled by an enlightened mind.

How does the Spirit enlighten you? As you pray and study God's Word, He transforms and renews your mind (Romans 12:2) by filling you with “the knowledge of [God's] will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding” (Colossians 1:9). He teaches you to recognize and uphold what is excellent so that you will be “sincere and blameless” before God (Philippians 1:10). He implants Biblical truth into your thinking so that your responses become more and more like Christ's.

How wonderful to know that each moment of the day God is working within you in such a way. Be diligent to pray and spend time in the Word so that your spiritual progress will be evident to all (1 Timothy 4:15). ~ **Dr. John MacArthur**

## *Something to Ponder on*

**Genesis 47:25, 26** The extra measures imposed by Joseph to control the impact of the famine, i.e., moving parts of the population into cities (v. 21) and demanding a one-fifth tax on crop yields (v. 24), did not affect his approval ratings (v. 25). Whatever the gain to Pharaoh, the people obviously understood that Joseph had not enriched himself at their expense.

**Proverbs 4:18** path of the...shining sun. The path of the believer is one of increasing light, just as a sunrise begins with the faint glow of dawn and proceeds to the splendor of noonday.

**Matthew 15:33** Where could we get enough bread...? No wonder our Lord called them men of little faith (8:26; 14:31; 16:8; 17:20), when they asked a question like that in the light of the recent feeding of the 5,000 (14:13-21).

# Green Run Tidings

## *The Bill of Rights*

**Congress of the United States**  
begun and held at the City of New-York, on  
Wednesday the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine.

**THE** Conventions of a number of the States, having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best ensure the beneficent ends of its institution.

**RESOLVED** by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, two thirds of both Houses concurring, that the following Articles be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, as amendments to the Constitution of the United States, all, or any of which Articles, when ratified by three fourths of the said Legislatures, to be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the said Constitution; viz.

**ARTICLES** in addition to, and Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and ratified by the Legislatures of the several States, pursuant to the fifth Article of the original Constitution.

**Note:** The following text is a transcription of the first ten amendments to the Constitution in their original form. These amendments were ratified December 15, 1791, and form what is known as the "Bill of Rights."

### **Amendment I**

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

### **Amendment II**

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

### **Amendment III**

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

### **Amendment IV**

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

# Green Run Tidings

## *The Bill of Rights*

### **Amendment V**

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

### **Amendment VI**

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense.

### **Amendment VII**

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

### **Amendment VIII**

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

### **Amendment IX**

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

### **Amendment X**

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

# Green Run Tidings

## *The Children's Bible in a Nutshell*

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but GOD, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, 'The LORD thy GOD is one,' but I think HE must be a lot older than that.

Anyway, GOD said, 'Give me a light!' and someone did. Then GOD made the world. HE split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet.

Adam and Eve disobeyed GOD by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden.. Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars. Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel. Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something.

One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check. After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after GOD sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable. GOD fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti. Then HE gave them HIS Top Ten Commandments. These include: don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor's stuff. Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more: Humor thy father and thy mother.

One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town. After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me.

After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore.

There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.

After the Old Testament came the New Testament. JESUS is the star of The New Testament. HE was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn too, because my mom is always saying to me, 'Close the door! Were you born in a barn?' It would be nice to say, 'As a matter of fact, I was.')

During HIS life, JESUS had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Republicans. JESUS also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him. JESUS was a great man. HE healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount.

But the Republicans and all those guys put JESUS on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for JESUS. He just washed his hands instead.

Anyways, JESUS died for our sins, then came back to life again. HE went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminium. HIS return is foretold in the book of Revolution.



# Green Run Tidings

GREEN RUN BAPTIST CHURCH - SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Anniversary and Birthday Celebrations for February 2013!

### *Anniversary*

### *Birthday*

Jim and Debbie Anderson - 2/11  
 Garth and Carlene Watson - 2/16  
 Ramsey and Barbara Franklin - 2/22  
 Chad and Rhiannon Edwards - 2/23  
 Joe and Sandy Gwynn - 2/24  
 Matt and Kim Stairs - 2/27  
 Kevin and Carrie Sowell - 2/28

Peggy Humphreys - 2/3  
 Matt Ammons - 2/8  
 Abbie Watkins - 2/10  
 Vicki Morris - 2/11  
 Jackie Rowe - 2/14  
 Rhiannon Edwards - 2/15  
 Joyce Hughes - 2/20

Tommie McElhaney - 2/24  
 Joe Gwynn - 2/24  
 Maureen Kimbrough - 2/25  
 Marti Lipscomb - 2/26  
 L.J. Beasley - 2/27  
 Matt Stairs - 2/28

## *London Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689*

### *Civil Government - Chapter 24*

1. As the world's supreme Lord and King, God has instituted civil government and has set up civil authorities, subject to Himself, to rule over communities for His own glory and the public good. For these purposes to be achieved He has given them the powers of life and death, both for the safety and encouragement of all men of good behavior, and for the punishment of the wicked.
2. It is lawful for Christians to accept and carry out the duties of public office when called upon to do so, in which case it becomes their responsibility to maintain justice and peace in accordance with the sound laws of the kingdoms and states which they serve. New Testament teaching authorizes them to wage war when this is found to be just and necessary.
3. As civil rulers are set up by God for the aforesaid purposes, Christians are to be subject to them in respect of all their lawful requirements, and that, for the Lord's sake and for conscience' sake, and not merely to avoid punishment. They should offer supplications and prayers for kings and all that are in authority, that under their rule they may live a 'quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty'.



Green Run Baptist Church

The Green Run Tidings is a monthly publication of Green Run Baptist Church.

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Submit information to Walt Lawrence by the second Sunday of the month preceding publication by e-mail, in person or at the church office. The editor reserves the right to edit for content or space. May the Father be glorified in every word.