

education

by bob hopkins
minister of education

I've developed the habit of channel surfing. I must admit that it gives great control and absolute power over TV watching. I never subscribed to cable TV until I moved up here. In my more mature age, I'm just like a kid with a new toy (or remote). Since my wife is still in Midland trying to finalize things so we can move, I have complete freedom late at night to click through the \$25 dollar a month tier of TV channels. Let me share just a few observations of cable surfing: College basketball is much more exciting than the pro game. There's a guy who comments on the college game that can't pronounce "baby."-- I can pick up everything on "Headline News" in three minutes. They just keep repeating the same news--it ought to be called "Yesterday's News," or "Repeated Headlines." Larry King Live usually should be called Larry King Dull and Boring. The baseball season has started and I found that many games are broadcast. I watched my old favorite baseball team "The St. Louis Cardinals" beat the Atlanta team in extra innings twice. (I enjoy anything Ted Turner owns getting beat.) On the same night, I switched channels and watched Chicago play the "Angels" until I fell asleep.

The greatest surprises that jumped out at me in the surfing exercise are the plethora of endless commercials and the immense number of fitness programs on the air. One night I clicked through at least thirty channels showing commercials, before I found an actual program, and that was on C-Span. They even show real long commercials, I think are called infomercials. They should be called nonsense-mercials.

I am also overwhelmed with all those "hard bodies" working out. There are at least six of these programs on the air at the same time, all the time. Watching these exercise gurus breathlessly go through endless routines of vigorous exercise, I get the impression they are in desperate need of rest, while I feel guilty that I desperately need exercise.

The only thing I can make of this - we are supposed to look good while we buy a bunch of stuff that is advertised. I don't see why anybody would want all of this stuff, or afford it. The hosts on a couple of channels seem to sell their merchandise into the millions of dollars.

The point of all this rambling is this: all the stuff I've been watching is worldly and temporary. The "FIND US FAITHFUL" campaign challenges me with the eternal, that is permanent. The Bible states, "Train yourself to be Godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value, for all things." (1 Timothy 4:8) Don't be deceived by the desires and the things of the world, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal....But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:19,20,33) The "FIND US FAITHFUL" campaign challenges us to do exactly this--train in spiritual things, and by faithfulness in pledging our financial resources, we lay up treasures in the kingdom of God.

Another point--as soon as my wife moves here, the first thing she will do is cancel the cable. She needs to move here soon!

-Bob

WOMEN ON MISSION

Tackling those impossible Prayers.

Prayer Group will meet
Tuesday, April 16th at 9:30 a.m.
in the Conference Room.

My life has been characterized by a dependence on others. Yet I seemed to have fought their help the whole way. You know what I'm talking about. Those countless number of times when your mother was always right. Those instances when you struggled with a project only to see your Dad accomplish the task in a matter of mere seconds. And instead of depending on their wisdom and assistance, I was embarrassed or upset because I couldn't do it myself.

Even when we recognize this phenomenon, which seems to occur most of our lives, many of us are still resistant when it comes to being receptive to the help of God. We rattle off prayers of petition, yet don't listen for His reply. We make crucial life decisions without the consultation of the Almighty. We take the credit when God provides for our daily lives.

We must come to the point where we realize who we truly are in the sight of a Holy, Awesome God. We must come to the point where we realize that we have no choice but to be dependent upon Him. We must come to the point where He truly is Lord over our lives. We must remember what Jesus said in John 15:5, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." May we daily remain in Him!

Please pray for the Jesus Fest Student Conference on April 26-27. Pray that churches will continue to get involved. Pray for God to touch the lives of all the youth, parents, and youth workers who attend. Pray for the program personalities who will be leading in the conference. And pray most of all that God will receive the glory for Jesus Fest '96.

Thanks so much. God Bless.

In Him,
Jim

From Your Pastor

My Dear People:

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His loving kindness is everlasting." Psalm 106:1 Isn't that the truth!! We are all the beneficiaries of His loving kindness.

How shall we then live? Our gratitude should certainly include verbal praise and thanksgiving. It should also include a life founded upon God and his purposes. "FIND US FAITHFUL" is an intense examination of our blessings and a call to renewal of faithfulness to the Lord, individually and as a church.

We have such a great opportunity to make disciples for Christ. We must be faithful to this call. Please be faithful in hearing and studying the material about "FIND US FAITHFUL". Please be faithful in praying and seeking God's leadership for you and your family.

Faithfully yours,
Preacher

PLAY LEARN

ENROLLMENT

is now open for the 1996-97 school year. Positions will be offered to church members first, and then to the general public. To enroll contact:
Sherry Purtle at 442-3992.

the YOUTH

JESUS
FEST '96
APRIL 26-27

BIG TENT REVIVAL



THE KRY

Cost:

Before April 1st deadline:

\$20 per person - Max of \$50 per family

After April 1st deadline:

\$25 per person - Max of \$60 per family

Guest Speakers:

Wayne Rice, Wade Morris, Rick Caldwell

MUSIC

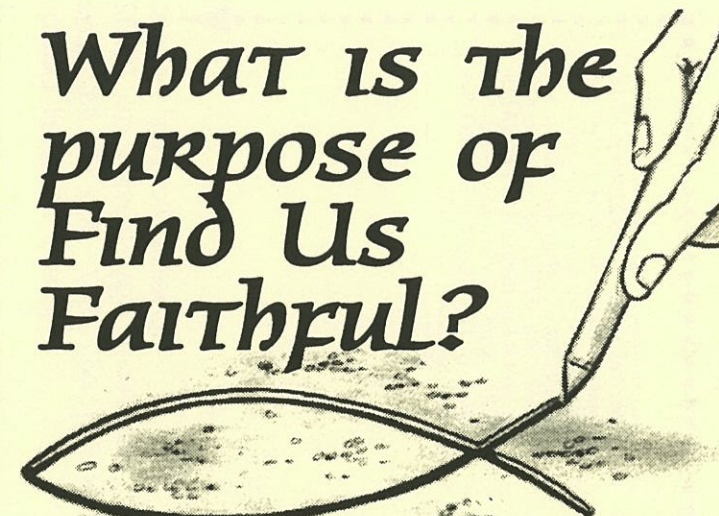
WE HAVE "PASSED OVER" HOLY WEEK and the Easter season is history for this year. I hope that the services helped you worship during this holy season.

I want to express my gratitude to our choir, instrumentalists, accompanists, readers and soloists who invested time and energy in preparing and leading in worship. I want to publically thank our pastor whose genial spirit not only allows, but also fosters creativity in worship planning. God in His love and mercy has allowed me the privilege of working with a number of pastors who communicated a team spirit in ministry and worship leading, but none any more so than Jere Mitchell. His leadership promotes excellence, joy and fulfillment in service. These "extra dividends" are personal by-products that accompany the larger, more important outcome of edifying the body and building the kingdom. May Jesus Christ be praised for His unspeakable riches!

THE HANDBELL CHOIR FROM THE UNIVERSITY Baptist Church will be our guests in the evening service this week. Some of you may recall, we were recently guests, ringing in their services. Now we are reciprocating. They will play as a choir, and we will ring together in a special piece written for two choirs. Make the extra effort to be back on Sunday evenings. Good preaching, great singing, sweet fellowship, and some special events are always in store.

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What is the purpose of Find Us Faithful?



"FIND US FAITHFUL" is an emphasis that focuses upon God's faithfulness and goodness to us and challenges us to be faithful to God.

During the campaign we are emphasizing the great blessings God has given First Baptist Church. We are emphasizing the challenge and opportunity First Baptist has being located in such a dynamic area of Arkansas. We are also emphasizing the necessity for faithfulness of God's people in every area of their lives.

In all things,
prayer, worship,
time, money, family

Find Us Faithful!



what's inside

what are our goals
notes from the staff
upcoming events
get ready youth!

"The Voice" (USPS 195-220) is published weekly except the last week in December and the first week in January by First Baptist Church, College and Dickson, Fayetteville, AR 72702. Second Class postage paid at Fayetteville, AR. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to "The Voice," c/o First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 906, Fayetteville, AR 72702.

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jere d. mitchell, pastor

Wycliffe Associates/ Banquet

Discover the difference God's Word makes to people who need the love of Christ. Attend the Wycliffe Associates Banquet April 29th at the Springdale Holiday Inn, and learn how Wycliffe translates the Bible around the world. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with reserved seating until 6:45 p.m. For further information and complimentary tickets, contact Louise Coker at 442-6777.

MENS SOFTBALL

Fayetteville FBC Adult Men's Softball
Registration fee is now: \$25(includes T-Shirt).
Call Rick Tanneberger (521-7760) or the church office.

Honduras Mission Trip:

August 2-11, 1996
Medical team and Vacation Bible School workers. If you are interested, contact James Sugg, Team Leader.

STAFF:

Pastor-Jere Mitchell
Min. of Education:
Bob Hopkins
Minister of Music:
Mike Paslay
Minister of Youth:
Jim Thomas
Preschool Coordinator:
Clementine Hembree
Minister of Children:
Lisa Wheat
Minister of Univ. Students:
Bruce Salsman
Organist: Jennie Riggs
Pianist: Rita Savage

Praise Record ~ April 7

Sunday School Enrollment	1025
Sunday School Attendance	510
Weekday Attendance	8
Morning Worship	701
Evening Worship	95
Received April 7	\$ 20,336.82
Required April 7	\$ 16,153.85
Received in April	\$ 20,336.82
Required in April	\$ 16,153.85
Received in 1996	\$ 226,599.16
Required in 1996	\$ 226,153.90
Debt Retirement	\$ 423.00
Balance Owed	
Property Acquisition Loans	\$ 7,300.05
Cornerstone of Faith (C. of F.)	\$ 5,513.25
C. of F. Since 4/1/93	\$ 842,322.00
Balance owed Cornerstone	
loan 2/29/96	\$1,056,193.19

Extended Session ~ April 14

Babies: Shirley Norman,
Barbara Bolding
Older Babies: Audrey Clinehens,
Judy Allen
Ones: Donna Riggs, Jessica Riggs
Twos: Peggy Goff, Clayton Brunson
Michael Allen
Threes: Jeff & Lora Hayes,
Shannon Suvino
Fours: Edith Griffin, Stacy Suvino
Evening: Virginia Rose

Parking/Van Ministry - April 14

Parkingall members
Van James Sugg

Hospitalized

Dolores Jefferson NMC #126

New Member

William Hugh Stubblefield III (Bill)
P.O. Box 0128
Fayetteville, AR 72702

Memorial

In memory of Barbara S. Parker
Ann K. Parker

Mid-Week Menu

Wednesday, April 17, 5:00 p.m.
Salsbury Steak/ Baked Potatoes/
Green Butter Beans/ Salad Bar/
Potato Bar/ Sandwich Bar



Dear Church Family,

In watching the Ten Commandments on television the other night, I was floored at how easily the Hebrews turned on God even in the face of incredible miracles such as the parting of the Red Sea and the passing over of the Death Angel. Rodney and I even commented to each other on how unbelievable it was that they could deny God's hand in their lives in the face of such miracles and that surely if we had witnessed the miracles they had seen, we would not be so unfaithful. Well guess what...I am faced with miracles of God's love each day of the week, and I am as unfaithful as the Children of Israel.

I have found in my life how easy it is to get wrapped up in major purchases such as cars and homes and furnishings, comparing myself to others and feeling inadequate if my material possessions fall short of my friends'. Instead of praising God for a wonderful home, healthy children and a loving husband, I am consumed with a bigger house, a newer car, and making more money. How disappointing to God I must be when these thoughts consume my mind and I spend hours on the things of this world and can't even find ten minutes in my busy "gotta-get-ahead" day to praise His name.

I am thankful for the "Find Us Faithful" campaign for the focus it is bringing to my life. For the realization that if I would only trust my finances to Him how much better and worry-free my life is. And that just as I want the very best for my children, He wants the very best for me - not temporarily but eternally.

If you will, please take time out to praise His name today for the many, many blessings in your life. And then when you have finished praising His name, please seek his guidance in what you will do over the next three years. He is the source, He is the provider, and He is the only way we will meet the challenge before us.

I am thanking Him right now for a church family and staff that continually seek His will, and I am thanking Him in advance for the success of this campaign. Because regardless of the money totals at the end of our emphasis, lives are being changed and that is the most important goal of all.

Love in Him, Karen Ramsey

WHAT ARE OUR GOALS?

*The Find Us Faithful
Spiritual and Financial
Goals are as follows:*

Good management and faithfulness to God in regard to his gifts to us as a church and as individuals is an important part of spiritual maturity. This spiritual growth is the single most important goal of our campaign. As evidence of this growth, we have established the following financial goals...

VICTORY GOAL
\$1,000,000

HALLELUJAH GOAL
\$1,250,000

Victory Goal: \$1,000,000
Hallelujah Goal: \$1.250,000