### March 12, 2023

## Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church

10050 Ferguson Avenue ❖ Savannah, Georgia 31406

Where Christ Is Exalted and the Fellowship Is Exciting

### **Announcements**

#### **Flocknote**

Many of you subscribe to our group email and text service, Flocknote. Some of you still have problems receiving emails. A few email providers don't always play nicely with Flocknote, most notably Comcast, Hotmail and Yahoo. Occasionally Dawn goes through the list and reverifies the email addresses that aren't checked off properly. If you do not regularly receive the Big Friday Emails or the Prayer Requests but you think you should, and use one of those email providers, let Dawn know if you have an alternate email address through Gmail or someone else, or we will sort out another solution. If you don't have a Flocknote account, but want one, text FABC to 84576 and follow the prompts. Dawn can help if you need it!

### **Covered Dish Lunch Today!**

Today, Sunday, March 12, there is a covered dish lunch after morning worship. Please stay!

### **Choir Practice Tonight**

Choir practice tonight at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

#### Tom Keller Out of Town

Tom is on vacation and will be out of the office this week. Steve Jackson will teach the Senior Adult Bible Study on March 16.

### Wednesday Night

Sign up for this Wednesday's **Pizza** meal in the hall. Adventure Club starts in the gym at 6:20 p.m. Youth begins at 6:30. Adult Bible Study begins at 6:45.

### Senior Saints' Lunch

On Tuesday, March 21, the Senior Saints will have lunch at Papa's Barbecue and tour Bonaventure Cemetery. Sign up in the hall and meet at the church at 10:00 a.m.

### Pig Pickin'!

Kelly and Dawn Stanford, Napoleon and Savannah Martin, and David Clark would like to invite the church body to a Pig Pickin' on Saturday, **March 25**, starting at 12:00 noon, at their farm at 5702 GA Hwy. 57, Townsend, Georgia. All are welcome! There will be hamburgers and hot dogs for those of you who would rather not eat something you have personally met. We'd love to have all of you who would like to come.

Continued on p. 4

### **FABC Elders**

Bob Dimmitt Senior Pastor 912-398-4363 bob@fabchurch.com Tom Keller
Assoc. Pastor/Senior Adults
912-308-3767
tom@fabchurch.com

Church Phone: 912-355-0949 office@fabchurch.com www.fabchurch.com

### Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship Psalm 145:1-3 Pew Bible p. 524

## Hymn #449, bulletin p. 6

"To God Be the Glory"

## Prayer of General Confession

Steve Posner Micah 7:18-20 Pew Bible p. 781

### Hymn #39, bulletin p. 7

"This Is My Father's World"

Scripture Reading Psalm 75 Shawn Champion Pew Bible p. 487

### Hymn, bulletin pp. 8

"He Will Hold Me Fast"

Message Bob Dimmitt

Consider the Future Lamentations #2 Lamentations 1:8-11, Pew Bible p. 685

### Hymn, bulletin p. 9

"Now Unto the King Eternal, Immortal, Invisible"

### A.M. Notes

Consider the Future
Lamentations #2
Lamentations 1:8-11

The catastrophe that overtook Jerusalem was not an action of a heartless God against an innocent people.

The Jews viewed their temple as a giant talisman or good luck charm. Disobedience brings destruction.

Deuteronomy 32:28-29

Verse 10 *precious things* = This would include favorite spots, beautiful buildings, gardens, parks etc. as well as the items from inside the temple.

God's attack was like binding Jerusalem's sins into a yoke which was placed over Jerusalem's neck.

God is righteous so He does not allow sin to continue unchecked.

"The only reason men were in the place where they were in the days of Jeremiah, or are in our own post-Christian world, is that they have turned away from the propositional revelation of God and as such they are under the moral judgment of God." Francis Schaeffer

Man does not want to accept the fact that God is angry with sin.

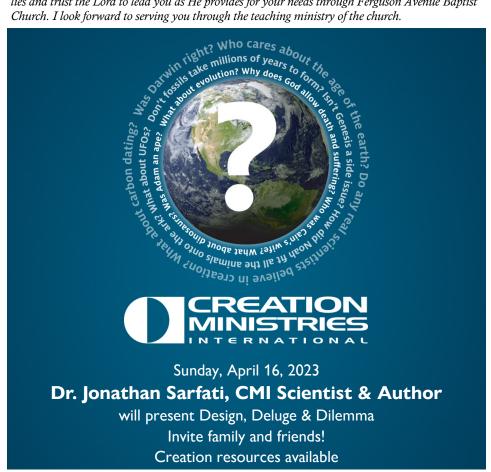
### **Easter Family Event**

Saturday, **April 1**, 11:30 to 1:30. This is geared for families with kids from toddler age through the sixth grade! Kids will collect colored plastic eggs and trade them for candy and prizes. Please sign up online! Sign up link is here: <a href="https://fabchurch.flocknote.com/signups/115962">https://fabchurch.flocknote.com/signups/115962</a>

### Young Marrieds' Sunday School

Tom Keller will begin teaching a new Sunday School class for young married couples beginning on Sunday, April 2. He explains: The first lesson for the new marriage class is "The Supreme Purpose of Marriage." This class is primarily organized to meet the needs of the many new families that have joined our church. It is an opportunity for us to expand our church to include walking with, supporting, and encouraging these families in their marriage, parenting, and fellowship with others in the church. The class is started with them in mind, however, if you want to be a part of mentoring, discipling, and encouraging these young families please feel free to join the class as the Lord leads.

I anticipate teaching the whole counsel of God as it pertains to marriage, family, parenting, discipline, spanking, as well as, teaching the couples how to disciple each other and teach the church how to disciple married couples. Long term goals include a Marriage Conference Weekend to intensify the discipling of marriage couples and their families. I am praying for our young families and trust the Lord to lead you as He provides for your needs through Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church. I look forward to serving you through the teaching ministry of the church.





## **Important Upcoming Dates**

### March:

12 After Church Covered Dish Lunch	12:00 p.m.
14 Deacons' Meetin	7:00 p.m.
21 Senior Saints' Lunch	10:00 a.m.

### April:

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1	Family Easter Event	11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
2	Easter Cantata	6:00 p.m.
7	Good Friday Service	7:00 p.m.
9	Easter Breakfast	8:30 a.m.
9	Easter Worship	10:00 a.m.
16	Quarterly Members' Meeting	TBA
16	CMI Speaker: Jonathan Sarfati	6:00 p.m.
16	After Church PM Fellowship	7:00 p.m.
21	Women of Light Banquet	6:00 p.m.

### May:

6	Mother & Daughter Tea	TBA

### June:

18-23	D3 High School Camp	
26-30	Vacation Bible School	9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

### July:

<i>,</i> , , .		
24-27	Older Children's Camp	TBA



WILLIAM H. DOANE, 1832-1915 FANNY J. CROSBY, 1820-1915 1. To God be the glo-ry-great things He hath done! So loved He per - fect re-demption, the pur-chase of blood! To 3. Great things He hath taught us great things He hath done, And great our reyield world that He gave us His Son, Who ed His liev - er the prom-ise of God; The vil est of - fen-der who But and high-er Je-sus the and joic - ing thru Son: pur er tone-ment for sin And o-pened the Life-gate that all may go be-lieves, That mo-ment from Je-sus a par-don re-ceives. great-er will be Our won-der, our trans-port, when Je-sus we D. S.-Je-sus the Son, And give Him the glo-ry-great things He hath done. CHORUS Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, Let the peo-ple re-joice! O come to the Fa-ther thru

## This Is My Father's World



## He Will Hold Me Fast



Lyrics vv. 1-2 Ada Habershon (1861-1918), Public Domain; Alt words vv.1-2, lyrics v.3, and music: Matt Merker, © 2013

## Now Unto the King Eternal, Immortal, Invisible

Lorraine Sonnenberg



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# Articles

## **Unbiblical Expectations of Revival**

By Scott Aniol

The events occurring at Asbury University have created quite a discussion online concerning the nature of revival. Apparently after chapel on Wednesday, February 8, a group of 20 students decided to stay to sing, pray, and share testimonies. They were still there a few hours later, and so the president of the seminary emailed the student body, told them that there had been an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the chapel, and encouraged other students to take part. The rest is history—thousands of people from around the country and the world have descended upon the University over the past couple of weeks, hoping to "soak in" some of the experience.

What is happening has been described by some as a revival, others as an awakening, and still others as an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. There is much that could (and should) be said about what is going on, but let's address a very simple question: Is the kind revival they are claiming even promised in the NT? To put it another way, should we be expecting or seeking a fresh "outpouring of the Spirit" today?

### Where are Revivals in Scripture?

I think this question is actually a fundamentally important question to ask. Lots of people are debating whether or not what is happening at Asbury is a true or fake revival, but very few are actually asking whether we ought to be expecting this kind of revival in the first place. Both sides of the debate are generally appealing to history in arguing either for or against defining what is happening at Asbury as revival, but few are actually testing their understanding of revival by Scripture.

### So, where are revivals in Scripture?

The fact is that nothing in Scripture is actually characterized as revival—the word simply does not appear. That in itself, of course, is not necessarily a problem; the word "trinity" doesn't appear in the Bible either. But we must at least acknowledge that the term "revival" is an extra-biblical word that we have chosen to apply to particular events in church history, and thus we need to carefully examine Scripture to determine whether what we have labeled "revival" should even be an expectation today.

#### "Revival" in the Old Testament?

In a few cases, the OT includes prayers for what could be characterized as revival: Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us!... Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?-Psalm 85:4-6
Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved! Psalm 80:3

There are promises from God that he will revive the hearts of those who come humbly before him: *I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite. Isaiah 57:15* 

This kind of promise is also given to the nation of Israel as a whole: *If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.* 2 Chron 7:14

The OT records several events in Israel's life that could be characterized as national revival, such as under the leadership of Asah of Judah (2 Chron 15), Jehoash (2 Kings 11–12), Hezekiah (2 Kings 18), and Josiah (2 Kings 22–23).

Not surprisingly, those who do try to define or defend modern revival on the basis of Scripture often appeal to one or more of these national revivals in the life of Israel.

The problem is this: national revivals of this sort were unique to the covenant nation of Israel. Notice, for example, the promise in 2 Chronicles 7:14 that in response to national repentance, God will heal *their land*. These are promises and circumstances that only apply to a theocratic national people of God, a reality that does not exist for the New Covenant church.

#### "Revival" in the New Testament?

Like with the OT, "revival" does not appear at all in the New. However, a few clear events in the Book of Acts could legitimately be described as an "outpouring of the Spirit" or, consequently, "revival."

The first and most obvious is the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2 when, just as Jesus had promised (Jn 14:26), the Spirit was poured out upon his people, resulting in the conversion of 3,000 souls who then formed the first Christian church and began to devote themselves to the apostle's teaching, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers (Acts 2:42). This event could truly be described as an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Two other similar events occur in the book of Acts as the gospel spreads to Gentiles within the land of Israel (Cornelius and his household chapter 10) and then Gentiles outside Israel (Gentiles in Ephesus chapter 19).

The important point to recognize about these events is that they are unique. The Spirit was poured out as Jesus had promised, and he does not need to be poured out again and again. He is now active in the world, convicting the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment (Jn 16:8), regenerating dead hearts (Tit 3:5), and sanctifying believers into the image of Christ (Rom 15:16).

On this basis, at minimum, we should not expect nor characterize any occurrence today as a "fresh outpouring of the Spirit." Such a thing is not promised in the NT, nor is it needed. We can and should certainly pray that the Spirit will do the work he has promised to do in regenerating and sanctifying hearts, but this is not an "outpouring" like was true at Pentecost and its ripple effects in the book of Acts.

#### "Revival" as Mass Conversion/Sanctification?

Now that the Holy Spirit has already been poured out, his ordinary work today is to convert and sanctify sinners. When he chooses to do this in large numbers in a short amount of time, Christians in relatively recent history have labeled that as "revival." But the question still remains: Is a kind of sudden, extraordinary mass conversion and/or sanctification something promised to us in this age?

The fact of the matter is that no, the NT never promises times of mass conversion or sanctification. Could the Spirit of God choose to save and/or sanctify large

masses of people in a concentrated area in a short span of time? Of course he could. But he has not promised that this kind of thing will happen in this age. <u>In fact, he has promised the exact opposite</u>.

The NT promises dramatic increase of lawlessness before Christ comes again (2 Thess 2:1–8). It promises that these last days will be "times of difficulty," that persecution will grow, and that things will go from bad to worse (2 Tim 3:1, 12, 13). Instead of expecting mass revival, this is what Jesus said we ought to expect: *Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake.* <sup>10</sup> and then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. <sup>11</sup> and many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. <sup>12</sup> and because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. <sup>13</sup> But the one who endures to the end will be saved. <sup>14</sup> And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. Matt 24:9–14

Certainly we should long for more people coming to Christ, we should fervently evangelize, and we should seek to promote righteousness among God's people and even in society, but we have no biblical basis for expecting mass "revival" during the present age. Rather, we ought to look with expectant hope for true revival to occur, what Peter described as "times of refreshing" (Acts 3:19), when Jesus comes again.

### What Do We Do with "Revivals" in History?

What do we do, then, with what people have labeled as "revivals" in church history? Again, people on both sides of the debate concerning whether Asbury is a revival inevitably point to history as proof for their positions. So what do we do with those historic events, especially in light of the fact that the NT never promises mass revival in this age?

**First,** we must always remember that Scripture must interpret experience, not the other way around.

**Second,** we do need to clearly distinguish between what Ian Murray helpfully described as *revival* and *revivalism*. However we are going to interpret, for example, what happened during the "Great Awakening" of Jonathan Edwards's day, it was markedly different from what happened during the "Great Awakening" of Charles Finney's day. Edwards's "awakening" was, in his words, "a surprising" work of God's Spirit in which, under the clear doctrinal preaching of the Word of God, many sinners were converted. On the other hand, Finney's "revivalism" sought to create revival through "new measures" such as scheduled protracted revival meetings and the anxious bench. Even during the first "awakening," what happened under Edwards's ministry should be distinguished from the revivalism of other preachers, including the early preaching of George Whitefield, which was far more emotionally engineered.

But **third**, it is also very important that we take note of the eschatology of even the more careful, doctrinally-rooted "revival" preachers. Almost to the man, preachers who urged believers to pray for revival and who interpreted certain events as "revivals" or "awakenings" were postmillennial—including John Owen, Thomas Boston, William Perkins, Thomas Manton, John Flavel, Richard Sibbes, Samuel Rutherford, Jonathan Edwards, Matthew Henry, George Whitefield, Archibald Alexander, and Charles Finney.

These men believed that a "time of refreshing"—a period of mass conversion and sanctification—would *precede* the Second Coming of Christ, and thus they prayed for it, and they urged others to seek it. This caused them to interpret what was happening during periods of religious enthusiasm as true revival. Were lots of people converted during those periods? It appears so, though many professions (especially those caught up in the heightened emotional excesses) proved later to be false.

### **Expectation of "Ordinary" Conversion and Sanctification**

The bottom line is this: quick, extraordinary, mass cases of conversion and sanctification are simply not promised in the NT, nor is this ordinarily how conversion and sanctification take place. The Holy Spirit of God converts souls through the faithful, "ordinary" preaching of the Word, and this normally happens, not all at once or in mass numbers, but gradually as God's people faithfully proclaim the gospel to the ends of the earth.

And the Holy Spirit sanctifies hearts through the faithful "ordinary" means of grace: local church worship and fellowship, preaching, prayer, Bible study, and singing. And this normally happens, not in dramatic spurts, but progressively through the course of a Christian's life.

My fear is that what caused the Asbury events to take place in the first place, and certainly what has influenced interpretation of the events as an "outpouring of the Spirit," is an unbiblical expectation concerning what God has promised for this present age.

Let us be content with the "ordinary" way God has promised to work in this present age, and let us long for our blessed hope, the glorious appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, when true revival will come. •

## What Is the Gospel?

What is the gospel? I'll put it in a sentence.

The gospel is the news that Jesus Christ, the Righteous One, died for our sins and rose again, eternally triumphant over all his enemies, so that there is now no condemnation for those who believe, but only everlasting joy.

That's the gospel.

## You Can't Outgrow the Gospel

You never, never, never outgrow your need for the gospel. Don't ever think of the gospel as, "That's the way you get saved, and then you get strong by leaving it and doing something else."

No! We are strengthened by God through the gospel every day, till the day we drop.

You never outgrow the need to preach to yourself the gospel.

John Piper

## Missionary of the Week

## Chatham Transitional Ministries Chatham County, Georgia

Chatham Transitional Ministries is a non-profit organization that exists to serve former inmates working to transition from lives of addiction and crime to productive, reformed lives by the power of God. Once a program of Coastal Jail Ministries, CTM became an independent organization in May of 2018.

## Interview with Lorie Irish, Program Coordinator by Board Member, Warren Hill

Warren: Lorie, what minimal qualifications and intentions does CTM require of someone to first enter the program?

Lorie: To enter the program, we require a new participant to have:

- a clear desire to get sober
- a credible desire to stop living a life without God
- regular attendance at one or more Bible studies each week
- weekly attendance at a Christian 12-step Life Recovery Meeting
- a credible desire to be gainfully employed, with the ultimate goal of becoming financially independent.



Lorie Irish



### Warren: How do participants find Chatham Transitional Ministries?

Lorie: We receive people into our program from a number of sources. We have referrals coming from:

- The Chaplain's dorm of the Jail Ministry, before someone is released
- Drug Court
- Half-way house residential facilities (like Grace House, Union Mission and Salvation Army)
- Savannah Homeless Authority
- Savannah Counseling, and other similar counseling groups.

Looking for ways to be involved in the work of CTM? Consider these opportunities:

- **Commit to pray** for CTM, its program coordinator and participants.
- Attend a Bible Study. Call Lorie for details of where and when at **912,480,5068**.
- Volunteer for CTM. Call Lorie (above) or Barbara at 912.306.9876 for options. (We'd love to welcome more volunteers to provide Tuesday sack lunches could you help us in that way?)
- Become a financial partner by contributing regularly to the operational costs of CTM. More info at <a href="https://www.ctmga.life/">https://www.ctmga.life/</a>
- **Provide a job** for a CTM program participant. We continually need new work options, and would love to talk to you about opportunities.
- Some participants need housing.
   Pray for contacts and locations for this to open up.

he price of refusing to forgive is high. Unforgiveness produces hatred, bitterness, animosity, anger, and retribution. It not only clogs up the arteries but also the courts with thousands of vengeful lawsuits. Refusing to forgive imprisons people in their past. Unforgiving people keep their pain alive by constantly picking at the open wounds and keeping it from healing. Bitterness takes root in their hearts and defiles them (Heb. 12:15). Anger rages out of control and negative emotions run unchecked. Life is filled with turmoil and strife instead of joy and peace.

John MacArthur

## Nursery March 12 Babies:

Lynn Ernst, Jeanie Groover, Beth Lewis

### **Toddlers:**

Michael & Karrie Walker **Preschoolers:** 

Barbara Mason, Rachel Beatty

### Nursery March 19 Babies:

Eleanor Bowden, Mary Fowler, Kay Stanford **Toddlers:** 

Deborah Focht, Tricia Morris **Preschoolers:** 

Ashley Leoni, Elinor Morris

### **Right Now Media**

If you would like a free subscription to Right Now Media use this link:

https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/fabchurchga or scan this QR code:



If you have any questions concerning the message from today, or are interested in obtaining information about church membership, please see any of the pastors after the service,

drop a note in the offering plate indicating your desire to talk with a pastor, or call the church office.



Video and audio recordings of the messages are available for listening or downloading from

www.fabchurch.com/sermons

T. J	
Today	
Coffee Fellowship	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
After Church Lunch	12:00 p.m.
Tuesday	
Joy Class	9:00 a.m.
Men's Bible Study	6:30 p.m.
Women's Bible Study	6:30 p.m.
Deacons' Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	
Supper: Pizza Night	5:30 p.m.
Adventure Club (in gym)	6:20 p.m.
Youth (in Fellowship Hall)	6:30 p.m.
Bible Study (in Sanctuary)	6:45 p.m.
Thursday	
Senior Adult Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
Women's Bible Study	6:15 p.m.
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Lockup Deacons for March: Jimmy Kicklighter, Napoleon Martin



## Sunday School Classes and Descriptions

#### Adult

"Systematic Theology" Fellowship Hall: Bob Dimmitt
"John" Piano Overflow: Steve Jackson
"Lies Women Believe" Organ Overflow: Tamera Smith

#### Children and Students

Babies Room 3: Kay Stanford, Saundra Bridges Toddlers Room 24 Eleanor Bowden, Linnea Posner Room 25: Pre-K Emily Wise, Kamee Roberson/ Michael and Ruth Kleinpeter K, 1st and 2nd Grade Room 28: John and Pam Humphrey 3rd-6th Grade Boys Room 202: Ric Zittrouer, Richie Mills 3rd-6th Grade Girls Room 204: Mary Ann Fowler, Amy Horton Youth Guys Bobby DeLoach, Shawn Champion Room 206: Youth Girls Jessica Dimmitt, Avalon DeLoach Room 206: