

Trumpet Article for April 10, 2019

Iron Sharpens Iron

This last weekend the missionaries, their wives and State Missions' office staff gathered at DeGray State Park for a time of fellowship and learning. Our guest speaker was Brother Philip Attebery, Dean of our Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas. His subject for this conference was Apologetics and most commended the material was very helpful. We all participated in the "Make it or Break it contest." This is where those present divide into teams and are given a bag with 10 straws, 5 cotton balls, 5 pipe cleaners, 4 small rubber bands, 2 balloons, and 18" of tape and one raw egg. The challenge is to build a case to protect the egg when dropped from about 8-10'. We did have a winner from a successful entry by the team of "Totally Connected" having the only egg that survived the contest. It was a lot of fun and a great team building exercise.

Note: Late last year we were blessed with a special offering given especially for such training sessions. No funds given for planting churches and supporting missionaries were used.

Lesson 6

Just a few reasons I hate the Devil

Well as we wind down this look at Satan and all the trouble he brings to mankind we need to view his destiny.

"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Ephesians 6:11-12)

Day and night twenty-four seven the battle between good and evil goes on. It is apparent that Satan, as sorry as he is, has access to God.

“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.” (Job 1:6)

All of God’s children have experienced firsthand in one way or another Satan’s activity against us. Perhaps a verse most of us are more familiar with is found in the New Testament in the 5th Chapter of I Peter:

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

This word devour means to eat up or destroy, not just hurt or hinder but totally destroy that person. I have been broken hearted more than once when I have seen what Satan can do to a person, their family, job and character. Without sounding heartless I will be glad when the day comes that Satan is no more. The same Holy Scriptures that reveal his existence also pronounces his end.

“And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.” (Revelation 19:20)

“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” (Revelation 20:10)

To be continued.

From Our Missionaries:

Arkansas Hispanic Missions: Michael Hight writes, “We were privileged to enjoy some time with the other missionaries in the state over the weekend. We were all thankful for the fellowship.

“Sunday I preached at South City and enjoyed the encouragement of my church family. We are currently working with the National Department to translate a large portion of the National Meeting coming up. This will be the first time we have done that. I am looking forward to our guys being able to understand more of what takes place at our associational meeting.

“As always, thank you for your prayers and support. God has been faithful to work through you to enable us to do what we do. We couldn’t do it without you. Thanks again!”

Connection Point, Brookland: Chad White writes, “It was a great week at Connection Point. God is blessing in so many ways. While each of the things I could list out might seem small, when you put them all together, they represent an incredible moving of God in our midst. We are humble and grateful for what He is doing.

“Sunday, we had a great day and a house full. Our attendance was up. Our offerings were up. Our Small Groups were up. God blessed us with a wonderful service.

“This past weekend, I was able to attend a training/workshop with the other missionaries around the state. I had an incredible time and learned so much. Dr. Philip Attebery did a great job teaching. I enjoyed spending time with my fellow church-planters. I love visiting with these men and hearing their passion for Jesus and the church. God has truly blessed our state with some great missionaries.”

The Mustard Seed, Cain: Jim Tollison writes, “Services were good Sunday. We had two visitors with us. God is making Himself known in every service

“We are getting our Easter egg hunt ready for next Saturday. Our kids seem to be excited about it. It will be a fun time of fellowship for kids and adults alike.

“Guitar lessons are going well. I believe out of this group God will raise up some musicians He can use in His service.

“We are still praying for churches and individuals to be led of the Lord to help us pay for our roof on the building. We have heard through the proverbial grapevine that a ladies class is sending a special offering. Praise the Lord! God is good. We are praying for all of you.”

El Faro, Little Rock: Jorge Vasquez writes, “Dear friends, God bless you greatly. Yesterday we had a wonderful time at Mission El Faro. Although it rained a lot we had the church filled more than 90 worshipping and praising our powerful God.

“We give many thanks to God for the past week was very busy, meeting to guide the community on different topics, we had clinic, discipleship meetings, Bible Institute, prayer meeting, and participated in the retreat of missionaries. “Thanks to the State Missions office for giving us this time to share together, relax a bit and also learn more about the word of God.

“Brothers and Sisters, thank you for praying for our mission, this weekend we will be celebrating our 11th Anniversary. Friday and Saturday meeting at the church 7:00 P.M. Sunday at 11:00 your visits and prayers will be well appreciated. Glory to God for all those who have been saved during this time, for those who have grown in discipleship and who now serve in the local church as well as those who are serving in the missions of Growing in Christ and Great Commission. We hope that in the years to come we will continue to fulfill the great Commission.”

Misión Creciendo en Cristo [Growing in Christ], North Little Rock: Juan Carlos Posadas writes, “From Friday 6 pm until Saturday noon we had a retreat for missionaries and our wives, organized by the BMA office of Arkansas State Missions, thanks Bro. Paul White, for organizing this event. Brother Philip Attebery taught us about apologetics, it was a good time for building and communion.

“On Friday night at the Grupo Casa meeting, Romans chapter 10 was studied, Oscar Gómez directed the teaching. It is really nice to be absent and to know that there are other men in the church willing to serve God with the teaching of the Word.

“On Sunday we continued with our study series in the book of Romans, this time we studied the first part of chapter 11, we learned about the opportunity that God has given to the Gentiles to graft into the good olive tree, being wild olive trees, due to the faith that we profess in Jesus Christ. This is an interesting illustration of salvation by faith and not by works. We thank God for His kindness and mercy, which has reached us for eternal life.”

Grace, Green Forest: Carter Pearce writes, “Easter is my absolute favorite time of year. Spring arrives, soccer season resumes, people tend to be in a better mood after the winter, and most importantly, we get to celebrate in a huge way the resurrection of our Savior. With Easter Sunday coming in just a couple of weeks, we have been busy preparing and planning what we can do extra special on that day.

“Easter Sunday is usually a time when people who may not normally attend church decide to put on new clothes and worship/celebrate together with others in their community. As a new congregation, we look forward to celebrating Easter for the first time in our new building. Several people have told me in recent weeks that they plan to join us for that special service, and I am excited to see them come to a service.

“God continues to bless our community and our mission congregation, and we are thrilled to see God’s leading of people to join with us in celebrating the resurrection of Christ. The specifics of Easter Sunday are the reason we minister to those around us, and I can’t wait to proclaim to all the victory that we have through Jesus Christ our Lord!”

Ebenezer, West Little Rock: Ruben Isturiz writes, “In Ebenezer, and if I am not mistaken, in every Hispanic congregation we celebrate the Lord's Supper every first Sunday of the month. It is a wonderful moment to remember, not only His death, and the new covenant in His blood, but what God has done for us, it is a special moment where God speaks to each one of us in a special way, this Sunday one of Our children decided to be baptized for next Sunday.

“God answers each of our prayers in His time, this Sunday Sister Santa Valenzuela gave us testimony of what has happened in her Berean Group (Cell) she was praying for Esther and now she is a member of our congregation, she is praying for Mayra now she is attending the Berean Group, and we were analyzing how that process has been of how God has answered each prayer.

“God continues to work wonders among the Discipleship Groups and Berean Groups, there are several testimonies and I will try to share them little by little. Pray that every decision made in Ebenezer God will give the growth in its perfect time.”