

CEDAR GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER — APRIL 2014

THE PASTOR'S CORNER

I would like to speak about missions this month. It is time for the Easter offering for the Southern Baptist, we call it the Annie Armstrong offering. I would encourage you to pray about what you can give to this work. Along with what you can give, I would challenge you to pray that God will send laborers into the field, be careful here because God may send you or one of your children, wow what an honor that would be. Anyway Annie Armstrong Easter offering is the way that the SBC supports North American missions. Paul speaks about churches supporting missions in Philippians 4, he says:

Philippians 4:10-17 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction. Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

Paul commends the church at Philippi for their support of him and not only past financial support but evidently word had gotten back to Paul that the church had been looking for new opportunities to support him in his work. We would have to say this would be a great testimony to have as a church that others would know that Cedar Grove was always looking for opportunities where God is working and having a strong desire to jump in.

As most of you know we have a new committee



which has started for the missions program at Cedar Grove. This committee is going to be a innovative pilot to direct our church in missions, the committee consist of, Kerry (Chairperson), Tom, Nancy, Jack, and Wayne (deacon). My desire is to challenge you to pray for this committee as they try to organize our missions program and I also would encourage you to give input to them for Ideas, I believe they would appreciate that. One other thing I would encourage our church to do is to participate in the things that are offered by the committee this would encourage them the most.

Paul says in verses 12-13 that he knows how to eat steak and he knows how to eat sardines. I do not think that missionaries should have to be abased I think they should have every tool they need to effectively do the work that God has called them to. I have heard horror stories about things that people send missionaries, how they are sent hand me downs that no one wants, this should not be the case. I believe again our testimony among missionaries and agencies should be such that people want Cedar Grove on board with them because they give their best to missions. Paul says as much in the above mentioned passage.

The last thing we see in the passage above is that Paul, "...that fruit may abound in their account." We need to understand that as we diligently support worthy missions endeavors we effectively reap rewards for eternity. Now think about that, we can feel good about helping people who need help, we can have fun when we go on mission trips and at the same time be putting up treasure for eternity. Where else can you get that kind of return on your money? Let's join together for the Kingdom of God and His work.

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THE MOST POPULAR AND FASTEST GROWING BIBLE TRANSLATION ISN'T WHAT YOU THINK IT IS

When Americans reach for their Bibles, more than half of them pick up a King James Version (KJV), according to a new study advised by respected historian Mark Noll.

The 55 percent who read the KJV easily outnumber the 19 percent who read the New International Version (NIV). And the percentages drop into the single digits for competitors such as the New Revised Standard Version, New America Bible, and the Living Bible.

So concludes "The Bible in American Life," a lengthy report by the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture at Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). Funded by the Lilly Foundation, researchers asked questions on what David Briggs of the ARDA, which first reported the results, calls "two of the most highly respected data sources for American religion"—the General Social Survey and the National Congregations Study.

The numbers are surprising, given the strong sales of NIV translations in bookstores. The NIV has topped the CBA's bestselling Bible translation list for decades, and continued to sell robustly in 2013.

The high numbers of KJV readers confirm the findings of last year's American Bible Society (ABS) State of the Bible report. On behalf of ABS, Barna Group found that 52 percent of Americans read the King James or the New King James Version, compared with 11 percent who read the NIV.

The KJV also received almost 45 percent of the Bible translation-related searches on Google, compared with almost 24 percent for the NIV, according to Bible Gateway's Stephen Smith.

ANNIVERSARIES

NONE

SCHEDULED EVENTS

April 6 @ 11:00AM	Deacon Ordination
April 6 @ 12:15PM	Covered Dish
April 20 Easter Sunday 11:00AM	Morning Worship
April 22 8:30AM	Prayer Breakfast for RBA Pastors
April 28 @ 6:30PM	Planning Committee
July 13-18 @ 6:30-8:30PM	VBS

In fact, searches for the KJV seem to be rising distinctly since 2005, while most other English translations are staying flat or are declining, according to Smith's Google search.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/gleanings/2014/march/most-popular-and-fastest-growing-bible-translation-niv-kjv.html>, Accessed 03/24/14

Visit the Cedar Grove Baptist Church website
<http://www.cedargrovebaptistchurch.net>

"What are you so happy about?" I asked my 101-year old great-aunt one day. "I broke a mirror," she replied. "But that means seven years of bad luck." "I know," she said, beaming. "Isn't it wonderful?"

Lowell D. Streiker, *Nelson's Big Book of Laughter: Thousands of Smiles from A to Z*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2000), 320.



BIRTHDAYS

Thomas (TJ) Owens	April 09
Ryan Camp	April 10
Thomas Alderin	April 10
Evelynne Azurdia	April 11
Trish Carter	April 27
Jack Caviness	May 01

COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

On December 23, 1855, London's new preaching sensation, twenty-one-year-old Charles Spurgeon, wove this carol by Charles Wesley into his Christmas sermon as skillfully as a weaver braids a golden thread into a tapestry: "A very singular thing is this, that Jesus Christ was said to have been 'born the king of the Jews.' Very few have ever been 'born king.' Men are born princes, but they are seldom born kings. I do not think you can find an instance in history where any infant was born king. He was the Prince of Wales, perhaps, and he had to wait a number of years, till his father died, and then they manufactured him into a king, by putting a crown on his head; and a sacred chrism, and other silly things; but he was not born a king. I remember no one who was born a king except Jesus; and there is emphatic meaning in that verse that we sing 'Born thy people to deliver; Born a child, and yet a king.' The moment that He came on earth He was a king."

Come, Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's Strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Robert J. Morgan, Devotions for Advent: Meditations Based on Best-Loved Hymns (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2012).

KENYA

Assistant Pastor Lawrence Kazungu Kadenge was murdered in the early morning hours of Feb. 2 while guarding the Glory of God Ministries Church in Mombasa. Although police are still investigating the murder, it is believed that radical Muslims may have killed the 59-year-old assistant pastor for alerting police about security threats and for preaching the gospel close to a mosque.

Kadenge's death has increased fears among pastors in the area. Several pastors have been murdered recently in the Mombasa region, and churches along the coastal area have been attacked by radical Muslims who are trying to create an independent state there.

Several days before Kadenge's murder, police raided the Masjid Musa Mosque in Mombasa; one person was killed in the raid, and two police officers were seriously injured. Police suspected that the mosque was being used to recruit Muslim youths to engage in terrorist acts against Kenyan civilians. Police arrested 125 youths during the raid.

https://www.persecution.com/public/newsroom.aspx?story_ID=NjYw&featuredstory_ID=NDI0, Accessed 03/25/14

"Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.""

(Matthew 9:35–38, NKJV)



Dedication of Nathan Whitehead
03/23/2014

*Behold, children are a heritage
from the LORD...
Psalm 127:3*

Some would gather money
 Along the path of life;
Some would gather roses
 And rest from worldly strife.
But I would gather children
 From among the thorns of sin;
I would seek a golden curl
 And a freckled, toothless grin.
For money cannot enter
 In that land of endless day,
And the roses that are gathered
 Soon will wilt along the way.
But, oh, the laughing children,
 As I cross the Sunset Sea;
As the gates swing wide to Heaven,
 I can take them in with me!

Billie Crawford

Michael P. Green, ed., *Illustrations for Biblical Preaching: Over 1500 Sermon Illustrations Arranged by Topic and Indexed Exhaustively*, Revised edition of: The expositor's illustration file. (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1989).

I'm not too young to sin,
 I'm not too young to die.
I'm not too little to begin
 A life of faith and joy.
I'm not too young to know
 The Saviour's love for me
In coming down to earth below
 To die upon the tree.
I'm not too young to love,
 I'm not too young to pray,
To look to Jesus up above
 And all His Word obey.
Jesus, I love Thy name;
 From evil set me free.
And ever keep Thy little lamb
 Who puts his trust in Thee.

Paul Lee Tan, *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times* (Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc., 1996).

Then little children were brought to Him that He might put His hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven." And He laid His hands on them and departed from there.
(Matthew 19:13–15, NKJV)

A child dedication service is primarily a public commitment by the parents to raise that child in such a way that he/she will come to know and love the Lord Jesus Christ. This, by the way, is a responsibility that we all share. We owe it to the children of this Church to encourage and teach them to trust Christ Jesus and to grow to love Him.

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."
(Deuteronomy 6:4–9, NKJV)