

CEDAR GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER — MAY 2014

THE PASTOR'S CORNER

As you know by now Lynn Caviness has taken the job of Sunday School Director. We have set a new SS attendance record of 59 during the month of April (on Easter Sunday). The best pastor I ever had used to say a strong Sunday School will grow a church. Listen to what Luke says in Acts 2:41-47,

“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.... Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”

The early church came together to learn and to fellowship. Sunday school is another opportunity in modern times to learn, get connected to the church and to enjoy fellowship. Lynn challenged the church and the church has stepped up, but now she has issued a new challenge and that is to start bringing new people. So now let me give another challenge—let's be faithful to continue to come to SS. I know it takes dedication, but it is worth it. Lynn also challenged the church for 50 in attendance for 4 consecutive weeks; I am going to challenge the church for 70 by the end of May.

Now I have one other thing I would like to touch on, as warm weather is here let's be mindful that we are coming to church to worship a holy God so we should keep our attire appropriate for worship. What standard we set will be the standard others will follow.



UNDERSTANDING WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT

Toward the close of the 19th century a young businessman was accumulating riches rapidly. He said to Stephen Paxton, who had known only poverty through the years, “Come with me and we will make a fortune together!” Paxton declined the appealing offer, for God had placed upon his heart the great need of Sunday schools in the thinly-populated rural sections of our country. “You are a fool to turn down such an attractive offer,” said the businessman. Other people derided him, too, calling him a “crackpot” and a religious fanatic.

Years passed. One day he met the man who had made him the business offer. The man said, “You wouldn't come with me. Now I am worth fifty thousand dollars and you and your family still live in a covered wagon!” “But,” said Paxton, “you do not know the extent of my real wealth. More than fifty thousand boys, girls, men and women are enrolled in Sunday schools that I organized!”¹

Cedar Grove Baptist Church
3012 Old Hwy 49 • PO Box 2943 • Asheboro,
NC 27204 (336) 626-0551

¹ Paul Lee Tan, *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times* (Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc., 1996), 1394.

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH MRS. CRAIG?

The following news items appeared in the Nashville *Banner*, June 19, 1956:

PORTER, Okla. (AP)—Mrs. Ella Craig, age 81, hasn't missed Sunday school attendance in 1,040 Sundays—a perfect record for 20 years.

1. Doesn't Mrs. Craig ever have company on Sunday to keep her away from church?
2. Doesn't she ever go anywhere on Saturday night and get up tired on Sunday morning?
3. Doesn't she ever have headaches, colds, nervous spells, tired feelings, poor breakfasts, sudden calls out of town, business trips, Sunday picnics, or any trouble of any kind?
4. Doesn't she have any friends at all—friends who invite her to a week-end trip to the seashore or mountains?
5. Doesn't she ever sleep late on Sunday morning?
6. Doesn't it ever rain or snow on Sunday mornings?
7. Doesn't she ever get her feelings hurt by somebody in church?
8. Doesn't she ever get mad at the preacher or Sunday school teacher?
9. Doesn't she have a radio or television so she can listen to "some mighty good sermons from out of town"?

*What's the matter with Mrs. Craig?*²

In two years Judge B. E. Johnson, of Pierce County Juvenile Court, Tacoma, Wash., had over 2,000 young people ten-to eighteen-years-old appear before him. All but one listed a denominational preference. However, at the time of their arrest less than

2 percent were in regular contact with a church or Sunday school. The judge asked each of these youngsters if, when they dropped out of Sunday school, anyone contacted them to get them back. During the two years, only two youngsters said such a contact was made.

—Clate A. Risley³

When you notice that someone has missed Sunday School or services, take the time to contact them. Contact them to let them know that they were missed and that someone cares.

Christians in many parts of this world suffer real physical persecution for their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We, who enjoy freedom from such tribulation, should be earnest in prayer for them.

PRAY FOR ERITREA

(Eritrea is a Muslim country located on the East coast of Africa. It was formerly a part of Ethiopia)

ASMARA, ERITREA— Eritrean security forces recently raided yet another prayer meeting, arresting about 150 Christians in a suburb of Asmara, the African nation's capital, according to Religion Today.

In August, Eritrean authorities also arrested 30 members of the Church of the Living God when they gathered for prayer in the Kushet suburb of Asmara.

<http://www.bpnews.net/BPnews.asp?ID=41382>, accessed 04/23/14

² Paul Lee Tan, *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times* (Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc., 1996), 1394–1395.

³ Paul Lee Tan, *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times* (Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc., 1996), 1398.

AT THE NAME OF JESUS



As a teenager, Caroline Maria Noel wrote a few poems; but she abandoned the attempt when she was about twenty years old. Only after becoming bedridden by a serious illness in her forties did she again take up her pen in the hope of encouraging others who were suffering. For twenty-five years she ministered with pen and ink from her sickbed, before passing away at age sixty on December 7, 1877. Her best-known hymn is this paraphrase of Philippians 2:4–11, and it first appeared in her book *The Name of Jesus, and Other Verses for the Sick and Lonely*. Notice the sturdy theology of this hymn. Sentimental rhyme does little to encourage us when sick and suffering; we need the strong name of Jesus before whom every knee will bow. (Try singing this hymn to the tune of “Like a River Glorious.”)

At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow,
 Every tongue confess Him King of glory now;
 'Tis the Father's pleasure we should call Him Lord,
 Who from the beginning was the mighty Word.

Mighty and mysterious in the highest height,
 God from everlasting, very light of light:
 In the Father's bosom with the spirit blest,
 Love, in love eternal, rest, in perfect rest.

At His voice creation sprang at once to sight,
 All the angel faces, all the hosts of light,
 Thrones and dominations, stars upon their way,
 All the heavenly orders, in their great array.

Humbled for a season, to receive a name
 From the lips of sinners unto whom He came,
 Faithfully He bore it, spotless to the last,
 Brought it back victorious when from death He passed.



...*That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow. Philippians 2:10⁴*

⁴ Robert J. Morgan, *Devotions for Advent: Meditations Based on Best-Loved Hymns* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2012).



ANNIVERSARIES

May 07	Marty & Anita Grainger
May 16	Buddy & Sharon Grainger
May 20	Bill & Linda Heath



BIRTHDAYS

Jack Caviness	May 01
Tom Alderin	May 10
Jacob Whitehead	May 28

DEACON ORDINATION

April 06, 2014

FIRST, A CHARGE FROM THE PASTOR



We at Cedar Grove do not ordain women as deacons; however, we recognize that a Deacon's wife is a vital part of his ministry. For this reason, the Deacon Ordination Service recognizes both Scott & Kerry Bidlespacher.

READY FOR THE LAYING ON OF HANDS



Sorry, I could not help myself



A more appropriate picture



Seriously: Scott & Kerry make an outstanding addition to our Deacons and wives.

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

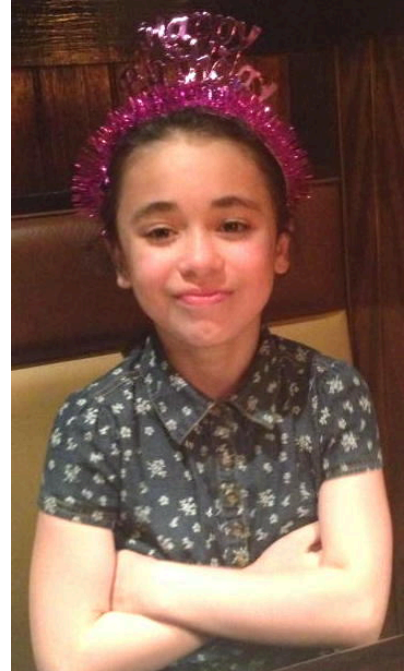


**Why were these ladies in the men's room?
Hint: there's a paint roller in the picture**

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness
1 John 1:9*

“My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.” (1 John 2:1–2, NKJV)

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,” (Romans 5:1, NKJV)



What is she thinking?



**Our New Deacon with our
Missions Committee Chairwoman**

FROM VOICE OF THE MARTYRS

I. Egypt: Pray for Family of Woman Killed for Faith

Mary Sameh George, a 25-year-old Christian who lived with her parents and sister in Cairo, was brutally attacked and killed on March 28 by pro-Muslim Brotherhood demonstrators. As she does each Friday, Mary was on her way to deliver groceries and other necessities to a poor family in the Ein Shams area when she was stopped by a group of protesters. When protesters spotted her gold cross necklace, they dragged her out of her car and repeatedly stabbed and choked her to death. Her family was devastated when they learned of her murder; her fiancé's mother was so grief-stricken that she died shortly after learning of Mary's death.

II. Turkey: Pastor Faces Conspirators

In a nationally high-profile case, Pastor Emre Karaali appeared in court on April 1 in the first trial hearing against 13 people who conspired to murder him. "The whole world is following what is happening here," said one person following the events. Turkish police revealed the plot to Emre in January 2013 after arresting several of the conspirators after a sting operation. The pastor learned that more than a dozen people, including some who had infiltrated his church and babysat his children, had all been involved in a plan to assassinate him.

Nine fellow believers accompanied Emre to court, but only one, a journalist, was allowed inside the courtroom. The others waited outside and prayed during the two-and-a-half hour session. The government provided protection for the pastor coming and going from his court appearance.

According to Emre, the judge seemed determined to grant a fair trial and hear all information available. As the proceeding began, the judge stated that he was uncomfortable with the status of another high-profile case: the Malatya murder trial where

five alleged murders, accused of killing three Christians at a Christian publishing house in Malatya, Turkey. The Malatya defendants were released in March 2014 after the enactment of a new Turkish law which says that if a verdict is not rendered within five years, the accused should be set free until a verdict is reached. Although a secular state, Turkey is less than 1 percent Christian, and approximately 97 percent of those living in Turkey are Muslim.

Only six of the 13 charged in the plot appeared at the trial, in which the judge took Emre's statement. During the pastor's testimony, Emre said, the judge "showed a lot of interest in my beliefs. He asked numerous questions... I was blessed with this wonderful opportunity to share the Gospel with him."

As the trial proceeded, three of the defendants asked the pastor to forgive them.

III. Praise God for Jailed Believer Who Led 14 to Christ

Vani, a 30-year-old widow, spent 15 days in jail after being charged with kidnapping and forcing a child to convert to Christianity. During her two-week stay, she witnessed to more than 70 women, 14 of whom became Christians. Vani was charged in connection with an incident in early February, when she helped a teenager and introduced her to some other believers. Vani was arrested after the girl's parents reported her to police. While Vani was in jail, the jailer encouraged her to share the gospel and pray for the other women because he had seen dramatic change in those who accepted Christ. Vani has been released from jail and is now interested in continuing prison ministry.

For further information on the persecution of Christians see [The Voice of the Martyrs](#)