

CEDAR GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER — OCTOBER 2014



We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ plus nothing. His precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. The salvation of the ill-deserving sinner is based on the finished work of Jesus Christ, who became the sinner's substitute before God and died a provisionary sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

THE PASTOR'S CORNER

Ephesians 5:15-16 *See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*

Paul tells the church at Ephesus to live a perfect life not as fools but as one who is wise buying up time because the days are evil. We too need to be wise people who are full grown mature, not as novice. We live in very evil times, but we also live in exciting times as well.

Taking what is said above and considering the opportunities that we have today, we need to ask ourselves are we really buying back the days. The truth of the matter is we know what we should be doing but the question is why are we not doing it. Could it be that the church today is just not motivated to do what we know we should be doing? We live in the information age, with a touch of a button we can find the answer to almost any question we have. There are seminars and training for just about anything a person would like to do; but knowledge in of itself

will not help us. We must get motivated to use the knowledge we have.

So let me give you a couple of things to help us out. First, we need to have enthusiasm. There are two ways we can approach things; first, we can approach things with the idea of looking at all the stuff you lack to do something and the lack of people. When we approach things like this the gangrene of discouragement will spread. Or we can approach things with the idea that I have the opportunity to serve Christ and look at what we do have to work with or the people who are there. When we approach things like this others will follow us without complaining, their focus is not on what more there is to do or that someone else was needed.

The other thing that we can do is to live as an example. Just do what you see needs to be done and give someone else the credit for it. As people see you busy that will give them the encouragement to start doing something as well. Let's buy the time back.

Pastor Marty

About a year ago my sister, who lives in Virginia, was talking with her four-year-old son, Brent. He was asking her why all their relatives from Wisconsin talk funny and sound like their noses are plugged up. "They think we have an accent," she replied. "But they have an accent, right?" Brent asked. "They talk funny?" "Everybody talks in different ways," she tried to explain. "To them, we sound like we talk very slow and all our words are d-r-a-w-n out." His eyes got big, and he whispered seriously, "Oh, no. You mean they hear funny too?"

Lowell D. Streiker, *Nelson's Big Book of Laughter: Thousands of Smiles from A to Z*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2000), 85.

General Ulysses S. Grant once asked Henry Ward Beecher: "Why does a little fault in a clergyman attract more notice than a great fault in a bad man?" Replied Beecher: "Perhaps it is for the same reason that a slight stain on a white garment is more readily noticed than a large stain on a colored one."

Lowell D. Streiker, *Nelson's Big Book of Laughter: Thousands of Smiles from A to Z*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2000), 79.

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

JUST AS I AM

Without question, this hymn has touched more hearts and influenced more people for Christ than any other song ever written. The text was born within the soul of an invalid woman who wrote these words out of intense feelings of uselessness and despair.

Charlotte Elliott was born in Clapham, England, on March 18, 1789. As a young person she lived a carefree life, gaining popularity as a portrait artist and writer of humorous verse. By the time she was thirty, however, her health began to fail rapidly, and soon she became a bedridden invalid for the remaining years of her life. With her failing health came great feelings of despondency. In 1822 a noted Swiss evangelist, Dr. Caesar Malan, visited the Elliott home in Brighton, England. His visit proved to be a turning point in Charlotte's life. In counselling Miss Elliott about her spiritual and emotional problems, Dr. Malan impressed upon her this truth, "You must come just as you are, a sinner, to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world." Throughout the remainder of her life, Miss Elliott celebrated every year the day on which her Swiss friend had led her to a personal relationship with Christ, for she considered it to be her spiritual birthday. Although she did not write her text for this hymn until 1836, fourteen years after her conversion experience, it is apparent that she never forgot the words of her friend, for they form the very essence of this hymn.

Though Charlotte Elliott lived to be eighty-two years of age, she never regained normal health, and she often endured seasons of great physical suffering. Of her own afflictions she once wrote, "He knows, and He alone, what it is, day after day, hour after hour, to fight against bodily feelings of almost over-

powering weakness, languor and exhaustion, to resolve not to yield to slothfulness, depression and instability, such as the body causes me to long to indulge, but to rise every morning determined to take for my motto, 'If a man will come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me.' " Another time she wrote, "God sees, God guides, God guards me. His grace surrounds me, and His voice continually bids me to be happy and holy in His service just where I am."

Miss Elliott wrote the text for "Just As I Am" in 1836. It was published that same year in the second edition of *The Invalid's Hymn Book*, a collection which contained 115 of her original works. She wrote this hymn with the desire that it might aid financially in building a school for the children of poor clergymen that her own pastor brother was trying to build in Brighton, England. Miss Elliott felt so helpless in her desire to aid the parishioners in this worthy project. Interestingly enough, this one hymn from the pen of the clergyman's invalid sister brought in more funds than all of his bazaars and projects combined. The brother himself has left these words, "In the course of a long ministry, I hope to have been permitted to see some fruit of my labors; but I feel more has been done by a single hymn of my sister's."

In all, Charlotte Elliott wrote approximately 150 hymns. She is generally regarded as one of the finest of all English women hymnwriters. It is said that after her death more than a thousand letters were found among her papers from individuals around the world, expressing testimonials for what this one hymn had meant in their lives.

Kenneth W. Osbeck, *101 Hymn Stories* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1982), 146-147.



ANNIVERSARIES

Phil & Marlene Albright 10 October



BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Anne Coble | 01 October |
| Andrew Carter | 12 October |
| Jackson Owens | 16 October |
| Ginger Carswell | 26 October |

Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this,
that the spirits are subject to you, but

*rejoice that your
names are written
in heaven...*

Luke 10:20

MALDIVES

The Maldives, an Islamic Republic, is an archipelago of 1,191 islands in the Indian Ocean. Its culture is a blend of influences from southern India, Sri Lanka, East Africa and Arab countries. Islam is the only recognized religion, and strict adherence is strongly promoted. In order to minimize outside influence, foreigners are allowed only brief visits to the Maldives. Tourists, who freely drink alcohol and wear revealing swimsuits, are generally isolated from the everyday Maldives, where alcohol is outlawed and modesty is expected.

Maldives is one of the least evangelized countries in the world. The 0.2% figure for Christians refers to expatriate Christians. Citizens of the Maldives are automatically Muslim, and non-Muslims may not become citizens. The

open practice of any religion other than Islam is forbidden. Maldivian believers are carefully watched. They suffer ostracism, mockery, incarceration and even torture. Christians cannot meet or read the Scriptures openly. Expatriate believers have been expelled, especially after sharing their faith.

<https://www.persecution.com/public/prayermap.aspx?clickfrom=bWFpbl9tZW51> Accessed 03/25/14

These items are included in our newsletters as matters for prayer. We American Christians are too often ignorant of the trials our brothers and sisters in Christ face on a daily basis. Even worse, we tend to be apathetic about their plight and complacent concerning our own freedom.

