

CEDAR GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER — SEPTEMBER 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

Well, another summer has gone by and fall is quickly approaching. I am excited about the events of the summer with two mission trips behind us where two different teams were allowed to go experience short term missions and make a difference in two different cultures. I personally believe God can use short term missions to get people aware of the needs of missionaries, as well as giving people a sincere burden to pray for and to financially support mission endeavors. We also had a very successful VBS where close to 70 people were ministered to each night and 30 people having the opportunity to minister. This has truly been a productive and exciting summer.

As we look at the upcoming fall and winter, there is much to do and to be thankful for in our church. The bridge project is coming along with the feasibility committee checking into financing for the project. I feel that shortly there will be a proposal for the church to consider and once that

has been done we will know how to proceed. If the church approves this project, we should see a new bridge within three months of loan approval (this is a liberal estimate).

So how can you be a part of the things happening here? First of all, the nominating committee is sending out a survey for the new year, prayerfully fill it out. If there is something that you feel burdened for, sign-up for it. If there is something that you do not see on the list you think should be added, please let the nominating committee know. Second, get involved in the planning meetings, this is an avenue for you to share ideas. Third, talk to people on these committees with things you would like to do.

I am looking forward to the rest of the year and what God has planned for us here at Cedar Grove please come and be a part of it.

Pastor Marty



AM I A SOLDIER OF THE CROSS?

In Isaac Watts' time, much persecution was inflicted upon the English Dissenters—those who had split from the official, state Anglican Church. Such dissenting churches were known as the Free Churches. Many of these seventeenth and eighteenth-century believers were imprisoned for their convictions. Isaac Watts' father, a learned deacon in a dissenting Congregational church in Southampton, England, was in prison at the time of his son's birth, because of his non-conformist beliefs. Stalwarts such as Isaac Watts became resolute and fearless in their proclamation of the gospel. This hymn reflects these strong convictions. The hymn was written, in 1724, following a sermon by Watts entitled "Holy Fortitude or Remedies Against Fears." It was based on 1 Corinthians 16:13

*Watch ye, stand fast in the faith,
quit you like men, be strong.*

Later Watts added another similar verse, which may be sung to this tune:

*I'm not ashamed to own my Lord,
Or to defend His cause;
Maintain the honor of His Word,
The glory of His cross.*

"Am I a Soldier of the Cross?" is one of the more than 600 hymns by Isaac Watts, often called the "Father of English Hymnody". In addition to being a preacher and a poet, Watts was an ardent student of theology and philosophy. His scholarly versatility is shown in such literary products as his *Treatise on Logic, Elements of*

Geography and Astronomy, Philosophical Essays, and Improvement of the Mind. His textbook, *Logic*, was used at such universities as Oxford as well as at leading colleges in the United States.

Despite his many scholarly accomplishments, Isaac Watts is best known to posterity for his scriptural and simply-stated hymns, such as this challenging text. Dr. Samuel Johnson, noted hymnologist, has written of Watts: "Few men have left behind such purity of character or such monuments of laborious piety."

Isaac Watts was born on July 17, 1674, in Southampton, England. He was the eldest of nine children. As a boy, young Isaac displayed literary genius, writing verses at a very early age. Later, a wealthy benefactor offered to give him a university education, if he would agree to become a minister in the Established Church. This he refused to do, but he prepared instead for the Independent ministry. In 1707, he published his famous collection of 210 hymns, *Hymns and Spiritual Songs*, the first real hymnbook in the English language. Twelve years later, he published his *Psalms of David*, a metrical version of the Psalter, but, as he himself stated, rendered "in the language of the New Testament, and applied to the Christian state of worship." He died on November 25, 1748, and was buried at Bunhill Fields Cemetery, London, near the graves of other dissenting stalwarts of that day, such as John Bunyan. A monument to Watts' memory was placed in Westminster Abbey, the highest honor that can be bestowed upon an Englishman.

Kenneth W. Osbeck, *101 More Hymn Stories* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1985).



ANNIVERSARIES

Mike & Tosha Franklin	18 September
Leland & Pat Bingham	21 September



BIRTHDAYS

Andrea Carter	08 September
Sarah Biddlespacher	12 September
Phil Albright	21 September
Taylor Danckert	27 September
Kerry Biddlespacher	30 September
Anne Coble	01 October

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

I believe most of you received the following message from Marlene a few days ago:

Just a few minutes ago I received the following text message on my phone from Sean Malone who leads Crisis Relief International (CRI). We then spoke briefly on the phone and I assured him that we would share this urgent prayer need with all of our contacts.

"We lost the city of Qaraqosh (Qaraqosh). It fell to ISIS and they are beheading children systematically. This is the city we have been smuggling food too. ISIS has pushed back Peshmerga (Kurdish forces) and is within 10 minutes of where our CRI team is working. Thousands more fled into the city of Erbil last night. The UN evacuated it's staff in Erbil. Our team is unmoved and will stay. Prayer cover needed!"

Please pray sincerely for the deliverance of the people of Northern Iraq from the terrible advancement of ISIS and its extreme Islamic goals for mass conversion or death for Christians across this region.

May I plead with you not to ignore this email. Do not forward it before you have prayed through it. Then send it to as many people as possible.

Send it to friends and Christians you may know. Send it to your prayer group. Send it to your pastor and phone him/her to pray on Sunday during the service - making a special time of prayer for this. We need to stand in the gap for our fellow Christians.

ISIS has been much in the news lately for their "Convert to Islam or die" policy in the territories they control. While ISIS is more brazen concerning their persecution of Christians than most Moslems, be assured that violent persecution of Christian is wide-spread throughout Islamic countries.

Far too often our prayers express our own needs and desires. In this, we all need an attitude

adjustment. Even within the fields of persecution, people are coming to faith in Christ Jesus as the only God and the only hope for the redemption of this sin-damaged world. Pray fervently for those who carry the Gospel to the people of Islam whose minds have been darkened by the enemy of all that is holy and good. Pray for those who trust Christ that they might have courage and strength in the face of severe trial, and pray for us in the safety of our Churches that God would cure us of our apathy and fill us with genuine concern for the lost multitudes that surround us.

News From the SBC

RICHMOND, Va.—To a rousing chorus of cheers and applause, trustees of the International Mission Board overwhelmingly elected "Radical" author and pastor David Platt as IMB's 12th president during their Aug. 26-27 meeting near Richmond, Va.

Speaking at a press conference shortly after his election, Platt said he was "honored, humbled and overwhelmed" by his new role as head of the largest evangelical missionary-sending organization in America, but also equally "exhilarated" by the possibilities that lie ahead.

"What God has created in the International Mission Board is breathtaking. It's really beyond words to marshal the force of 40,000-plus churches working together with about \$300 million dollars a year to go after unreached peoples with the Gospel," he said. "But there's so much more that I believe can be done in the years to come, and the task is great."

"We were born into a part of the world where we have heard the Gospel, and not just heard, but received it," Platt said. "Why were we born that way and a couple of billion other people were born into parts of the world where people live and die without ever even hearing the Gospel? I don't have an answer to that question, but I do know this: We have received grace for a goal, and that goal is to the spread the Gospel to the ends of the earth."

<http://www.imb.org/main/news/details.asp?StoryID=13483&LanguageID=1709> Accessed 08/29/14



Several new committees are active within the fellowship that is Cedar Grove Baptist Church. We especially need to pray fervently for the Nominating Committee and for the Financial Feasibility Committee.

The Nominating Committee will soon be actively seeking Church members to fill the various offices and teaching positions that will prepare this Church to make a positive spiritual impact on our community—and even beyond our immediate surroundings. For our Lord has commanded us to preach the Gospel to every creature. Pray that they might have wisdom in the persons they nominate, and pray for your own response when you are approached.

The Church has also selected a Financial Feasibility Committee to determine the availability and cost of funds to upgrade the upper entrance to the Church building. After the committee reports their findings, the Church will vote on the proposal to complete this construction project. Pray that the committee members will have the wisdom necessary to make the right recommendations and for the Church to prayerfully consider all aspects of this needed project.

We appreciate the work of the Deacons, especially Scott Bidlespacher for their efforts in bringing this proposal before the Church.

May all be done to the Glory of our Lord.

The problem of the spiritual life is not to persuade God to fill us, but to want God sufficiently to permit Him to do so!¹

Wrong desire perverts the moral judgment so that we are unable to appraise the desired object at its real value. However we try, still a thing looks morally better because we want it. For that reason, our heart is often our worst counselor, for if it is filled with desire it may give us bad advice, pleading the purity of something that is in itself anything but pure!²

¹ A. W. Tozer and Gerald B. Smith, *Renewed Day by Day : a Daily Devotional* (Camp Hill, PA.: WingSpread, 1991–) June 26.

² A. W. Tozer and Gerald B. Smith, *Renewed Day by Day : a Daily Devotional* (Camp Hill, PA.: WingSpread, 1991–) July 29.