

## “The Caring Place”

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### *O You of Little Faith*

Note these three separate times in Jesus' recorded ministry, we find the Lord rebuking His disciples with the stern words, "...O you of little faith..." Each instance is found with unique circumstances, and discussing varying causes for the lack of faith in the disciples.

#### **REGARDING WORRY**

In Matthew 6:25-34, Jesus admonished His followers not to worry. Our concerns should not rest upon the body and the things we need to subsist, for the Lord knows these and is ready to supply them (6:32). Rather, our focus ought to be on the kingdom of God, and the righteousness of God. Jesus ask, "Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?" (6:27) Indeed, we accomplish nothing by worrying, except to distract ourselves from the things which demand our attention.

Notice the statement wherein Jesus examines the faith of a worrier. "Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?" (6:30). Worry in the child of God is evidence that we do not trust God to do what He has promised. If the Lord gives such wonderful care to the grass, how greater will His concern be for us, who are created in His own image?

#### **REGARDING FEAR**

Matthew 8:23-27 records a boat trip across the sea of Galilee. As the ride became rough, the disciples began to panic; but the Lord was fast asleep. They woke Jesus, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" (8:25)

Rather than commend them for waking Him, that He might deal with the peril which had come upon them, Jesus spoke, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" (8:26) Their fear of danger bore witness to their failure to rely upon God.

Jesus assures us that we need not fear if we are a child of God, "...do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows." (Matthew 10:28-31)

#### **REGARDING DOUBT**

On another sail across the sea of Galilee, Jesus sent the disciples ahead, and came to them walking on the water (Matthew 14:23-33). Having revealed Himself to them (for they thought He was a ghost), Peter sought further confirmation. "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." (14:28) The Lord invited him to walk on water. But, we read, "...when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, 'Lord, save me!'" (14:30) His faith collapsed.

"O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" (14:31) Peter made an amazing display of faith, stepping out over the edge of the boat. He walked on water! One step, two step... And then, rather than walking by faith, Peter walked by sight. And seeing wind and wave, he began to sink.

Friends, let us not be people of little faith. Jesus' rebuke of His disciples these three times was not only for their benefit, but it was recorded that you and I might not falter in the same fashion. Let us be strong in faith, grounded in the Scriptures and in the hope of heaven.

—Pastor Larry

**NEWS FROM OUR SPIRITUAL WARRIORS WITH HELEN KING, DIRECTOR**

***LIVE LIKE YOU WERE DYING***

I have always been intrigued by the song sung by Tim McGraw and written by Tim Nichols and Craig Wiseman, "Live Like You Were Dying." The writers have also written a small book with the same title that I keep on a table reminding me how I need to be living. The writers state, "May we live like we were dying. With passion and purpose and mission and meaning...and with a little wild abandon. With no forgiveness withheld and no anger held within."

The title or theme may invoke different reactions when people hear it. After giving it some thought, hopefully, it will provide inspiration for all of us to stop and take time to appreciate all the blessings in our lives no matter in what season we find ourselves—whether it may be something small or even a big dream that we have always had but never the courage to pursue it. This is not the fountain of youth, but it can keep you young at heart. There is no guarantee that it will add time to your life, but it will make your life better.

Maybe, we need to just tell someone something that we've thought, but have failed to voice. It may just be a simple, "I love you." The writers make some other suggestions:

- Tell a little girl with no front teeth that she is beautiful. ~ Be a big tipper. It feels good.**
- Ask an older person to tell you about the "good old days." ~ Don't fight tears. Let them win.**
- Just listen to a friend who needs to talk. ~ Give away something you have held dear.**
- Remind your friends that they are the best. ~ Remind your family that they are your lifeline.**
- And sometimes, don't say anything at all.**

I'm going to add two more. Just be there for somebody who needs someone, and volunteer at least one day at the GPS center!!

Probably what most people think about first when they hear "Live like you were dying" is getting everything in order in case they do die. We are told that over one-half of Americans do not have a current will. Wow! The ramifications of this on those who are left behind plus taxes and fees are immeasurable.

The Baptist Foundation of South Carolina is here to help with "layman friendly" estate planning information that can enable you to protect your family and be a wise steward of the assets that God has entrusted to you to use for His glory while here on earth. Rev. Lonnie Shull from the foundation will be our guest speaker at the next Spiritual Warriors luncheon. Come for some helpful information and bring any questions you may have.

See you there, and in the meantime, experience a little abandonment and try something that you haven't tried before. Let it be fun!

Helen

**Spiritual Warriors Luncheon ~ Wednesday, March 2 ~ 11:30 AM**

**COMMUNITY FUN DAY! ~ MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup>**

**GASTON CIVIC CENTER ~ 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

**Have you wanted to be a part of something REALLY BIG for the Lord? Something that was fun and exciting and centered on God and family!**

**Then you will want to be a part of COMMUNITY FUN DAY! MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup>**

**We need volunteers... people to help set up and prepare.. people to serve food, people to hand out books and baby formula. We need donations to help cover the cost since EVERYTHING IS FREE for the community. We still need donations to give away as door prizes. There will be an addition of a Clothes Give-A-Way this year, so if you have clothes that you would like to donate, you can bring them to the church.**

**Please see Pastor Larry or Sherrell if you are willing to serve in any way!**

**We truly appreciate your prayers and time!!!!**



## WOMEN ON MISSION NEWS WITH MARGIE RISH & CINDY FURTICK, CO-DIRECTORS

**M**arch winds are blowing in and so are many mission projects and opportunities. Pray how God would have you be involved with all these projects.

I want to thank all those who participated in the WMU Missions Fair on Feb 23. It was a great success and many learned of the needs of the various people groups reached with various mission efforts.

The Girls in Action (GAs) received a letter regarding Camp LaVida and the various camp dates the second week of February. If your daughter is in GAs and you haven't received the camp information, please contact Margie Rish or one of the GA teachers. Registration fees will be due by **April 3, 2011** to make sure we get the dates you want.

The Season of Prayer for North American Missions (Annie Armstrong Easter Offering) is **March 6-13**. The church goal is \$3,500. Please be in prayer for all of our North American Missionaries and that our church goal will be met. The WMU Annual meeting is **March 11-12** in Greenville, SC.

We will be collecting items for Health Kits during March and April to send to the Lexington Baptist Association to be used in ministering to migrants, the homeless, etc. Place the following items in a 2-gallon Ziploc bag:

**1 toothbrush**  
**1 bar soap (4.5 oz)**

**1 toothpaste**  
**1 wash cloth**

**1 comb**  
**1 bath towel**

There will be a box in the Welcome Center to drop off items you wish to donate for this project or monetary donations will be accepted. The Association's goal is 2,000 health kits. Our church goal is 50. The kits are due by **April 22**. Please pray how you can help with this project.

Due to the many outreach activities during the month of March, there will not be a WOM home meeting.

Through the Lexington Baptist Associational Office there are several upcoming Prayer Walks, Mission Trips and Mission Partnership opportunities available to everyone. Ms. Linda Hite will be coordinating many of the Prayer Walking events. Please keep the following dates on your calendar and be in prayer for how you may wish to participate.

**Prayer Walking in Lexington, SC August 3; December 7, 2011**

**Prayer Walking in Atlanta, GA March 1 - 3; November 1-3, 2011**

**Prayer Walking in London, England May 4 - 11; July 7-14; October 6-13, 2011**

**Prayer Walking in Halifax, Nova Scotia April 1-7; June 2-8; September 2-8, 2011**

Many of these events are both Prayer Walking and Missions Trips. If you are interested in participating in any of these events, please contact Linda Hite or David Lee at the Lexington Baptist Association Office at (803) 356-2543.

**Coming in April** Cooperative Program Day; Health Kits due; GA Camp fees due **April 3**; Ball Park Ministry; and Associational Spring Meeting **April 4** just to name a few.

As always thank you for your support with all our mission projects and continue to be in prayer as to how you can become involved in missions.

Love in Christ, Margie Rish & Cindy Furtick

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### THE GLORY OF SPRING

**A** pastor looked out his study window and was smitten by the glory of spring bursting forth all around him. He recalled a story about a Jewish doctor freed from a Nazi concentration camp.

The doctor began walking along a country road and was captivated by the green meadows, the wildflowers, the singing birds. He felt touched by the Master Artist's work in nature. Indeed, the doctor was so moved that he knelt by the road in prayer. He decided that God was giving him a whole new life. He was becoming a healthy human being again, instead of a victim of horror and hate.

The pastor, remembering that story, praised God as he saw the earth blooming once again with indescribable beauty.

DISCIPLESHIP WITH DEBBIE SPIRES, DIRECTOR

DISCIPLESHIP

Sundays at Six

IGNITE or RE-IGNITE

"It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing;
That's how it is with God's Love,
Once you've experienced it,
You spread the love to everyone
You want to pass it on.



Kurt Kaiser wrote the above song in 1969. It was very popular in the 70's, and the words of the song are factual. It does only take a spark to get a fire going. In an instant, that same fire can be put out by unkind or discouraging words. We can all help Gaston First Baptist be known for igniting flames of hope through spreading God's love.

As FUN DAY and March Revival approach, we have the opportunity, with God's help, to ignite fires in the hearts of lost community members; and to re-ignite smoldering flames in the hearts of struggling Christians. Although God uniquely designs each of us with special gifts and abilities, that does not prevent us from learning new tasks if needed. Most service opportunities for FUN DAY only require a heart willing to serve. Christian discipleship is more than studying God's word; it is also applying what you have learned. Application results in ministry to our community as well as our home and church. If you have personally experienced God's love, you will want to PASS IT ON!

MUSIC NOTES WITH SHERRELL OTT, WORSHIP LEADER

March Music Notes...

Send a great revival in my soul(in my soul)
Send a great revival in my soul(in my soul)
Let the Holy Spirit come and take control
And send a great revival in my soul
B.B. McKinney

As we approach our Spring Revival, may we all pray this song... We can't expect revival to come just because we have it on our calendar... Revival must begin in us... and spill out over us!

Pray for Revival and the special emphasis each service.

Sunday Evening - Family and Children / Monday Night - Pack-a-Pew
Tuesday Night - Friend and Neighbor / Wednesday Night - Youth

Looking forward to God's blessings!!!

Joyfully Serving, Sherrell Ott

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Cottage Prayer Meetings

(Two will be going on in different areas so choose the most convenient location for you)

Tuesday - March 22 - 7:00 PM

Heyward and Carolyn Kelly
Allen and Sherrell Ott

Thursday - March 24 - 7:00 PM

Terry and Sandra Pound
Ed and Kay Joseph

## Jesus and Nicodemus (and Daniel, and Savannah, and Jaden)

The most widely known verse in the Bible is John 3:16, which most Christians and many non-Christians can quote from the King James. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”; or from the New International “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” My Bible drill class (Daniel, Savannah, and Jaden) complain when I tell them that is not the version we are learning and their quotation response is incorrect. “I can’t learn it the other way” is their response. “Yes you can”, I tell them, “If I can you can.” “It doesn’t sound the same.” they counter.

The verse they are learning comes from the HCSB: “For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.” The HCSB is a translation commissioned by the Southern Baptist Convention and Holman Publishing with a goal of improving upon the NIV. But why would the translators abandon the traditional translation of the most widely known Bible verse, in favor of what amounts to an equation?

Well the answer is that the context and the Greek demanded that the translation not imply that God felt love for the world, but that His love was an action. Jesus is explaining and expanding on the idea that to receive eternal life a rebirth must occur with the individual’s spirit and that in order for that rebirth to occur a price must be paid.

This idea ran contrary to what Nicodemus believed as a Pharisee. Pharisees believed that everyone who observed the laws and traditions of Moses would be saved. In other words if they kept the Ten Commandments (and the other 500+ laws) and were good people they would be saved. This is still the dominate belief among most people in the world, the majority of which would not know what a Pharisee is. Their belief is “Lead a good life...and hope that it pleases God”.

Perhaps if the world understood that God’s love is not a feeling that clouds His judgment, but that His love is a part of Him and results in action that provides redemption for believers, there would be less reliance on ‘good works’.

So, Daniel, Savannah, and Jaden understand that God loved enough to give His One and Only Son for you and it is good to learn that by memorizing the correct verse.

See you in Bible Study, and Sunday School.

ED

# KIDS

# KIDS

# KIDS

## Forgiveness BRACELET

Jesus died on the cross to forgive our sins, and he tells us to forgive other people, too. Make and wear this craft as a reminder that you are forgiven — and should be forgiving.

### What you need:

- Clear plastic bottle (about 16 oz.)
- An adult to help
- Scissors
- Construction paper
- Permanent black marker
- Glue or clear tape
- Thin ribbon or yarn
- Small hole punch

### What you do:

1. Remove any label from the bottle. Have an adult help you cut the bottle in half, width-wise. At the middle, cut out two identical half-inch-wide strips.
2. Cut out paper the same size as the plastic strips.
3. On the paper, write “Forgive, and you will be forgiven” (Luke 6:37, NIV).
4. Place the paper between the two plastic strips.
5. Cut and glue the ribbon or yarn to run along the top and bottom of the verse, framing the words.
6. Punch a hole at each end, through all three layers.
7. Tie the bracelet to your wrist with ribbon or yarn.





# March 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Hortense Watts	2  <u>Spiritual Warriors Luncheon</u>	3	4 Natalie Harrison Bailey Speares Richard Tackett ♥Kenny & Pam Saunders	5 Sherry Goodwin Richard Shuler
6 Jessica Vest	7 Aaron Aycock	8 Chris Gates Allison Sanford Beth Wilson Spires	9 Janice Boldt Lisa Lowrey Patricia Watts	10 Krisstopher Hall Carolyn Kelly	11 Rachel Brewster	12
13 Brittany Brant Jim St.Clair Chris Vidrine Ben Whitaker Christine Williamson ♥Thomas & Cynthia Furtick  <u>Daylight-Savings Time Begins</u>	14 Matthew Barker Victoria Delatorre Suzanne Gregory Jimmy Pound Kathy Sturkie Allison Willard	15 Christopher Hatfield Lynn Madden  <u>Deacon Meeting</u>	16 Taylor Whitaker Melba Williams  <u>Conference Prayer Service</u> <u>News Articles Due</u>	17 Amiee J. Anderson Scott Clayton Donnie Dowd Carolyn Meetze Donald Pound	18 Hoyt Dowd Sam Hart Walker Spires Amber Vella	19 James Barwick Kayla Greene Frank Mack Dodger Williams  <u>Community Family Fun Day</u>
20 Marsha Adkins Ted Boldt Patricia Gregory Jeannie Harley Bryan Knight Kathy Robinett  <u>Spring Begins</u>	21 Mark Dowd Zachery Edwards Jo Ann Frownfelter ♥Charles & Beatrice Bryant	22 Don Brodt Pam Campbell Wendy Fickling Susan Spires Amanda Ussary Travis Ussary	23 Irma Baden Karen Griffin	24 Glenn Toole	25 Brantley Cope Sharon Marks ♥Hasford & Lou Ella Ott	26 Mary Ann Belford Johnny Dowd Tonya Goodwin Deborah Martin
27 Helga Carson Joshua Edwards ♥Michael & Wendy Redding	28 Eric Koller Lindsey Sightler	29 Donald Hilderbrand Andrew Sightler	30 Alex Bennett Carrie Knight Jeanette Lee Mary Moore Elizabeth Williams	31 ♥Gary & Marsha Adkins		
Revival Services March 27 - 30						



Revival Guest Speaker  
Sunday & Monday  
March 27 & 28  
Evangelist Scott Eadie from  
Ridgeville SC



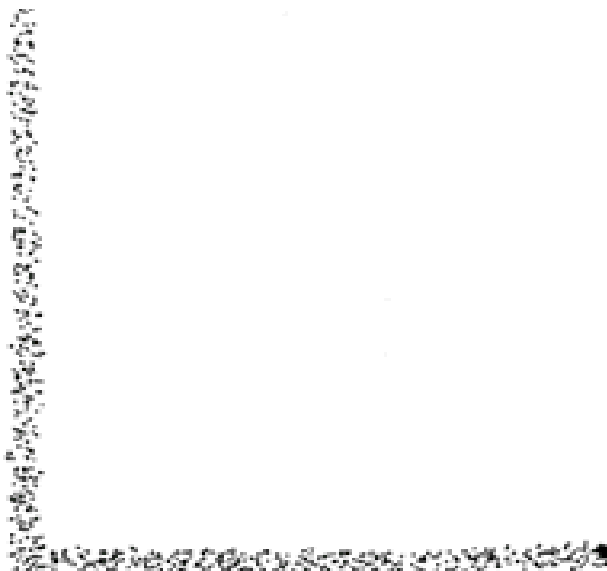
Revival Guest Speaker  
Tuesday & Wednesday  
March 29 & 30  
Dr. Phil Hoskings  
Higher Ground Baptist Church  
Kingsport, Tennessee

**First Baptist Church, Gaston**

P.O. Box 309  
 121 Oakey Springs Road  
 Gaston, SC 29053  
 Phone: 803 794-0377  
 Fax: 803 791-4275  
 Email: fbcg003@bellsouth.net  
 www.firstbaptistgaston.org

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**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GASTON WELCOMES YOU!!**

***"THE CARING PLACE"***

We are here to minister to you and your loved ones and to help strengthen your faith in the LORD JESUS CHRIST. If you are not currently attending a church, we invite you to join us. See our weekly schedule to the left of page.

***Weekly Schedule***

**Sunday**  
 9:45am.....Sunday School  
 11:00am.....Worship  
 11:00am..Children's Worship  
 6:00pm.....Adult Choir  
 6:00pm.....Discipleship  
 7:00pm.....Worship  
**Monday**  
 3:00pm....Ladies' & Men's  
 Prayer Time  
**Wednesday**  
 6:00 PM Joyful Noise, Jr &  
 Youth Choir practice  
 7:00pm. ....Prayer Service  
 7:00pm.....GA, RA &  
 Mission Friends Meetings

**Monthly Meetings:**

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday all mission  
 groups meet 7:00PM  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Conference/  
 Prayer Service 7:00PM  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday Women on  
 Mission Home Meeting 6:15  
 Last Tuesday Deacons Meet



Just before the Last Supper (John 13), Jesus took off his outer robe, poured water into a basin and began washing his disciples' feet. One disciple, however, protested having the

Lord wash his feet. Jesus told the reluctant man that unless he allowed Jesus to wash his feet, he really had no share in Christ's leadership. The disciple then relented. He said Jesus could wash not only his feet but his hands and head, as well. Choose the name of this disciple from the list below:

- (A) Peter (B) John (C) Andrew (D) Judas

Answer: A (See John 13:1-9)



*ENGESSE*  
 "You're right. Man does not live on bread alone. My mom and dad use credit cards."