



# INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 2011

After the last few, cold months, it is a welcome sight to see the cherry trees blossom and the temperature rise. I am looking forward to the month of April as it brings with it new life and the beginning of spring.

The past ten days, I was able to take a trip to Israel with our high school seniors and some other people from Independent Baptist Church (IBC). We traveled with Pastor Kurt Skelly and a group from his church, Harvest Baptist Church, up in Pittsburgh, PA. God gave us a very rewarding time of discovery. We began our journey in Tel Aviv and were able to spend some time in the old city of Joppa. We continued to Beer-sheba after stopping at the valley of Elah, where David and Goliath fought. We spent the first night at the Dead Sea. The following day, we traveled to the Jordan Valley and were able to take a break at one of my favorite places, En Gedi.

En Gedi is the place where David ran when he was fleeing Saul. While there, he came upon Saul resting in one of the caves and saw his opportunity to bring harm to the man that was seeking to kill him! However, David realized that it would be wrong to take the life of God's anointed so instead, he cut off a part of the hem from his cape and left without touching him further. Af-

ter Saul awakened and was a safe distance away, David made his presence known and showed Saul the piece of material he had removed from his garment. Saul's conscience was smitten when he realized that David had had an opportunity to take his life, but hadn't. Saul respectfully left David there in safety and solitude. It was a blessing to me to be able to spend time there reflecting on how the hand of God was upon David throughout his life.

We traveled from Mount Hermon and the Sea of Galilee to Dan, Caesarea Philippi, and we spent the last three days of our trip touring Jerusalem. We were able to have our Sunday morning service at the Garden of Gethsemane, and we closed out our tour at Golgotha. There, we had some quiet time and a time of preaching and reflection at the Garden Tomb. The whole experience truly brings the Scriptures to life, and I am struck once again with wonder of my risen Savior and the absolute truth of the Word of God.

I would like to extend a sincere "thank you" to my brother, Pat Creed, Jr., and the faithful members here, Rick Dove, Mark Bohac, and David Febo who filled the pulpit for me while I was gone. I heard each message was a blessing and very well received. I am thankful I can completely be at ease while I

am away with the knowledge that everything will run smoothly here. I appreciate all of you!

As we look forward to April, stay in God's Word and spend time with Him each day. The more time we spend with Him, the more He shines through us and we are a better light, to those around us. Never forget that the purpose of IBC is to reach out to the community around us and see people come to a personal relationship with God, be baptized and discipled and determine to live their lives for the Lord Jesus Christ. Let's begin April with an increased fervor to be a light to those around us.

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# YOUNG AT HEART

by: Rick Dove

Young at Heart will be taking a trip to Williamsburg, VA on April 8, 2011.

We will be leaving around 8:00AM and returning around 7:00PM.

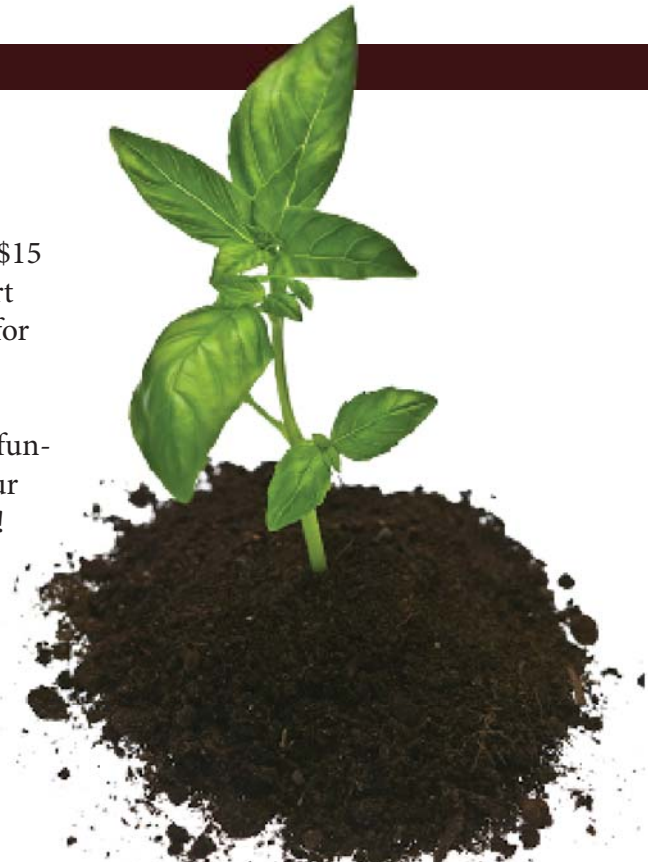
We will be shopping and then stopping at Lowry's Restaurant in Tappahannock, VA for supper. You will enjoy the talking bird, old cars as well as the

good food. Cost for the trip is \$15 for the trip. Lowry's meals start around \$15 for chicken to \$29 for crab legs.



Don't miss out on this fun-filled evening with your Young at Heart family!

See you then!



## JUST A THOUGHT

by: Valerie Creed



*And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; Psalm 1:3a*

Spring is here! What a wonderful time of renewing. Winter is a trying season, but the wonders are there if you look close enough. The wonders change in the birth of spring taking on another form. All are in the constant control of a loving Creator who fulfills His purpose in each season. There are organisms that live in these drastically changing seasons. How do they survive? Each organism has an optimal range of survival thriving best within this range. When the environment fluctuates beyond this optimal range, sometimes the organism enters a period of dormancy to survive. Some trees, for example, enter dormancy in winter appearing dead yet still needing nourishment and sunlight. This is a fruitless time in the lives of these trees. Inwardly they are alive and

well; but outwardly, they are seen as wasting away. As a Christian, I must realize I am living in this season-cycle of life. When I feel fruitless and useless, I still must feed on God's Word and bask in the sunlight of His love. His life within me holds me close and warms me during this dormancy period. He will not let my environment exceed my limit of tolerance as I submit to His will. Dormancy is only a season of life that will blossom forth into a beautiful springtime. Accept His cycle of seasons in your life; and remember, the wonders are there if you look close enough.

**Accept His cycle of seasons in your life**

APRIL 2011

## REFORMERS UNANIMOUS

by: Jerry Skinner

Thank the Lord for Reformers Unanimous! It is so good to see the Lord working in the lives of people. In the past month, we have had many newcomers and several salvations as a result.

It is always exciting to see God not only save a soul from hell, but also change him completely. We had a man come to the program lost and in lots of trouble. He had all but lost his family and was out of employment and without anywhere or anyone to turn. This was the result of a drinking addiction. God gloriously saved him a week before coming to the meetings. Rich Young of Patuxent Baptist Church pointed him to the program, and it has been wonderful for him ever since. He has been clean now for

five weeks and has gone through court without any jail time. He was facing serious time as he is a repeat offender. He has been faithful to church every time the doors are open and has watched the Lord bring his family back to him with full support and love he used to know before he allowed himself to be crippled by alcohol. He is working in his challenge book and gives testimony of all that God is doing in his life. Pray for him! Pray God would continue to work in his life and he would continue to see victories.

There are numerous stories like this one as well as stories of failure. People need the Lord. We have the tools at R.U. to be a help to a lost and dying world that is crippled by addictions. Can God use you to simply serve along with us?

inmates raised their hands for salvation. Inmates were encouraged to read their Bibles and pray and attend chapel services.

### *Boys' Village:*

At Boys' Village in March, they ministered to seventy-eight young teenage boys and saw fifteen salvations.

### *Prince George's County Correctional Facility:*

In P. G. Jail, Mr. Ferguson showed twenty-one Christian films to one hundred and eighty-five inmates. He also passed out fifty-seven Bible lessons. Our Bible graders graded over sixty lessons for the month of March. The ladies taught a lesson on "How not to Be a Castaway." They prayed with an inmate after the study who was hoping to be released the next day.

Please pray for the jail ministry; for more workers, the needs of the inmates, and salvation for the lost.

## JAIL MINISTRY

by: Carlton White

*Revelation 12:11*

*And they overcame him by the blood of the lamb and the word of their testimony; and they love not their lives unto death.*

It is time for us to make a choice to take a stand for God. The saints of blood have laid out the example of a surrendered life, but it is all in vain if we don't make a choice to stand for God and serve others faithfully.

Greetings from the Jail Ministry. It is exciting to see all the Lord has done this month. Here is a summary of D. C. Correctional Facility and Prince George's County Correctional Facility.

### *D. C. Correctional Facility:*

Inmates attended 10:30 AM church service. Church service focused on Jeremiah 1:5. Inmate participation in the service included singing and testimony. Volunteers prayed with several inmates at the end of service. One was a twenty-year-old young man who was charged with murder. Three

## TEEN TRUTHS

by: James Stroud

It was a cool, spring-like day when the disciples, huddled together in fear, were given the news that He had risen from the dead. Mary was the first to see the empty tomb. Peter and John ran to see this marvelous sight. Could it be true that He was truly alive? All their hopes and dreams were shattered that day on lonely Golgotha's hill. They did not realize Jesus was longing to make an eternal difference in their lives. As they met, Jesus' presence of peace and love filled the room. His commission was to tell the world of a new beginning; a new life to be had by all those who trusted Him as their Savior. Now it was their mission to tell others of what they had seen and experienced.

Have you met this wonderful Savior? As the spring dawns on us once again, we are reminded we too have this wonderful opportunity to be involved with the greatest mission ever given to mortal man. Are you sharing the gospel with a lonely, hopeless and fearful world around you? Have you trusted Christ as your Savior? Take this moment to commit your life to His call of service and share the wonderful news of a risen Savior with all those around you.

April 16 – Tract distribution with Colonial Beach Baptist Church

May 2, 3– Bible Display on the Mall

June 20-24 -TEEN CAMP

Make these a part of your schedule and be a blessing to others with your service.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Young at Heart Trip to Williamsburg, VA  
April 8

Young at Heart Meal  
April 10

Deaf Spring Picnic  
April 16

Clinton Rehab Easter Service  
April 16

Young at Heart Fellowship  
April 22

Easter Musical  
April 24

Bradford Oaks Easter Service  
April 28

Jail Banquet  
April 30

*Special Announcement*  
*Mother\Daughter\Friend Banquet*  
*May 14*



**INDEPENDENT**  
**BAPTIST CHURCH**  
P O BOX 2067 COLLEGE PARK MD 20742