



# INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 2012

Praise the Lord for what He has done! God gave us a fantastic year in 2011, and it was truly one of the greatest years we have had at Independent Baptist Church.

The spirit among the church members has been one of unification. It was wonderful to see so many people step up and serve with a joyful heart throughout the year. I appreciate everyone's involvement in "Simply Serving" the Lord. It was also encouraging to see our young folks grow in their service. Several are involved in the choir and have performed in the musicals. Let us continue to have a servant's heart for the New Year.

The theme for 2012 is "Founded on the Rock" which is found in Matthew 7:25, "And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the

winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock." This year we will be focusing on foundational truths from the Bible. Each week will bring messages we can use to build a stronger foundation in our Christian lives. With a calendar full of events, let us make Christ the focus this year. I want to thank everyone at Independent Baptist for caring for me and my family. Thank you for "Simply Serving" in 2011!

I am excited about what God has done at Independent Baptist Church in the area of missions. Having a major thrust for world-wide evangelism is a great way to begin 2012.

*"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost*

*part of the earth"* (Acts 1:8).

Our theme for this year's conference is "Called." Not only as a church, but as individuals, we are "called" to carry the Gospel from our Jerusalem (Clinton, Maryland) to the rest of the world. The emphasis will be placed on the individual's responsibility to carry out the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:18-20. I hope you will take a reflective look at what you are doing in missions, not just as a church responsibility, but as a personal responsibility.

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## YOUNG AT HEART

By: Rick Dove

Psalm 90:12, "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." I think of this verse and realize God was not saying we need to make sure how old we are, but we need to realize God gives us every day. We must live it to the fullest for His glory and honor. If we live to be a hundred years old, it is very short compared to eternity. Whose wisdom will you apply your heart to know? Will you apply your heart to know worldly wisdom or godly wis-

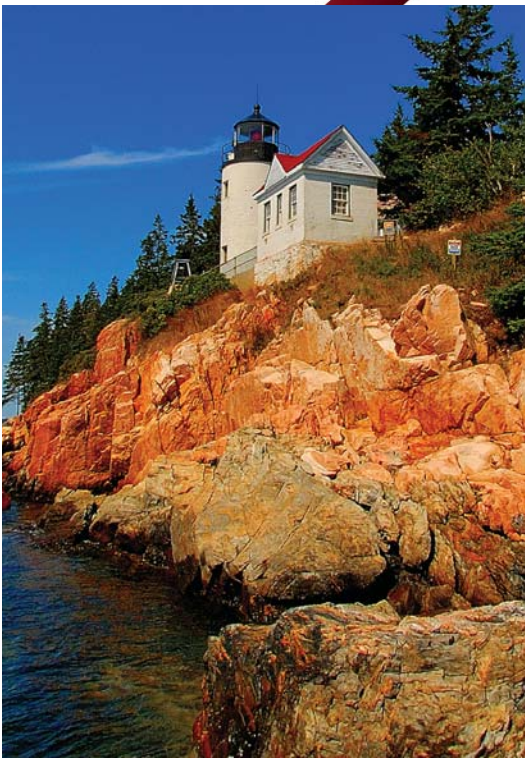
dom? We do not have a long time left here, so let us start every day in His Word and strive to add godly wisdom into our everyday lives. We must also strive to spend some time in prayer to Him. Maybe you could call a friend and share what you received from God's Word. Then you could ask if they have anything you could pray with them about. May you start this year off right applying your heart to know true wisdom. Make it your goal to do this every day this year.

With winter here and darkness coming earlier in the evening, I know some of you will need a ride. Please let me know if I can help you get to church in the evenings.

We are planning a trip to Sight and Sound to see "Jonah" in April so begin saving for this trip. We are looking to go for two days and stay in a motel.

## JUST A THOUGHT

By: Valerie Creed



*Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.*

*Matthew 7:24-25*

I am founded upon a rock; I have security in my storm. How many times has a fearful soul desired that comfort in his brewing storm? A lighthouse resembling an iron skeleton once stood far out at sea about eight miles east of Boston, Massachusetts. Its name was the Minots Ledge. The keepers inside this lighthouse always trembled when a stormy tem-

pest swept their way and swayed their seventy-five foot home. Many keepers quickly abandoned their post in fear for their lives. A lone bottle was found near this spot bobbing in the aftermath of a recent hurricane. Words of anguish leapt off the marred slip of paper pulled from its glass encasement. "The lighthouse won't stand over the night. She shakes two feet each way now." These were the last words of Joseph Wilson, the assistant lighthouse keeper at Minots Ledge, who was swept away in the storm. Reality will tell if you are founded upon the Rock. We are not promised a life without storms, but we are promised a Rock to rest upon until it is over. How secure are you?

## KID CONNECTION

By: Michael Morgan



When it comes to reaching children, D.L. Moody put it this way, “If I could relive my life, I would devote my entire ministry to reaching children for God!” Wow, what a statement! At Kid Connection we strive to do the same by “connecting kids with Jesus Christ.” Our goal is to see kids grow spiritually and to reach other children for Christ. Let’s look at an example of the greatest children’s teacher, the Lord Jesus Christ. The disciples openly rebuked those who brought children to see Jesus, perhaps thinking He was too busy

with “bigger” tasks; what an incorrect perception! What is Jesus’ response to His disciples regarding ministering to kids? Matthew 19:14...”Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” Let’s not lose focus on the “little” areas of ministry when eternity is in the forefront.

If you would like to be a part of Kid Connection, please see myself or contact the church office.

## FAITH PROMISE DEFINED

Faith promises are usually made during a missions’ conference, a missions’ month, or a special missions’ Sunday. The Faith Promise Commitment cards are given to every person with the hope he has been asking God to show him the amount He would have him give to world missions each week during the coming year.

- (1) It is important to understand this offering is a world mission offering that is to be given by faith. It is not based on what you have to give now or might have to give in the future. This offering is based upon faith in the Lord of the world harvest—Jesus Christ. Every person should ask Him to increase his faith as he makes this commitment.
- (2) It is a world mission offering that is made as a promise to God. No one will ask for it. This promise is a personal mission goal God has set.
- (3) It is a world mission offering that is given in addition to regular tithes and offerings. A tithe is understood as one-tenth of your income. This belongs to God and is placed in your local church.
- (4) It is a world mission offering that enables every member and friend of the church to have a meaningful financial part in fulfilling the Great Commission. What a great opportunity and privilege!
- (5) It is a world mission offering that is given to others. It is an “others’ offering” that is given to those outside the local ministry of the church. Christianity in its truest Biblical form is always others.

## TEEN TRUTHS

By: James Stroud

Matthew chapter one gives us the family tree of our Lord Jesus. I find an oddity though in verse two. The Bible says that Isaac begat Jacob. This is odd because Esau was the first-born. Esau, you remember, sold his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of Wendy’s chili. What a sobering truth to realize when decisions are small to us, they are of great importance to God. Teen, reconsider the importance of the thing you think is just a small thing causing you to argue with your parents, or causing you to fuss because of some teacher’s assignment, or causing you to stew because you just don’t think it is fair. These may have consequences down the road of your life. The Bible says do not despise the little things. May 2012 be the year we decide to make each order given a royal command, and we perform each duty as if it were the biggest thing in our lives. Yes, he was hungry, tired, and cared little for spiritual things; but Esau missed out on being part of something bigger than him. The next time you sit down and have a bowl of chili or a morsel of food, remember how important those little things can be.

Remember, Snow Camp is just around the corner; January 23-26. It may be a little thing to you, but to God it may be the biggest thing in YOUR life.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Mission's Conference**  
**January 8-15**

**Men's Meal**  
**January 10, 5:30 PM**

**Ladies' Meal**  
**January 12, 5:30 PM**

**Church Wide Meal**  
**January 13, 5:30 PM**

**International Banquet**  
**January 15**

**Teen Snow Camp**  
**January 23-27**



**INDEPENDENT**  
**BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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