



INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH 2011

February has quickly passed, and I am encouraged at the continued emphasis I am seeing in Independent Baptist Church (IBC) members to *Simply Serve*. I would be remiss if I did not take the time to recognize your hard work and dedication to serving the Lord. Thank you! I also appreciate your faithfulness in giving. It is exciting to watch the missions' commitments begin to be fulfilled as we work toward our goal of \$403,000.00.

March is here and it is full of great events. I am personally looking forward to traveling to Israel with our high school seniors and a few others for ten days (March 13 – 23). Each year I learn more and return with a greater appreciation and understanding for my Bible.

I would like to leave you with a thought from my recent Bible study in 2 Chronicles. When Asa became king of Israel after his father, Abijah, passed away, he started out his reign well. The Bible says in chapter 14 that Asa did that which was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God. He broke down the pagan altars and destroyed the idols of the strange gods. He sought the Lord and commanded Judah to seek the Lord God of their fathers. Judah prospered in spite of moments of battle and general

unrest. In chapter 16, we find him in the 36th year of his reign and Judah is being attacked again. Instead of running to God, Asa resorted to his own plans to try and trick his way out of his trouble. His plan was unsuccessful. God sent His man, Hanani, to speak to Asa. He said, *Because thou hast relied on the king of Syria, and not relied on the Lord thy God, therefore is the host of the king of Syria escaped out of thine hand.* He reminded Asa that in the past God had helped them win against much stronger enemies. In verse 9, Hanani instructs Asa, *For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.* Asa became angry at Hanani and imprisoned him for delivering God's message. Asa's disobedience left him with a painful foot disease until his disease was exceeding great. What I find so sad is even in his pain, he sought not the Lord, but to the physicians. Like Hanani reminded Asa, we need to remember that our goal each day should be to spend time with God and go through our day with a heart is perfect toward God. A lot of times when we come upon difficulties in our lives, our first impulse is to run to our friends or family for help. If we spend time cultivating that perfect heart toward God, we might be

surprised how our first impulse is to run to God with our problems. He always has the best answers, and He will never fail us. God often uses people to accomplish His will as is often true in sickness when He uses doctors. The problem with Asa's choice of help was that he refused to seek God first.

I would like to encourage each and every one of you to determine to cultivate a perfect heart toward God this month. Spend time with Him. The more time we spend with Him, the more He shows through our thoughts, words and actions. What a testimony we can be to our family, friends and coworkers if our lives mirror the mind of Christ!

Please keep IBC and each of its ministries in prayer. Be faithful to the services and activities and ask God to grow you to be more like Him in March!



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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.

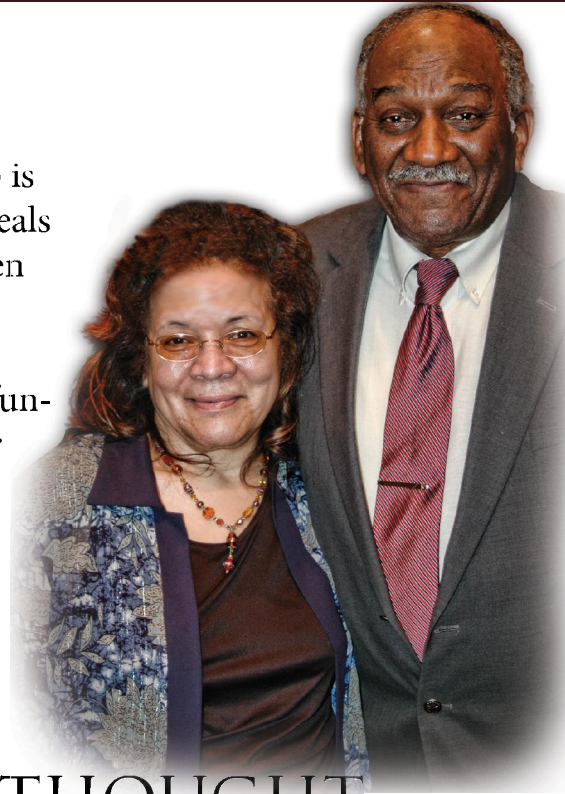
We will be shopping and then stopping at Lowry's Restaurant in Tappahannock, VA for supper. You will enjoy the talking bird, old cars as well as the



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

To be a happy Christian, you must have a spiritual homeostatic equilibrium. This is a steady state of maintaining your optimal point or point of finest functioning for the Lord. If a muscle cell in your body is exposed to temperatures above or below your optimal point for physical performance (98.6 F), you shiver to bring your temperature up or perspire to bring it down. In the Christian life, sometimes our equilibrium is off balance with a cold heart toward the things of God. God turns up the heat through trials to bring us back to our best optimal point of functioning for Him. When we are too zealous and jump ahead of His will, He might have to cool us down so we can be still and know that He is God. It is all in our best interest. Sometimes

we still do not submit to this care and enter a range of tolerance. This range of tolerance is when an organism remains alive but is not functioning properly. The farther from the optimal range the living organism is, the more poorly it functions. The limit of tolerance will soon be reached if the direction is not changed. This limit of tolerance ends in death. If you are a child of God, your soul will live forever with Him; but stretching God's mercy to your limit of tolerance may end in a death of a testimony for the Lord. Your spiritual homeostasis is at the top of God's priority list for you. You must abide in God's Word and listen to His Spirit. I want to be at the point of finest functioning for my Lord. How about you?

Your spiritual homeostasis is at the top of God's priority list



A just weight and balance are the LORD'S: all the weights of the bag are his work. Proverbs 16:11

MARCH 2011



FRENCH SCRIPTURE COLLATION

Bearing Precious Seed will be coming and we will be helping them to put scriptures together starting Monday, March 28 at Noon. On Monday, we will have an afternoon and evening shift, and then on Tuesday, we will have a morning, afternoon and evening shift. We will need at least twenty-five people on each shift for us to accomplish this task. We are collating fifteen thousand scriptures in French to going West Af-

rica. Bearing Precious Seed's goal is two hundred and fifty thousand scriptures. We are also raising the money to pay for them which is \$1,800. Please use envelopes in the pews and mark it French scriptures. Please make plans to be available these days. If you know you will be able to be here, please email or call the church .

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JAIL MINISTRY

By: Carlton White

When we go into the jails, every inmate is stalked by an enemy more powerful than a hungry lion. This enemy is lurking in the tall grass, and we as Christians have been warned. "...your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion walketh about seeking whom he may devour" (I Peter 5:8). One powerfully loaded verse shines the light of truth on our enemy. Satan is our adversary; a word defined as an opponent in a lawsuit. God's Word warns us, "Be sober, Be vigilant!!". Wake up and watch! The enemy is laying low in the long grass biding time. Satan wants to destroy us.

DC Youth Detention

This month as the sermon was preached, the inmates were challenged to consider their life choices. Four juveniles attended who were all seniors in a local high school. Two of them had strong Biblical understanding of sin. All confessed they were saved and attended a local church. They each agreed their choices and circle of influence must change. I left them with some material from the RU ministry, encourag-

ing them to study Scripture together daily, and to stay away from bad influences.

Prince Georges Correctional Facility

Last month, we visited the jail on Valentine's Day - a Bible lesson was given to the ladies concerning "God's Love". We taught from I Corinthians 13:1-13. The ladies were challenged to see that:

1. It is a loving heart, not tongue, that is acceptable with God.
2. Showing great faith is empty without love.

We shared several Scriptures with these ladies. The inmates participated with singing songs and reading of the Scriptures. They all professed to having accepted Christ, however, we still explained God's plan for salvation and offered an invitation to receive Christ as personal Savior.

The little boy was sent out that day with a little lunch. Little did he know that day how famous he would be. Jesus came by his way that day and made a difference in his life. When Jesus was looking for someone to fill a need, that boy had exactly what Jesus needed. No, it was not the five loaves and two fishes, it was his willing heart. We get our eyes on the small things of life and hang onto them as if they are so precious. All God needs to do His work is someone who says 'yes' to His will and then allows Him to show His mighty hand in his life. What a great example to us, that when the Lord comes by our way, we need to give Him what we have and let Him do the work. Put away all the excuses of why it can't be done, and see Him do it.

Don't forget to pray for our seniors who will be traveling with Pastor to Israel at the end of March. Two events are coming soon: IBA graduation and Teen camp.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Master Clubs Teddy Bear Tea Party
March 5

Young at Heart Meal
March 13

Israel Trip
March 13 - 23

Spring Break
March 21-25

College & Career Game Night
March 26

Missions Sunday
March 27

French Bible Assembling
March 28 - 30



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