

INDEPENDENT  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH



# INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

MAY 2011

As we enter the summer months, I know the heart of God for our church is to focus on the lost in the world. Through the winter months, it seems people hurry to get from their work to the car, from their car to the house and not much connection is made to the people who live around them. The warm weather is conducive to people spending time outdoors, and often this gives us the perfect opportunity to reach out to our neighbors. Perhaps you will see them while mowing your lawn, or while playing in the backyard with your dog. At this time, why not invite them over for a cookout? I know it is always easier, though, to do the quick, "Hey, how are you?" wave, smile, and go on your busy way. The heart of Jesus doesn't brush over opportunities to witness and build a relationship. The heart of Jesus would stop, strike up a conversation and search for ways to be a help, encouragement and witness. Jesus made the statement, "I must be about My Father's business." We know from reading His Word, His Father's business was that of witnessing to the lost and caring for their needs. What is our highest priority? Recently, I read an illustration that spoke to me in the area of witnessing.

The Meanest Thief in Minneapolis I was preaching one hot summer night in Minneapolis. The room was packed, mostly with men. The windows had been taken out of the cases to get a little additional fresh air. When I gave out the invitation, a man arose by one of these windows near a door. As soon as I pronounced the benediction, he shot through the door, not waiting

for the after-meeting. I forgot all about the after-meeting and saw only that man. I do not know to this day what became of the after-meeting. I reached him just as he was about to go down the stairway. I laid my hand on his shoulder and said, "My friend, you stood up tonight to say you wished to become a Christian."

"Yes."

"Why did you not stay to the after-meeting?"

"It is no use."

"God loves you," I said.

"You don't know who you are talking to," he replied, "I am the meanest thief in Minneapolis."

"Well," I said, "if you are the meanest thief in Minneapolis, I can prove God loves you," and I opened my Bible to Romans 5:8, "But God commendeth His love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." "Now," I said, "if you are the meanest thief in Minneapolis, you are certainly a sinner, and this verse says God loves sinners."

It touched the man's heart and he went quietly with me to my office. "I was released from prison today," he said, "and started out tonight with three companions to commit one of the most daring burglaries that was ever committed in Minneapolis. By tomorrow morning, I would either have had a pile of money, or a bullet in my body. I passed by the corner and heard your open air meeting. A Scotchman was speaking. I am a Scotchman and my mother was Scotch. When I heard that Scotch tongue, it made me think of my mother. The other night in prison, I dreamed of my mother. I dreamed she came to me and besought me to give up the evil life I was leading.

When I heard that Scotchman speak, it brought it all back. I stopped and listened and my companions tried to pull me along but I would not go. They cursed me but still I stayed. When you gave out your invitation for your meeting in the hall, I followed you and listened to your sermon."

I explained to him the way of life and he accepted the Savior. We knelt side by side in prayer. He offered the most wonderful prayer I had ever heard in my life and went out of my office rejoicing in the knowledge of sins forgiven. A short time before, the meanest thief in Minneapolis, but now, a happy child of God! R.A. Torrey

This summer we have the opportunity to reach out to those in Clinton, Maryland and the surrounding areas with the gospel of Christ. We live in an extremely diverse area and you never know who God is going to bring across your path. Ask Him to guide your paths and give you the strength to witness and wisdom to recognize the opportunities He gives you.

Don't forget the exciting Sundays that are planned this month. Mother's Day is this coming week, May 8 and our second Missions Sunday of the year; May 22. I hope you will consider inviting your friends and neighbors.

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# IBA/IBBC GRADUATION

by: Rick Dove

Graduation is on Thursday, May 12, at 7:00 PM.

Please make plans to be with us as we stop and recognize our graduates this year. We have six academy graduates and one graduate from the college who is receiving his Bachelors of Theology Degree. Pastor King



from Granite Baptist Church in Glen Burnie, Maryland will be our speaker. Graduation is always a fun time to encourage our graduates as they complete one era of their lives and take a new step into their future. I do not know if you recall your graduation, but I re-

member the relief I felt to have completed that part of my life. Then came the anticipation of the future and all God would want to do through me. It was a move into the unknown of tomorrow. You can be a blessing to our seniors in giving them an encouraging word to go on in their service.

## JUST A THOUGHT

By: Valerie Creed



I do not see anything useful in the stringy, straw-colored tassels that keep falling all over my home, filling our gutters, decorating our car, my hair, or anything else that gets in their way at this time of year. I heard, though, they are a very important part in the life-cycle of our

**The beauty or strength of the vessel matters not if God is the pilot.** cycle of eternal life. The beauty or strength of

many, oak trees towering above my home. Some have even dared to call these nuisances; flowers! They are actually a pollen-producing collection of floral stamens called catkins so I guess, technically, they really are flowers. The wind is the force of pollination for these flimsy tassels since no beauty or sweetness of their own entices the busy insects seeking color and nectar. As the wind sways the dancing oaks in my yard, I need to remind myself that God is at work continuing His cycle of life. What

a blessing to know God can take something so miniscule and turn it into a thing of usefulness. The Holy Spirit can be as the wind lifting, carrying, and directing a spiritual catkin who desires to deliver His life-giving Word to continue God's

the vessel matters not if God is the pilot. Those countless catkins do not seem to bother me as much now, for I see they are just fulfilling their purpose. As God's child, you have the treasure of the Gospel in your earthen vessel. The Spirit is ready to set you in motion. Buckle up, hang on, and enjoy the ride!

*For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

*But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.*

II Corinthians 4:6-7



## MEN'S CAMPOUT

Men, please mark your calendars for the Men's Campout that will be coming on August 11-13. We will be going to the Sassafras Natural Resource area in Kennedyville, Maryland. You do not want to miss this awesome time!

## TEEN TRUTHS

By: James Stroud

In our modern day culture, a strange occurrence is happening to our teens. Despite the goodness of God and the many blessings poured upon our land, we have a generation of young people whose lives are so out of touch with the Lord, they seek escape from their realities by being brutal to themselves. From suicide, self-mutilation, bulimia, anorexia and other forms of torture; teens are finding ways to deal with their battles using practices as old as the Bible. In I Kings 18:28, Elijah challenged the false teachers to prove their god. They resorted to self-mutilation to get its attention. Elijah mockingly demonstrates the futility of putting your faith in man-made forms of worship.

Today, we too have man-made forms of worship; having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof. Obeying rules without a relationship with God always leads to rebellion. We have raised a generation of teens who know the rules, but do not know the Creator of the rules. I have lived long enough to see many who have begun the faith journey only to be sidetracked by the lie that liberty means living without boundaries. They think you are a legalist if you practice holiness and purity. I don't follow standards to be saved. I follow standards because I am saved, not to get saved. I want to do those things that please the Lord. The closer I get to

Him, the more I want to add those things that honor Him and remove those things that offend Him.

Recently a famous Disney star, Demi Lovato, professed to cutting herself. There was an internal struggle which was revealed by the outward action of cutting herself. If she is not saved, it is no wonder she does this. She has no refuge. But a Christian teen doing these things, speaks of his or her poor relationship with God. It is about time we stop focusing on ourselves and give our concerns to God. Pour our lives into others and let Him heal our hearts. Don't give in to this crowd who want to steal your crown of purity.

No wonder the Bible says, a double minded man is unstable in all his ways. Seek the Lord and He will bring stability into your life. Before you allow these thoughts to take root in your life, hear Elijah as he speaks, "Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God."

Don't forget TEEN CAMP is just around the corner.

## GOD'S HELPERS

God could not be in every place  
With loving hands to help erase  
The teardrops from each baby's face,  
And so He thought of mother.

He could not send us here alone  
And leave us to a fate unknown;  
Without providing for His own,  
The outstretched arms of mother.

God could not watch us night and day  
And kneel beside our crib to pray,  
Or kiss our little aches away;  
And so He sent us mother.

And when our childhood days began,  
He simply could not take command.  
That's why He placed our tiny hand  
Securely into mother's.

The days of youth slipped quickly by,  
Life's sun rose higher in the sky.  
Full grown were we, yet ever nigh  
To love us still, was mother.

And when life's span of years shall end,  
I know that God will gladly send,  
To welcome home her child again,  
That ever-faithful mother.

-George W. Wiseman



# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Bradford Oaks Mother's Day**  
May 5

**Clinton Rehab Mother's Day**  
May 7

**Mother's Day**  
May 8

**Academy/College Graduation**  
May 12, 7:00 pm

**Mother/Daughter/Friend Banquet**  
May 14, 12:00 pm

**Music Recital**  
May 16, 4:00 pm

**Deaf Day**  
May 21, 10:00 am

**Baby Shower for Rebekah Morgan**  
May 21, 6:00 pm

**Missions Sunday**  
May 22

**Master Clubs Ice Cream Social**  
May 22, after the evening service

**Kindergarten Graduation**  
May 24, 10:30 pm

**Hispanic Bible Conference**  
May 25 - 29

**College & Career Trip to Hershey Park**  
May 28



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