
The Faithful Word

August 2004

“Let Jesus Fix It For You”

Edition 25

Join Us For Service

Sunday Services

Sunday School: 9:45 A.M.
Morning Worship: 11:15 A.M.
Pastoral Teaching: 6:00 P.M.
Evening Worship: 7:00 P.M.

Tuesday Service

Prayer & Bible Band 10:00 A.M.

Wednesday Rehearsals

Youth Choir: 6:00 P.M.
Inspirational Choir: 7:30 P.M.

Thursday Services

Y.P.W.W.: 6:30 P.M.
Youth Service: 7:30 P.M.

Individual Highlights:

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Pastor, George A. Martin

From the Pastor's Desk

“Local Church Leaders”

Lord, I thank you for our pastor (s), elders, and other church leaders whom you have placed in the local church body to keep us from being tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness. Speaking the truth in love, let us grow up into you, Lord, in all things, for you are the head of the body.

Bless our leaders, Lord, that they might govern your church according to your will. Help them be shepherds who never scatter the sheep, but who care for the flock, who watch for their souls, and seek those who are lost and troubled, Help me to be a support to them, to be available when they need me, to be always willing to help them and to pray for them.

As Aaron and Hur upheld the arms of Moses in the heat of battle, so may we ever uphold the arms of those you have appointed to lead us.

Fill our leaders with the knowledge of your will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. Let them walk worthy of you, Lord, pleasing you by being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of you daily. Let them be strengthened with all might according to all patience and longsuffering (endurance) with joyfulness.

Multiply your grace and peace unto them through the knowledge of God and of Jesus, our Lord. May they be esteemed by you because they have humble and contrite hearts and tremble at your Word.

Release your righteousness, peace and joy into their lives. Let your kingdom come and your will be done in them as it is in heaven. Bless them and fill them with your Spirit, Lord. Lead them in the way of escape from every temptation. Keep their lives holy and pure before you. Protect them and their loved ones from the evil one.

Prosper them and give them health, Lord. Bless them financially. Give them helpers who are full of the Spirit and wisdom to whom they can delegate needed duties, so that they can give themselves to prayer and ministry of the Word.

Grant them the joy of having every member of their families saved and healthy. Bless their family life with special love and harmony. Lord, I pray that they always remember you, their first love. May they nurture that love relationship and grow closer and closer to you.



August

Min. George Martin
 Sis. Tracy Jones
 Min. Leon Hawley
 Mo. Fields
 Mo. Herndon

Education Connection: Motivation

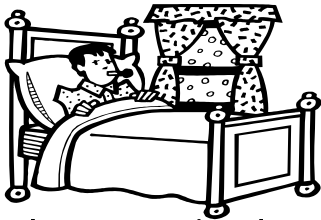
from Student Success Secrets by Eric Jensen

Eleven Reasons for Lack of Motivation

1. Lack of a Definite Goal
2. Laziness
3. Poor Relationships
4. Poor Study Habits
5. Excessive Worry
6. Negative Personality Traits
7. Outside Activities
8. Lack of Role Models and Support
9. Illness
10. Dull Classes or Uninspired Teachers
11. Conditioned Behavior



*****Sick and Shut-In*****



Please remember those who are sick and shut-in. Keep them in your prayers.

Sometimes a kind word, a phone call, or even a smile can make a world of difference.

Message From the Sunday School

*****If you know your Bible, the Sunday School needs you. If you don't know your Bible, you need to come to Sunday School each Sunday morning at 9:45am. Sis Stephanie Harris - Sunday School Supt.**

Twelve Steps to Achieving Self Motivation

1. Set a Goal
2. Build Desire: Visualize your goal.
3. Think Rationally: Use your mind constructively and to your advantage all the time.
4. Develop Positive Personality Traits
5. Choose Friends Carefully: Choose those who are positive.
6. Have Faith in Yourself
7. Give Reinforcement: Reward the source when a desired behavior is produced.
8. Get Specialized Skills: You can be a great student if you have the skill, confidence, and motivation to do it. (Sign up for courses such as speed reading, study skills, and test preparation.)
9. Use Special Mind-Motivators: Find out what your brain does to put you into motion.
10. Solve Personal Problems
11. Develop Persistence
12. Take Action: Every desire, every plan, every bit of knowledge is useless unless followed by action.

*****Follow these steps to become a successful student. Get your learning but keep your burning. For more information read the book Student Success Secrets by Eric Jensen.*****

How to Meditate

by Sis Savannah VanKummer

Rick Warren, author of The Purpose Driven Life, makes a valid point. He says:

“When you think about a problem over and over in your mind, that’s called worry. When you think about God’s Word over and over in your mind, that’s meditation.”

Trends and popular gurus have successfully conditioned society into thinking that meditation requires a quiet room filled with incense and bamboo furniture while reciting weird sounds for an hour, and sitting in the lotus position early in the morning; but even Webster got it right when stating

“To meditate is to ponder and think continuously.”

Psalm 1:2 says that a blessed man meditates on God’s word day and night, but how do you do that with such a hectic schedule? Between family, work and/or school, how can we accomplish such a seemingly impossible task?

Although meditating on God’s word all day seems unrealistic, it is not. First, consider all the things that are weighing on your mind even now. Next, think of a scripture that combats that worry or concern. Voila! You’ve just meditated. When we captivate the thoughts that worry us, and cover them with the Word, this is in essence meditation.

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”

II Corinthians 10:4-5

The National Science Foundation reports that the average person thinks approximately 12,000 thoughts per day and up to 50,000 for all you

deep thinkers. Close your eyes and you’ve just reduced thought stimulation by 80%.

If this is the case, seems like the best time to meditate would be throughout the day rather than in the lotus position with our eyes closed. However, in order to line our thoughts up in obedience to Christ, it important to KNOW the Word.

This requires a committed and personal Bible study time so that when concerns turn into worry, you can slay your mental dragons with the spiritual sword. Remember, the weapons of our daily warfare are not physical ones. Battles begin in the mind, and then manifest themselves with physical reactions. So fighting your battles with carnal weapons is about as effective as shooting ghosts with guns. When you begin to mentally stress about your finances, rather than fight back with carnal weapons of stealing on your time card, or hustling businesses for free stuff, meditate on Matthew 6:25 & 33...

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear...but seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Even if you are struggling with circumstances in your life that seem unique and unfair, ease your mind with Romans 8:28...

“And we know that all things work together for the good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”

If you think that God is probably fed up with you and is allowing you to live just for punishment (because that’s what you would do), reconcile your relationship with Him and rejoice in Isaiah 55:8-9...

*****Message Board*****

“Building Fund Rally Day!”

Congratulations to the Tribe of Ephraim for raising the most money in the month of July toward our Building Fund. Thank you everyone for contributing because everyone is a winner when giving unto God.

A Message From the YPWW President:

Come and be blessed. Study to show thyself approved unto God.

Every Thursday Night at 6:30pm

Attention GV Soldiers: There will be practice every Monday evening from 7-8pm in the month of August. We will be performing on 5th Sunday and for the local Youth Congress! Be ready!!!

(Meditation con’t)

“My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”

Again, it is important that you set aside time on your own to arm yourself with the Word so that daily meditation is both possible and effective.

Try not to get caught up with reading the whole Bible in a year. While this is an admirable goal, it can become like wasted pearls. I would suggest taking in a chapter a day along with a good commentary on what you have just read. While there is no substitute for the Holy Spirit, *The Believer’s Bible Commentary* by William MacDonald is an excellent aid, and I highly recommend it for all of you who struggle with understanding Scripture.

More importantly, before reading your Bible, pray that the Lord will prepare the soil of your heart to receive whatever it is He wants you to receive. The Word of God is living, active, and Spirit, and should not be approached like other books. Finally, recognize your prayer time as an opportunity to speak to God...but do not neglect your meditation, which allows Him to speak back.

Bible Confession

This is my Bible

It is the Word of God.

It is the sword of the spirit.

It is my spiritual weapon.

I am what it says I am.

I have what it says I have.

I can do what it says I can do.

Devil, I am armed and should be considered dangerous.

In the name of Jesus.

Inspirational Thought:



“Confess abundance in the face of apparent lack.” –

Charles Capps

Reference Scripture: “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”

Philippians 4:13 NAS

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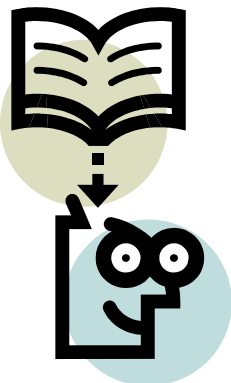
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Bro. Oliver Nelson

Deac. Devalin Whitfield



Health Wise: 36 Stress Reducers for Christians

Submitted by Bro. Oliver Nelson

1. Pray
2. Go to bed on time.
3. Get up on time so you can start the day unrushed.
4. Say “No” to projects that won’t fit into your time schedule or that will compromise your mental health.
5. Delegate tasks to capable others.
6. Simplify and unclutter your life.
7. Less is more. (Although one is often not enough, two are often too many)
8. Allow extra time to do things and to get to places.
9. Pace yourself. Spread out big changes and difficult projects over time; don’t lump the hard things all together.
10. Take one day at a time.
11. Separate worries from concerns. If a situation is a concern, find out what God would have you to do and let go of the anxiety. If you can’t do anything about a situation, forget it.
12. Live within your budget; don’t use credit cards for ordinary purchases.
13. Have backups; an extra car key in your wallet, an extra house key buried in the garden, extra stamps, etc.
14. K.M.S. (Keep Mouth Shut!) This single piece of advice can prevent an enormous amount of trouble.
15. Do something for the “Kid” in you everyday.
16. Carry a bible with you to read while waiting in line.
17. Get enough exercise.
18. Eat right.
19. Get organized so everything has its place.
20. Listening to a tape/CD while driving can help improve your quality of life.
21. Write thoughts and inspirations down.
22. Everyday, find time to be alone.
23. Having problems: Talk to God on the spot. Try to nip small problems in the bud. Don’t wait until it’s time to go to bed to try and pray.
24. Make friends with Godly people.
25. Keep a folder of favorite scriptures on hand.
26. Remember that the shortest bridge between despair and hop is often a good, “Thank you Jesus!”
27. Laugh.
28. Laugh some more!
29. Take your work seriously, but yourself not at all.
30. Develop a forgiving attitude (most people are doing the best they can).
31. Be kind to unkind people (They probably need it the most).
32. Sit on your ego.
33. Talk less; listen more.
34. Slow down.
35. Remind yourself that you are not the general manager of the universe.
36. Every night before bed, think of one thing you’re grateful for that you’ve never been grateful for before.

God has a way of turning things around for you

Money Matters

Proverbs 13:22

Submitted by Deac. D. Whitfield

Calendar Events

August Events:

20th- Singles' Meeting 6:30p
 21st- Youth Dept Track Ministry 8a
 21st- Singles' Outing (Huntington Beach Trip)
 21st- Couples' Meeting 7p
 22nd- Tribal Rally Day
 25th- 28th- Back to School Revival & Retreat

September Events:

4th- Youth Sport 11a
 6th- LABOR DAY!
 10th- 12th – Women's Night Out
 16th – Sis. Martin's Birthday
 18th- Sunshine Band Outing 9a
 18th- Couples' Mtg. 7p
 25th- Dempsy Hardy Walk-a-thon 8a
 26th- Tribal Rally Day

Hello Greater Victory Family, it is my pleasure to be speaking to you through the Faithful Word. Every month I will try to give you helpful information and insight into financial matters such as credit scores, interest rates and the stock market. First let me say that I am not a financial professional, nor am I attempting to give financial advice. I'm simply sharing some of the things I've learned thru trial and error, over the years. There may be some of you who wish to share information also, please contact me if you have information to contribute to this column.

You may be asking yourself, "why does money matter?" For many of us money has always been a part of our lives, from your first piggy bank to the day you earned your first dollar. None of us had to be taught how to spend money but money management is one area, which we all could improve. I don't know about you but it does something to me when I buy an item today at one price and find it in a sales ad a week later for \$\$\$ less. Don't get me wrong I don't mind paying the cost to be the boss, but I just think those shoes will fit just as comfortable at the sale price and I'll still have money left over to buy lunch next week. Most of us learn our financial skills from our parents. (Parents your children are not too young to start learning about money) weather it's thru a weekly allowance or money earned for odd jobs. That brings me to my first word of wisdom: "**money only has value if it's earned**" in other words don't give your children money, make them earn it. Then it comes down to choices, how you choose to spend your money. Every time you make a purchase you're making a choice as to where to spend your money. The city in which you live gets a portion of the sales tax revenue generated by your dollars spent in your community.

How many people remember a class in high school called "home economics" which basically taught you how to set up a household budget, shop for groceries and plan family menus, none of which helped when I was a freshman in college and bounced my first check. Hopefully things have changed since ancient times. I know some of you can relate. So where do we begin? Do Saints really want to be Wealthy? "The love of money is the root of all evil" (1 timothy 6:10) I'm not saying you should fall in love with money but you should at least be on a first name basis. The bible also teaches us to tithe 10% of our gross income (Malachi 3:6-10) but that still leaves 90% we have to manage. One of the first words we've all heard from childhood is SAVING, SAVING, SAVING. Save something for a rainy day, but when it started raining we had to buy a new designer raincoat with boots and purse to match. What I'm trying to say is that even though we start out saving with good intentions, some minor or major emergency always comes along to eat away at our savings. Let's face it, saving takes discipline. There are many theories on this savings subject; some use an out of state bank, others buy **Treasury bills** or **Municipal Bonds**. Sadly some of us still use the coffee can in the back of the cupboard or the hole in the mattress. May I suggest U.S. Savings Bonds, here are some of the advantages:

- Approximately 55 million people own savings bonds.
- Savings bonds are a popular gift for newborns because "one size fits all" and the gift "grows" in value as the child grows.
- If your dog eats your savings bond, it (the bond) can be replaced. If your dog eats your homework, you may be in trouble!
- Savings bonds cashed before maturity are penalized.
- President Franklin D. Roosevelt placed the first order for a \$500 Series E Savings Bond in a radio broadcast on April 30, 1941.
- Some Bonds are sold at half their face value, are worth full face value at maturity.
- Savings bonds can earn interest tax-free for your college education (if you meet certain requirements).

You can find more information on the Internet at www.savingsbonds.gov or check with your local bank. Someone once told me "pay yourself first" which in a nutshell meant put away a little money from each check for your savings or retirement. I try to do that each time I get paid, but I learned you have to do it early and consistently otherwise you get behind. Other ways to save are thru payroll deduction, or ask your bank if they can setup and allotment to automatically withdraw a set amount each month and place it in a savings account. Let's face it; if you have a job or source of income there is excuse why you should not be Tithing and Saving on a regular basis. Join me next month as we explore other savings options like the items highlighted in this article. Proverbs 13:22 says; "A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children; and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just."

Kids Korner: Crossword Puzzle

from www.akidsheart.com

Books of the New Testament

D R V B H K F G J Q J M X O B L F I H K
 L E E J N P A Y J C O L O S S I A N S K
 L Z X X J W O H B S L J O Y C D O S P S
 O U T E C E A T E S Q G P W F P T N H N
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 S L B V A M O C Q R H J W N S N K R C U
 Y J P N S G V H E I R E V E L A T I O N
 J B K T S Q D W A S N A I P P I L I H P
 I A T J E M S N R O M A N S Z I W D T N
 X J M I H O S X N G O R A Q X P E Y D H
 F P J E T Y V B Z M S K R A M L W V G O
 I W T W S C T B O N A J S A U U Q X Q J

Acts
 Colossians
 Corinthians
 Ephesians
 Galatians
 Hebrews
 James

John
 Jude
 Luke
 Mark
 Matthew
 Peter
 Philemon

Philippians
 Revelation
 Romans
 Thessalonians
 Timothy
 Titus