



People of Purpose

Piedmont Baptist Association

July, 2010

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Vacation Bible School Dates

- Midway** July 18-23, Saddle Ridge
- New Prospect** July 5-9, Saddle Ridge
- Nueva Vida** on four Sunday evenings, Saddle Ridge
- Oak Hill** August 8-13, Saddle Ridge
- Piney River** July 18-23, High Seas Expedition
- Ridgecrest** July 19-23 9 am –noon

Calendar Events

July, 2010

- 4 Independence Day Holiday- Office Closed**
- 12 PBA-Associational Council 7:30 p.m. – Ministry Center**
- 20 PBA-Pastor's Conference 10:30 a.m. – Ministry Center; lunch will be provided**

August, 2010

Christmas in August

1-7 Virginia WMU Mission Trip to Standing Rock Reservation

- 15 Associational Choir Presentation 7:30 p.m. – Clifford Bapt. Church**
- 16 PBA Executive Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m. – Ministry Center**

No Pastor's Conference in August

WMU

Isn't it amazing what things we can collect to be used in helping others! The following are being collected at the Ministry Center.

Postage Stamps for Missions – Please cut or tear around the stamps leaving ¼ to ½ inch of the envelope around the stamp. A torn stamp is of no use

Greeting Card Faces – for the Children's Hospital

Campbell Soup/products bar codes

Pull Tabs from the tops of aluminum cans

Pray for the Church of the Week

- July 4 Mt. Shiloh Baptist Church
- July 11 New Prospect Baptist Church
- July 18 Iglesia Bautista Nueva Vida
- July 25 Oak Hill Baptist Church
- Aug. 1 Piney River Baptist Church

Associational Choir

The Associational Choir Presentation is scheduled for

Sunday, August 15; 7:30pm
at Clifford Baptist Church

I look forward to seeing you all there.

Shelia

Hispanic Ministry News

Iglesia Bautista Nueva Vida (Nueva Vida Baptist Church) celebrated its first anniversary on Sunday, June 20th. I shared a summary of how Nueva Vida got started and the names of all who have joined either by baptism, letter, or testimony since monthly services began at Rose Union in April of 2007. Rev. Ricardo Alvarado, pastor of the Hispanic Baptist church that meets at FBC Galax, Virginia, challenged the congregation to view the future with faith and win people to Christ. Ebenezer provided an ample meal after the service. Cesar, a young man who attends Nelson County High School, made a profession of faith in Jesus. Several men came forward during the invitation to commit themselves to win people to Christ. Praise God for His faithfulness!

The youth and adult leaders of Faith Baptist Church in Madison Heights provided games, volleyball, and pizza to all the Hispanic families who would come out to an afternoon of fun for the whole family on the grounds of Piney River Baptist Church on Saturday, June 5th. A good group of men from Fitzgerald's orchard came out to play volleyball and a few children came out also.

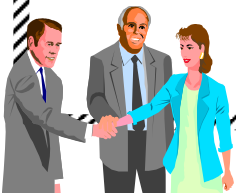
Brian, the pastor of Faith, brought a simple evangelistic

Shipman Baptist Church

and the

Piedmont Baptist Association

welcome Rev. Chuck Williams and his wife, Chonita along with sons, Carson and Colton.



New Media Items

- **Tempting Stuff/Helping Teenagers Battle Everyday Temptations.** This is a 5-week small group curriculum including a CD and DVD for Jr. High and High School age teens.

message which I interpreted into Spanish. We plan to do a similar event at the end of July.

Evan Johnson, pastor
Iglesia Bautista Nueva Vida

Director of Missions

When I was a young man going to college, my Dad gave me some sound advice on persevering which has helped me over the years. I believe this saying to be right in line with Biblical principles such as found in Acts 14:22: "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God." May I share this advice with you.

"When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all up hill,
When the funds are low and debts are high,
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest, if you must--but don't you quit.
Life is queer with its twists and turns,
As everyone of us sometimes learns,
And many a failure turns about,
When he might have won had he stuck it out;
Don't give up, though the pace seems slow--
You might succeed with another blow.
Often the goal is nearer than it seems to a faint and
faltering man,
Often the struggler has given up,
When he might have captured the victor's cup,
And he learned too late, when night slipped down,
How close he was to the golden crown.
Success is failure turned inside out,
The silver tint to the clouds of doubt--
And you never can tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems afar;
So stick it to the fight when you're hardest hit--
It's when things seem worst that you mustn't quit."

May each of us in our prayer time ask Almighty God for help in persevering. Julie Ackerman Link, in *Our Daily Bread*, says: "Those of us who have chosen God's way, and who know from experience that it's "a more excellent way" (1 Cor. 12:31) will persevere even when we have to go through danger and difficulty." May God bless you all real good! Have a safe and sane Fourth of July. See you at the Sunday School Conference on September 30 at Calvary Baptist Church.

In Christ,
Jake" Stewart, Interim Director of Missions.

(from *Pass It Along*)

Many of us take our home for granted--until we can no longer get inside. I know this from firsthand experience. I walk our family's dog twice a day--as much for my benefit as his. I get time outside to think, to get a little exercise, to be alone. The dog gets to smell almost every blade of grass in the neighborhood.

One night, we took our evening stroll later than usual--around 11 p.m. I had been up reading and the rest of the family was long asleep. It was 11:30 when we returned. I punched in the code on the garage door opener. Nothing happened. I tried again. Nothing. I never carry a door key at night--I always enter via the garage.

I tried again, carefully entering the numbers. No action at all. By this time, the dog appeared nervous. All the other doors on the house were locked, of course. I hesitated to ring the doorbell and wake someone up. Since it was close to midnight, I knew no one would be eager to investigate.

Safety and comfort were less than a few inches away. I was totally and completely separated from my home, I tried the code once more--and the door finally rolled open. Both of us were relieved to be inside, in the safety and comfort of home.

The Scriptures relate a similar story of a man separated from his spiritual home. "O God, listen to my cry! Hear my prayer! From the ends of the earth, I cry to you for help when my heart is overwhelmed. Lead me to the towering rock of safety, for you are my safe refuge, a fortress where my enemies cannot reach me. Let me live forever in your sanctuary, safe beneath the shelter of your wings!" Ps. 61:1-4)

The psalms repeatedly refer to God as a refuge, a shelter, and a place of safety. The reality, however, is that sin has disrupted our relationship and we find ourselves far from home. But Jesus, by his death on the cross, has made a way back to God for us. He has provided a way to open the door. "We have been made right in God's sight by faith...Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into his place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory" . Rom. 5:1-2)

Jesus' promise of home extends beyond this life to the next. "For God loved the world so much that he have his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life" John 3:16. Allow Jesus to open the door for you today. Accept the gift. Come home.

God Bless America