

OAK GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH DECEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

Rev. A. L. Downing, Pastor
Sponsored by Women's Ministry



PASTOR'S CORNER

Rev. A. L. Downing

I want to share with you a letter my wife (Inza) wrote two years ago and I believe that is just as prevalent now as it was then.

As I reflected on what to write I thought about the season and the state of the economy. Even before Christmas garland and wreaths were put away for next year the stores had already put out the red candy hearts and preparing itself for Valentine's Day. A time to show how much we love our mate or that special person in our lives by showering them with boxed candy or taking them out to dinner or maybe even this is your time to propose to the one you love. But what God revealed to me is to ask, "How can I show God how much I really love him?" What more can I do everyday not just on Valentine's Day but everyday to let God reflect in my life.

You have heard my husband say, "This is your year to proclaim the blessing like NEVER before. You might say, I have been proclaiming and I have been standing. **Deut 28:1** And it shall come to pass, if thou halt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations. Is there perhaps something that we are not doing that may be hindering our blessing? Are we really following all the commandments of God?

Let's reflect for a moment on this passage I John 4: 7-8

Beloved let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love

The easiest three words to say is: "I Love You" but how do you show that homeless person or that neighbor that just lost his/her job that you love them and really care about them. How do we show the people on our jobs that God lives in us, not by wearing the t-shirts or hats stating I'm too blessed to be stressed and in the lounge during lunch you are the one complaining about a situation on your job. Do you know how blessed you are to have a job? Paul says we are to be like Jesus Rom 8:29. If we have accepted Jesus in our lives we are now Christians and that means we are ambassadors for the kingdom of God. We can either lead others to Christ or steer them away from Christ by the life we live before them. God's light should so shine in us that others want to be like us. Remember as we go through this Valentine season, love is doing, love is smiling at your enemy, love is forgiving, love is feeding the hungry, love is helping the hopeless, love is spending time with the family, love is praying for your fellow man, love is praying for that person you know is facing some challenges and difficult times, love is telling somebody about Christ and what He has done in your life and how much He loves them.

This year to make this really the year we have extraordinary things happen, let's take an inventory of our lives, if you find things in your life that may compromise your relationship with the Lord, **GET RID OF IT.**

Inza and I are so thankful to be a part of the OGBC Family. We just came back from the marriage retreat and what an **AWESOME** time we experience! The fellowship in the classroom and meals were exciting. And the conversations and participation during each session was marvelous. You would have had to been there to witness such a wonderful occasion. (cont.)

The Lord is doing some awesome things at OGBC. We're the Word preached, taught and the sick being healed. The things Jesus did. He's doing some **AMAZING** things and it's marvelous in our eyes. But, the **BEST** is yet to come!

Be Bless and let us keep loving and praying for each other.

The Downing's

Women's Ministry

A special thanks to those who helped to make the Senior Citizen Lunch a success.

"This Man Called Jesus"

Free 2 hour play like none you have ever seen. This is a family must. The scenes take place on two stages. There are live animals in the scenes.

The play is held at Lake Murray Baptist Church, hwy 378 just outside of Lexington, going toward Saluda.

Play dates and times:

December 2-4; 9-11; 18-20. Fridays at 7:30pm. Saturdays and Sundays at 2:30pm and 6:30pm.

Take the family, your friends and neighbor. It is free.

When I say good morning I mean to say:

**G-od
O-ffers us His
O-utstanding
D-evotion to**

**M-ake us
O-bedient and
R-eady for a
N-ew day with Him.
I-nspire others please, and
N-ever forget
G-od loves you!**

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Scripture of the Month

For **unto** us a **Child** is born, **Unto** us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

"Your Money Matters"

Last week we finished up with our 10 week Crown Financial Bible Study. We had a great time with the class and enjoyed everyone's participation in the bible study. We had a total of 8 participants and have seen each one grow so much during this study. Each week we received praise reports from prayer requests that were given. The Crown class helps participants really see what God's word says about finances. The class is about accountability to God and putting God first in every situation. If anyone has questions about why we tithe, give, invest, and work you will get your answers by attending the Crown class. We look forward for the next crown participants in 2012. See Marquies and Dolores Ridgell to sign up for the next class.

December



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Bro. Marcus Adams	1
Rev. Audrey Levy	1
Sis. Ruby Williams	3
Bro. Roland Dinkins	4
Sis. Sherida Bostick	5
Bro. George Byrd III	5
Sis. Sherrie Poole	6
Sis. Annette Rickenbacker	6
Sis. Toshika Hudson	7
Sis. Zandra Middleton	7
Sis. Lolita Lyles	7
Sis. Icola Roseborough	8
Sis. Teranni Randolph	9
Sis. Patricia Jones	11
Rev. Isadore Bowers Jr.	12
Sis. Levette Hayes	13
Sis. Loretta Blanding	13
Bro. Ronnie L. Blanding Sr.	14
Sis. Dana Roseborough	14
Bro. Trent Mealing	14
Sis. Nycole Thomas	14
Bro. Gregory S. Samuel	15
Sis. Aislynn Woodard	17
Bro. Sedrick Harrison	17
Sis. Shanita Littlejohn	18
Sis. Lisa Holtzelaw	18
Bro. Tyrone Jacobs	19
Sis. Jessie Postell	19
Min. Cassie Jones	20
Dea. Willie Brown	20

Sis. Arlene Walton	20
Sis. Iris Pearson	22
Bro. Bryon Blanding	22
Bro. Dale Gibbs	25
Sis. Mirian Houston	27
Sis. Kymburle Sims	27
Sis. Crystal Palmer	27
Sis. LaKiesha Griffin	28
Sis. Inez Woodard	28
Rev. Gladys Ball	29
Sis. Kristen Woodard	31
Bro. Jeremiah Sumter	31

A special Blessed Anniversary to Reverend and Sister Kendrick for 39 years of marriage as of December 12th.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

HAPPY NEW YEAR

DON'T FORGET TO REMEMBER

JESUS IS THE REASON

FOR THE SEASON.

Upcoming Events

Rehearsals for Christmas Program TBA

December 17 **OGBC Christmas Banquet**
at the Spring Valley Country Club 3:00 p.m.
\$10.00 per person, see Sister Michelle
Blanding

December 25, **MERRY CHRISTMAS**
Worship service/ Christmas program

December 31st 10:00 p.m. Watch Night
Worship Service.

TO OUR YOUTH

Christmas: Can you see the Christ in
Christmas. It is not about the gifts we get,
but more about the gifts we give. And if we
don't have gifts to give service will do.
Help someone that needs help. A relative or
neighbor may need help with cleaning house
or washing dishes. Do what you can to help
others, that is a gift money can't buy.



SING ALONE AT HOME

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Said the night wind to the little lamb,
"Do you see what I see?
Way up in the sky, little lamb,
Do you see what I see?
A star, a star, dancing in the night
With a tail as big as a kite,
With a tail as big as a kite."

Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy,
"Do you hear what I hear?
Ringing through the sky, shepherd boy,
Do you hear what I hear?
A song, a song high above the trees
With a voice as big as the the sea,
With a voice as big as the the sea."

Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king,
"Do you know what I know?
In your palace warm, mighty king,
Do you know what I know?
A Child, a Child shivers in the cold--
Let us bring him silver and gold,
Let us bring him silver and gold."

Said the king to the people everywhere,
"Listen to what I say!
Pray for peace, people, everywhere,
Listen to what I say!
The Child, the Child sleeping in the night
He will bring us goodness and light,
He will bring us goodness and light."
