

**OAK GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH  
FEBRUARY 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.

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.

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#### WORDS:

WE ARE NOT HUMAN BEINGS GOING THROUGH A TEMPORARY SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE.

WE ARE SPIRITUAL BEINGS GOING THROUGH A TEMPORARY HUMAN EXPERIENCE.

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#### Scripture of the month.

<sup>19</sup> We love Him because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19 NKJV)

#### TO OUR YOUTH:

##### A Christian

Several years ago, a preacher from out-of-state accepted a call to a church in Houston, Texas. Some weeks after he arrived, he had an occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area. When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change. As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, 'You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it.' Then he thought, 'Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount? Anyway, the bus company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet.' When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, and then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, 'Here, you gave me too much change ..' The driver, with a smile, replied, 'Aren't you the new preacher in town?' 'Yes' he replied. 'Well, I have been thinking a lot lately about going somewhere to worship. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I'll see you at church on Sunday..' When the preacher stepped off of the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, held on, and said, 'Oh God, I almost sold your Son for a quarter.' Our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read. This is a really scary example of how much people watch us as Christians, and will put us to the test! Always be on guard -- and remember -- You carry the name of Christ on your shoulders when you call yourself 'Christian.'

Watch your thoughts; they become words.  
Watch your words; they become actions.  
Watch your actions; they become habits.  
Watch your habits; they become character.  
Watch your character; it becomes your destiny...

The Will of God will never take you to where the Grace of God will not PROTECT you.... Stay FAITHFUL and Be GRATEFUL

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Sister LaShundra Collier	1
Brother Ray Maxwell	2
Sister Antoinette Graham	2
Brooks Hudson	2
Sister Annette Boyd	2
Brother Gregory Graham	4
Deacon Brooks Hudson	4
Sister Michelle Guider	5
Brother Charles Thomas Jr.	6
Brother Rodney Maxwell	6
Sister Sandra Carr	9
Rev. Andrew Kendrick	11
Sister Sharon Allen	11
Sister Lorene Vining	11
Sister Eunice Wilson	11
Brother Rolston Haile	12
Sister Nichole Goodwin	12
Sister Jacqueline Williams	14
Sister Danielle Woodard	15
Danette Woodard	15
Sister Jennifer Jordan	15
Brother Allen T. Gibbs	16
Sister Stacey Lambert	17
Sister Marjorie Blanding	18
Brother Ronnie Bush Jr.	19
Sister Courtney Hudson	23
Sister Andrea Kendrick	25
Brother Cecil Postell	28
Rev. Walter Jones	28
Sister Felicia Wright	29
Sister Michelle Blanding	29

God Bless, may your day be filled with Joy.

A special Happy 79<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Deacon Brooks Hudson.

Brother Kirk and Frankie Blanding celebrate 27 years of marriage on the 24<sup>th</sup>.



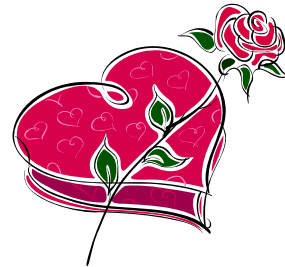
### Valentine Day

February fourteenth is remembered by all as a yearly event  
In which the purchase of candy and flowers is how most money spent  
To express those things visually, that people vocally try to say  
And wish the one that you like or love a Happy Valentine Day.

You buy these mushy cards, which say things others mean,  
With hopes that these words, would make their hearts beam,  
I love you my dear and what more can I say  
Will you be mine on this most memorable day.

Yes, this card I picked out is only just for you,  
And then you see that other people have the same one too.  
But at this point and time it really really doesn't matter  
It's the thought, not the gift that makes the heart gladder.

On this day you see love poured out in so many away,  
But the fact of the matter, love should be shown every day.  
A big hug, a smile, a kiss, or just some kind of sign,  
To show that I am yours and you are truly mine.



## THE U IN JESUS

Before U were thought of or time had begun,  
God stuck U in the name of His Son.

And each time U pray, you'll see it's true,  
You can't spell out JesUs and not include U.

You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,  
For U, He was born; that's why He came.

And His great love for U is the reason He died.  
It even takes U to spell crUcified.

Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand  
He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?

The stones split away, the gold trUmpet blew,  
and this word resUrrection is spelled with a U.

When JesUs left earth at His upward ascension,  
He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.

'Go into the world and tell them it's true  
That I love them all - Just like I love U.'

So many great people are spelled with a U,  
Don't they have a right to know JesUs too?

It all depends now on what U will do,  
He'd like them to know, But it all starts with U.

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### From the internet (The Daniel Fast Notes)

#### One of the most powerful lessons I ever learned . . .

took place when I was trying to gain greater understanding about our make up: we are a **spirit**, we have a **soul** and we live in a **body**. I wanted to know more of how that relates to my Christian life. It was a simple little exercise, but the revelation was amazing and has given me so much understanding!

**Step One:** Get a sheet of paper and on the top half, draw three side-by-side stick figures. Under each of stick figures, name them as Spirit, Soul and Body. Now on the top of the paper, write

your name. Take a couple minutes and think about this being a "portrait of YOU!" As simple as this is, this little drawing shows you as a **spirit**, a **soul** and a **body**.

**Step Two:** It is your spirit that is born-again when you accept Christ as your Savior. It's often referred to as the "inner man" or "the new creation." Under the "spirit" figure, write the character qualities of the spirit. You can look up [Galatians 5:16-22](#) and see the nine fruits of the spirit. List them under your "spirit figure."

**Step Three:** The "soul" is also referred to as "the flesh." It is where our will, emotions and intellect reside. This is the part of us that we surrender to God to be transformed into the ways of Christ. Under the "soul" label, make a list of what comes out of the soul (i.e. anger, pride, jealousy, etc.).

**Step Four:** The "body" is like a puppet and subject to what the "spirit" or the "soul" cause it to do. The Word says that our body is the "temple of the Holy Spirit." Yet, too often we don't treat our bodies in this esteemed state. Our soul-man feeds it foods that are not good for it or we bring destruction to it.

During the Daniel Fast, we are putting our spirit in charge over our soul and our body. When our soul cries out, "I want that cup of coffee!" or, "I want that hamburger!" our spirit tells our soul to, "Sit down and behave. I am in charge. You can't have everything you want." This authority from our spirit can also take place when resentment, fear or jealousy try to take command in us. Again, we say choose the way of faith. We walk in the spirit as He is in the Spirit. Instead of resentment, we choose forgiveness. Instead of fear, we choose trust in God. Instead of jealousy, we choose thanksgiving. Instead of darkness, we choose His marvelous Light. Instead of death, we choose life.

Study this simple "portrait." Let it minister to you and bring truth to your spirit. And allow it to give you understanding as you continue through this period of prayer and fasting.