



**OAK GROVE BAPTIST
NEWSLETTER**

**Sponsored by the Women's Ministry
March 2011**

PASTOR'S CORNER

by Rev. A. L. Downing

This is already the beginning of an exciting year!!! There is no doubt in my mind that this is going to be the **BEST YEAR EVER** for Oak Grove Baptist, for you and for your family. I want you to know that you are Highly Favored, The Lord is with you and you are the apple of God's eye.

What a powerful and anointed service we had on the fourth Sunday in February. The presence of the Lord was manifested, His glory was revealed and his anointing was there to destroy yokes and remove any burdens presence. We need to get a revelation from the four lepers in II Kings 7. God used those four sick dying outcast lepers to bring deliverance to a starving Samaria. It was the lepers that decided they had nothing to lose by going into the enemy's camp. "If they spare us we shall live, and if they kill us, we shall but die". But, when they decided to get up God moved on their behalf, by causing their footsteps to sound like an army. You really have to get a revelation of this, four sick dying lepers caused the entire Syrian Army to flee and leave behind all of their goods.

These lepers could have stayed and enjoyed the spoils of war. But, one of them said,

"this is not right." In other words our brothers and sisters are starving inside the city gates, while we have plenty of food. They went back and reported it to the gate keeper, who had it reported to the king and then investigated. God used those lepers to save Samaria.

Listen, God is trying to get His blessing to you, to save you and to bring healing and restoration to you. However, we can not pick and choose the vessel for God to use to bring it to us.

First, we need a revelation that God wants nothing but the best for us. Secondly, he can use and do as He pleases. Thirdly, we need to be in a position ready to receive, regardless of how it comes, just be ready. I'm telling you God is about to do even GREATER things at Oak Grove and I'm ready to receive, what about you?

Finally, don't be afraid open yourself up to be used by God and to be blessed by God. Remember, He wants nothing but the BEST for you.

Throughout this year remember this word, "the things that you're going through won't always last. "You're highly favoured, blessed by God and He's with you. So, don't be afraid, have NO FEAR, because the Lord your God is with you. You have found favor with the Lord.

Inza and I love you and are praying for you.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Sister Kelly Dinkins	1
Rev. W. J. Goodwin	2
Brother. Jerome Lyles	2
Sister Tiffany Holman	3
Brother Darrell Blanding Jr.	3
Sister Valerie Anderson	4
Sister Katina Brown	4
Sister Valerie Samuel	4
Sister Della Hudson	4
Sister LaTeisha Gibbs	5
Brother James Wilson	7
Brother David Mealing Sr.	9
Sister Monica Jones	9
Sister Sophia Carr	10
Sister Tiffany Holman	10
Sister Nakia Griffin	10
Brother Michael Jacobs	12
Brother Arrion Denson	13
Sister Margaret Sutton	13
Brother Lamont Mealing	15
Brother David Mealing Jr.	15
Sister Monica McCoy	16
Sister Gwendolyn Price	18
Sister Nancy Gibbs	20
Brother Duane Jacobs	21
Sister Sadera Monique Sims	23
Brother James Woods	24
Sister Shelia Pearson	24
Deacon Holland Griffin	26
Brother Marvin Dawkins	26
Brother Glen Wright	27
Sister TaQuina Billups	28
Sister Tyechia Cannon	28

Sister Breon Blanding	28
Brother Brian Dixon	29
Sister Beulah Rauch	31
Sister Shavonne Samuel	31

**Deacon and Sister Blanding---celebrates
61 years of marriage on March 16TH .**

DATES TO REMEMBER

MBA Growth Institute at First Nazareth
March 7-9 starting each evening at 5:00 pm
with dinner. Classes for all ages begin at
6:15 pm.

March 13th Usher 56th Anniversary

March 25th 7:30 p.m. Prayer Service

Food for Thought

I was talking to a Christian, the person said they didn't eat peanut butter because of the recall about a year ago. There are Christians that don't eat red meat and so on because it is thought to be unhealthy. But the same people engage in activities that God says is only for a man and a woman married to each other. This activity is more harmful than eating bad or unhealthy food. It can cause death to the physical body. From this activity even the first time, you are taking a chance of being exposed to (catching) AIDS or HIV. You have seen the commercials you don't really know that person, or who that person have known. Think about it, is the act worth your life or the quality of your life. Yes it could happen to you.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

VISION CHECK

Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. - I Corinthians 2:12

I remember being in elementary school and every student having to routinely have their vision checked. Do you remember the eye chart with the capital letter E flipped around in different directions? Well, I do. How could I forget having to contort my hand to resemble the position of the letter E on the chart? Prior to having my vision screening, I had no problems with the way I saw everything. I thought my vision was absolutely perfect. Well, after my vision screen in the third grade my parents received a note home from the school nurse stating that I needed to have a thorough eye exam because she measured my vision to be 20/80. That was hilarious to me because I thought there is no way in the world my vision could be that bad. I was studious and I always sat in the front of the classroom. I was able to see everything I needed to see. I thought to myself, "This nurse has absolutely lost her mind." To me, my vision was perfect. My parents asked me if I felt like I had any problems with seeing and I assured them that my vision was ok so, they believed me. On I went about my business until the sixth grade when low and behold; I could not see the chalkboard from the back of the classroom. Off to Harrington Vision we went. The optometrist asked me to sit in the chair. As he went through the different lenses on the slit lamp that I had to look through, the optometrist asked "Which one is better, 1 or 2, 3 or 4? I was responding accordingly. I was astonished at how much I could not see. It was all because I was measuring my vision based on my own thinking and not an unchanging standard. My parents took my word over the nurses' note. Certainly, I would know if I could see or not, right? Wrong, at this point, my glasses were so thick and heavy that I still have a scar on my cheek from where they sat. If we had followed the nurses advise and had that eye exam earlier, my eyes could have avoided further damage.

When we decide to accept Christ as our personal savior, most of us believe that our life is already

great. We think we are doing great from where we are sitting. What we fail to realize is where we are currently sitting is not always the place where we will be. We need to have a broader scope of vision to be able to see at all distances and locations. We believe that if we do what we see other Christians do, we were living life the way God intended. Keep in mind that on display are Christians falling in certain areas so new believers think that this is the standard.

You have to be careful of Christians who do many things for their own selfish egos but calling it all in the name of Jesus. How many times have you seen Christians not getting along with each other, losing their cool, belittling one another, not forgiving others and not loving unconditionally? The list could go on forever. We in the flesh naturally align our walk with our own perspective or the perspective of those we trust. The problem with that is none of us is perfect and we will have our individual struggles. When we measure our lives according to the next Christian, it gives a false sense of clear spiritual vision. It actually feeds the flesh in that we feel that we are better than the next Christian, but fail to realize that we are still far away from the Christian God will have us to be. It is not until you get into the Word and receive understanding for yourself, that you realize how spiritually blind you are. No measurement of your faith is acceptable other than the one measured on God's standard. I encourage you to seek the face of God and allow His word to be your standard. I promise the answers to the problems you have will come with so much ease. We are uniquely designed by God to walk in a specific purpose. You will not find that purpose by mimicking another's journey. *YOU WILL GET CLEAR SPIRITUAL VISION WHEN YOU PUT ON YOUR SPIRITUAL GLASSES. LOOSE YOURSELF IN GOD'S WORD.*

Reflection Scriptures:

~1 Corinthians 2:7-12~1 John 4:1~James 1:5~Ephesians 4:18~John 13:7~Matthew 7:21-23

Author unknown

Roosevelt and Marjorie Gibbs Blanding The Beginning (March 16, 1950 and Now (March 16, 2011) 61 Years

It was a beautiful autumn day, when Roosevelt and his friend Jerry (Jeremiah Harris) walked from Blaney (now called Elgin) to a spot on Highway #1 called Mac's Stand. It was a small stand that sold a variety of goods. While they were there, up came a buggy with two beautiful sisters. The driver was Marjorie Gibbs and here passenger was Nellie Gibbs. They made their purchases and were ready to go back home. However, the restless mule had tangled up the harness. Being the gentlemen that they were, they offered their assistance in untangling it and then the sisters were on their way home. Marjorie is the oldest of 13 children born to Louis (Bo) Gibbs and Mayzola Bush Gibbs. Roosevelt is one of 8 children born to Sam and Mary T. Blanding.

Roosevelt would see Margie on a number of occasions. He was part of a quartet that was called the Blue Light Gospel Singers. Others were Billie Gibbs, Henry Bush, Millet Reed, Gum Moore, George Scott, Rufus Goff and managed by Hampton and Willie Hudson. They practiced at various homes and there were plenty young women who would come there to listen and cheer them on. Margie would be in the group many times. Eventually, he popped the question and on her Sister Sarah's birthday (March 16th), they were married.

They lived in Columbia in various areas on Wayne Street and Liberty Hill to name a few. They decided that Margie would stay at her parents home (on what is called Gibbs Road) to be near the doctor (Dr. Cochran) for her delivery. After this, they decided to rent a home down the road from his parents. After sometime they were offered the opportunity to purchase the home and more than several acres of land

with it. It was a struggle but eventually they had the deed finally in their name.

During their marriage, Roosevelt worked at a candy factory, and worked at E.D. Sauls in construction, concrete, and yard grading and took on a 2nd job at night working at a cotton mill. He left Sauls and became self-employed. Marjorie worked various jobs and was given the opportunity in 1956 to work at Clemson Experiment Station with her sister, Elouise G. Belton. Her father was already employed there. She also worked there with two other sisters, Nellie English and Sarah White. After working there many, many years, she took time off because with four children and the youngest was 9 years old, the family started anew and four boys were born two years apart (except for the last one at four years apart).

The family moved from the old house to a new 4 bedroom home in 1966. It was located down from the old house. In November 1992 (Thanksgiving Night), that house was lost by fire. A new home was built on the same spot in 1993. The following year (1994), Margie decided to retire after working over 33 years. It would have been 38 years without the time off for those four little boys.

Roosevelt and Marjorie are the proud parents of eight children:

James Viven (Angeline)
Rosa Mae (Herbert Samuel)
Timothy (Lucy)
Lorena
Ronnie Lewis
Donnie Nathaniel (Brenda)
Reginald Andre (Wanda)
Darrell Jerome (Michelle)

Also, there are 28 grandchildren (1 deceased), 31 great-grands (2 deceased), and 5 great-great-grands (1 deceased).

By Sister Rosa Samuel

Scripture of the Month

“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”
John 15:12”

Love is very important in all our lives. God first showed love for us by creating the world. After we failed to live a sinless life (Adam, Eve, and the forbidden fruit, Genesis chapter 3) God send his son to die, so that if we believed in Him we can have eternal life with Him when our life here on earth is finished.

God wants us to love others as He has loved us. We don't have a son to send to save the world, but you can draw the world to God by the love we show others.

Love is a gift you give not expecting it to be repaid.

To Our Youth

“Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!” Psalm 27:14

But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. James 1:4

Having patience, when you want to do something, or get something is hard. As youth you have a lot of energy and you want everything to happen now. Patience is a learned trait. It is easy to be obedient, when you know patience. Your parents or your money situation may say you can't get that \$200.00 games until next summer. But it will be out by then. All your friends are getting their next week. Patience just left, you think you can't wait to get the game. So you nag your parents and give them a hard

time. Pray for the patience to wait. God may reward your patience with the game sooner.

BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

The Missionary has a food pantry and we need your help to keep it stocked. We will accept any non-perishable food items. We are thanking you in advance for your donations. See Sisters Bannister, Guider, Lois Smith or Iris Ross with your items.

MARRIAGE RETREAT



The last weekend in January was a real treat for some of the couples. We spend two nights and two days at a retreat in Myrtle Beach. We had classes and breakout sessions. We discovered new things about each other in addition to spending time with other couples. I believed marriages were strengthened by the experience, by the biblical teaching and practical exercises. The weekend ended with a shopping trip to the outlets and great seafood.