



**OAK GROVE  
BAPTIST NEWSLETTER  
Sponsored by the Women's Ministry  
October 2010**

**PASTOR'S CORNER  
Rev. A. L. Downing**

I want to share with you a word the Lord gave me while I was in Iraq. I believe it will minister to you.

Sunday morning, (June 22, 2008) at 9:45am I was praying about the chapel services and the message that I was going to preach later that day. I heard the Lord speak to me in my spirit concerning a passage of scripture, I was familiar with. He spoke to me concerning, Mark 5: 1-20, especially verses 15-20; "And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid. And they that saw it told them how it befell to him that was possessed with the devil, and also concerning the swine. And they began to pray him to depart out of their coasts. And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him. Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath compassion on thee. And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel."

I asked the Lord that Sunday morning, in Iraq, why did you allow Jesus to cross the other side of the sea and go into the country of the Gadarenes for that one man or two men (Matthew 8:28, says two) . I said Lord, Jesus didn't get the opportunity to go into the country or town to preach. Because, as soon as the people found out what had happened to their hogs, they asked Him to leave. They didn't care about the fact that the man had been delivered and set free from being possessed by the devil. They wanted Jesus to leave. They had lost their profit from the hogs being drowned. So, why did you allow Jesus to go across to the other side, only to be turned away before getting into the country? The Lord politely said to me, "it's simple, because of his (the man) soul, it' was worth it. He said, I sent Jesus, because He was the only one that could deliver and reach the man. I sent Him, because that man and his soul were important to me." Then He said, it's the same with some of them I have called to Iraq. I have called some to only one person. They don't have to change the entire work section or unit. I just want them to share with that one person that I have sent them to. He said, now just think, what if that one person became the next Billy Graham or Kenneth Copeland, look at the lives that will be changed.

I want you to know I could hardly wait until my 1:30pm service so I could share with the congregation what the Lord has place in my spirit to share with them. As I begin to share with them what the Lord had said to me earlier. I also share with them that He had further told that, He sent some of you (the congregation) over here in Iraq for one or two people and He sent you because you're the only person that can deliver them and

### **Pastor's Corner (cont)**

reach them. Therefore, don't worry about trying to save or reach the entire section you're working in or with. But, rather focus on the one or two that he has sent you to reach, because, their soul were worth Him sending you from the United States to Iraq to reach that person. I told them the Lord told me that one person could be the next Billy Graham or Kenneth Copeland and look at the difference they have made. The presence of the Lord was mighty in that service.

Well, I believe that God has called you to share your testimony or your story of what the Lord has done for you. It's your story that will reach that person. It may not reach or change everyone, but it can reach and deliver someone. You may be in a tough and challenging situation, but share your story. It will bring healing, deliverance and it will minister to someone. You may be on that job to benefit one person. Why? Because their soul is worth it and you're the only one that can reach them.

Therefore, whatever situation, circumstance or problem you're confronted with, remain focused on the Lord. **YOU'RE IN THE RIGHT PLACE, AT THE RIGHT TIME (Oak Grove Baptist Church).**

Inza and I thankful to God to be a part of the Oak Grove Church Family. Remember bring someone to church with you and know that you're ALWAYS in our prayers.

We're see you at the Word Explosion Conference October 14-16, 2010 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center!!

### **How to work in any environment by T.D. Jakes (abbreviated).**

1. Don't expect to be appreciated. Your only expectation should be to get a paycheck. Don't allow what you do to affect who you are.
2. Do your job well, but remember your mission. God put you here to be a Light.
3. Seek opportunities to change the atmosphere without commenting on the problems. You are on an assignment. Quietness and competence shall be your strength.
4. Don't let your environment get inside of you. You should influence it, not let it influence you. You didn't come to receive, you came to give.
5. Increase your capacity to work with different personalities. God will often bless you through people you don't even like!
6. Remember, where you are does not define where you are going. This will deliver you from frustration. Keep your eye on the prize. When Peter did this, he was able to walk on what other people sank in!
7. Get the optimum results with minimal confusion. Be effective without making the environment worse.
8. Don't be associated with one group or clique. Labels limit your usefulness. God wants you to work with everybody but be labeled by nobody. Use all your gifts.
9. Always keep your song near you. Keep a consecrated place in your soul. Hold on to your praise.
10. Understand that God anoints you for trouble. Put on the whole armor before coming to work.

Ladies please look at our vision, mission, etc. below. Bring ideas to the next meeting on things we can do to accomplish these goals.

**WOMEN'S MINISTRY**  
**TITUS 2:3-5**

**VISION:**

Oak Grove Baptist Church Women's Ministry seek to be, Today's Woman Touching Tomorrow's World. Although we have a vision to touch tomorrow's world, that is most effectively accomplished through our actions today. The goals of our Women's Ministries act as a compass to guide our various activities and events. We are Godly Women Growing in Grace, Wisdom, Knowledge, and Understanding.

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

Provide spiritually based information, which inspires, renews and enhances the lives of women to cope with various issues whereby fellowship can be nurtured.

**PURPOSE:**

Through scripture, we seek to encourage, nurture, and disciple women to become enthusiastic disciples of Jesus Christ, as we each become the woman that God created each of us to be. In addition, we promote spiritual growth, a personal relationship with God, loving relationships with one another, and advance the goal of family church, and community. We also strive to compliment the existing ministries and support the vision of the church.

**GOALS:**

- Connect women to women through outreach, fellowship, and ministry.
- Discover the strength and healing that is available through the Word of God.
- Develop Christ-like character, discipline, and relationships at home, work, church, and in the community.
- Develop and organize a ministry, which will speak to the particular needs, issues, and

concerns of all women at various stages in their lives.

- Identify and foster the God-given gifts and talents of all women in the ministry.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- Develop a daily prayer life individually and with a prayer sister.
- Make spiritual growth a priority by being an active participant in Sunday School, Bible Study, and other teaching/training opportunities.
- Present opportunities to understand and develop spiritual gifts and talents through workshops, conferences, and fellowships.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Work in conjunction and collaboration with the Pastor and all ministries of the Church.
- Allow our God-given gifts and talents to be used for the uplifting of the ministry.
- Respect the work and efforts of others.
- Conduct all meetings in an organized, spiritual, and God-directed manner so that He may receive all the glory. Support and encourage one another, guarding each other's reputations.
- Support and participate in the Women's Ministry activities.

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**SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH**

“Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.” Luke 6:47-48

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*HAPPY BIRTHDAY*

- Sis. Terry Davis 1
- Sis. Deborah Randolph 1
- Bro. Shaun Ball 2
- Sis. Barbara Harris 2
- Sis. Tiffany Holman 3
- Sis. Lisa Allen 3
- Sis. Ruby Williams 3
- Sis. Annette McCollum 3
- Sis. Sandra Billups 4
- Sis. Sonja Anderson 4
- Bro. Marlus Mitchell 4
- Bro. Stephen Banks 5
- Bro. Donnie Blanding, Jr. 5
- Bro. Joseph Guider 7
- Bro. Brian Hudson 8
- Bro. LLOYD Thomas 8
- Sis. Lillian Starks 10
- Bro. Roger Carr, Sr. 11
- Sis. Jacqueline Benjamin 11
- Bro. Micheal Gibbs 12
- Sis. Sade' Scott 12
- Bro. Eric LLOYD, Jr. 13
- Sis. Ashley Baylor 14
- Bro. Maurice Houston 14
- Sis. Demetria Hudson 15
- Sis. Lois Denson 16
- Min. Angelia Gibbs 17
- Sis. Geraldine Harris 18

- Bro. David Hammond 18
- Bro. Vernon Dean 18
- Sis. Shawntelle Hudson 18
- Sis. Karen Thomas 19
- Sis. Laura Lyles 19
- Sis. Wyvette Sutton 19
- Bro. Russell Davis 20
- Bro. Joel Guider 20
- Sis. Joretta Guider 21
- Sis. LaTiashia Hayes 21
- Sis. Myra Bull 22
- Bro. Darius Custard 22
- Sis. Zana Bradley 22
- Sis. Tiffany Jones 22
- Bro. Devon Milhouse 24
- Bro. Antonio Maxwell-Brown 28
- Bro. Justin Hudson 28
- Bro. Raymond Toarley 28
- Sis. Dianne Jennings 29
- Sis. Kwantwella Dreher 29
- Bro. Darius Anderson 29
- Sis. Sadie Lemons 30
- Sis. Tarsha Harrison 31

**Happy Anniversary** to all who were married in the month of October.

Brother and Sister D. Middleton

To add birthdays or anniversaries, give a note to Rev. Ball.

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**To Our Singles and Teens:**

**'A woman's heart should be so hidden in Christ that a man should have to seek Him first to find her.'**

## **Forgiveness and Marriage**

I refuse to sit by and let the enemy have another marriage.

I refuse to sit by and see him help couples to break a covenant with God, because of unforgiveness, finger pointing, getting even, hurt feelings, tit for tat, stubbornness, rebellion, pride, etc.. all those things that grows in the garden that the enemy planted and we cultivate. It takes one person to break up a marriage. But it also take one person seeing God and in relationship with God to see the work of the enemy and turn their anger toward the enemy, by praising God and praying for the person that is allowing the enemy to use them even if it is you. Love is unconditional and cares for the other more than yourself. It is not about you, it is about God. God will handle things if you just release it to him and trust him with your marriage, He will not let you be wronged.. Your husband is not the enemy and neither are you his enemy, so stop acting like it.

Stop trying to be the Potter, you cannot mold people into who you want them to be. Stop trying to raise grown folk. People are who they are learn to deal with it, until you change.. What you don't like in others is what's in you. Examine yourself. Stop taking everything so serious. Remember the suffering of Christ on the cross, you are truly blessed, because you don't have to endure that type of suffering. Until death do you part, no you can't kill the other person, only with kindness.

Love you..

## **WHAT IS LIFE...**

Life is a challenge.....meet it.

Life is a gift.....accept it.

Life is an adventure.....dare it.

Life is a sorrow.....overcome it.

Life is a tragedy.....face it.

Life is a duty.....perform it.

Life is a game.....play it.

Life is a mystery.....unfold it.

Life is a song .....sing it.

Life is an opportunity.....take it.

Life is a journey.....complete it.

Life is a promise .....fulfill it.

Life is a beauty .....praise it.

Life is a struggle.....fight it.

Life is a goal .....achieve it.

Life is a puzzle.....solve it.

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Author unknown

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## **TO OUR YOUTH:**

**Remember not to forget that Jesus loves you. And that you are love one another.**

## What do You Have Left

Rev. Anthony Jones 1 Samuel 30:1-8

**I was thinking about the troubles of life**  
... and if we are honest ... **When Life**  
**Knocks You Down-What's really Left?**

· I've been given the assignment today of preaching on "What's Left."

· Sometimes we can miss out on something because **of a failure to search and to see what it is we have left.**

· Do any of you remember as a kid wanting to buy some cookies or some ice cream but **not having any money to do it?**

a. I can remember we would look in every nook and cranny of the sofa to find us a coin or two.

b. We'd look in the closet on the floor, and we'd check every old pocketbook we could find.

c. We rejoiced just as much in putting together a ten cents as someone who had won the lottery.

d. **We found out there was often more left than we had first thought.**

e. KEY - There are going to be times in our lives when we are going to want things, and we are going to come up short.

f. Sometimes it is okay to come up short.

g. Because - how our plans for life don't always go the way we planned them to go.

· We didn't plan to become a teen mother.

· We didn't plan to lose our job.

· We didn't plan to fail in school.

· We didn't plan to get cut from the team.

· We didn't plan to have the person we love die.

· We didn't plan for our spouse to leave us.

· We didn't plan for the divorce.

· We didn't plan for the crisis and the crime that happened to us.

· We didn't plan to be betrayed.

· We didn't plan to lose our health.

· We didn't plan to have to take care of our kids now that they are adults.

· We didn't plan to lose our business or our jobs.

· We didn't plan on our family turning out the way that it did.

· We didn't plan to look the way we now do.

· We didn't plan that addictions would hit us or someone we love.

· There are just a lot of bad things that happen to us and around us that we did not plan.

· The question really is ... When Life Knocks You Down-What's Left?

**KEY - Somebody told us that if we just come to Jesus and give our lives to God, everything will be fine and the problems will be gone.**

· Some even told us that **God wants us all to be continuously healthy and wealthy, and if you have enough faith, you can name it and claim it and have it.**

· **KEY - Unfortunately** some of us believed that and have discovered that it's not true. **Some have lost faith in God over this.**

· See - when Jesus called us to come and follow him, **Jesus never said, his goal was to make us rich and to give us everything we wanted as a sign of his appreciation for us joining his team.**

a. What Jesus promised us was an opportunity to know God the Father as Jesus knew Him.

b. Jesus told us up front that following him was not going to be an easy task.

c. As a matter of fact he told us our peace is going to have to be found in Him, because **in this world we will experience trials, troubles, and tribulations.**

d. Nobody gets an exemption.

e. If you live long enough, you will suffer either **because of the sins of others** or **because of your own sin.**

**We make plans in our attempt to create a safe space for us.**

· There's nothing wrong with planning for the future as long ... **as you know that plan is subject to change with our without your approval.**

· If I save enough money, I will have a safe space for retirement.

· If I get that job with that income, I'll have a safe space for me and my family's level of comfort.

· If I marry that certain person I will have a safe space from loneliness.

· If I have kids, I'll have a safe space for someone to help look after me when I'm old.

· If I make that team, I'll have a safe space of acceptance at school.

· If I can get in with that group, I'll have a safe space of friends.

· **We're all looking for some kind of safe space to live our lives.**

· But the question really is ... When Life Knocks You Down-What's Left?

David had a safe space called **Ziklag.**

· David was a young man who had faithfully served the king.

· The king was so overwhelmed with **David's ability and anointing**, that he placed David over his entire army.

· But the king became jealous of David, because **the people boasted of what David had done in battle as compared to the king.**

· They said, "**King Saul has slain his thousands, but David his tens of thousands.**"

· The king now was determined to kill David, and he pursued him ruthlessly throughout the country.

- David knew the only way he would find safety for him and his family was **to leave the country and go into the land of the Philistines.**
- The king had branded him as a rebel.
- He knew the king would not cross the borders into enemy territory.
- So David struck up a deal with one of the Philistine rulers, and the ruler gave David the city of Ziklag.
- David had finally found him a safe space in which to live.
- No doubt some people referred to him as David of Ziklag.
- a. **KEY - The problem with safe spaces is that we can put our identity in them and if we lose them, then we think we have lost everything.**
- b. Where you live is nowhere near as important as the fact that you are alive.
- c. As a Christian, **we are to hold lightly to everything that we claim to be our own.**
- d. Everything that we have, we will either lose or leave it behind, **except for our relationship to God.**
- e. You have to know that first and foremost, **you have been called to be a child of God.**
- f. **KEY – That is your identity and that you cannot lose.**
- Your money, your possessions, your friends, your career, your children, your position, your spouse, your family, and

everything else you think is yours can be lost or taken away.

- Sometimes that which you hold closest to your heart, you will lose, and it will hurt. It will hurt badly.

- **KEY - But you are still a child of God with access to God’s hope, God’s strength and God’s power.**

**Why do you think God wants you to be in the kingdom of God?**

- It’s because God wants to be in a relationship with you, and **God wants you to want to be in a relationship with Him.**

- Sometimes it is not enough to just have somebody with you.

- You want the person “to want” to be with you.

- Otherwise you will say, “**if you really don’t want to be here you can leave.**”

- We come to God, to get to know God.

- And God wants to show Himself through **all the circumstance of our lives, and not just in the five minute prayer time that we call devotions.**

- God wants to reveal Himself to us right where we are everyday of the week.

- That means even when we are in a crisis.

- Even when we’re having an attitude problem.

- Even when what we love is taken away....

- Even when we don’t get what we really wanted to get.

· **God is going to be there with us and God wants us to know He is with us.**

· The issue is not so much what I'm going through right now, but rather are we open to being aware of the presence of God with us in it.

· KEY - Our problem comes in wanting God to remodel our lives, but **God is saying no.**

· That means demolishing a whole lot of stuff.

· **Are you open to being rebuilt today with what you have left?**

· The question really is ... When Life Knocks You Down-What's Left?

David and his men had been called by the Philistine leader who had given him the city of Ziklag, to join in the battle against King Saul and David's own people.

· David responded of course he would go to fight, but **he had to have been praying**, "Lord what on earth am I going to do in the battle. I can't fight against my own people."

· The **other Philistine leaders** didn't want David and his men to go to war with them, because **they felt David and his men might jump ship, and help King Saul in order to get back in on his good side.**

· They told David to go back to Ziklag.

· No doubt David and his men were thrilled to have avoided this conflict.

· I can see them offering praise and worship to God for this huge answer to prayer.

· They can't wait to get back to their wives and families in order to celebrate.

· It was three day journey back to Ziklag.

· All was normal until they got close enough to the city to sense **something was just not right.**

a. There were no scouts from the city to welcome them in.

b. No sound of animals baaing and mooing.

c. There was a smell of burned wood in the atmosphere.

d. The closer they got, the more blackened structures they ran into.

e. When they finally reached the city, probably in a run and a panic by now, **there is not a sound of voice or a living person anywhere in site.**

f. Ziklag, the safe haven of their identity had been attacked and burned.

g. It seems that the Amelikites knew that the nations of Israel & Philistine would be fighting, and the men would be off in battle.

h. It was the perfect time for them to **attack the outer cities and carry off their wealth and to make the people their slaves.**

i. Everyone's family members were gone, as well as all their possessions.

j. What started out as regular day has become a day of disaster.

k. All the men weep and cry out in pain over the loss of seemingly everything.

l. KEY - When we lose that which is dear to us, **we want to put the blame on somebody or something?**

m. **We want to make somebody pay for this?**

n. Some of the men decided to blame David. **“If you had not of made us go be with the Philistines, we would have been here to protect our families and this would not have happened to us.”**

o. So often in our pain, we think, **“if only I had of been there I could have stopped this.”**

p. Have you ever said that?

q. We may say, **“God why didn’t you warn me, so that I could have done such and such.”**

r. **Our bad experiences are going to leave us very bitter if we do not seek to be aware of the presence of God in our situation.**

Some of David’s men became so downhearted that they wanted to organize a stoning party to put David to death.

a. They couldn’t see that David was hurting just like they were hurting, because his family was also gone.

b. It’s sad when our desire for revenge or to get even in our crisis, blinds us from seeing the pain and the hurt our own actions may be causing to others.

The Scriptures says, **“David was greatly distressed because of this talk of stoning him, but David found strength in the Lord his God.**

a. The difference is that David chose to become aware of the presence of God.

b. At this point he did not have anything more materially than the rest of the men.

c. He had lost his status as the great leader, because they questioned his leadership and wanted him dead.

d. They claimed to have nothing left.

e. Often times we think we cannot do the will of God because we have nothing left.

f. Moses was trying to get out of doing God’s will for his life, and God asked him, **“what do you have in your hand.”**

g. Moses said, **“are you talking about this staff, this stick that I picked up to climb up here.”**

h. God was basically asking Moses **“what do you have left.”**

i. Moses saw a stick.

j. That same stick was going to cause plagues to come on Egypt and bring it to its knees.

k. That same stick was going to split open the Red Sea.

l. So often coming out of a crisis **we underestimate what we still have left.**

m. You may have to start all over again.

n. You may have to lose your home.

o. You may have to let go of something or someone.

p. But if you still have the presence of God, **you are no poorer than you were before.**

q. **David cried out to the Lord for his situation and he found some strength in the Lord.**

r. Next **he found some other people who knew the Lord and sought advice from them in discovering God's will.**

- How often do we go to the wrong people for advice when we find ourselves in a crisis?

- Don't go to people who will tell you what you want to hear, **go to people who will tell you what God wants you to hear.**

David got a plan together and he presented to **Abiathar** to see if it was within God's will.

- Abiathar told him yes it is God's will, and yes you will succeed.

- David took 600 men to go and find the people who had destroyed Ziklag.

- **But the plan did not go as expected.**

- After a while **200 men** said, **they just could not go any further.**

- They were too exhausted to continue the journey.

- I want us to see that even when we are the plan God has given approval to, **there are still going to be some setbacks and moments of discouragement.**

- But we must continue to journey.

- **Stay with the plan God has given you,** and let the Lord provide you the next step.

- Expect God to show up ... and that is what David did ... 400 continued on, God led them to a man dying in the field.

- They gave him some water and food, and **the man was able to tell them everything they needed to know about regaining their families and their possessions.**

- David and his men came upon a much larger army ... but God allowed them to arrive at the same time this larger army was partying and getting drunk, **completely unprepared for battle.**

- God gave them a victory and they recovered all of their family members and more possessions than they had ever had before.

**Being knocked down is not the same as being knocked out?**

- Having a plan fail, is not the same as being a failure in life.

- **Losing a lot does not mean, there's nothing left.**

- **God loves you just as much on this side of your trial as God did on the other side.**

- **Jesus prays to the Father on our behalf everyday.**

- **The Holy Spirit is the comforter who will lead and guide is into truth.**

Are you willing to let go of the past, with all its hurts and disappointments?

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Breast Cancer walk and Banquet**

Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> 8:30 am and 5:00 pm

**Church Meeting** Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

**Missionary sponsored “Joy Night”** Oct 8th, at 7:30 p.m. Rev. Sutton will bring the message.

**Women’s Ministry meeting** Oct 12<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm

**Women’s Bible Study** Oct 22<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm

**Prayer Service** Oct 22<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30pm

**Men’s Day** Oct 26, 3:00 p.m.

**Fall Carnival** Oct 30, TBA our alternative to Trick or Treat

**BTU** Oct 31, at 5:00 p.m.

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