

GREATER SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH

GOOD NEWS LETTER

MAKING DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST- ONE HEART AT A TIME- ONE FAMILY AT A TIME

STARTING THE NEW YEAR OFF RIGHT



Reverend Carl and Mrs.
Carmen Jones

Entering the New Year

God of all time,
help us enter the New Year quietly,
thoughtful of who we are to ourselves and to others,
mindful that our steps make an impact
and our words carry power.

May we walk gently.
May we speak only after we have listened well.

Creator of all life,
help us enter the New Year reverently,
aware that you have endowed
every creature and plant, every person and habitat
with beauty and purpose.

May we regard the world with tenderness.
May we honor rather than destroy.

Lover of all souls,
help us enter the New Year joyfully,
willing to laugh and dance and dream,
remembering our many gifts with thanks
and looking forward to blessings yet to come.

May we welcome your lavish love.
May we cast off the small, vindictive god our fears have made.
May the grace and peace of Christ bless us now and in the days
ahead.
- Vinita Hampton Wright

New Year's Prayer

As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we
hold dear: our health, our family and our friends.

Let us release our grudges, our anger and our pains, for these are
nothing but binding chains. Let us live each day in the most loving
ways, the God-conscious way. Let us serve all who are in need,
regardless of race, color or creed.

Let us keep God of our own understanding in our hearts and to
chant God's name each day. Let us lead the world from darkness to
light, from falsehood to truth and from wrong to right.

Let us remember that we are all one, embracing all, discriminating
against none.

May your year be filled with peace, prosperity and love. May God's
blessings shower upon you and bestow upon each of you a bright,
healthy and peaceful new year.
- Rev. Marcy Sheremetta

The Work of Christmas —by Howard Thurman—

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.

Editor's Note: See Black History Highlight on Howard
Thurman on pages 8 & 9

Welcome to 2024!!!

Thank You Greater Salem **THE 2024 ISSUE** **PAGE 2** JANUARY BIRTHDAYS/THE HEART OF OUR FAITH/JAN DATES **PAGE 3**
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JANUARY

Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<i>1 New Year's Day</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> Elizabeth Cooper
<i>7</i> Twanna Scruggs	<i>8</i> Brenda Hackett	<i>9</i> Cecilia Adams Deshawn Bethel	<i>10</i> Judy Bishop	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> Dorothy Hunter	<i>15 Martin Luther King Jr Day</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> Charolette Johnson LaTonya Thomas	<i>18</i> DaNyhia Moore	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> Cassandra Allen Linda Fleming
<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> Ramon Gore	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i> Rosa Battle	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> Latifah Mansfield	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>			



THE HEART OF OUR FAITH

Christianity affirms that at the heart of reality is a Heart, a loving Father who works through history for the salvation of his children. Man cannot save himself, for man is not the measure of all things and humanity

is not God. Bound by the chains of his own sin and finiteness, man needs a Savior.

—Martin Luther King Jr.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP ON JANUARY 14

Tomorrow is MLK Day in the United States, Lord. As I worship today, help me see specific ways in which you call me to better serve and love others.

Special January 2024 Dates

- ◆ New Year's Day, January 1, 2024
- ◆ Epiphany, January 6, 2024
- ◆ Baptism of the Lord, January 7
- ◆ Martin Luther King Jr. Day January 15, 2024
- ◆ Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25, 2024



Lynn, Cassandra, and Glenda Celebrate 70 years



We have been friends since the 4th grade at Stephen Foster Elementary. We attended Shawnee Jr. High School together and graduated from Shawnee High School - c/o 1972. We were all High school cheerleaders. We were all baptized and reared right here at Greater Salem Baptist Church. Thanking God for seeing and having another birthday—January 20, 2023 — 70 Years! "What A Blessing!!!"



Glenda S. Lynch, Cassandra W. Allen, and Linda S. Fleming. Celebrating our 68th Birthday in this picture.

Submitted by Lynn Fleming

Attention Greater Salem Couples!!!

Please let the GoodNewsLetter Staff know about a month ahead of time when you're going to be celebrating the anniversary of your Wedding Day. Please include the date and a photo of your choice. We'd like to share that good news with your church family.

JANUARY SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS AT-A-GLANCE

WEEKLY LESSONS

w/Read the Entire Bible In a Year Selections

2024 Week 19: Read Ezekiel

January 7 Lesson *God Divine Glory Returns*

Ezekiel 43: 1-12

People need boundaries and order in their lives as well as a place of peace in the midst of chaos. Ezekiel's vision from God revealed to the Israelites that God's calming presence and glory can be felt in holy places where He is truly worshiped.

Week 20: Read Daniel

January 14, 2024 *A Sincere Faith*

Daniel 1 :8-21

We sometimes find ourselves confronted by contradictory requirements from different sources of authority. How do we resolve such conflicts? Daniel's courageous faith and godly wisdom, helped him resolve his conflict and remain obedient to God in terms of dietary requirements.

Week 21: Read Hosea

January 21, 2024 *Hosea Preaches God's Accusation against Israel*

Hosea 4 :1-4, 7 : 1-2; 12: 8-9

Hosea identifies many sins the people of Israel had committed in rejecting the covenant of God. Since God had not judged the nation so far, the people boasted that judgement would never come. The prophet pleaded with them to repent and return to God in order to avoid His judgement.

Week 22: Read Joel

January 28, 2024, *Call to Repentance*

Joel 2 :1-2, 12-14, 28-29

God's call in this lesson is a call to repentance. God sent a plague of locusts that destroyed the fields as a sign of God's judgement. God was warning the children of Israel through Joel that if they did not repent there would be greater judgement. But if they did repent, the Lord would pour His Spirit on all the people.

JANUARY HEALTH NOTES FROM THE NURSES MINISTRY

It's Flu Season. Know the Facts

Influenza or Flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and sometimes the lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. The best way to prevent flu is by getting a flu [vaccine](#) each year.

Flu Symptoms: Influenza (flu) can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. Flu symptoms usually come on suddenly. People who have flu often feel some or all of these symptoms: fever or feeling feverish/chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, fatigue (tiredness). Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.

Flu vs. COVID-19: You cannot tell the difference between flu and COVID-19 by the symptoms alone because they have some of the same signs and symptoms. Specific [testing](#) is needed to tell what the illness is and to confirm a diagnosis. Having a medical professional administer a specific test that detects both flu and COVID-19 allows you to get diagnosed and treated for the specific virus you have more quickly. Getting treated early for COVID-19 and flu can reduce your risk of getting very sick..

How Flu Spreads: Most experts believe that flu viruses spread mainly by tiny droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze, or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby. Less often, a person might get flu by touching a surface or object that has flu virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose or possibly their eyes.

Period of Contagiousness: You may be able to spread flu to someone else before you know you are sick, as well as when you are sick with symptoms.

- People with flu are most contagious in the first 3-4 days after their illness begins.
- Some otherwise healthy adults may be able to infect others beginning one day **before** symptoms develop and up to five to seven days **after** becoming sick. Some people, especially young children and people with weakened immune systems, might be able to infect others for an even longer time.

Onset of Symptoms: The time from when a person is exposed and infected with flu to when symptoms begin is about two days, but can range from about one to four days.

[Complications of flu](#) can include bacterial pneumonia, ear infections, sinus infections and worsening of chronic medical conditions, such as congestive heart failure, asthma, or diabetes.

Anyone can get flu (even healthy people), and serious problems related to flu can happen at any age, but some people are

at higher risk of developing serious flu-related complications if they get sick. This includes people 65 years and older, people of any age with certain chronic medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease), pregnant people, and children younger than 5 years.

Preventing Seasonal Flu: The first and most important step in preventing flu is to get a flu vaccine each year. Flu vaccine has been shown to reduce flu related illnesses and the risk of serious flu complications that can result in hospitalization or even death. CDC also recommends everyday preventive actions (like staying away from people who are sick, covering coughs and sneezes, and frequent handwashing) to help slow the spread of germs that cause respiratory (nose, throat, and lungs) illnesses, like flu.

Diagnosing Flu: It is very difficult to distinguish flu from other viral or bacterial respiratory illnesses based on symptoms alone. There are tests available to diagnose flu and COVID-19.. Contact your healthcare provider to get tested as soon as you have symptoms.

Treating Flu: There are [flu antiviral drugs](#) that can be used to treat flu illness. When treatment is started within 1-2 days after flu symptoms begin, influenza [antiviral drugs](#) can lessen symptoms and shorten the time you are sick by 1 or 2 days. They might also prevent some [flu complications](#), like pneumonia. For people at [higher risk](#) of serious flu complications, treatment with influenza antiviral drugs can mean the difference between milder or more serious illness possibly resulting in a hospital stay. Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/>

Submitted by
Rev. Jones



FREE
VIRTUAL EVENT
WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT
GETTING AND USING
HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

January 9th:

🕒 7pm

January 13th:

🕒 12pm

One Hour Event + Q&A

REGISTER NOW:
[ASCLEPIUSINITIATIVE.ORG/EVENTS](https://asclepiusinitiative.org/events)



MUSIC MINISTRY VISITS WITH CONVALESCING GSBC MEMBERS

Visit with Sis. Ella Leslie and Sis. Yvonne Leslie

On December 9, 2023, the Faith Ministry of the GSBC Mass Choir paid a visit to our members who are in convalescent centers. We had the pleasure of visiting Sis. Ella Leslie, and her daughter, Sis. Yvonne Leslie as well. Our purpose was to share prayer, encouragement, love, and gifts that are needed throughout the year. We had a glorious time and were well received. *What a blessing they were to us!!!* It is our goal to continue this well needed outreach on a regular basis.

Yours in Christ, Terrell Grant and Doris Hunter



Visit with Bro. Rick Johnson

A portion of the Greater Salem mass choir went to visit Rick Johnson on December 9.

It was a very nice visit. Rick was so happy to see us. We sang a few songs with him. We prayed with him, and he was very appreciative of that. We also called his wife while we were there, and she was very happy that we were there to visit with him. He talked to us, and he said he wanted us to come back and see him. We told him that we would. He also asked the church to keep him in their prayers. The following members went with us, Barbara Mack, Deborah Leacock, Arlene Mansfield, Maria Mitchell, and Maria's granddaughter, Yahlie Ford.

Submitted by Maria Mitchell

Visit with Sis. Audrey Jones

A portion of The Greater Salem mass choir (Barbara Mack, Deborah Leacock, Arlene Mansfield, Maria Mitchell and her granddaughter, Yahlie Ford, also went to visit Sis. Audrey Jones on December 9. We had a very nice visit with her as well. We prayed with her, and she requested that we sing these two songs; "Joy to the world" and "Bless be the ties that bind our Hearts". This was a very old song that we sang years ago but she requested it so we delivered. She kept saying "y'all look pretty" to us which made all of us laugh. She also thanked us for the lovely gifts that were given to her. Deborah fed her while we were there, and she loved that. At the end of the visit, she walked us (in her wheelchair) to the elevator to see us out.



Submitted by Maria Mitchell

Visit with Sis. Julia Berkley

Our Minister of music, Min. Cleo Joiner, and Bass player extraordinaire, Bro. Will Perkins, paid a visit to Sis. Julia Berkley at the Crescent Place Assisted Living in Shelbyville, KY.



What A December for GSBC !!!

.....More Next Month Bowling Outing and Youth Sunday

Deacon Wives and Widows Banquet –Dec. 2nd

A Sprit-filled evening with the Baptist Deacons Wives and Widows Council of Louisville and Vicinity took place on December 2nd. Guest speaker for The Feast of Love Banquet was Pastor Damien Thompson of Emanuel Baptist Church. GSBC was there to support council members, Deaconesses Jacque Austin and Sarah Toney.

President Sarah Toney welcomed the audience. Greater Salem really supported our Annual Feast of Love Banquet, Thank You, Greater Salem!!!



A Happy Birthday Jesus Get Together - Dec. 13th

was held on Wednesday Night, during Youth Bible Study. Thank You, Sis. Hilda Kendrick for sharing with us the "True Meaning of Christmas." She had everyone's attention. Thank you also to our wonderful kitchen staff. They prepare a delicious and nutritious meal every Wednesday Night. Thank you to our teachers, Deacon Exum and Sis. Jacque Austin, who prepare every Wednesday's lesson for the 9–13-Year-Old class.

The children were very happy to receive their early Christmas gift from our Greater Salem Church family.

Thank you, Sis. Austin for your words of encouragement to our youth and thanks to Deacon Exum for our departing prayer.



The Drama Ministry Christmas Production, "Wise Men Still Seek Him" -Dec 16th



The Dazzlin! Derby City Royalties "Divas" hosted their 9th Annual Christmas Brunch "It's a Family Affair" - Dec. 9th

Families, friends, children and guys were ALL welcomed on Saturday, December 9th. . Our youth did a fantastic job portraying "The 12 Spiritual Days of Christmas". Our youth were invited by our own, Sis. Clara Fuqua, the President of the organization.

Thank You parents and Grandparents for joining in the great food, games, and prizes. Our youth enjoyed this outing. They were very excited about seeing Santa Claus, our own Bro. Theosious Fuqua. They also made gifts for their families and played games.



BLACK HISTORY HIGHLIGHT



[https://
www.wikiwand.com/
en/Howard_Thurman](https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Howard_Thurman)

Howard Washington Thurman

(November 18, 1899 – April 10, 1981) was an American author, philosopher, theologian, mystic, educator, and civil rights leader. As a prominent religious figure, he played a leading role in many social justice movements and organizations of the twentieth century.

Thurman's theology of radical nonviolence influenced and shaped a generation of civil rights activists, and he was a key mentor to leaders within the civil rights movement, including Martin Luther King Jr.

Howard Thurman Early life and education

Howard Thurman was born in 1899 in Florida in Daytona Beach. He spent most of his childhood in Daytona, Florida, where his family lived in Waycross, one of Daytona's three all-black communities.:xxxi,xxxvii,xci

He was profoundly influenced by his maternal grandmother, Nancy Ambrose, who had been enslaved on a plantation in Madison County, Florida. Nancy Ambrose and Thurman's mother, Alice, were members of Mount Bethel Baptist Church in Waycross and were women of deep Christian faith.

Thurman's father, Saul Thurman, died of pneumonia when Howard Thurman was seven years old. After completing eighth grade, Thurman attended the Florida Baptist Academy in Jacksonville, Florida. One hundred miles from Daytona, it was one of only three high schools for Afri-

can Americans in Florida at the time.

In 1923, Thurman graduated from Morehouse College as valedictorian. In 1925, he was ordained as a Baptist minister at First Baptist Church of Roanoke, Virginia, while still a student at Rochester Theological Seminary (now Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School). He graduated from Rochester Theological Seminary in May 1926 as valedictorian in a class of twenty-nine students.

From June 1926 until the fall of 1928, Thurman served as pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Oberlin, Ohio.:xcvii,c In the fall of 1928, he moved to Atlanta, Georgia, where he had a joint appointment to Morehouse College and Spelman College in philosophy and religion.:c During the spring semester of 1929, Thurman pursued further study as a special student at Haverford College with Rufus Jones, a noted Quaker philosopher and mystic. He enjoyed praying and going to church which provided him part of his education.

Marriage and family

Thurman married Katie Kelley on June 11, 1926, less than a month after graduating from seminary. Katie was a 1918 graduate of the Teacher's Course at Spelman Seminary (renamed Spelman College in 1924). Their daughter Olive was born in October 1927. Katie died in December 1930 of tuberculosis, which she had probably contracted during her anti-tuberculosis work. On June 12, 1932, Thurman married Sue Bailey, whom he had met while at Morehouse, when Sue was a student at Spelman.:lxii–lxiii, lxxvii, lxxix–lxxii Howard and Sue Bai-

ley Thurman's daughter Anne was born in October 1933. Sue Bailey Thurman was an author, lecturer, historian, civil rights activist, and founder of the Aframerican Women's Journal. She died in 1996.

Career



Detail from a stained glass window featuring Howard Thurman at Howard University's Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel

Thurman was selected as the first dean of

Rankin Chapel at Howard University in the District of Columbia in 1932. He served there from 1932 to 1944. He also served on the faculty of the Howard University School of Divinity.

Thurman traveled broadly, heading Christian missions and meeting with world figures. In 1935-36 he led a six-month delegation of African-Americans invited to India for meetings. At Bardoli they spoke with Mahatma Gandhi, who asked "persistent, pragmatic questions" about the Black American community and its struggles. Training for satyagraha was discussed, its difficulties in the extreme addressed.

When Thurman asked Gandhi what message he should take back to the United States, Gandhi said he regretted not having made nonviolence more visible as a practice worldwide and remarked "It may be through the Negroes that the unadulterated message of non-violence will be delivered to the world".

In 1944, Thurman left his tenured position at Howard to help the Fellowship of Reconciliation establish the Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples also

(Continued from page 8)

known as The Fellowship Church in San Francisco. He served as co-pastor with a white minister, Alfred Fisk. Many of their congregants were African Americans who had migrated to San Francisco from Oklahoma, Texas, and Arkansas for jobs in the defense industry. The church helped create a new community for many in San Francisco.

Thurman was invited to Boston University in 1953, where he became the dean of Marsh Chapel (1953–1965). He was the first black dean of a chapel at a majority-white university or college in the United States. In addition, he served on the faculty of Boston University School of Theology. Thurman was also active and well known in the Boston community, where he influenced many leaders.

After leaving Boston University in 1965, Thurman continued his ministry as chairman of the board and director of the Howard Thurman Educational Trust in San Francisco until his death in 1981.

Thurman was a prolific author, writing twenty books on theology, religion, and philosophy. The most famous of his works, *Jesus and the Disinherited* (1949), deeply influenced Martin Luther King Jr. and other leaders, both black and white, of the modern Civil Rights Movement.

Thurman had been a classmate and friend of King's father at Morehouse

College. King visited Thurman while he attended Boston University, and Thurman in turn mentored his former classmate's son and his friends. He served as spiritual advisor to King, Sherwood Eddy, James Farmer, A. J. Muste, and Pauli Murray.

At Boston University, Thurman also taught Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, who cited Thurman as among the teachers who first compelled him to explore mystical trends beyond Judaism.



Howard Thurman House in Daytona Beach, Florida

Death

Howard Thurman died due to a lingering illness on April 10, 1981, in San Francisco, California. He was 81 years old.

Honors and legacy Thurman was named honorary Canon of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York City, in 1974.

The *Ebony* Magazine called Thurman one of the 50 most important figures in African-American history. In 1953, *Life* magazine rated Thurman among the twelve most important religious leaders in the United States.

In 1986, Dean Emeritus George K. Makechnie founded the Howard Thurman Center at Boston University to preserve and share the legacy of Howard Thurman. In 2020, the Howard Thurman Center for Common Ground moved to a larger space occupying two floors in the Peter Fuller Building at 808 Commonwealth Avenue. The Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center at Boston University holds the Howard Thurman Papers and the Sue Bailey Thurman Papers, where they are catalogued and available to researchers.

The Howard Thurman Papers Project was founded in 1992. The Project's mission is to preserve and promote Thurman's vast documentary record, which spans 63 years and consists of approximately 58,000 items of correspondence, sermons, unpublished writings, and speeches. The Howard Thurman Papers Project is located at Boston University School of Theology.

Howard University School of Divinity named their chapel the Thurman Chapel in memory of Howard Thurman.

Howard Thurman's poem 'I Will Light Candles This Christmas' has been set to music by British composer and songwriter Adrian Payne, both as a song and as a choral (SATB) piece. The choral version was first performed by Epsom Choral Society in December 2007. An arrangement for school choirs, which can be performed in one or two parts with piano accompaniment, was first performed in December 2010.

Bible Quiz

In the book of Judges, the warrior Barak would go to battle only if a certain female leader went with him. Who was she?

- A. Rebekah
- B. Jael
- C. Michal
- D. Deborah



Answer: D. Deborah (See Judges 4:1-10.)

PUZZLE

HAPPY NEW YOU!

Changing the calendar each January is a reminder that God makes all things new.

Directions: Use the clues and the calendar code to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV.

JANUARY 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	God	night	word	in	love	Jesus
7						
glory	therefore	speak	give	light	Christ	a
14						
saw	beginning	anyone	waters	help	is	many
21						
he	again	through	earth	made	while	back
28						
new	if	and	creation			

The second Monday _____
 The last Monday ____
 The 16th _____
 One day before the 20th ____
 The day before the first Friday ____
 The last weekday of the second week _____
 The day after the 20th ____
 The day after 18th ____
 The first day of the second weekend ____
 The last Sunday ____
 The last day of the month _____

Christian Symbols



LATIN CROSS

The Latin cross is the simplest and most common form of the Christian cross, possibly dating from the second or third century.

Roman Catholic and Orthodox Christians typically display a crucifix — an image of Jesus hanging on the cross — to remember his death for the sake of the world.

Protestant churches often favor the empty cross, commemorating Jesus' resurrection. .



Geodes look plain on the outside but contain beautiful crystals. Create these "rocks" to show how God makes us new on the inside.

What you need:

- Clean cardboard egg carton
- Scissors (and adult help)
- Epsom salt
- Plastic zippered bags (one per color of dye)
- Food coloring
- Glue
- Paintbrush

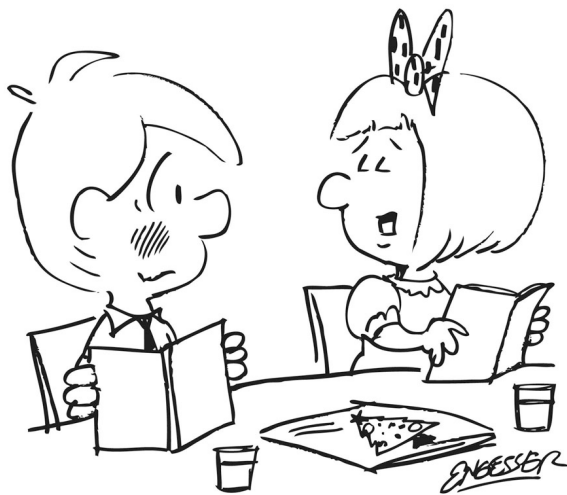


What you do:

1. Cut out the tops and bottoms of all the egg compartments so you can make 6 ball shapes.
2. In each bag, put 3 tablespoons of Epsom salt and a drop or two of food coloring. Seal and shake to mix.
3. With the paintbrush, spread glue inside two egg-carton halves. Sprinkle a spoonful of Epsom salt into those halves. Then close and shake.
4. Open your homemade geode and shake out excess salt.
5. Optional: Preserve the crystals with a coat of clear-drying glue.



SUNDAY SCHOOL



"Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse" is NOT a Bible verse!

FROM THE EVANGELISM MINISTRY—REMOVE & SHARE THIS PAGE



SHOULD PEOPLE FEEL BADLY BEFORE RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS? AUTHOR: JIM ELLIFF

It seemed as if a wet wool coat of conviction was covering me before I came to Christ. I was weighted down with guilt. It seemed unbearable. Something had to change. My mother faithfully shared good news with me. I had heard it all before, but I needed to listen carefully. I felt my situation demanded a solution. I could not shake my sin off any more. I could neither neglect dealing with it, or bring myself to think God didn't care about it. But up to this point, I had loved my sin more than a relationship with Christ. That night, as a burdened boy, I was forgiven of those sins. Because of what Jesus did for me through his death and resurrection, my sins were separated from me as far as the east is from the west (see Ps 103:12). And he remembered them against me no more (see Heb 10:17).

Awareness of Guilt Required?

Should you attempt to make people feel badly about their sin when you wish for them to believe in Christ? Do they need this bad news before they can respond to the good news?

Paul the Apostle certainly wasn't afraid to tell the bad news. *Note this experience with a man named Felix, the governor: After some days Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, and he sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus. And as he reasoned about righteousness and self-control and the coming judgment, Felix was alarmed and said, "Go away for the present. When I get an opportunity I will summon you."*

At the same time he hoped that money would be given him by Paul. So he sent for him often and conversed with him. When two years had elapsed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus. And desiring to do the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul in prison." (Acts 24:22-27 ESV, *emphasis mine*)

Felix did not like what he was hearing. He loved his sin and even wished to receive money from Paul, so he sent for him often. But hearing Paul wasn't comfortable. The more Paul talked about "righteousness and self-control and coming judgment," the more he was "alarmed." But he was not alarmed enough to give up his life of rebellion to Christ. In several of the letters Paul wrote to the New Testament churches, he spelled out the condition of sin in unbelievers as part of his clarification of the gospel. Consider Romans, in which the first three chapters were devoted to the subject. He reported that "there is none righteous." In fact, he quoted the Old Testament further to say that there was "none that does good; there is not even one." He spoke to religious moralists these troubling words: "But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God . . ." (Rom 2:5).

How Much Sorrow?

But can we ever feel as badly as we should about our sin? I cannot imagine that it would be possible. Our sin is all the

worse because it is against the holy, infinite God, and we have continued to sin day after day for as long as we have lived. Surely no amount of conviction or sorrow is enough to ever earn God's mercy.

But sorrow for our sin does reveal the status of our hearts without Christ. And that is so important. By being aware of the awfulness of sin in our lives, we may long for Christ as our only hope. Hatred of sin is not saving in itself, nor is fear of hell. But we must have a change of heart about sin and a new love for Christ — by believing in him. By believing in Christ we mean that we have come to a place of submission to Christ in our hearts, and full rest in him as our only Savior and Master, the one who died and rose again to solve our sin problem. We are taught repeatedly in the Bible that we are saved from the penalty of our sin when we turn from sin (i.e. repent) and believe in him.

This message of Christ's loving act on the cross and his victorious resurrection over sin and death is called the gospel, or the "good news." It is certainly that! God has provided an open door to eternal life through Christ for all who hate their sin and turn to him.

How much is required? The answer is: enough to turn from our self-confidence and sinful life to Christ.

The life of self-dependence rather than Christ-dependence is quicksand. The harder you try to prove that you are worthy to be saved on your own supposed goodness, the lower you go into the mire. But when you have had enough, however deep you have to go to realize it, you may call out to God for deliverance. Conviction of your sin and comprehension of the wrong philosophy about your adequacy is a necessary step to change your mind.

There is a good reason that God calls this new status "salvation." It is being delivered from sin and its consequences. Perhaps the best synonym is "rescued." But until you understand your sin, you may never seek it. So, yes, I will tell you about your sin as much as it is necessary, as Paul did and Jesus did and all who love Jesus should, because it is a loving way to help you cry out to Christ for his mercy and eternal salvation.

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Would you like to invite Jesus into your life? HERE'S HOW...

Prayer: *You can pray this prayer now: The words aren't so important, but you must mean it with all your heart.*

Heavenly Father, I admit that I've sinned by breaking your Ten Commandments. I believe that your son, Jesus Christ, died in my place for my sins and rose again. I now open the door of my heart and life to receive Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I turn from my old ways to love, obey and follow Him. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

NEED TO TALK: **Contact a member of the GSBC Evangelism team for further details at (502-587-8869)**



Greater Salem Baptist

1009 West Chestnut St.

Louisville KY 40203

Rev. Carl Jones, Int. Pastor

Hours of Worship

10:00 AM Sunday School

11:15 am Morning Worship

Service of Communion 1st Sunday

Office Staff

Monica Little

Lenette Dennison

Telephone Number

502-587-8869

Email:

aagrsalem@bellsouth.net

Office Hours

Monday through Friday

10:00 am to 02:00 pm

Saturday 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Worship and Study Opportunities

Sundays

Sunday School - 10AM In Sanctuary or via conference Call at 978-990-5000 access code 721799#

Morning Worship -11:15 AM - In person or on GSBC Facebook Live

Wednesdays

Noon Day Prayer Service in sanctuary at 12:00 PM

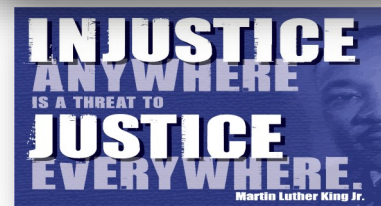
Weekly Bible Studies (except 4th Wednesdays) 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary – or Online Via Facebook Live or via conference call at 978-990-5000 Access Code 7032638 Youth Bible Study begins with snacks at 6:00 PM in Lower level **Prayer Service** -7 PM in Sanctuary or via 605-472-5736 Access 2239663

Saturdays

Men's Bible Study 10:15 AM In person or Dial-In at 605-468-8738 Access Code: 5398693

Women's Bible Study 12 Noon in person or dial-in at 605-313-5598 Access code 6671487

Men's Studies meet 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sat/
Women's study on 2nd and 4th Saturdays



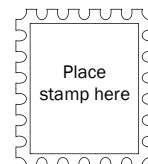
MAKING DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST
ONE HEART AT A TIME - ONE FAMILY AT A TIME

From:

Greater Salem Baptist Church

1009 West Chestnut Street

Louisville, KY 40203



Deadline for the February 2024 GNL
01/21/2024