



THE BEACON

SARDIS BAPTIST CHURCH

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FROM THE PASTOR

Beloved,
 Are you excited as I am about the spring-time weather? The trees are putting out leaves, the flowers are blossoming, my nose is running. It's wonderful!
 It's also a wonderful time for our church. There is a wonderful spirit of unity building, as well as a stirring of hearts to serve the Lord. God is bearing fruit in answer to our prayers and He is changing lives. We are blessed beyond our understanding, and God is not done, yet!
 As we continue to do the work of the ministry, it is

my prayer that God would truly add laborers. There are so many needs in our community, both spiritual and physical. There are

And He was saying to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. Luke 10:2

current commitment level to God's church.
 Are you faithful in your personal spiritual life?
 Are you faithful in attendance to Sunday School and worship services?
 Are you faithful in giving sacrificially to support the ministries in our church?
 Are you faithful in serving in teaching and support roles?
 You see, there is more to being a Christian than just being saved. It involves being an active part of God's people and being part of the labor

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far more needs than the current group of hard-working laborers can handle. That is why we need you, and your prayers!
 Prayerfully consider your

NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

This month we will be reminding you of the importance of giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.
 The North American Mission Board has more than 5,000 missionaries throughout the United States and

Canada attempting to help plant and mobilize churches to reach the growing population of non-Christians in North America.
 If Jesus were to return today, nearly 260,000,000 people just on our continent would enter into eternity without Christ, without

hope, and without pardon from God's wrath.
 Money doesn't guarantee souls, but it guarantees people will be sent to share the gospel with them. Pray about giving sacrificially to the AAEO that others may know Him!
Article by Ken Nichols

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force!

No Christian should feel that just because they are saved, and on the roll that their relationship with God is okay and therefore they don't need church, and don't need to serve the church. That is simply an un-Christian way of thinking. It may also be evidence that your salvation is not as secure as you may think.

If the Spirit of God lives in you then He has also gifted you to serve the Body of Christ through your local church. If you are able, and you are not serving the Body of Christ through your local church, there are only

two possibilities, both of which are bad. 1) You are either grieving the Spirit of God who desires you to serve the church; or, 2) You do not have the Spirit of God and therefore you do not have Christ.

Jesus spoke of salvation involving a cross, self-denial, sacrifice. When you look at your life, do you see those things evidenced in your life? If not, this article is for you. I know it's for me.

Join God's work at Sardis Baptist Church. There is plenty to do, and there is always room for more laborers in the harvest fields of our Lord!

Article by Ken Nichols

JAPAN: A NATION IN NEED

Many of us were struck by the images of Japan after the massive earthquake and ensuing tsunami. The devastation of the quake itself, toppling structures and destroying towns, followed by the unstoppable ocean waves encroaching its boundaries, overtaking portions of the tiny island nation was more than I could comprehend. I was used to seeing litter, materials and even vehicles moved by floodwaters, but I was in no way prepared to see video of large fishing ships and two-story buildings floating through cities and towns. In the aftermath of it all there is a modern nation, crippled, brought to its knees by the powerful forces of nature. We are reminded that we are not in control.

Even worse, Japan has a Christian population of less than 2%. That means the vast majority of those who lost their lives, entered eternity unprepared. That also means that the vast majority of those experiencing such horrific physical emotional suffering do not know the God of Creation, the Lord God Almighty. God loves the people of Japan. They are part of His creation. It should be at the top of our prayers for Japan that God will work through this tragedy, using the Church as His agent, to minister physical and spiritual aid and comfort

to the people of Japan.

May the small church there be used mightily, and may God add to their numbers daily those who are being saved. May the large church in the world be used mightily, and may we loose our resources to help those in this time of great need.

"Earthquakes and waves are mighty, and destructive. My God is mightier, and He is good. Pray to the Master for mercy on those in peril."

As assessments are made in Japan, we will make you aware of ways our church can help. To begin with, the **Georgia Baptist Convention (GBC)** will receive donations to the newly

established **Japan Disaster Relief Fund** which will be channeled to **Baptist Global Response (BGR)**, the organization through which our **International Mission Board (IMB)** ministers in global disaster relief. If you would like to support relief efforts in Japan please note on your envelope designation by writing: **Japan Relief Fund**. We will forward the funds to the GBC.

For more information on Southern Baptist relief efforts in Japan:

www.BaptistGlobalResponse.com

www.IMB.org

www.BPNews.net

Article by Ken Nichols

A CASE FOR WORSHIP

Article by Doug Dojan

Whether we like it or not, the moment we become a Christian, confessing that Christ is our Savior, we at the same time become a member of the Christian church. It makes no difference whether our names are on the church register, whether we have chosen a denomination, shared responsibilities at a church, or spend most of our time absent from worship services. We are members of God's church because of our faith in Christ. Membership in the church is a basic fact for those who profess their love for our Savior. It isn't an option only for those Christians that are outgoing, or people persons. Its part of the fabric of redemption.

There are many self-professed Christians who never join a local church, who refuse to respond to the call of worship each Sunday. There are some who say "I love God but I hate the church. But, you see, God never makes private, secret salvation deals with His people. God's relationship with us is personal, and intimate, but never private. We are a true family in Christ Jesus. When we are saved, we are among brothers and sisters in faith. No Christian is an only child.

Having said that, understand that just because we are a family of faith, it does not mean that we are one big happy family. The people we encounter as family in faith are not always nice people. They don't stop being sinners the moment they believe in Christ. They don't suddenly change into brilliant conversationalists, amazing inspirations, or great companions. Some are dull, cranky, and quite frankly a drag. But just the same, God tells us they are our brothers and sisters in faith. If God is our father, then this is our family.

So the question is not "Am I going to be a part of the community?" but "How am I going to live in this community?" As God's children, we do different things. Some run away from it and pretend that the family doesn't exist. Some go out on their own and then occasionally show up for parties, or

bring gifts to let everyone know they still care. Some would never leave but cause others to dream it for them, for they are all the time criticizing the food, the housekeeping and complaining about the others in the family. And some, determined to find out what God has in mind by placing them in this community called a church, learn how to function in it harmoniously and with joy, and develop the maturity that enables them to share and exchange God's grace with those who might otherwise be viewed as nuisances.

As we come to declare our love for Christ, we must face the lovely as well as the unlovely fellow sinners who God loves and commands us to love. This is not to be treated like something we are supposed to put up with, one of the inconvenient necessities of faith in the way that paying taxes is an inconvenient consequence of living in a secure nation. It is not just necessary; it is desirable that our faith have a social dimension, a human relationship

A few weeks ago, I was reading a book, and the author, a pastor, shared this interesting story. He stated that, one of the afflictions of being a pastor has been to listen, with a straight face, to all the reasons people give for not going to church. "My mother made me go when I was little." "There are too many hypocrites in the church." "It's the only day I have to sleep in." He said there was a time when he responded to such statements with simple arguments that exposed them as flimsy excuses. Then he noticed that it didn't make any difference. If he showed the inadequacy of one excuse, three more would pop up in its place. So he doesn't respond anymore. He listens (with a straight face) and goes home to pray that person will one day find the one sufficient reason for going to church, which is God.

If we stay home by ourselves and read the Bible,

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we are going to miss a lot, for our reading will be unconsciously conditioned by our culture, limited by our ignorance, and distorted by our unnoticed prejudices. In worship we are part of “the large congregation” where all the writers of Scripture address us, where song writers use music to express truths that touch us, not only in our heads but in our hearts, where the preacher who has just lived through six days of doubt, hurt, faith and blessing with the worshipers, speaks the truth of Scripture in the language of the congregation’s present experience. We want to hear what God says and what he says to us. Worship is the place

where our attention is centered on these personal and decisive words of God.

We live in an age where we are reluctant to do anything if we can’t demonstrate its practical usefulness. Its inevitable that we ask the question about worship. Is it worth it? Can we justify the time, energy, and expense involved in gathering Christians together in worship? What is your response? Please pray about the answer, both for you and for our “family in faith”.



THERE’S GONNA BE A “REBELUTION”!

Article by Lisa Dojan

In March the Watering Hole ministry began a new book study on a book called “Do Hard Things.” The book was written by two “teen-agers” to challenge their peers to a new way of thinking and living. They are rebellious teens who are challenging other teens to join a rebellion. But, this is a rebellion I think you’re going to like. It’s a “Rebelution,” a teenage rebellion against low expectations.



DO HARD THINGS
A Teenage Rebellion
against low expectations.



Encourage the young people in our church to read this book! And then, once they have read it, you read it!!

Let’s all be part of the “Rebelution!”

For more information visit the website at www.TheRebelution.com. They also have a blog (a web log) containing many challenging and informative articles at www.TheRebelution.com/blog.

WHAT IS WATERING HOLE? “Watering Hole” is a Wednesday evening Bible study for young adults (formerly known as “teenagers”). They meet for snacks around 6pm, and hunker down for serious study until 7:30 or 8:00 pm.

The “Rebelution” is one of the most encouraging developments I have seen in many years. Alex and Brett Harris are young men of conviction, passion and courage. Their call to their generation is faithful to the Gospel and honoring to Christ. The “Rebelution” is a sign of hope-and a call to action.

*Dr. Albert Mohler
President,
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary*

FROM THE PEW

Serving God Behind Bars *Article by Clint Hagan*

Clint Hagan is currently incarcerated at Burke County Jail in Waynesboro, GA for crimes committed from July to September, 2009.

Clint came to faith in Christ at the Burke County Jail in September, 2009 through the evangelistic efforts of another inmate. Clint began attending Sardis Baptist Church while out on bond. He was baptized at Sardis Baptist Church on Nov. 1, 2009. On November 18, 2010 Clint was sentenced to 5 years in prison and 5 years probation.



Mr. Clint Hagan

Hi my name is Clint Hagan. Most of you know me in the church, but this past November I was sentenced to five years in prison for things that I had done in the past that I am not proud of. One good thing that came out of my getting caught was that I got saved and found a wonderful reason to try to live right. I've been here in Burke County Jail going on four months now. Everything so far has gone ok, but it is very trying and depressing at times. Whenever I get to feeling like that, I look at what all I still do have, and that's a lot. My God, my family, my girl, and all of you in the church have been there for me, and that's all that anybody in my predicament could ask for.

My mom has been there for me from the "get go." She has constantly encouraged me and tells me everything she can about my situation. I couldn't ask for a better mother, and I thank God that I have her.

When I first got arrested in 2009, my mom bonded me out. I had gotten saved while I was in jail, so I wanted to start going to church. I prayed that the Lord would give me a girl that I could spend the rest of my life with; God answered my prayers, and Jenni and I have been together ever since. She has been the person who has had the most influence on me, and I'm proud to say our relationship has grown and matured since I've been in here. We're pretty much stuck like glue, and again God is the One and only One to thank.

For all of you at the church, thank you so much for supporting me every step of this trial I'm going through. Some of you have written me, and it feels good to know my church is behind me. As for your preacher, he is a really encouraging, great, and all around good Godly man. He comes up here and gives his time to check on me and advises me in any problem that I might have. He is a really important person in my life and one I look up to.

One thing that I can say is that my God and your God

has been very gracious to me. He gave me a wonderful family, woman, church, but mostly a hope and a future. He still amazes me with new found wisdom and truth in His Word, and I try to put it to use with my fellow inmates. It makes me feel great when He speaks through me to reach a person who needs it and doesn't have the literacy to understand it. I've been holding Bible studies, and I can feel the Holy Spirit all around us. I know that I must use this time in a Godly way so the Lord can have His full work in my life.

I pray often that He will get me out of here fast and in a hurry, but I know God will do things on His own time. So far everything has been right on time, and I have no doubt that He will always be on time. Romans 8:28 is one of my favorite verses and it says, "And we know that *all things* work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." That is a very comforting verse to me; it tells me if I do my part, God will do His.

My prayers will be for everything that I have mentioned, for all my loved ones, and for anything else I can think of. I know the Lord will let me out soon... I have absolute faith of that. I can't wait to see all of you again. I know it will do me nothing but good. I love all of you and feel free to write me because I do get extremely bored in here. Keep strong in your faith and everything will work out with God's will. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Clint

Clint would love to hear from you. As of the date of this newsletter, he receives mail at the following address:

**Mr. Clint Hagan
Burke County Jail
225 Hwy 24 South
Waynesboro, GA 30830**



NURSERY SCHEDULE	FLOWER SCHEDULE
3 Tricia and Haley Chandler 10 Nancy Cain & Olivia Mobley 17 Amy Chandler & Ellen Chandler 24 Kathryn Graham and Erin Thames	3 Eva Nell Ellison 10 Amanda Baker 17 Jenny Mallard 24
WATERING HOLE SNACKS	LORD'S SUPPER SERVICE
6 Tricia Chandler 13 Martha Nichols 20 Tracy Parker 27 Michelle Hargrove	We will celebrate the ordinance of the Lord's Supper at the following time: 6:00 pm on April 3, 2011.
CHURCH COUNCIL	QUARTERLY MEMBERS' MEETING
Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be held at 4:00 pm on Sunday April 3, 2011. Please have <u>printed committee reports</u> to the church office by Friday April 1, 2011.	Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be held at 6:00 pm on June 26, 2011. Please have all committee reports, motions and resolu- tions submitted in writing to the Moderator or Church office by June 24, 2011.
DEACON'S MEETING	MEN'S BREAKFAST
Tuesday April 5, 2011 at 6:30 pm Tuesday May 6, 2011 at 6:30 pm	April 17, 2011 at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

MONTHLY CONTRIBUTIONS REPORT

	September 2010	October 2010	November 2010	Q1 Total	December 2010	January 2011	February 2011	Q2 Total
1 General Operating Fund	13,905	12,003	13,045	38,953	11,551	10,499	10,578	32,628
2 Special Mission Offerings	1,112	167	62	1,341	2,386	496	50	2,932
3 Revival Love Offering	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 Benevolence Fund	70	63	40	173	223	40	70	333
7 Youth Fund	0	0	0	0	250	0	50	300
8 Missions Fund	0	8	8	16	8	10	30	48
10 Cemetery Fund	369	369	369	1,107	414	369	369	1,152
15 Building For Tomorrow	100	120	20	240	20	0	10	30
16 Building & Grounds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20 Memorials - General Fund	50	0	0	50	475	295	85	855
21 Memorials - Special Missions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22 Memorials - Bldg For Tomorrow	0	0	0	0	100	75	0	175
32 Evangelist/Musician Gifts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	15,606	12,730	13,544	41,880	15,427	11,784	11,242	38,453
General Fund Contributions	13,955	12,003	13,045	39,003	12,026	10,794	10,663	33,483
Budgeted Contributions	13,679	13,679	13,679	41,037	13,679	13,679	13,679	41,037
Over/ (Under) Budget	276	(1,676)	(634)	(2,034)	(1,653)	(2,885)	(3,016)	(7,554)

WWW.SARDISBAPTIST1803.ORG

SARDIS BAPTIST
CHURCH

Primary Business Address

PO BOX 280

1120 Pine Street

Sardis, GA 30456

Phone: 478-569-4181

Fax: 478-569-4021

E-mail: sardisba@sardisbaptist1803.org

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DEACON OF THE MONTH

Jerry Johnson

**ORGANIZED MASS CHAOS
APRIL 2nd
10:00 am to noon**

Join us for some OMC (**Organized Mass Chaos**) as we kick off our brand new Sunday School Rewards Program called "**Praise Perks**" for the Toddler class through 5th Grade.

We'll play the always fun, always messy, game of OMC (wear old clothes), have lunch together, plus you'll hear how you can earn some great "Praise Perks" by coming to Sunday School!

We'll need lots adult volunteers!!



HOLY WEEK AT SARDIS BAPTIST CHURCH

Holy Week is the church's remembrance of the events of the week leading to Christ's Resurrection. Typical commemorations include Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Resurrection Sunday.

This year we will meet for a special worship experience on **Good Friday at 7:00pm**. We will remember the Cross of Christ.

On Saturday we will have our community Egg Hunt on the church grounds. Join us for fun, games, lots of eggs and

hot dogs **Saturday from 10:00 am to noon**.

On **Easter Sunday** we will have two opportunities for worship. We start with our **7:00 am Sunrise Service** held by the fountain. Immediately after that we will enter into the Fellowship Hall and enjoy a **potluck breakfast until 8:30**.

Sunday School is at 9:45, and then we will celebrate with the whole church and our guests in the **Resurrection Celebration at 11:00 am**.

Join us on Friday, Saturday and Sunday for these wonderful times of fellowship and worship.