



The Baptist Bell

Explore "The Faith"

What Christians Believe, Why They Believe It, and Why It Matters

Upcoming Messages

February 8, 2009

Stay Enthusiastic About Life

John 10:10

A message about how we can live a positive and enthusiastic life in an often cynical and jaded world.

February 15

Heading Entropy Off at the Pass

Verses from Proverbs

A message about how to defeat complacency, indifference and laziness in our lifestyles.

February 22 - March 29

Series:

Rediscovering the Faith

A new message series on what Christians believe, why they believe it and why it matters.

Rightly understood and rightly communicated, the Christian faith is one of great joy. It is an invitation to God's kingdom, where tears are replaced by laughter and longing hearts find their purpose and their home. This is the heart of the gospel: God's search to reclaim us and love us as his own. But have we truly grasped this?

Those of us who are Christians—have we deeply apprehended the mission of Jesus, and do our ways and character faithfully reflect his beauty? From the nature of God, to the human condition, to the work of Jesus, to God's coming kingdom, and all that lies between, how well do we understand the foundational

truths of Christianity and their implications?

The Faith is a book and a small group resource for our troubled times and for decades to come, for Christians and non-Christians alike. It is the most important book Chuck Colson and Harold Fickett have ever written: a thought-provoking, soul searching, and powerful manifesto of the great, historical central truths of Christianity that have sustained believers through the centuries. Brought to immediacy with vivid, true stories, here is what Christianity is really about and why it is a religion of hope, redemption, and beauty.

Yes, I/we would like to join a 6-week small group and grow deeper in "The Faith."

Name(s) _____

Address/Phone/E-mail _____

Best Evenings to meet:

Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri Sat

Please call the church office or clip and send this registration if you are interested in the small group series.

From My Heart to Yours.....

Pastor
Jim Harper



AS the new year unfolds, the economic crisis in America continues to plague us. Every day as I read my newspapers, scan internet articles, and watch the evening news, I am struck by the immensity of this problem. Hopefully our new national leadership will pro-

vide some positive solutions to this crisis and help assuage fears. But in the meantime, we all need to be ever-vigilant in an unstable economy.

I belong to a Christian credit union and recently they sent me an excellent arti-

cle from Crown Financial Ministries. Today, I share this article with you as a valuable resource in these uncertain times.

How To Prosper In A Declining Economy

Newscasts report daily that our economy is unstable and vulnerable. People are losing their homes, highly-paid executives are losing their positions and having to settle for lower-paying jobs, food and energy costs continue to increase, and the list goes on.

While these facts are true, what we are experiencing is not new. In Jeremiah 29, the "weeping prophet" predicted long-term captivity. Israel would endure 70 years of hard labor before they would be allowed to return to their homeland. Let's all hope and pray that our current economic downturn won't last that long!

We have compiled a list of things you can do to survive or thrive in our current economy.

1. Pay your bills faithfully. Making your payments on or before the due date is a positive testimony to your creditors and a good example to your family/neighbors.
2. Prioritize your debt, making sure you don't compromise your home or your transportation.
3. Negotiate with creditors as needed. Be proactive. Seek a meeting with them to make payment arrangements rather than waiting until you miss payments and they come looking for you.
4. Downsize if it puts you in a better cash position.
5. Pay extra whenever you can to accelerate payoff dates.

6. Have a garage sale to generate extra cash to pay down debt or to increase savings.
 7. Work your way through the Crown Money Map (found at crown.org).
 8. Capitalize on your most valuable assets, your family.
 9. Learn to garden, use fresh vegetables and fruit when in season, try a new recipe.
 10. Cancel cable/satellite. Instead, read a book, play a table game, or share coffee with friends.
 11. Explore bartering to save on outgoing expenses.
- Learn to be content. (1 Timothy 6:6-9).

"A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it" (Proverbs 22:3).

Finally, as the Lord enables you, be generous and open to opportunities to continue giving faithfully to the work of Christ. As the potential fear about the economy rises, tithes, offerings, and other charitable giving tend to decline – at the very time the need for ministry is the greatest.

Join an online Crown community that offers financial help and hope during this unstable economy.

Visit us online at Crown.org.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

1701 MOUND ROAD

JACKSONVILLE, IL 62650

PHONE: (217) 245-6119

E-MAIL: FBC@FBCJAXIL.ORG OR

PASTORJIM@FBCJAXIL.ORG

WEEKLY SERVICES:

SUNDAY 9:00 AM AND 11:15 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15 AM

FOR INFORMATION ON

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS, CHOIR, BELL CHOIR, AMERICAN BAPTIST YOUTH OR OTHER MINISTRIES, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE

OUR WEBSITE

WWW.FBCJAXIL.ORG

GREAT RIVERS REGION WEBSITE:

WWW.ABCGRR.ORG

AMERICAN BAPTIST WEBSITE:

WWW.ABC-USA.ORG

2009 Area II Annual Meeting at FBC Jacksonville

The 2009 Area II Annual Meeting will be held on March 15, 2009 at the First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, IL. The theme for this year's meeting is "Harvest Time".

Our speaker for the evening worship will be the Rev. Lisa Harris. Rev. Harris is the Interim Coordinator of Children's Ministries for National Ministries ABC-USA.

During the evening service, we will share in a Baptismal Service with the Martin's Prairie Baptist Church from Roodhouse, Illinois.

Registration begins at 2:30 pm and the afternoon session will begin at 3:00 pm at the church which is located 1t 1701 Mound Road, Jacksonville, Illinois. Registration cost with the meal is \$10.00 per person and registration without the meal is \$5.00. There will be no charge for children under 12 years old. **Reservations with money for the meals must be received by**

March 10, 2009 to insure adequate meal preparation. A meal cannot be guaranteed for registrations received after this date. Please send registration and check payable to Area II/GRR and send to Attention: Debbie Naugle, American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region, PO Box 3786, Springfield, IL 62708.

The meal will be served at the church at 5:30 pm. The evening session will be from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Childcare will be provided at the church, but the parents will have to get the children during the meal. We are all looking forward to a great Area II meeting.

Rev. John Grisham, Area II Associate Minister
Susan Metcalf, Moderator
Dan Edwards, 1st Vice Moderator
Karen Sutton, Secretary

10 Things God Won't Ask You

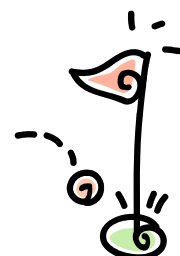
1. God won't ask what kind of car you drove, He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.
2. God won't ask the square footage of your house, He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.
3. God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet, He'll ask how many you helped to clothe.
4. God won't ask what your highest salary was, He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.
5. God won't ask what your job title was, He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.
6. God won't ask how many friends you had, He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.
7. God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived, He'll ask how you treated your neighbors.
8. God won't ask about the color of your skin, He'll ask about the content of your character.
9. God won't ask why it took you so long to seek Salvation, He'll lovingly take you to your mansion in heaven, and not to the gates of Hell.
10. God won't have to ask how many people you forwarded this to, He already knows whether or not you are ashamed to share this information with your friends.

IT ISN'T THE AMOUNT YOU HAVE TRAVELED THAT COUNTS. IT IS THE DIRECTION IN WHICH YOU ARE TRAVELING!!!!



Bill Martin had a
Hole-In-One
at the
Groves Country Club in
Land-O-Lakes, Florida
recently.

Congrats,
Bill!



Health Notes

Sis Goben, RN, Parish Nurse



Office Hours: Mondays 10am-3pm
Blood pressure clinics: 2nd & 4th Sundays of each month in the Narthex
Home, nursing home and hospital visits: upon request
Contact: First Baptist 245-6119 or Sis Goben, RN 245-6204

Thanks to all of you who wore red on Sunday. We must be aware that heart disease is the leading cause of death in women—even above breast cancer.

Women’s symptoms of heart attack are very different from men. Please be aware of:

- Sudden, severe fatigue
- Shortness of breath
- A sense of overwhelming dread
- Lightheadedness

- Nausea
- Breaking out in a cold sweat
- Sudden and intense jaw or upper back pain.
- Lower chest or upper abdominal discomfort.

If you suffer from some of these sudden symptoms, please go to the Emergency Room. If you have questions or concerns about this or any other health issue, please give me a call.

*In His Service, Sis Goben, RN,
Parish Nurse*

The American Heart Association is the largest voluntary health organization fighting heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases, which kill more than 870,000 Americans each year. That’s a life every 36 seconds. Furthermore, cardiovascular disease claims the lives of approximately 460,000 women every year causing almost one death per minute.

In 1997, the American Heart Association began a movement when it launched its groundbreaking “Take Wellness To Heart” awareness campaign created by women for women. In February 2004, the association launched Go Red For Women – extending the effort that began in 1997 – with a primary goal to educate women that heart disease is their leading cause of death... a fact most women still do not take to heart.

The Go Red For Women movement challenges women to know their risk for heart disease and take action to reduce their personal risk. Furthermore, the movement plays a leading role in providing women with the tools they need to lead heart-healthy lives.

As we embark upon the fifth year, Go Red For Women harnesses women’s energy, passion and power to band together and collectively wipe out heart disease.



nationally sponsored by



Components of the Go Red For Women movement for 2008 include:

- **KNOW YOUR RISK. TAKE THE GO RED HEART CHECKUP:** It is not enough to be aware of the risk factors associated with heart disease. Women must take action to prevent it. That is why Go Red For Women instituted the Go Red Heart CheckUp, an online tool that provides a 10-year, personal heart disease risk assessment. The CheckUp is available at www.goredforwomen.org. Once completed, women take their results to their healthcare provider and develop a personal health plan that matches their individual needs. Since its genesis in 2007, more than 500,000 women have used the CheckUp.
- **THE RED DRESS PIN:** Millions of Americans have added the red dress pin to their wardrobe to support the women and heart disease movement. To get a free red dress pin, join the movement at www.goredforwomen.org.
- **NATIONAL/LOCAL MONUMENTS GO RED:** National and local sites will be illuminated in red during the first week of February to raise awareness about the issue of women and heart disease.

□ **GO RED HEART-FRIENDLY CITIES FOR WOMEN:** Go Red For Women will be publishing its first “Heart-Friendly Cities for Women” list in 2008, ranking metropolitan areas according to their female heart health factors. The study will focus on indicators such as female cardiac mortality rates, physician diagnoses of hypertension, high cholesterol and diabetes among women, access to healthcare and heart-health risk factors (obesity, smoking, stress, etc.).

□ **GO RED FOR WOMEN “LOVE YOUR HEART” COOKBOOK:** Go Red For Women is publishing a 5th anniversary edition of heart-healthy recipes to help women live longer stronger lives. Cookbooks will be available exclusively at www.goredforwomen.org in February.

□ **CONSUMER EDUCATION:** The American Heart Association has compiled materials for consumers such as a cookbook, brochures, wallet cards, bookmarks, posters, Web alerts, screen savers, e-cards, etc.

□ **PHYSICIAN RESOURCES:** The American Heart Association works with healthcare professionals to provide new prevention guidelines, patient reports, up-to-date science and statistics, online monthly newsletter and more.

For more information about Go Red For Women, call 1-888-MY-HEART or visit goredforwomen.org.

The Go Red For Women movement is nationally sponsored by Macy’s and Merck & Co., Inc.

Stewardship Report

January 2009

	General	Missions
Year-to-Date Budget Needs	\$ 14,972.00	\$ 1,540.00
Year-to-Date Receipts	\$ 11,217.59	\$ 1,245.00
Difference	\$ (3,754.41)	\$ (295.00)

Offering:

January 4	\$3,478.45	\$616.00
January 11	\$3,045.11	\$256.00
January 18	\$2,533.90	\$212.50
January 25	\$2,160.13	\$160.50

Attendance:	Sunday School	9:00 AM	11:15 AM
January 4	57	120	40
January 11	69	118	n/a
January 18	64	87	34
January 25	55	44	86

Lay Leaders Schedule ~ Feb & March 2009

Date	Ushers			
Feb 1	Kay Kafer	Nita Raye Gondek	Carroll Houston	Jeff Campbell
Feb 8	Roger McKinney	Bob Neff	Joe Goben	Geof Griffin
Feb 15	Chris Valentine	Greg Huckabay	Jeremy Walker	Bill Sims
Feb 22	Jim Hayes	Bud Birdsell	Tom Holliday	Brad Walker
Mar 1	Kay Kafer	Nita Raye Gondek	Carroll Houston	Jeff Campbell
Mar 8	Roger McKinney	Bob Neff	Joe Goben	Geof Griffin
Mar 15	Chris Valentine	Greg Huckabay	Jeremy Walker	Bill Sims
Mar 22	Jim Hayes	Bud Birdsell	Tom Holliday	Brad Walker
Mar 29	Bill Nichols	Jeff Jacobs	Jim Hayes	Tim Runkle

Date	Worship Leader	Children's Church	Acolyte
Feb 1	Barb Baker	Janice Hubbs	Wade Berger
Feb 8	Bob Nicolet	Melissa Walker	Brock Ripple
Feb 15	Mike Hubbs	Jennifer Gaus	Chris Barringer
Feb 22	Melanie Floyd	Janice Hubbs	Wade Berger
Mar 1	Barb Baker	Jennifer Gaus	Brock Ripple
Mar 8	Bob Nicolet	Melissa Walker	Chris Barringer
Mar 15	Mike Hubbs	Jennifer Gaus	Wade Berger
Mar 22	Melanie Floyd	Melissa Walker	Brock Ripple
Mar 29	Barb Baker	Janice Hubbs	Chris Barringer

FEBRUARY AT FIRST BAPTIST

Every Week:

Sunday—AWANA 5:30 pm

ABY Sr. High 6:00 pm

Monday—Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 pm

Tuesday—Bell Choir Practice 5:30 pm

Wednesday—Choir Practice 6:30 pm

This Month:

Sunday, Feb 8—ABY Jr. High 3 pm

Tuesday, Feb 10 - Commissions/Diaconate
6:30 pm

Saturday, Feb 14—Valentine's Day

Monday, Feb 16—President's Day (office
closed)

Feb 16—20 Doorbell Dinners

Sunday, Feb 22—ABY Jr. High 3pm

Upcoming Conferences:

March 13-14

Hearts At Home

(ladies' conference)

Bloomington/Normal, IL

March 21

Iron Sharpens Iron

(men's conference)

Springfield, IL

Raise the Roof II Update

Goal:

\$100,000.00

Given to date:

\$18,077.00

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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JACKSONVILLE, IL 62650

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The Baptist Bell

Volume 16

February 2009

In Her Own Words...

Abby Sullivan-Morrissey is an American Baptist Missionary at Sammak Christian Academy in Chonburi, Thailand. She can be reached via e-mail at: singpretty07@yahoo.com



When we were growing up, (and even a little now!) there were some very sweet words that my mother occasionally said. The wording varied from situation to situation but the meaning was always basically the same. "We'll use Dad's money for this."

You see, in our traditional family, Dad was (and is) the major breadwinner. Everybody else worked and had small amounts of money at their disposal to use for everyday expenses and fun. Then there was Dad's money - the major source of meeting our needs. As we got older, we gradually took on more and more responsibility for our own needs. Those were the times when Mom's interventions were especially sweet. When the scholarship that cov-

ered college textbook expenses ran out, Mom said, "Don't worry, Dad will take care of it." When we found ourselves at the Chinese buffet ogling the sesame chicken, the line was, "Dinner's on Dad." In many other situations, we heard, "We'll use Dad's money for this" and the weight was lifted from our shoulders immediately. What would have been a rather cumbersome expense was now easily met by a generous other.

As I was traveling back to Thailand this time, I was intensely aware that the recent past and the immediate future hold demands that I do not have the resources to cover. I'm not speaking of money now. I mean things like wisdom, patience, love, forgiveness, self-

control and self-worth. Somewhere in the midst of all the hubbub of travel, God impressed upon me that I need to put those needs on his expense account. In essence, I need to "use Dad's money for this." I need to let my Heavenly Father, who has resources beyond my comprehension, take care of it all.

Already, God has made the sweetness of His help and presence known. I hope that when you, in your lives, find yourselves up against demands you can't meet, you will join me in saying, "Let's use God's money for this."

May God richly bless you and your loved ones in 2009 with the peace of His Spirit and the joy of His presence.