

New Hope Newsletter

A Publication of Winter Garden Primitive Baptist Church

Volume 18, Issue 2, February 2012

Pastor's Letter

Elder Glenn Blanchard

Happy New Year! You will get this Newsletter in February, but I am writing it the first of January! This is the eighteenth year that we have published the New Hope Newsletter. We hope that it has been edifying to those of you who receive it. We would like to encourage you to write us and let us know that you still want to get it and are still reading it. We have heard from some of you over the years, but others have never contacted us.

As some of you may know this Newsletter can now be read over the internet at our website. If you prefer to receive the news this way, hopefully you will let us know and we can remove your name from our mailing list. It will save New Hope Church postage costs.

During the last months of 2011, Winter Garden Church was enjoying a Bible Study on

Elder Michael Gowens's book, Be Ready to Answer. All our members who are in attendance say that they have greatly enjoyed this book. I pray that you will all get a copy of Elder Gowens's book and read it. The chapters on Islam, alone, are worth the price of the book. You can contact Elder Gowens at Sovereign Grace Publications, P.O. Box 23514, Lexington, KY 40523-3514.

As I contemplate the year 2012, I pray that our readers and their churches will be blessed with health, happiness, prosperity, joy, and thankfulness in the Lord as expressed in Elder Sonny Phelan's Article this month.

Please keep us in your prayers. Our grandson, Bill Blanchard, is staying with us and going to college here in Orlando. It is a blessing to have him here, but as many of you know a challenge comes with having someone with so much youth and energy in your home!

—Elder Blanchard

We are thankful for our newest member, Mark Williams (left), and his friend, Charles Geisler, and Mark's mother, Ann Turner.

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Sunday 10:30am
Bible Study
Wednesday 7:30pm

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A Thankful Heart

– “Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift” – 2 Corinthians 9:15 – Article #16 from Elder Neil M. Phelan, Jr.’s Book “**The Daily Record**” – **The First Year in Retrospect**



Nathan and Lorianne Lawrence delight in play following services.

Paul’s epistles abound not only with doctrine and practice, but also with thanksgiving unto God. In his epistles, Paul uses the word “thanks” 24 times; “thank” 11 times; “thanksgiving” 7 times, and “thankful” 2 times. Thrice beaten with rods, stoned once, in stripes above measure, in prisons frequent, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in weariness and painfulness, in cold

and nakedness (2 Cor. 11:23-27), Paul remained positive, thankful to God for all his blessings. As we read his epistles, we hardly read a line or two before we find Paul bursting forth with a heart full of thanks. With all of our blessings today, should we not be thankful as well?

A thankful heart is an evidence of grace, a mark of Christianity, a token of divine favor. A thankful heart is more than saying “thank you”, or “I appreciate that”, it is a mindset, an attitude, a way of life, the emblem of true spirituality. Paul would preach Christ and for his testimony he would be stoned or beaten. Many times, the majority of his hearers would not receive his message. But rather than allowing the negative influences of Satan to frustrate his life, Paul chose to focus upon the positive things that God had done, and was doing, in his life and the world in which he lived. Rather than talking about his stonings, Paul would return to the churches and rehearse the positive things that had happened during his journey (Acts 13). Paul was satisfied with his position in life, who he was, and whatever success God had blessed him with, Paul lived a life of thanks. We all have that choice.

Of the many things he was thankful for, Paul mentions a few in his epistles. Paul

was thankful for the brethren (Romans 1:8); he was thankful for God’s grace (I Cor 1:4); he was thankful for the spreading of the gospel (II Cor. 2:13); from prison, he was thankful for many precious memories with the brethren at Philippi (Philippians 1:3); he was thankful for the love that the Colossians had to all the saints (Col. 1:4), and, of course, he was thankful for Jesus Christ, the unspeakable gift of God. Are we thankful for these as well?

A thankful heart is a healthy heart. It is good for “PLOM” disease. Thousands of people die from this disease every year. I’ve had it before and I can tell you it is no fun at all. “PLOM” disease is quite common at this time of year and a good dose of thankfulness to God for His blessings will cure it every time. “PLOM” stands for “Poor Little OLE Me”. Have you counted your blessings today?

Thanks are the attitude of praise. The Psalmist wrote, “Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto Him and bless His name-Psalm 100. Apparently, “PLOM” disease has been around a long time. Even in the psalmist’s day, some of God’s people had forgotten their blessings, even as they harkened the doors of Jehovah’s tabernacle to worship. We can be sure they got little out of the sermon that day. So the psalmist wrote these words to remind them the attitude they needed as they approached God’s house: a thankful heart.

Meeting Notices

Ordination Meeting, Zion PBC, AL

On March 17, 2012, we will gather at Zion Primitive Baptist Church near Gordo, AL, to examine Brother Chris McCool as a candidate for ordination to the full work of the gospel ministry. This will be pursuant to the call for his ordination by Zion Primitive Baptist Church. We are rejoicing in the way the Lord is blessing His church at Zion. We ask that you come and join us and pray for this special time.

Elder Tim McCool

Florida Fellowship Meeting 2012

Little Union PBC is scheduled to host the 2012 Florida Fellowship Meeting. The dates are Thursday, February 16th through Sunday, February 19th. The meeting will begin at 7:30 PM on Thursday. Friday and Saturday there will be three services: 10:00 AM, 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM. Lunch and dinner will be served at 12:00 and 6:00. Sunday's service will begin at 10:30 AM and be followed by lunch.

Little Union is located at 15510 US Highway 39 South, Lithia, Florida, 33547. This is about 18 miles south of Plant City. The phone number for the church is 813-634-4754. There are camper hook-ups available at the meeting house.

For those who need a hotel room: Red Rose Inn & Suites, 2011 N. Wheeler Street, Plant City, Florida, 33563. 813-752-3141. \$65 per night, this is a special rate good only through January 16, 2012.

Please come and join us for a good time in the Lord.

Gulf Coast Fellowship Meeting 2012

Piney Grove Primitive Baptist Church of Headland, Alabama, is sending this general invitation to all our brethren to come worship with us as we plan to host the 2012 Gulf Coast Fellowship Meeting on Friday, March 23rd and Saturday, March 24th, 2012.

The meeting is set to begin on Friday morning at 10:00 AM. There will be a morning, afternoon, and evening service on Friday (with lunch and supper), then on Saturday, there will be a morning service, lunch, and then an afternoon service to conclude the meeting. (However, Piney Grove will have its regular Sunday morning service at 10:30 AM.)

Piney Grove is located at 1947 Broad Street, Headland, Alabama, just 2 miles north of the town square on AL Hwy 173. Information is included for area motels and some of our members are hoping to entertain guests. For more information, call Elder Clayton Nowell, pastor, at 334-693-5700 or Royce Sellers, deacon, at 334-693-5385.

May the Lord our God richly bless and keep you in His most tender care.

Hotel Information Near Piney Grove:
Hampton Inn and Suites, 4684 Montgomery Hwy, Dothan, AL (334) 671-7672 – 10.1 miles from church; Holiday Inn Express Hotel North, 4090 Ross Clark Circle, Dothan, AL 36303 (334) 699-6868; 6.7 miles from church.

–Your Brother in Christ, Elder Clayton Nowell, Pastor, Piney Grove PB Church

Smoky Mountain Spring Meeting

The 2012 Smoky Mountain Spring Meeting will be held at the Smoky Mountain Convention Center in Pigeon Forge, beginning Monday night, April 2nd and continuing morning and night through Thursday morning April 5th. Rooms are available at \$45 per night at the Ramada which is on the same property. The Ramada and the Convention Center share the same parking lot. The Convention Center is on the South end of town on the Parkway. It is just behind a Cracker Barrel. To make reservations call 1-800-523-3919. You stand a better chance of getting a ground floor room if you call by March 2nd. For more information you may call Elder Harold Hunt at 865-982-3012.

Church News

Constitution of Grace PBC at Loudon, TN

A group of God's people met to constitute the Arm of Union Primitive Baptist Church of Woodville, AL at the Grace Meeting House at 2100 Woodland Drive, Loudon, TN, 37774, at 10:30 AM, Saturday, December 10, 2011. After a joyful and worshipping song service and an introduction and welcome by Elder Bill Taylor, a presbytery was convened consisting of eighteen ordained Primitive Baptist Elders and twelve ordained Primitive Baptist Deacons. Elder Darrel Chambers called on Elder Marty Hoskins to offer an introductory prayer. The presbytery moved to appoint Elder Darrel Chambers to serve as moderator and Elder Chambers appointed Brother Paul Kennamer to serve as clerk of the presbytery.

The moderator then called upon Elder Gene Thomas, the appointed spokesman for the Union Primitive Baptist Church, to determine if the church still agreed with her previous move in conference to extend an arm for the purpose of constituting Grace as a regular Primitive Baptist Church. Elder Thomas lovingly affirmed that Union Church was still of the same mind. The moderator read a letter from Union Church to the presbytery stating the particulars of the actions that preceded this date, and also stating that Union Church is granting letters to a total of fourteen members who had joined and been duly baptized into the arm of Union Primitive Baptist Church. The moderator next called upon the spokesman, for the arm of Union Primitive Baptist Church at Grace Meeting House, Elder Bill Taylor, to affirm the arm's willingness to proceed and be constituted as Grace Primitive Baptist Church. Upon hearing that affirmation, the presbytery moved to receive the constituting members of the arm as members of Grace Primitive Baptist Church.

After the Clerk of the Presbytery read the Articles of Faith and the Church Covenant, the presbytery was given the opportunity to comment or ask questions about the Articles of Faith. Following questions and agreement on two questions that arose, the Articles of Faith, as read, were then received by a consenting vote of the presbytery. The church Covenant was read, opportunity was given for any present to join themselves by letter from another Primitive Baptist Church of like faith and order, or by confession of faith, to come and join in the constitution of the church. The congregation sang a hymn as the newly received constituting members of Grace Primitive Baptist Church came forward and signed their names to the Church Covenant. Elder Clayton Nowell offered a Constitution Prayer.

After the moderator gave opportunity for members of the presbytery to speak briefly to Grace Church, all the elders present came forward and expressed their well-wishes, their love, and faith to the newly constituted church. Elders were: Gene Thomas, Marty Hoskins, Joseph Hayes, Daniel Wood, Ed Smith, Clayton Nowell, Joe Hildreth, Jim Campbell, Marty Smith, Jack Ritter, Lynn Shuler, Ellis Lynn, Coy Thomas, Roger Campbell, Loy McClanahan, David Mooney, and Darrel Chambers.

Next, the moderator called on the members of the Grace Primitive Baptist Church to call for a pastor. Brother Dennis Holt made a move to call Elder Bill Taylor as pastor and Sister Heather Duncan, as Clerk of the newly constituted church. The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous vote of the members present. Elder Taylor called Grace Church into conference for the express purpose of setting aside men for ordination to the office of Elder and Deacon to serve the church. A call was made for the ordination of Brother Dennis Holt for the office of Elder, and to set aside Brothers Gary Hicks, Daniel Grant, and David Duncan for ordination to the office of Deacon; the ordinations to be held at a later date.

After a right hand of fellowship to members of Grace Primitive Baptist Church was given, Elder Joe Hayes offered a prayer of dismissal. A list of elders present were those listed above and Elder Bill Taylor. Deacons of the Presbytery were: Paul Kennamer, John Stone, Darwin Richards, Ralph Parker, John Elliott, Billy McGhee, Larry Clabough, Larry Jones, Leron R. Dean, Roy Randles, Tony Simmons, and Victor Halbgewachs.

God's Father-Like Nature

Elder Dolph Painter

One cannot truly know God without knowing His nature (Ps 103:7). Because of this writer's finite mind, I shall attempt to separate God's qualities into two categories: those which relate to God as He is apart from man, and those which relate to God as He interacts with man (His father-like qualities).

God as He is apart from man: He is Holy, Infinite, Invisible, Immutable, Independent, Omniscient, Omnipresent, and Omnipotent. These qualities shout God's greatness. They say there was nothing before God, above God, stronger than God, smarter than God, or purer than God. What a God!

God as He interacts with man: He is a God of: Jealousy, Longsuffering, Hate, Love, Justice, Mercy, Wrath, Compassion, Chastisement, and Protection. These qualities also describe God, but prompt us to ask: How does God both love and hate? Demand justice and show mercy? Exhibit compassion and anger? Yet, God is without contradiction (Pr 8:8). Not until we harmonize these apparent contradictions in our minds can we know God.

There is peace in knowing God, glory with increasing that knowledge, and honor in making that knowledge a top priority (Job 22:21, Jer 9:24, Hos 6:6). However, knowing God has another advantage, it'll help us better imitate Him in our earthly relationships. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure (1 Jo 3:3).

Answers to This Month's Quiz

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. First, Ex. 12:15 | 5. Philippi, Acts 16:12-14 |
| 2. Cymbals, Ps. 150:5 | 6. 50 yrs., Lev. 25:10 |
| 3. Gopher, Gn. 6:14 | 7. Athens, Acts, 17:22 |
| 4. Buzi, Ez. 1:3 | 8. Penny, Mt. 22:17-21 |

Contributions

Marvin & Wanda Huneycutt
Rita Renfro
Larry & Margaret Davis



Sister Jeanne Bonney uses her many talents to bless others with gifts such as this beautiful doll she made for a fellow sister.

"I Feel Fine" ...

There's nothing whatever the matter with me,
I'm just as healthy as I can be.
I have arthritis in both knees,
And when I talk I speak with a wheeze.
My pulse is weak and by blood is thin,
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

I think my liver is out of whack,
And I have a terrible pain in my back.
My hearing is poor and my eyes are dim,
Most everything seems to be out of trim.
The way I stagger sure is a crime,
I'm likely to fall at any time,
But all things considered I'm feeling fine.

My dentures cut, I'm restless at night,
In the morning I'm a frightful sight.
Memory's failing, head in a spin,
I'm practically living on aspirin,
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

Now the moral is, as this tale we unfold,
That for you and me, who are growing old,
It's better to say, "I'm fine," with a grin,
Than to tell everyone of the shape we're in.

-Submitted by David Grant-

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Please come visit us!

New Hope Newsletter

Kid's Corner

Hodgepodge

1. On what day of Passover was leavened bread to be put out of the Israelites' houses?
2. What musical instrument does the psalmist describe as loud and high sounding?
3. According to God, of what kind of wood was the ark to be made?
4. Who was Ezekiel's father?
5. Where did Paul meet Lydia?
6. How often did the year of Jubilee occur?
7. Where did Paul find the altar inscribed "To The Unknown God"?
8. When the Pharisees tried to trick Jesus in the matter of paying taxes, what type of coin did they show Him?