



BAPTIST

~BITS AND BLESSINGS~

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From The Pastor's 

**From the Pastor's Heart
March 2009 Newsletter**

Here is my summary of the creation account in Genesis 1: In the beginning of the universe, God was so full of love, He wanted to find a way to share His love with others. So God took a mixture of materials and matter that was in chaos, and He gave it order and meaning. He created the world as we know it. God took a whole lot of things that had no meaning and purpose in and of themselves, and He gave them purpose and meaning. As a part of this creating process, God created humans, the fullest expression of His love.

As much as God loves us, I have the feeling if God had made humans first instead of last, He would have probably stopped there. He would have considered how temperamental, noisy, irrational, and selfish we could be and stopped right there. He wouldn't have had time or patience for anything else. (Remember I said this is my version) In Ephesians 4:11-16 The Apostle Paul describes the purpose of the creation of the church when he says, "*He [Jesus] is the one who gave these gifts to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. (12) Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ, (13) until we come to such unity in our faith*

and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature and full grown in the Lord, measuring up to the full stature of Christ. (14) Then we will no longer be like children, forever changing our minds about what we believe because someone has told us something different or because someone has cleverly lied to us and made the lie sound like the truth. (15) Instead, we will hold to the truth in love, becoming more and more in every way like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. (16) Under his direction, the whole body is fitted together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love." (NLT)

In this passage Paul is describing how the church has been structured, how it has been formed by God in order to help us and others make meaning and purpose out of the chaos that we humans have created. Paul not only tells us what God has planned for His church, he tells us what our part is in God's plan. Boy, do we have a lot to live up to. These verses, along with the Great Commission in Matthew 28 give the church a pattern to follow when it comes to mapping out a vision, structuring the church, and for knowing what it takes to fulfill our purpose.

There are two key challenges Paul pre-
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sents here. The first challenge is for the Church leaders to help people along in their process of becoming more and more like Christ. It is this pursuit that helps us become mature productive citizens in God's kingdom. The second challenge is directed towards individuals in the body of Christ. It is to figure out how they fit together the church body. This takes prayer, evaluation, and submission to where God has placed us.

As we enter the Lenten season and prepara-

tion and celebration of Easter in April (12th), let us work individually & collectively to see where God has placed us in His body, and how we can become the people and church that God has planned for us to be. Please pray for our church leaders to help the church body to be fully equipped to do God's work and be built up in Jesus.

Blessings to each of you,
Pastor Cole

From The Editors

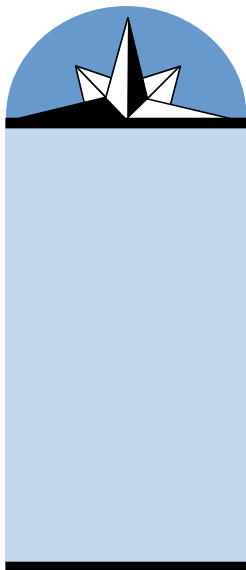
Welcome to the January/February/March issue of Baptist Bits & Blessings, the newsletter of the Mexico Baptist Church. Join us in praising the Lord for this new year, and lets pray for God to watch over and lead our new President to do according to His will as he tries to help this country overcome this economic crisis.

Thanks to those who submitted material this month. It is impossible to put issues together without your assistance.

To submit anything for a future issue, send it to tpennie@comcast.net or npenie@comcast.net. Submissions for next month's newsletter are due by the end of the third week of the month.

Visit our church web site at www.mbconline.com. Enjoy the newsletter!

Nancy and Warren Pennie



Poetry Corner

Loving Tribute to Danny Lynch

by Nina Lynch

Danny has been a little boy
As long as I can recall.
He never seemed big to me,
He was always quite small.

He always loved his brother,
Yes, he looked up to Max!
Max enjoyed Danny's wisdom,
But they both knew ALL the facts!

I was entertained to hear them discuss,
What the world is coming to.
They agreed on major issues,--
They had good ideas on what to do!

Ann Marie was on Danny's mind,
He helped her make right choices.
Her schooling meant a lot to him!
Did she listen to too many voices?

We could tell how things were going,
By the attitude in which he spoke.
If anyone took advantage of Annie,
He was ready to give them a poke!

After all's said and done,
She pleased him in every case.
She has a good grip on it all,
And can meet anyone face to face!

Danny took pride in his accomplishments,
He completed projects with perfection.
He made sure Marge was happy,
As she came forth with no objection.

We ate many meals together,
And where?—anything goes!
But the best times we had together,
Was sitting down to play dominoes!

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Now get this straight—nobody cheated!
 We all agreed to a certain plan.
 Guys against gals was our pattern,
 The look in his eyes told on Dan!

The object of the game, remember,--
 Who ends with the least points,-- therefore,
 We made sure of their honesty,
 So,--I kept score!!

Danny loved the Lord and his church,
 He was handy as anyone could be,
 He got out his tools and equipment,
 Fixed the problem—one, two, three!

He was quiet in witnessing,
 But, seemingly, that did the trick,
 For sharing Christ with others,
 He wasn't slow, he was quick!

Danny was a good bus driver,
 He made the kids love their ride.
 He stayed on charge with each incident,
 Those handicapped stayed by his side!

There's not a person here,
 Who's not sad to let Danny go!
 We remember his perseverance,
 Marge, may this comfort you to know!

We love you! Sister-in-law, Nina



Devotional Thoughts

A Charge to Keep I Have

*A charge to keep I have,
 A God to glorify;
 A never dying soul to save,
 And fit it for the sky.*

*To serve the present age,
 My calling to fulfill
 O may it all my powers engage
 To do my Master's will!*
 Charles Wesley

*However, I consider my life
 with nothing to me,
 if only I may finish the race
 and complete the task
 the Lord Jesus has given me --
 the task of testifying
 to the Gospel of God's grace.*
 Acts 20:24 NIV

Let My Roots Sink Deep

Lord, I sit alone by a quiet stream. My thoughts turned to Psalm 23. The waters gently ripple by. Trees gracefully bow their branches and teasingly rustle their leaves in the pure, fresh breeze. A bird lints a beckoning call to its mate. A distant falcon pierces the error with its echoing screech.

Peace. Thank You, Lord. But what about when I must return to the hustle and bustle? How can I be prepared?

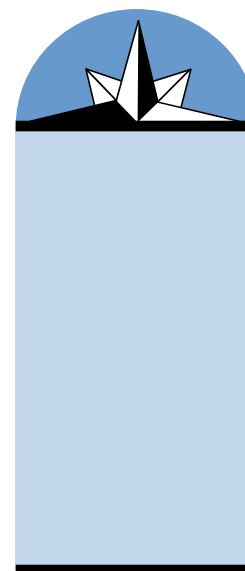
I look at the trees; their roots sink deep by the stream. In the same way, let my roots sink deep into You. Let me feed on Your Word. As we commune in prayer, let me drink from the living water of Your Spirit. Let me jump in and be bathed by Your cleansing power. I will rely on You rather restore things that are shallow and temporary. I can't depend on my own abilities and strengths, but I'm confident in Your care and direction.

I will take special notice of the good things when they come. I will fix my mind on what is pure and lovely and upright.

When the heart and wind of life's storms come, I will not fear; I know You are near. I will not worry but keep on producing a life that is a blessing for You and others.

Let me take time often to come drink from Your quiet stream. I thank You for it.

*The LORD is my shepherd;
 I shall not want.
 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
 he leadeth me beside the still waters.
 He restoreth my soul:
 he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
 for his name's sake.*



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*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*

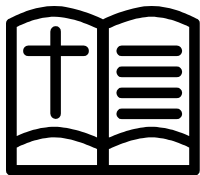
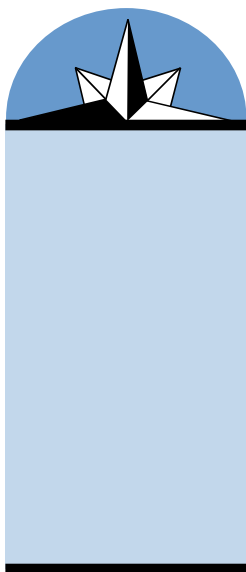
*Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the day's of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.*

Psalm 23 KJV

Praising God from the Pits

Lord, I want to praise You from the pits. Not the pits of self-pity, but the pits carefully placed in the heart of life's race track. I don't have time to feel sorry for myself. I'm in the middle of a race for You.

Each time I round the bend, I trust You to



run me through Your checklist to see if I'm in alignment and synchronized to Your will.

I know there are others watching me, but I also know You are helping me discard things and habits that would inhibit me.

I want to praise You as I run with determination. I will put forth every ounce of strength. At times I'm scorned and tested. Other times I'm tempted to take a side path, but I will keep my eyes turned to You, my Creator, the very Being of my faith. I remember how You were scorned, how You were tempted, how You shed Your blood and died on the cross for me.

So when I am weary, lift my hands that I might praise You from the pits. Strengthen my arms, I pray. Keep my feet swift and sure. Make each day's path level before me. My life I give to You. With all my being. I run this race for You.

*from When I'm On My Knees-Devotional Thoughts
On Prayer For Women by Anita Corrine Donihue*

Cyber Ministries

Choosing Life

Author: Pastor Bill

"He is my loving ally and my fortress, my tower of safety, my rescuer. He is my shield, and I take refuge in him"

Psalm 144:2a NLT

The story is told of Sammy. He is the kind of guy you love to hate. He is always in a good mood and always has something positive to say. He even has scripture memorized! When someone would ask him how he was doing, he would reply, *"If I were any better, I would have already been raptured!"*

He was a natural motivator. If an employee was having a bad day, Sammy was there telling the employee how to look on the positive side of the situation. And give him a bible verse. Seeing this style really made a co-worker curious, so one day she went up to Sammy and asked him, *"I don't get it! You can't be a positive person all of the time. How do you do it?"*

Sammy replied, *"Each morning I wake up and say to myself, Sam, you have two choices today. You can choose to be in a good mood or you can choose to be in a bad mood. I choose to be in a good mood. Then I memorize a bible verse. Each time something bad happens, I can choose to be a victim or I can choose to learn from it. I choose to learn from it. Every time*

someone comes to me complaining, I can choose to accept their complaining or I can point out the positive side of life. I always choose the positive side of life. And then I give them a bible verse.

"Yeah, right, it's not that easy," she protested. "Yes, it is," Sammy, said.

"Life is all about choices. When you cut away all the junk, every situation is a choice. You choose how you react to situations. You choose how people will affect your mood. You choose to be in a good mood or bad mood. And you choose whether God is a part of your life or not. The bottom line: It's your choice how you live life."

Several years later Sammy was involved in a serious accident, falling some 60 feet from a tower he was working on. After 18 hours of surgery and weeks of intensive care, Sammy was released from the hospital with rods placed in his back.

About nine months after the accident Sammy's co-worker asked him how he was, he replied, *"If I were any better, I would have already been raptured! Wanna see my scars?"* And he recited a bible verse.

The co-worker declined to see his wounds,

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but did ask what had gone through his mind as the accident took place. *"The first thing that went through my mind was the well being of my soon to be born baby,"* Sammy replied. *"Then, as I lay on the ground, I remembered that I had two choices: I could choose to live or I could choose to die. I chose life. Then all these bible verses I had been memorizing came to mind and comforted me."*

"Weren't you scared? Did you lose consciousness?" He was asked. Sammy continued, *"The paramedics were great. They kept telling me I was going to be fine. But when they wheeled me into the ER and I saw the expressions on the faces of the doctors and nurses, I got really scared. In their eyes, I read 'he's a dead man.' I knew I needed to take action." "What did you do?" "It was then I recited the Lord's Prayer out loud for all to hear." "Then there was a big burly nurse shouting questions at me,"* said Sammy. She asked if I was allergic

to anything. *"Yes, I replied."* The doctors and nurses stopped working as they waited for my reply. I took a deep breath and yelled, *"Gravity."*

Over their laughter, I told them, *"I am choosing to live and my guardian angels are all around. Operate on me as if I am alive, not dead"*. Sammy lived thanks to God, the angels, skill of his doctors and also because of his determination and amazing faith.

Every day I have choices to make that impact my faith.

Prayer: Father give me the ability to understand the choices I must make every day. And to always choose life your way. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

Pastor Bill

Christian Cyber Ministries

<http://www.ccm4me.org/signup.htm>



Prayers For Tough Times

When I Need to Let Go

Omnipresent LORD God, there is no place I can go where You have not been there waiting for me; there is no relationship in which You have not been seeking to bless the people with whom I am involved; there is no task You have given me to do for which You are not present to help me accomplish. I need not ask to come into Your presence; Your presence with me creates the desire to pray. You delight in guiding me to pray for what You are more ready to give than I may be prepared to ask.

You are here. I do not need to convince You to bless my life. You have shown me how much You love and care. You want the very best for me and have chosen me, through whom You want to work to accomplish Your plans. Help me to see myself as Your agent. Bless me with Your power. Keep me fit physically, secure emotionally, and alert spiritually. So much depends on my trust in You and pursuit of Your guidance. May awe and wonder capture me as I realize all You have put at my disposal to ensure that I succeed. Thank You for the biblical assurance *"that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose"* (Romans 8:28). You are my Lord and Savior.

Amen.

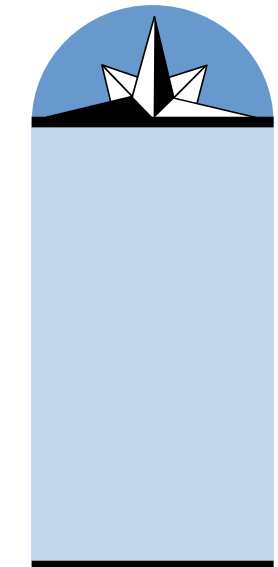
God Here, There, Everywhere

*May the wisdom of God instruct me,
The eye of God watch over me,
The ear of God hear me,
The word of God give me sweet talk,
The hand of God defend me,
The way of God guide me.
Christ be with me.
Christ before me.
Christ in me.
Christ under me.
Christ over me.
Christ on my right hand.
Christ on my left hand.
Christ on this side.
Christ on that side.
Christ in the head of everyone
to whom I speak.
Christ in the mouth of every person
who speaks to me.
Christ in the eye of every person
who looks upon me.
Christ in the ear of everyone
who hears me today.*

Amen.

-- Saint Patrick --

*from Praying Through Tough Times
by Lloyd John Ogilvie*



Faith's Checkbook

Blessing in the City

*"If thou shalt hearken unto the voice
of the LORD thy God, blessed
Shalt thou be in the city"*
Deuteronomy 28:2-3



The city is full of care, and he who has to go there from day to day finds it to be a place of great wear and tear. It is full of noise, and stir, and bustle, and sore travail; many are its temptations, losses, and worries. But to go there with the divine blessing takes off the edge of its difficulty; to remain there with that blessing is to find pleasure in its duties and strength equal to its demands.

A blessing in the city may not make us great, but it will keep us good; it may not make us rich, but it will preserve us honest. Whether

we are porters, or clerks, or managers, or merchants, or magistrates, the city will afford us opportunities for usefulness. It is good fishing where there are shoals of fish, and it is hopeful to work for our LORD amid the thronging crowds. We might prefer the quiet of a country life; but if called to town, we may certainly prefer it because there is room for our energies.

Today let us expect good things because of this promise, and let our care be to have an open ear to the voice of the LORD and a ready hand to execute His bidding. Obedience brings the blessing. *"In keeping his commandments there is great reward."*

Charles H. Spurgeon

Submitted by Troy Pennie

MBC Fellowship/Worship Opportunities

Children Adventure Time (C.A.T.)

Children in grades K-6th grade are invited to come have fun & adventure on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 pm. Ann Eckelbarger leads this ministry and invites others to join in this wonderful adventure.

January 7, 14, 21, 28
February 4, 11, 18, 25
March 4, 11, 18, 25

Body Builders Bible Study Groups

The body of Christ is built up when we know God's Word, practice God's Word and share God's Word. Please join our Body Builders Bible Studies on Tuesdays at 10am and 6:30pm.

January 6, 13, 20, 27
February 3, 10, 17, 24
March 3, 10, 17, 24

Trustees

Trustees meetings are held in the church office at 9:00am the second Tuesday of each month.

January 13
February 10
March 10

Crossroads

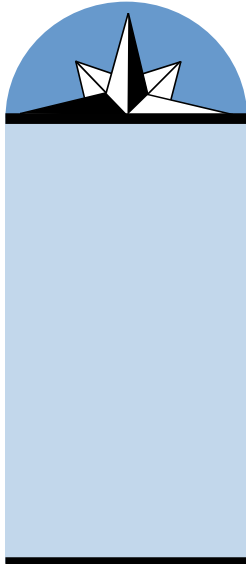
Grades 6-12. Then Jesus said to His disciples, *"If anyone would come to me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."* Matthew 16:24. This group meets on Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 pm in the church. Please feel free to join our group anytime.

January 7, 14, 21, 28
February 4, 11, 18, 25
March 4, 11, 18, 25

Manna Mania Food Challenge

Four of our Sunday School classes (Pre-school to 6th grade, Youth & both adult classes) are brought non-perishable food items and paper products in Feb., May, Aug. & Nov., 2008, for Helping Hands & other ministries. Our next challenge will start in February of 2009. Items that Helping Hands can use can be found on the list located on the bulletin board. Please put items in the appropriate bins in the fellowship Hall.

Submitted by Clara Miller



Calendar Of Events

January

6th Bible Study at 10:00 am and 6:30 pm	15th Deacon's Meeting at 7:00 pm	27th Bible Study at 10:00 am and 6:30 pm
7th C.A.T. and Crossroads at 6:30 pm-8:00 pm	20th Bible Study at 10:00 am and 6:30 pm	28th C.A.T. and Crossroads at 6:30 pm-8:00 pm
13th Bible Study at 10:00 am and 6:30 pm	21st C.A.T. and Crossroads at 6:30 pm-8:00 pm	31st Healthy Small Church Workshop at 9:00 am-4:00 pm
14th C.A.T. and Crossroads at 6:30 pm-8:00 pm	22nd Business Meeting at 7:00 pm	

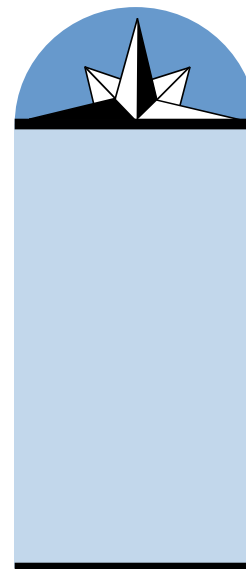
February

3rd Bible Study 10:00 am and 6:30 pm	11th C.A.T. and Crossroads at 6:30 pm-8:00 pm	24th Bible Study 10:00 am and 6:30 pm
4th C.A.T. and Crossroads at 6:30 pm-8:00 pm	12th Deacon's Meeting at 7:00 pm	25th C.A.T. and Crossroads at 6:30 pm-8:00 pm
10th Trustee Meeting at 9:00 am	17th Bible Study 10:00 am and 6:30 pm	26th Church Council Meeting at 7:00 pm
10th Bible Study 10:00 am and 6:30 pm	18th C.A.T. and Crossroads at 6:30 pm-8:00 pm	

March

3rd Bible Study at 10:00 am and 6:30 pm	12th Deacon's Meeting at 7:00 pm	25th C.A.T. and Crossroads at 6:30 pm-8:00 pm
4th C.A.T. and Crossroads at 6:30 pm-8:00 pm	17th Bible Study at 10:00 am and 6:30 pm	26th Church Council Meeting at 7:00 pm
10th Trustee Meeting at 9:00 am	18th C.A.T. and Crossroads at 6:30 pm-8:00 pm	31st Bible Study at 10:00 am and 6:30 pm
10th Bible Study at 10:00 am and 6:30 pm	24th Bible Study at 10:00 am and 6:30 pm	
11th C.A.T. and Crossroads at 6:30 pm-8:00 pm		

Submitted by Clara Miller



If you would like to be on the prayer list or help, please call Jo Kline at 765-985-3879.

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We're on the Web!
www.mbconline.com



Baptist Bits & Blessings Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 50
Jan./Feb./Mar. 2009

**T H E R E A R E N O
S T R A N G E R S H E R E . . .
O N L Y F R I E N D S W H O
H A V E N ' T M E T !**

*"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed,
do all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God and the Father by
him."*

—Colossians 3:16 KJV