

Drexel Heights Baptist Church located
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first Sunday of every month.

Submissions must be presented to
Mary Garner by the close of business on the 19th of the
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Visit our DHBC website: www.dhbctucson.org

June, in the year of our Lord 2008

From the Pastor's Pen

Jesus commanded; "Listen to what I'm telling you: Open your eyes and look at the fields for they are ready for harvest."

Someone asked me the other day; "Why won't more people come to our church?" We can blame God and say it's all His fault; we can put the blame on ourselves. Or, we ignore the question all together. In the Gospel of John we're told that the harvest is ready. Could it be that our eyes are closed? Could it be that we don't see that the harvest is ready? If our eyes are close to our neighbors we will not see them thus we won't care. If I don't care for my neighbor I won't pray for him - if I have the attitude of not caring why should I expect him to be interested in the God I claim? If I don't see care, pray or show interest in him by crossing the street or yard, to engage him in spiritual matters. Why should he come to the church I attend? The Bible reads the harvest is ready - why do we hesitate? If we make the claim that we know God, love the Gospel and care deeply for the harvest, then the Scriptures in our lives will help us to be confident and focused, proclaiming the Gospel to a pagan World. Showing sincere interest in others helps in growing both the Kingdom and Body of Christ!

Because the Harvest is ready,

Dan Gutierrez

Holy Spirit and His role in Evangelism

"Salesmanship is no substitute for Spirit-led ministry."

~

"You can't turn off what the Holy Spirit is turning on."

Moishe Rosen/Jews for Jesus

Sixty Years of Marriage

The family of Herschel and Margaret Catlin ask that you join us in celebrating their 60th anniversary, June 8th 2008. Church Service and renewal of vows, 11:00 AM reception from

12:30 PM to 2:30 PM at Drexel Heights Baptist Church. Lunch will be served. RSVP @ (520) 883-0025 (no gifts just fellowship)

Missions Projects this Summer

While some students are out enjoying their summer vacation under the sun, three of our own members will be traveling once again to serve our Lord in Canada. Last year Silas Cheek and Joseph Brock enjoyed part of their summer at Lock Nest Camp in Canada. Before Joseph catches up with Amanda Gutierrez and Silas Cheek, at the camp ground, he will travel to Durango, Mexico and spend some time with our missionary partners Nassim and Woudi DeJong. One of his duties in Durango is to pass out food and literature at a city dump where many come to salvage items to sell in order to live. Joseph will also be working on an airstrip that is in the process of being built. Prayers are always needed and a financial gift would help them on their way.

Dad's Day

Before you fire up the Barbecue for your dad on Fathers Day invite him to a Sunday Service!

On Fathers Day is June 15th, all dads in the service will receive a pocket new testament.

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Hey! You Science Buffs!

I just found out from the Horse's Mouth, that NASA TV WILL be carried on COX Cable Channel 990 in Tucson. You MUST subscribe to their digital cable service however, in order to receive. The Mars Lander is scheduled for touchdown on the Martian Surface at 4:53 PM PDT (Arizona time too) Sunday, May 25, 2008. Discovery (COX ch 23) or Science Channels are good backups. -Wayno

~

Bible Trivia

In the Old Testament, Who allowed her husband to escape by putting an image, or statue, in his bed and telling others that he was sick?

Answer on page six.

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Gospel Hymn Stories

“How Great Thou Art”

The Original Swedish lyrics, titled "O, Store Gud" and written in 1886 were inspired by a visit to a beautiful country estate on the southeast coast of Sweden. Pastor Carl Boberg was suddenly caught in a midday thunderstorm with awe inspiring moments of flashing violence, followed by a clear brilliant sun. Soon afterwards he heard the calm sweet songs of

the birds in nearby trees. The experience prompted the pastor to fall to his knees in humble adoration of his mighty God. As the result of this experience he wrote a 9 stanza poem, and several years later at a conference, was surprised to hear his poem sung to the tune of an old Swedish folk melody. It was translated into German, then a literal translation by an American in 1925: "O Mighty God, When I behold the Wonder." The song was also translated from German to Russian in 1927. Missionary Stuart Hine, inspired by the Russian words coupled with the awesome sights of the Carpathian Mountains, wrote the first three English verses, the fourth came after WW II.

The hymn was made famous by George Beverly Shea during the Billy Graham Crusade in London.



Lukewarm Churches Need Eye Salve

My recent trip to the Philippine Islands put me into contact with some Southern Baptist converts that give the impression of really having great Christian vision. It made me wonder if we American Baptists are in need of an ointment to cure our weak Christian vision.

Do you have any desire to be like the church in Laodicea? It was lukewarm, you see. A lukewarm, complacent church does not appeal to me in the least. You can have their big fancy buildings with its plush carpet, padded pews, and vaulted ceilings. I would prefer to be in a church that has the power to shake the house as that early church did, rather than to be lukewarm and religious. But if we don't keep our eyes on the Lord and on the fields we will go the way of the Laodicean church. I'd rather be like the church as found in II Cor. 9:6-16, "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever. Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness). Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God; Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men; And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you. Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

"And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that

thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent." Rev. 3:14-19.

"...anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see."

When the name Laodicea is spoken, the first thing that pops into my mind is, "lukewarm," which is true. The church in Laodicea was neither cold nor hot, they were lukewarm. The Lord says, "...because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spit thee out of my mouth." Their lukewarmness had made God sick and they were lukewarm because they said, "...I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing..." verse 17. This is the thorn in the side of Baptist churches today. Materialism and riches has mired many modern churches in lukewarmness. Their zeal is gone. Zeal also speaks of fire. They have become lukewarm because their fire has gone out.

The sad part about the Laodicean church was that they were not even aware of their condition. "...and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:" They thought they were rich and were in need of nothing but the Lord said they were poor, blind, and miserable. Many churches today, to the world, look as if they are successful, they have numbers, buildings, and buses but the problem is with many, they are just as blind as the religious crowd found in Matthew 13:15-17, " For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them."

You see, the Laodicean church had an eye problem, they thought they could see and they could physically, but not spiritually. They had riches and comfort but they did not have fire nor power.

Too many churches today are in the same state. They have lost sight of what it is all about. They have turned their eyes inward to their own little world and have lost sight. Our Lord tells the Laodicean church in verse 18, "...anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see." Eye salve was nothing more than a little cake-looking pad with medication on it. It was to be placed over the eye to produce the healing process, which brings to mind the account of the blind man in John 9:1-7, "And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing."

Jesus made His own pad with spit and earth and anointed the eyes of the blind man, but before he could see he had to obey, verse 7, "And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing." After he went and washed in the pool of Siloam then he came seeing.

Many churches today are in need of eye salve. They are in need of some healing, but they will not be able to see, they will remain blind, lukewarm, without fire until they obey

and stop looking inward and start looking outward. The Laodicean church started off right. They had the right foundation but they lost sight. They lost their focus because they took their eyes off of what they should have been on and put them on what they should not have been on, riches and comfort.

Many churches today display their blindness by their preaching, their ordinances, their standards, and their lack of separation. Their services are lukewarm and meaningless. But if a church wants to keep their focus and stay on fire for the Lord, and not go spiritually blind, their eyes must be looking in the right direction.

We should have no desire to be like the church in Laodicea. But if we don't keep our eyes on the Lord and on the fields we will go the way of the Laodicean church.

DHBC was once very much like this. A succession of inadequate pastors had allowed us to lose our focus. Since we have hired Pastor Dan we have set off into the right direction. Pastor Dan has the right vision but it will take all of us, not just him, joining in that vision, to make sure we never, ever, return to being a lukewarm church and move instead to being a "hot" church that's on fire. We don't need lukewarm religion today, we need churches that can pray and shake the house. We need churches that preach the word and stand, in season and out of season, with such conviction that sinners fall on their knees and get saved. I'd rather be like the church as described in II Cor. 9:6-16, quoted earlier.

One could easily ask, "Why does a church go spiritually blind which leads to lukewarmness and complacency? Perhaps I will have time to comment about this next month. - Commentary by James Garner

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Pastor Dan asked me about "the Day of Atonement" during a recent Sunday Sermon as we study the Book of Mark. This is the short version.

The Day of Atonement

According to the Bible Calendar, the tenth day of the seventh month (Tishri) is the Day of Atonement. Jews call it *Yom Kippur*.

In Hebrew *Yom* means day, (marked from sunset to sunset, as instructed by God), and *Kippur* means to pardon, or condone. The word atonement carries the meaning to English-speaking people. It means to make amends or to reconcile - to become "at one."

The observance of the Day of Atonement goes all the way to the time of Moses: "And The Lord said to Moses, "On the tenth day of this seventh month is the day of atonement; it shall be for you a time of holy convocation, and you shall afflict yourselves [i.e. fast] and present an offering by fire to The Lord. And you shall do no work on this same day; for it is a day of atonement, to make atonement for you before The Lord your God." (Leviticus 23:26-28 RSV)

The Lord commanded the Day of Atonement as a solemn annual observance of the Israelites. It's unique in that it's the only of the annual God-commanded Biblical Holy Days in which fasting was required. The fast was such a strict requirement that anyone who failed to do so would be cut off from the community.

Among some modern Christian churches all of the ancient Biblical Holy Days are viewed as being significant to Christians because they individually symbolize the steps in God's Plan of Salvation (the very purpose of Christianity) for all humanity. There is only one God, and only one Way to eternal life.

Just as, for example, the Passover's slain lamb symbolizes the sacrifice of Jesus Christ (the "Lamb of God"), or The Feast Of Trumpets which pictures the future Return Of Jesus Christ, the Day of Atonement also has its significance to the Christian world - so much so that a number of large Christian churches and groups observe the Day of Atonement as a Holy Day, including the fast.

There are 3 elements of the Day of Atonement that apply directly to Christians: The first element is the fast itself. Going 24 hours without food and water is not easy (anyone who has ever done it can tell you that it can be a very uncomfortable experience). It takes genuine determination and willingness. An Israelite's refusal to fast, which resulted in the offender being cut off from the community (Leviticus 23:29) is the Old Testament's equivalent of a New Testament Christian refusing to repent, which will result in the offender being cut off from eternal life (Luke 13:3). Fasting is outward proof that the person doing the fasting is serious about repentance, which is vital for forgiveness. It's very significant that the first Christians, including the apostle Paul himself wrote a large part of the New Testament, repented and observed the fast of the Day of Atonement as a Christian (Acts 27:9).

The second element involved the high priest. Only once per year, on the Day of Atonement, the high priest (Aaron, brother of Moses, was the first high priest, Aaron's descendants thereafter) entered the Most Holy Place of The Tabernacle to offer ceremonial sacrifices for the forgiveness of the people (Hebrews 9:7). That Old Testament observance was a direct fore-picture of Jesus Christ, our High Priest (Hebrews 9:11), Who, after His Sacrifice, entered the very Throne Room of God The Father in heaven to make atonement for all humanity (Hebrews 9:11-12).

The third element during the Day of Atonement involved the *Azazel* goat, or scapegoat, which was taken out into the wilderness after having had all of the sins of the Israelites ceremonially placed on it (Leviticus 16:10, 21-22). The scapegoat symbolized the condemnation of Satan for the sins of all humanity, and his being put away in an eternal wilderness from which he will never return (Revelation 20:10). The sending of the *azazel* goat out into the wilderness as done by the Old Testament high priest after he returned from inside The Most Holy Place of the Tabernacle is a ceremonial "preview" of Jesus Christ sending Satan into the abyss which will be done after His Return from the Throne Room of God The Father.

Though not all Christians celebrate the Day of Atonement (if you are into symbolism) the Day of Atonement can signify the 3 most vital aspects of Christianity:

1. Willing repentance on the part of those to be saved.
2. The completed sacrifice of Jesus Christ formally presented to God the Father to make atonement for the sins of humanity.
3. The final guilty verdict upon Satan as the source of all evil, and the sentencing of him to eternity in the abyss.

† Jim Garner

Bible Trivia Answer.

Michal (1 Sam. 19:12-14)