



The Grapevine



Gatlin Creek Baptist Church



From The Pastor's Pen

Dr. Don Prevatt

Volume 1, Issue 28

July 2010

Brokenness is often mistaken for the result of a bad experience. Something negative happened and I am broken hearted about it. My feelings have been hurt over an issue and I don't know how to correct the situation. In reality, brokenness is the beginning of a process that leads to greater intimacy with God, a deeper love for others and a spontaneous heart of worship. David exhibited the fruit of brokenness in Psalm 51 when he said: "purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean . . . create in me a clean heart, O God and renew a steadfast spirit within me (vv.7 & 10)."

Brokenness begins with the awareness of sins committed and their consequences. At this point we can blame others, rationalize our actions or simply accept responsibility for our behavior. Acting responsibly leads us to a state of humility (God resists the proud). We ask God and others to forgive us, make restitution when possible and renew our relationships. This is repentance expressed.

Expressed repentance and renewed relationships lead to greater trans-

parency. This in turn leads to increased intimacy with God and others, which in turn leads to a more pure worship, which in turn leads to greater joy and enhanced fellowship. The collective fruit of this worship and fellowship is properly experienced or expressed as love—pure, unadulterated, unconditional love.

God's desire for you and all you know is to experience His love in an unadulterated way. He uses people like you and me as agents to express His love. Sin creates a bottleneck in the process. Therefore, brokenness over sin—that which stops the flow of God's love—is the prerequisite of experiencing God's love. God uses you to express His love to me and to others. Also, He uses me to express His love to you and to others.

How can we keep God's love flowing through us? The answer is brokenness—

brokenness over sin and its effects in me and through me to others. In another Psalm David asked God to search him. He didn't trust himself with that exacting task. He, like us, was too prone to excuse sin rather

than forsake it.

This whole search and destroy process of dealing with sin can be expressed in a simple phrase: roof off, walls down. "Roof off" refers to our relationship with God. There is nothing hidden between us and God. "Walls down" refers to our relationship with one another. There is nothing hidden nor hindering our relationship with one another. In short, we are transparent. We have no secret sin, no hidden agenda, nothing between our soul and our Savior.

When the church of Jesus Christ experiences and expresses love at this level, revival will soon follow, Jesus will be glorified and sinners will be converted. That's my hearts prayer for today. I'll see you Sunday: "roof off, walls down."

Brother Don



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Our Purpose.....

Our sole purpose as a church is to glorify God by effectively fulfilling the **Great Commission** and actively living the **Great Commandment**.

Our Mission...

HIS COMMISSION:
Matthew 28:18-20
Go . . . make disciples of all nations.
HIS COMMANDMENT:
Matthew 22: 37-40
...love the Lord your God with all your heart....
love your neighbor as yourself.

Worship Update**Dr. Richard Hughes**

My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God... Colossians 2:2

My life has been recently enriched by a young man, graduating from high school and going into the music ministry. He is not a member of our church, but, because of our common love for worship, our paths have crossed and he has participated in worship with us on several occasions.

He is extremely gifted- his voice and natural musicianship is one of kind. His stage presence is an incredible blend of confidence and sincerity. At his young age, he knows the difference between entertaining a crowd and leading them in worship and he strives to do the later.

That has, honestly, impressed me. But that is not what has enriched me.

What has enriched me is how he behaves off-stage. He is one of the most positive, upbeat people I know. A true Barnabas with a servant's heart: He is constantly on the prowl for those needing an encouraging word, a smile, a hug, whatever. When he finds one in need, I have watched him from a distance respond without hesitation, to the saved and unsaved, boys and girls, the popular and the discarded. While most his age are seeking affirmation and gratification, he seems to thrive on affirming and serving.

And I am now part of his ministry.

Every morning, with rare exception (and always with apology), this young man texts me (and who knows how many others) a devotion- complete with scripture, some thoughts, and even an application ("today I want you to...."). With no applause, no spotlight and no prodding this young man has found a unique way to encourage his brothers and sisters. The devotions are teen focused, but well-thought out and reeking in sincere love and desire for the growth of others. What started out as an amusing curiosity to me is now a high point of my morning.

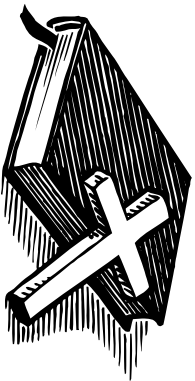
And more than the quality of the words is the condition of the heart. This is true worship leading: encouraging the hearts of others so that they may be inspired towards unity and good works for a great King. His simple, unselfish act of concern for my spiritual growth has spurred me on. I so hope and pray, that you feel the same thing each and every time you leave one of our worship service. As one of our deacons is very fond of saying, "may I be a blessing to others, as they are blessing me".

**JOIN US FOR SUNDAY
WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY**

Sunday School 9:45 A.M.

Late Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.





July 2010

Gatlin Creek
Baptist Church
2031 Gatlin Creek Road
Thomasville, Georgia

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----|----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-----|-----|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 Independence Day Salt Shakers Optional Youth @ Beach | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| | | Visitation 6:30 p.m. | | | | |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| Children's VBS 6pm-9pm | | | | | | |
| Deacon Meeting 7:30am | | Visitation 6:30 p.m. | | | | |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 Youth Pool Party @6:30pm | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| Youth Cmte. Mtg. After PM Service | | Visitation 6:30 p.m. | Conference 7:15pm | Men's Fellowship 7:00 p.m. | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| Planning Cmte. 4:00 p.m. | | Visitation 6:30 p.m. | | | | |

Birthdays & Anniversaries*

July 2nd

Andrew Allensworth
Cyndel Waters

July 4th

Teresa Skinner
Josephine Williams

July 6th

Lisa Duncan
Brooke Groover
Raye Strickland

July 7th

Judy & Ernie Barrow

July 8th

Josh Harnevious

July 10th

Jonathan Clay
Bruce Coffee

July 11th

Jonathan Kinsey

July 20th

Melinda Tashie

July 22nd

Paul Strickland

July 24th

Mandy Rice

July 25th

Lacolla Harper
Merle Ross

July 26th

Jayna Selph

July 27th

Dave Broadway
Ernst Engelmann
Nicholas Selph
Leila Tarlton

July 30th

Charlie Brown

**Please notify the
church office
of any changes or
additions.
225-1154**

Youth Update

Nathan VanderBoegh

This last month has been spiritually challenging for me, but in God's strength we do prevail. Philippians 4:13 says that "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." I would never have imagined that God would lead me to Thomasville, GA. I like to be around family and being away from my family has been hard but God has been showing me so much and opening so much space to grow. Last month the youth and I went to Little Rock, AR to work with World Changers. The mission trip wasn't what I expected and it turned out to be a huge challenge for me and it was only through God that I was able to prevail. Please pray for me in the area of schooling, I have to attend summer school for the next two weeks and your prayers would be greatly received.

The last months events went well and I have seen much growth in the youth group in a short period of time. We recently took a trip to Laguna Beach on July 4th and 5th; this was a time for togetherness and team building that I believe to be very important in a youth group. There will be two main events this July, the first is YO (Youth Outreach) and VBS (Vacation Bible School). Please pray for the youth and the many activities this summer for them.

Thank You for everything

A servant of Jesus Christ
Nathan VanderBoegh