

Gloster Baptist Church

March 2014

“Reaching families to equip them to serve, to go and to glorify God.”

Mark Your Calendar

3.2

VBS Volunteer Meeting
following morning worship

3.7-3.8

DNow

3.9

Daylight Savings

Time Ends

3.9

Men's Breakfast

at 8:15 a.m.

3.12

Easter Egg-stravaganza

Planning Meeting

at 6:30 p.m.

You'll Get Through This

You'll Get Through This. Whatever “this” is—financial woes, relationship valleys, health crises. Joseph was thrown in a pit by his brothers (Gen. 37:18-25). Yours came in the form of a diagnosis, a foster home, or a traumatic injury.

Joseph was thrown into a hole and despised. And you? Thrown into an unemployment line and forgotten, into a divorce and betrayed, into a bed and abused. The pit. Life is reduced to one quest: to get out and never get hurt again. Not simply done. Pits have no easy exit.

Joseph's story got worse before it got better. Abandonment led to enslavement, entrapment, and imprisonment. He was sucker-punched. Sold out. Mistreated. People made promises only to

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break them. Offered gifts only to take them. If hurt was a swampland, then Joseph was sentenced to a life of hard labor in the Everglades.

Yet he never gave up. Bitterness never staked its claim. Anger never metastasized into hatred. His heart never hardened; resolve never vanished. He not only survived; he thrived. By the end of his life, Joseph was the second most powerful man of his generation.

His life offers this lesson: in God's hands, intended evil becomes ultimate good.

Joseph would be the first to tell you, life in the pits stinks. Yet, for all its rottenness, doesn't the pit do this much? It forces you to look upward. Someone from up there must come down here and give you a hand. God did for Joseph.

And at the right time, in the right way he will do the same for you. **(The preceding is an excerpt from Max Lucado's book You'll Get through This)**

As the Spring flowers bloom and life is given to all of creation around you allow God to see you through this season of change in your life. He walks before you and is beside you no matter how separated you may feel from Him. My prayer as we enter into this last half of our 40 Days of Encouragement is that you will learn to be a receiver as well as a giver of encouragement. The Bible clearly states that it is better to give than to receive but many more have trouble accepting the gift of encouragement. Be Encouraged!

Your Pastor of Encouragement,

Ron McLellan



Children's News

Thank You Church Family! The children collected a total of \$1357.00 during our Valentine's Banquet which gave the children a profit of \$600.00.

Say YES to VBS! Our 2014 theme is "Wilderness Escape". Join us on March 2, following Sunday morning worship, as our Director, Russell Smith, shares information and needs for this year's VBS. Lunch will be provided. Come join the VBS team and see where God can use you to share the love of Jesus with children this summer.

M-JAM (Mission Jamboree) Children in grades 1st-6th who have pre-registered will be attending M-JAM at First Baptist Church, Rayville, LA on March 8, 2014. We will depart from the church at 7:00am and return around 5:30pm.

Children's Church for March: Forgiveness-deciding that someone who has wronged you does not have to pay. Memory Verse: Forgive the things that you are holding against one another. Forgive just as the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:13

The Story of "Because He Lives"

~Because He Lives (1)

In the late 1960s, while expecting their third child, Bill and Gloria Gaither were going through a rather traumatic time in their lives.

Bill was recovering his strength from a bout with mononucleosis. They, along with their church, were the objects of accusation and belittlement. Gloria was experiencing a time of torment, including fear of the future and of bringing children into such a crazy, mixed-up world.

As Gloria sat alone in a darkened living room, tormented, and fearful, the Lord sent a calm and peaceful rest to her. The power of the resurrection of Christ seemed to affirm itself in their lives once again. Gloria remembers the realization that it was LIFE conquering death in the regularity of my day. The joy seemed to overcome and take precedent over frightening human circumstances.

And the song *Because He Lives* came out of their personal bout with darkness:

Because He Lives

(1) God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus, He came to love, heal, and forgive; He lived and died to buy my pardon, An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

(2) Because He lives I can face tomorrow, Because He lives All fear is gone; because I know He holds the future. And life is worth the living just because He lives.

(3) How sweet to hold a newborn baby, And feel the pride, and joy He gives; but greater still the calm assurance, This child can face uncertain days because He lives.

(4) And then one day I'll cross the river, I'll fight life's final war with pain; And then as death gives way to victory, I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know he lives.

~Origin of Because He Lives (2)

I am a wife and a mother. It was in the middle of the upheaval in the sixties that we were expecting our third baby. The drug culture was in full swing, existential thought had obviously saturated every area of our American thought, the cities were seething with racial tension, and the God-is-dead pronouncement had giggled its way all through our educational system.

On the personal front, Bill and I were going through one of the most difficult times in our lives. Bill had been discouraged and physically exhausted by a bout with mononucleosis, and in that weakened condition had little reserve to fight the psychological battle brought on by some external family problems. Someone whom we had cared about a great deal had hurled some accusations at us and at the Fellowship of Believers and at the whole idea of the existence of God.

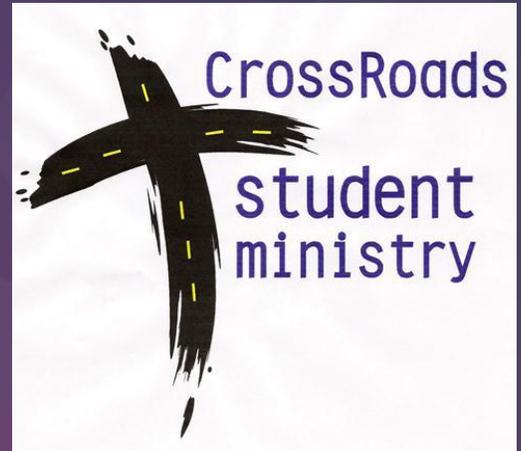
It was on New Year's Eve that I sat alone in the darkness and quiet of our living room, thinking about the world and our country and Bill's discouragement and the family problems—and about our baby yet unborn. Who in their right mind would bring a child into a world like this? I thought, The world is so evil. Influences beyond our control are so strong. What will happen to this child?

I can't quite explain what happened at that moment, but suddenly I felt released from it all. The panic that had begun to build inside was gently dispelled by a reassuring presence that engulfed my life and drew my attention.

Gradually, the fear left and the joy began to return. I knew I could have that baby and face the future with optimism and trust. It was the Resurrection affirming itself in our lives once again. It was LIFE conquering death in the regularity of my day.

—Gloria Gaither

“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.”
James 1:19



Youth News

We are entering an interesting time. The time has where theology has hit the BIG SCREEN. In the coming months the following movies will be in our local theaters: The Son of Man, Noah, and Heaven is for Real. I would like to encourage you to encourage your teen to see them. Matter of fact I will be planning on a movie day. When you and or your teen watches these movies do not just watch the movie but rather go to dinner afterward or to a cafe and discuss them. Do they match up biblically? Did they take liberties with the Bible? Where do you think they were right on or where did they miss the Scripture? Help your teen to connect the dots and see the connection between Scripture and where life hits the road.

We also have several upcoming events. We have Winter Jam and DNOW. This year we will be combining the two. If your students just want WinterJam it is 15\$ but if they want to do both it will be 70\$. Do not let money be an issue. We have been blessed beyond measure and our church family has been gracious. We will be doing Gloster Underground again this year. This study will help us to realize how blessed we are to live in America where it is not illegal to assemble for public worship. It will also open our eyes to the persecution towards Christians that is taking place all around the world. Please encourage your teen to be part of this study (TBA).