

Trumpet Call



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Calvary Chapel of Savannah

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Pastor's Partner

By Susie Tuttle

"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now." Philippians 1:1-5

Grandchildren are truly a gift from God, a heavenly reward to be enjoyed by those who run a life-long endurance marathon called "Parenthood." Proverbs 17:6 describes these little ones as a "crown," and indeed how brightly they shine! One of the many wonderful things about grandchildren is their unique ability to remind you of your own children, and how they were at this stage of life. For many grandmas and grandpas, years can dissolve before their eyes with a simple turn of a little head or one flash of innocent eyes. Suddenly, it's almost as if one's own grown son or daughter was once more a child, as little arms reach out for comfort. That feeling again of *wanting only you, and no one else will do* is a great healing balm to soothe one's soul after enduring what many would call the turbulent teen years of their children. Yet, as grandchildren show their unconditional love to us, we realize that they are unique, and one of a kind. They have their own capacity to love; their own potential to do great, wonderful things. However, the *likeness*, or what we might call family resemblance, is undeniable.

In John 14:30 Jesus is talking about what will happen when He is resurrected from the dead. *"At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you."* Jesus takes it further to include all believers, not just the apostles, when He says, *"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent me."* He finishes with these words, *"And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."* (John 17:20 -23; 26) When our Father in Heaven sees us, He sees the *likeness* of Jesus in us. Yes, He sees our uniqueness, our personality coming through, yet to the Father the family resemblance is undeniable, because Jesus promises that we will be one with Him, and that He will dwell within us.

One thing our family loves to do is to fish. It can be calm and relaxing one minute, and so thrilling and exciting the

next. One could say that it's a lot like life! In all our times of fishing, we have always cleaned the fish outside and as far away from the house as possible. Who wants that stinky smell filtering in? Usually, this is the routine: a fisherman first catches his fish, cleans them, and rinses them with water. Then he cleans them up some more, followed by even more rinsing, before he brings them inside the home. In like manner after he has "caught" us, God will continue His work to clean us until we are taken home to be with Him. This cleansing is known as the sanctification process of the Holy Spirit. He is helping us to become more and more like Jesus. And just as a fish can't clean itself, neither can we. We need God's help to make us into what He wants us to be -- the image of His Son. The more we yield to God's ways, the more we'll resemble His Son, Jesus. As John the Baptist said, *"He must increase, but I must decrease."* (John 3:30)

In the Garden of Eden, man was originally made in the *likeness* of God. *"Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. . . ' "* (Genesis 1:26) He wanted us to be like Him. But because of man's sin, it was necessary that God would come in the *likeness* of man. He then became like us so that we could be like Him. *"...taking the form of a servant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."* (Philippians 2:7-8)

After the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus, His *likeness* was seen in His disciples. There was a family resemblance between these men, who were, for the most part, unrelated except through Christ. It was so strong that people living as far away from Israel as the ancient Syrian capital, Antioch, saw something familiar about them. The Bible says about Barnabas: *"For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith."* Because of this family resemblance, the Bible says *"And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch."* This was a fulfillment of prophecy spoken by the prophet Isaiah that God would *"...call His servants by another name."* (Isaiah 65:15)

A good question to ask ourselves is "what do people who don't know Jesus call us?" Do they recognize God in us? Do they see the family resemblance? Psalm 17:15 says *"As for me, I will see your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness."*

Women's Conference

Some of the ladies from Calvary Chapel Savannah who attended the Women's Conference in Buford, Georgia, are excited to share their experiences with those who didn't have the opportunity to join them.

"In mid-September," Vicki Mitchler tells, "seven sisters-in-Christ and I were able to attend the Calvary Chapel Gwinnett Women's Conference. What a blessing! We had a ball just getting there! Our common theme while traveling was "Wait--this is the wrong way!" but the theme of the conference was John 15:5, "...He who abides in Me and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing". I believe this touched each of us differently as the teaching progressed, but everyone received an understanding of how God is working in her life".

Vicki says that the 'apple seed' that was planted in her "was to stop concentrating on bearing fruit". She learned "the important thing for us (the branches) to do is to stay close to the vine (our Lord), and then we will receive the nutrients (the Word) and the fruit comes automatically! So simple if we just stop trying to do everything our own way and rely on Him".

She thought, "It was wonderful to see how each of us looked out for each other, even when we were driving in circles (literally!)".

"As these occasions come up for ladies conferences, and also studies at our church, celebrations, or 'Ladies Nights Out', I encourage you to attend, if at all possible. The friendships and closeness you experience while watching Jesus in each lady is priceless".

Susan Maxon loved listening to the dynamic Debbi Bryson of Calvary Chapel Vista in California, who was the speaker for all five sessions during the weekend. One of her great passions is encouraging women to develop a consistent personal time with the Lord in His Word. Debbi calls her ministry "Journey to the Heart of God".

"One part of a session", Susan says, "was devoted to ways to help us abide in Him during our daily devotionals. Taking her advice, I have, after several years, resumed journaling during my morning quiet time. It has revived my personal Bible reading and added a spiritually exciting dimension to it. New insights flow from my pen as the Lord speaks to me through His Word. And I enjoy looking back on previous entries and being reminded afresh of the understandings and nudges He has given me."

Emily Avery thinks that one of the main things that she learned from the conference was to get her brain more actively involved in her Bible reading. She said, "This involves using my imagination about the setting, to picture myself in the reading, and to ask questions about what I am reading (see below). This has helped me tremendously. Now when I read, I do not lose focus as much".

"I am reading the NIV One-Year Bible", she said, "and taking notes about what I learn about God, myself, and life,

and what I can pray back to God. This was put into practice at the conference after each session when we would write down what we learned. Along with this use of imagination in the reading, I am learning to do what Debbi called "throwing away the 2-dimensional Jesus." I am asking the Lord to help me to see Him as He really is. Because I am such a visual person, I've had trouble seeing God as 3-dimensional. He is not just words on a page. He is a real, warm, loving, active God who wants as deep and intimate a relationship with me as I have with any person on earth, only more! I try to follow these questions for study:

1. How does this passage apply to my life?
2. In light of the Truth in these verses, what changes must I make?
3. How will I carry out these changes?
4. What will be my personal prayer concerning this Truth?
5. Which verse or verses should I memorize?
6. What illustration or word picture will help me remember what I've read?"

"Our theme verse", shares Susie Tuttle, "concerned our abiding in the Vine. When the Lord Jesus spoke the words concerning our abiding in Him, He was very near death. Although He wasn't on the cross, in just a few hours he would be dying. And He knew it. It was brought out by Debbi that when someone knows they are near death, or have the threat of death, like a diagnosis of cancer, or whatever, it's as if somehow everything takes on a greater dimension. This fell close to home as I thought about last autumn and just how close I came to losing my husband, who's also my best friend. In the scary days before the surgery, flowers smelled sweeter, colors were more vibrant, hugs were tighter, and we found great joy in a baby's smile. What happened was that we became more aware of just how precious life really is; what a wonder we experience every day in our own adventures of life. At the conference, Debbi encouraged us to "Live like you're dying . . . live each day like you mean it!"

Alicia Strader really enjoyed the conference and says it "was a great way to get to know my sisters. The time we spent eating and the times we spent lost helped me grow closer to them. I enjoyed the speaker's energy and she helped me realize that we must make an effort to abide in Christ, not simply expect it to happen".

All the ladies who went want to encourage others to prayerfully consider the Ladies Winter Retreat this coming January on Jekyll Island. It's not only a sweet time with the Lord but with each other!

Nicaragua Missions Trip

By Charles Wood

A team from Calvary Chapel Savannah will be traveling down to Calvary Chapel Managua in Nicaragua on December 26th. The team will be helping out in the orphanage, school, and bakery, as well as conducting a soccer outreach in the local community. We are excited to participate with Calvary Chapel Managua in what they are doing for the Lord in this very needy area. We anticipate bringing a love offering of some clothing and school supplies along with us when we go (More info on this as we get closer). Please be in prayer for the team and the ministry as preparations continue.

Worship Conference

By Kaare Aagard

The 2006 Deep South Worship Conference in August at Calvary Chapel Stone Mountain was a wonderful experience of the freedom Jesus Christ has given us. The theme this year was "Transformed: Recall Your Purpose, Revive Your Passion, and Renew Your Priorities". Tim Pasagui and I had a great time of fellowship and growth as we sang, listened to the Word, and enjoyed the workshops. The conference focused on the themes of *love* (in deed and truth) and *thankfulness*.

We should worship the Lord as we are *thankful*, which in turn slays pride. Also, we must take each blessing and enjoy it. However paradoxical it seems to give by taking, we insult God by not receiving wholeheartedly that which He offers.

According to Micah 6:8, this is what the Lord requires: that we do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God. The heart of God's law is the love of God and of people. When *love* is manifested, worship is in progress!

Other Conferences

"Contending for the Faith" was the name of the summer men's conference in Buford at CC Gwinnett that seven guys from Calvary Chapel Savannah got to attend. George Mitchler was happy to have had the chance to "share God's blessings" on him by doing the driving and "listening to the fun, loving fellowship" of the guys, both on the ride and "with the other Calvary guys up there".

Mike Welniak really enjoyed the trip which he thought was "very spiritually fulfilling" and wants to encourage "all guys regardless of age to attend men's conferences at some point in their walk with the Lord". He said that "The Lord speaks to you in such a personal way that you will always walk away knowing that the Lord has touched you". Sometimes "it might be an immediate word from Him while you are there, or you might get a tug at your heart well after".

Mark Stump agrees with that. He thinks the conference had some really thought provoking topics, especially one on evangelism which he's had to spend some time thinking about since: lining it up with the Word and prayerfully considering his own thoughts on the subject.

Both Pastor Dan and Susie each had opportunities to attend conferences recently. In June Pastor Dan went to Chuck Smith's Senior Pastors' Conference in Costa Mesa, California, and in October Susie flew to Murrieta, California, for three nights and three days of refreshment and encouragement at the annual Calvary Pastors Wives Conference. While there she got to bless and be blessed. Twenty-five copies of the *Song of Solomon Bible Study* she has written were purchased by pastors' wives and will be brought back to Calvary Chapels to be studied around the globe!

Celebrations

Let's praise and thank God together for recent celebrations. Blake and Brodi were dedicated to the Lord in June by Jason and Bethany Tuttle. There were about a dozen people in July baptized in the ocean on Hilton Head Island: kids, youth, and adults!! Another baptism is scheduled for October 14. Jeremy and Daleea Barrett have returned from China with Hannah, their new, beautiful daughter of the King whom they have been eagerly awaiting for so long. Ryan and Danielle Carter just had a healthy baby boy, Gabriel Matthew, and Herb Miller and Alicia Strader will be starting their new life together in November. Congratulations all!

Condolences

Our prayers for the Lord's comfort go out to Pastor Dan and his family for the death of his sister, Sheri, and also to the friends and family of Miss Winell Paul who went home to be with the Lord recently.

Neighborhood Outreach

By Alicia Strader

The idea for the *free* yard sale, which we had back in June, came to me when I was looking through all the things I collected in the past years. I needed to get rid of many of these items because I will be getting married in the fall, and we would end up having two or three of the same thing.

I thought, "Goodwill would be an option". Then I was asked by God, "what about those people you met in the neighborhood (outreach) that have nothing"? My answer was, "they have *nothing* and I have *too much*!"

So I wondered if there was anybody else in the church that had this "good" problem too. I began to run the idea past others, and they had the same problem; some were even moving and needed a good place to donate their items.

Shortly after the idea became a plan, the small "storage" area was full. With the help of many we were able to sort through the items in a few hours the night before. The weather on the day of the yard sale was beautiful, and we expected a good turn-out. Many came and were overjoyed to see that we weren't a church after money. They couldn't believe that we gave away microwaves, clothes, toys, and other much needed items. Many times we were able to supply for people who had nothing. There was a man who would not be able to afford to get his son a gift if we hadn't been there. People would walk away knowing that we cared for them when no one else did; this was the love of Christ that we wanted to show.

After the end of the yard sale, we were able to take three truck-loads of items to the local men's shelter and Goodwill. We set out to bless others and ended up being blessed in other ways by God. He says in Matthew 25:40 "*whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.*"

Summer Fellowship

The men have been faithfully meeting for their monthly Prayer Breakfast, the first Saturday of every month enjoying food, fellowship, and Bible study. The last Thursday of each month has found them meeting in the evening for food, fellowship, (see a pattern here?) and either games or edifying videos during the "Iron Sharpening Iron" ministry night.

The ladies have had their share of food and fellowship, too! In July they held an elegant Southern Tea with special music, fancy food, Susie's sweet tea and sweet devotional. They've also had two Ladies' Nights Out -- one at the artsy Soho South Café and the other at Sakura's, a fun, little sushi house.

Three showers of blessing took place recently. A bridal shower for Alicia, and two baby showers: one for Danielle and one for Daleea. (Of course, there was good food -- and cake!)

More 'food and fun' for the whole church happened at the annual Business Meeting & Fellowship Dinner in August as well as at Burke's Beach on Hilton Head Island after the baptisms. If you missed Michelle Evola's real Italian gelato on those occasions, you missed a lot.

There have been six Maranatha Movie Nights on Friday nights this past season at the church -- great Christian films that can't compare to what's showing at the theaters -- and more are scheduled. Stay tuned.

Why Christians Should Vote

Election Day, Tuesday, November 7th is right around the corner. It is both a privilege and a duty to vote. We are blessed to live in the freest country in the world, and if we want to keep it that way, we need to get out and vote.

Typically, only 48% of Christians in America vote. If every Christian voted in every election, we would have a profound influence on who our judges and law-makers were, and we could make a serious difference in our country. Yes, praying is very important, but voting is a ministry we each can do to recapture our culture as well as our government from the strong influence of secular humanists.

How should we decide for whom to vote? Choosing a Democratic or Republican candidate is not the most important decision; neither is worry over money issues. We must "vote our values" by voting for Christians, or at least moral men and women, who will pass and uphold pro-family and godly legislation and programs.

As Glenn Tinder, Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Massachusetts at Boston says, "If spirituality is properly political, politics will be properly spiritual".

So what shall we do? Pray. Study the candidates. Choose those whose ethics and values are aligned with God's Word. Tear down the high places. Take back our country and culture for the Lord. Vote!

Ordination

On the evening of June 26 here at Calvary Chapel Savannah, George Mitchler was recognized and authorized in the ceremonial rite of ordination as Assistant Pastor. Like Joshua who was Moses' assistant, George will be coming along side Pastor Dan in the work of the ministry. God bless you, *Pastor* George.

Sunday School

A new Sunday school season is now underway. Melissa and Tim Pasagui have been working really hard writing and organizing this coming year's curriculum. God bless them! If you don't have children under the age of ten and haven't been in the back in a while, peek your head in the classroom area after church and see the new flannel boards. The kids are really enjoying the large, colorful Bible scenes and characters which make the Scripture stories really come alive for them.

Upcoming Church Events

October

Annual Night of Praise & Souper Supper - Tuesday, October 31st After a potluck soup buffet, each person is invited to make a presentation of praise to the Lord for what He's doing and has done in your life.

Ladies Bible Study started October 10, "Finding Jesus in the Hebrew Alphabet". Meets every other Tuesday at 7PM.

November

Herb and Alicia's **wedding**, November 11

Annual Thanksgiving Sunday Dinner -- more info to follow

January

Ladies Winter Retreat -- Friday, January 19 through Sunday, January 21 at the Jekyll Island Club Hotel.

Visit Our Website

www.CalvaryChapelsavannah.com

You and your family and friends can visit our church website at <http://www.calvarychapelsavannah.com/media.php> where you'll find all of Pastor Dan's recent Wednesday night and Sunday morning messages. Newcomers can find directions to the church on the site.

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The next newsletter will be published this winter. Please give church-related announcements and news to Susan in February. Also, if space permits, we will print short testimonies, reflections, original stories, or poems which encourage, edify, or uplift our readers. Pray about sharing something that the Lord has spoken to your heart.