

OPENING REMARKS:

Many of our churches are either currently hosting a Vacation Bible School or are in preparation for an upcoming Vacation Bible School. This is a great outreach in the community for our churches. Yesterday was a busy day helping several churches order needed materials for their VBS.

Yesterday was also a busy day helping some of our churches prepare for the next Sunday school quarter. The next Sunday School quarter starts this coming Sunday, June 6, 2010. The Classic Bible Scholar material will be covering the epistles of Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians. The Adult Fusion material will be covering the theme "Faithful to the End" as it looks at the books of I John and Revelation. I couldn't help but read ahead in the Fusion student magazine daily devotional guide regarding learning to walk in the light. Our teens will be studying the theme of "Crossing the Finish Line," while the younger children will be learning more about who God is and what sin is and how to overcome temptation. The Cuddle Time Storybook is one of the best full color large print books that a parent or grandparent can read to a small child. This quarter's Cuddle Time Storybook is entitled "Heaven Is the Real Happily Ever After." A member of one of our churches who is a student in the adult Sunday school class at their church called yesterday regarding help with the daily devotional guide for their age group. What a joy it was to walk with them through the process of learning how to better utilize Bible based Sunday school curriculum that encourages a daily walk with the Lord. We are here to serve you and encourage you in your walk with the Lord. Please don't hesitate to give us a call if we can help you in any way.

On Thursday of this week, Matthew Deckard, originally from Thayer FWB Church in Thayer, MO and a recent graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, will begin working with us at our FWB Christian Book and Supply in Turbeville. Reverend Chris Edwards went full time with Lebanon FWB Church in Effingham. We are grateful for the time he was with us and for his diligent work while here. Matthew Deckard will be getting married in September to Mrs. Halie Garrison, who is from Temple FWB Church in Darlington and who also just graduated from FWBBC. We look forward to bringing Matthew on board with us as we partner together in ministering to our churches. I greatly appreciate Reverend Mike Jones who has been helping us during this transition time and who will be helping us over the next few weeks in training Matthew.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve you!

PRAYER / PRAISE REQUEST:

***State Moderator Reverend Sherwood Lee**, pastor at Sand Hill FWB Church, had back surgery on Monday. Please remember him in prayer as he recovers from surgery.

***Reverend Reedy Saverance**, seniors pastor at Lebanon FWB Church, had knee surgery last week and is currently in rehabilitation. Please remember him in prayer as he recovers.

***Reverend Jody Wynn**, pastor at the FWB Bible Church in Darlington, will be having surgery today at McLeod Hospital to remove two large kidney stones. Please pray for him during this time.

***Mr. A.C. Allen**, a member of Lebanon FWB Church and a member of the Free Will Baptist Bible College board, had back surgery on Monday. Please remember him in prayer during this time. He is currently at McLeod Hospital in Florence.

***Reverend Timmy Larrimore** has requested prayer for Mrs. Linda Jewetts. She was diagnosed with stage four cancer and has been given the hope of only 6-8 weeks to live. Please pray for God's healing.

***Reverend Gary Fry**, Missouri State FWB Promotional Director, has been diagnosed with a chronic case of Guillain Berre Syndrome, which is treatable. He also has acute statin myopathy and is being treated for pneumonia. Please remember him in prayer during this time.

***Reverend Larry Collins**, Associate Pastor at New Vision FWB Church in Rock Hill, was recently hospitalized with complications from dialysis. Also, his wife **Mrs. Mae Collins** was recently hospitalized. She has stage four cancer. Please remember them both in prayer during this time.

***Mrs. Paula Jones' dad, Mr. Evans**, a member of Prospect FWB Church in Pamplico, recently had surgery. Mrs. Paula Jones is the wife of Reverend Mike Jones. Please remember Mr. Evans in prayer during this time.

MINISTER NEWS:

*Spartanburg Area Minister Luncheon - Monday, June 7, 2010, Grapevine Restaurant, 11:30 AM.

*Florence/Darlington Area Minister's Breakfast - Tuesday, June 8, 2010, Bazen's Restaurant in Florence - 8:30 AM.

*Lake City Area Minister's Breakfast - Tuesday, June 15, 2010, Prosser's Restaurant in Lake City - 8:30 AM_

CHURCH NEWS:

June:

May31-June 3 VBS - **New Prospect FWB Church**, Pamplico (7-9 PM)

7-11 VBS - **First FWB Church in Inman** (M-F 6:30 - 8:30 PM)

6-10 VBS - **Landmark FWB Church in Anderson** (6-8:30 PM) - THEME: EGYPT:

Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace

13 FAMILY DAY & VBS Commencement Service - **First FWB Church in Inman** - 11 AM.
19 TMT - Teen Ministry Team from White Savannah in Conway will be with **Freedom FWB Church** in Lancaster at 6 PM
27 ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY - **Landmark FWB Church** in Anderson (SS 10 AM /
Worship 11 AM)

July:

9-10 YOUTH RALLY - **Bethany FWB Church in Timmonsville** will be hosting a "Soldiers of the Saviour (SOS)" Youth Rally. All teens and youth are welcome to attend. The youth rally will begin at 5:30 PM on Friday and on Saturday at 11:30 AM. There will be preaching, games, activities, prizes, and food. Youth workers, please contact Reverend Joshua Horton if you are planning to attend. You can call him at 843-346-2593. Thank you.

August:

13-15 YOUTH RETREAT - **Westgate FWB Church in Arcadia (Spartanburg)** will be hosting its first annual YOUTH RETREAT August 13-15, 2010. Some of the events will be roller skating, putt putt, batting cage, bon fire, and much more. Reverend Kevin Smith (pastor at Westgate), Reverend Joey Mills (youth pastor at Westgate), and Reverend David "Boo" Casper (pastor at Promise FWB Church) will be preaching. For more information or registration forms, contact Tami Fish at the church office at 864-574-5904 or Youth Pastor Joey Mills at 864-216-1849.

20 BACK TO SCHOOL BASH BOWLING PARTY - **South Gate Bowling in Florence**, 6-9 PM. \$10 per person. Grades 4-12. Area churches are invited. Please contact Reverend Chris Edwards for details - 843-598-4410 or chris@lebanonfwbc.com

• _ _ _ *Please send church news announcements via email to ToddSmith@scfwb.com by Tuesday of each week for the following SC FWB Update.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS:

*Teen Camp, Camp Anchorage, Waccamaw, NC - June 7-12, 2010 - cost \$225 / A rebate of \$50 per camper will be issued if there are at least 100 teens to attend Teen Camp! May 25th - Deadline for Registrations. Guest Preacher - Reverend Jonathan Blakenship. See http://www.scfwb.org/youth_ministries.htm for further details.

*Junior Youth Camp, Camp Pee Dee, August 2 - 6, 2010. Vince Tharpe with Art Alive Ministry will be the Evangelist. Please visit Brother Vince's website at www.Artalive.org. For further details, visit http://www.scfwb.org/youth_ministries.htm

WAC NEWS:

*SC WAC Fall Retreat - October 2-3, 2010 - White Oak Conference Center, Winnsboro, SC

CLOSING REMARKS: "An Uneventful Week"

I recently changed over my calendar to a different software on my computer and came across a "Daily Journal" that I had written on September 16, 2005, that I thought I would share with you in the closing remarks today. It relates to the night I was on call as a volunteer chaplain at the local hospital.

"I hope you have an uneventful week," were the words that came from the head chaplain, as I picked up the hospital on-call chaplain pager on Monday morning. It was an uneventful week, that is, until Friday morning about 5:30 AM when I received a call from an emergency room doctor briefing me on the fact that he was getting ready to pronounce the death of a two month old baby. The trip to the hospital only took about 15 minutes, but it seemed like an hour as I contemplated the gift of my own children and the diminished possibilities in the life of this baby. I began to plan in my mind what I would say to the parents who just lost their baby. What could I say? I've never loved and cherished a child for two months and then lost that child. Words would come to my mind and diminish quickly.

Arriving at the hospital, I was given a brief update on the condition of the family by a nurse. Entering the room, the drawn curtain brushed across my shoulder. "My name is Todd Smith, and I am the chaplain on call. I am very sorry to hear about your baby." Suddenly, I was without words. Watching the mother hold the lifeless body of her baby, while tears flowed down her cheeks was enough to silence my desire to give words of wisdom. Gaining composure, the father began to explain the fact of the baby's death in the middle of the night. The mother had accidentally rolled on top of the baby while nursing the baby. I could only listen as the mother expressed her heart ache and brief memories.

"An uneventful week..." I don't think I'll ever forget those words. What started out as an "uneventful week" turned into a week of opportunities. The opportunity of listening to broken hearted parents reminded me of the need to listen to those who are hurting. The opportunity of being present with medical staff who worked so diligently to save the baby's life reminded me to be thankful for the faithful work of those in the medical field. The opportunity to stand with officers as they had the difficult job of interviewing the parents to ultimately rule an accidental death reminded me to appreciate those who serve in law enforcement. The opportunity to look into the face of a lifeless baby reminded me of the need to look into the face of my children and say with heartfelt sincerity, "I love you, and I am proud that you are my child!" The opportunity to show the love of Christ, reminded me of the love that Christ showed us in His own death on the cross of Calvary.

My prayer is that you have an uneventful week, but if not, that God will allow you and I the opportunity to show His love in the lives of those who are hurting.

In Christ,

Todd Smith

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