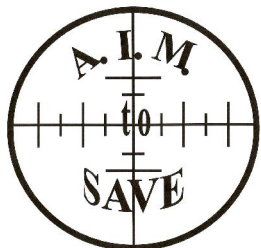


July/August, 2008

Volume 2, Issue 6

AIM News



Adults In Ministry

Adults in Ministry
First Baptist Church of Barberville, Florida

AIM Sets Record Attendance!

Every day, I am reminded that GOD IS SO GOOD!!

And boy, have we been seeing it in person this summer! In June, we had a turnout of 17! Our highest attendance so far! What an unexpected blessing!

And then, right behind that, came July with attendance of 16!!

Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart. Psalm 27:14

A faithful man shall abound with blessings. Proverbs 28:20

Our faithfulness has been rewarded. Continue to pray for AIM and continue to be encouraged. God is at work and I know he will continue to bless us!

If you haven't been to a meeting yet, come out and join us! It's a great way to build and strengthen relationships with each other. We have great food, fellowship, and FUN!!

If you're a regular, bring a friend with you next time!

Special Interest Articles:

- AIM Sets Record Attendance P.1
- Upcoming Events P. 1
- From One Generation to the Next P. 3

Individual Highlights:

Michelle's Minute	2
Prayer Requests	4
Celebrations	4



Don't Forget to Bring a Friend
Whoever brings the most guests wins dinner for 2!!

Upcoming Events

- Ø August 2 - Paintball
- Ø August 3 – Food & Fellowship
- Ø August 10 – Business Meeting
- Ø August 16 – Work Day (9:00 am) and AIM Luncheon (12:00 pm)
- Ø Sept. 21 – Jr. Camp
- Ø Nov. 16 – Revival Begins



Michelle's Minute (and maybe a few seconds more)



We've been having a great time this summer! At our meetings in June and July, we saw record attendance numbers for AIM! In June, the title of our devotion was – Why Jesus Chose a Man Who Wrestled with Unbelief

Anyone who grew up in Sunday School, knows Doubting Thomas. And although Thomas was a doubter, you certainly couldn't say that he wasn't a believer – but rather a realist.

In John 11, as Jesus decides to go back to Judea because Lazarus has died. The disciples question him about how unsafe it would be since the Jews there would be looking to stone him to death. And Thomas says, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." He believed so much in Jesus that he was willing to die with him.

In John 14, Jesus was telling the disciples about an incredible place he was preparing for them. And when he told them they already knew the way, in Thomas' confusion, he can't help ask the question, "we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?" He didn't ask the question out of unbelief, but out of a deep need to understand the truth.

And of course how could we forget what Thomas is most remembered for - his doubt of Jesus' resurrection. But even then, it was Thomas' profound belief that gave him such anguish over the death of the man he'd put all his hopes on. Everything he previously believed God would do had been shattered. Disappointment hurts and faith and hope are risky. So, sometimes we sort of default to something that is safer: doubt. Doubt means you don't have to commit, you can wait around and see what happens before you decide to jump off the cliff and find out there's no one there to catch you after all. But Jesus knew Thomas and he

loved Thomas. Jesus was willing to reach out to him and meet him where he was. And just as Jesus knew, it was all Thomas needed because he immediately replied, "My Lord and my God." There's certainly no doubt and no unbelief there.

Jesus allowed Thomas this critical encounter with his own faith, in order to solidify it. And Jesus knew his friend's heart, and the belief at the core of his doubt. Jesus challenged Thomas to not give up his faith in God's power for a life of less struggle, for hopes so low they have no chance of disappointment.

Because Thomas asked the question, Jesus was able to clarify with assuring words that would etch themselves into hearts and minds for the next 2000 years. John 14:6

Jesus' nail-pierced hands continue to testify of His trustworthiness and love, even as we struggle with our own fear of the risk that goes hand in hand with hope.

Jesus is still willing to meet us where we are – even when we doubt Him and feel disappointed with Him. He is still willing to speak our language with patience and grace. We need to realize that because God humbled himself to walk with us and to bare His heart to us at an incredible cost, we are safe to give Him our truest and most unguarded selves.

Do you believe that Jesus chose Thomas to be a disciple because of his doubt and questioning nature?

Do you believe that Jesus chose him so that he would ask the exact right question at the exact right time?

Do you believe that Jesus has used Thomas' doubt to bring glory to God?

Do you believe that God uses our own hidden fears and faults for His glory?

I believe he does. And I believe He uses them to grow our own faith. I believe He uses them to strengthen us at times and to break us at times in order to bring us back closer to Him. You know, where some might have had the same questions but kept quiet so as not to appear stupid or "unspiritual," Thomas was totally honest in his questions. He just wanted to get to the truth – to find the answers. I truly believe God loved that about Thomas.

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find. Matthew 7:7

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. John 14:13

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. James 1:5

So, go ahead and ask the questions Seek the truth I believe God will provide the answers if you are searching with a humble heart.

July's devotion was meant to be an encouragement. The Spiritual Traps of Worry, Stress and Frustration

With all that's happening around us – the economy, robberies every day, missing children, foreclosures, rising unemployment, etc – it's very easy to become worried, stressed and frustrated.

But as Christians, we have every reason to be optimistic about life here on earth and life eternal.

ON EARTH

God is with us always!

The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivereth him out of them all. Psalm 34:18-19

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find.
Matthew 7:7



Continued on Page 5

From One Generation to the Next

A Message from Billy Graham

Every generation becomes shaken up about its young people. But the problems are the same in every generation. They don't really change.

See if you can figure what generation this is: "The youth are rebellious, pleasure-seeking and irresponsible. They have no respect for their elders. They spend their days in idleness, and their nights pursuing sensual lusts. They have no respect for authority, nor for the traditions of the past."

Who said it? Plato, in ancient Greece. Why, you would have thought that he was writing about this generation, wouldn't you?

There has always been a generation gap, and I don't think that's too bad. If it weren't for the enthusiasm of young people coming on, we'd all die of inactivity! But the youth today—I suppose primarily because of mass media and modern education—are probably the most analyzed in history. What are some of the problems they face?

Common Problems

First, there is a lack of purpose. During the Depression and during the Second World War, there was a purpose, and that purpose was to survive, just to get enough to eat. No generation in history has ever had the affluence that our young people have had, and it causes boredom. We just get plain bored with life.

Rebellion is another problem. The Bible teaches that all of us are rebellious. We've always been rebellious. Adam and Eve rebelled against God in the Garden of Eden, and their son Cain rebelled. All the way down through history, every generation has rebelled. That's what sin is. It's rebellion against God. It's the breaking of God's law.

Young people have always been restless and dissatisfied with the conditions of society. Part of it is just growing up. What do young people really want from us as an older generation? I'll tell you. They want, first of all, to be loved. Jesus looked at a young man who came to Him asking some spiritual questions, and the Scripture says, "Jesus, looking at him, loved him" (Mark 10:21). They need love. You see, God has given you the capacity to love and

be loved. Without love, life falls to pieces.

A Love Story

The whole Bible is a love story between God and people. God loves you. You can't pick up the Bible without realizing that God hates sin, and God is going to judge sin. But you cannot pick up the Bible without also realizing that God loves you. The Bible is full of love, grace, mercy and forgiveness. When I look at Jesus dying on the cross, I see written in neon letters that the whole world can see, "God Is Love. God Loves You."

One of the wealthiest men in the world once said, "I'd give anything in the world if I could find somebody that loves me and understands me." This man had millions, but he couldn't even find one person to love him. I want to tell you, God loves you. He loves you so much that He gave His Son. The Bible says, "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us" (1 John 3:1). We're to love one another in the same way.

The Bible teaches that husbands are to love their wives as Jesus loved His disciples. Wives are to love their husbands; children are to love their parents; parents are to love their children. And if we are Christians, we are expected to love each other.

Recognition

Second, youth want to be recognized as persons. When the Apostle Paul wrote to young Timothy, he said, "Let no one despise your youth" (1 Timothy 4:12). They want to be recognized as individuals. Jesus took a little child and said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14).

The disciples were young men, but Jesus did not choose them because of their reputation or their education. He chose them because of their individuality and their individual qualities. I have five children, and every one of them is different. We love all of them the same, and they love us. But each is different.

Many times fathers make the mistake of trying to get their sons to be just like them. Give your children their own identity. Let them make their own decisions concerning life. Influence them, yes. Guide them, yes. Teach them, yes. But remember that they are different from you. They have their own aptitudes, their own gifts, that may be

superior to yours.

When it comes to spiritual things, you can lead them just so far. Take them to church, yes, and up until a certain point in their lives, make them go. There was many a Sunday when I was growing up that I didn't want to go to church, but I was told to go, and I went.

Choices

But when I reached a certain age my parents made the wise decision to allow me to make my own choice. There comes a time when you're an adult, and God holds you responsible as an adult. And you must make your own decision concerning Jesus Christ. You cannot inherit your faith. A personal dynamic encounter with Christ you've got to have on your own. And I pray to God that you will find Jesus Christ.

Third, I find that young people want to be trusted. The Bible says, "Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath" (Ephesians 6:4). Nothing is more provoking to a child than parents who don't trust him. When the parents have confidence in the child, the child in turn will have confidence in the parents. You're to advise, counsel, guide, restrain and even discipline. But trust them, and respect their privacy.

I have two sons and three daughters, all adults. I never read a single private letter, nor did my wife, that they received unless they asked us to. Young people need privacy and they need to be trusted.

Acceptance

Fourth, young people want to be accepted. Jesus understood young people. He loved them and He accepted them. He said, "the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out" (John 6:37). You know, the miracle of the Gospel is not that you accept Christ. The miracle is that He accepts you, sins and all. You look at your heart and see the times you've lied, the immorality, the lust, the greed. It's amazing that Jesus would accept you, that He loved you enough to die for you—that He loved me enough to die for me.

Fifth, young people want to be listened to. Many young people tell me, "My parents just won't listen to me." Too many times we parents are great on giving advice without hearing the problem. It's like a doctor prescribing medicine before he has diagnosed the case.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Listen to your teenagers. Millions of young people are crying for help on the inside, but no one hears them. One of the reasons they turn to drugs is to dull the pain of living in a world where nobody listens. Listen to them.

Forgiveness

Sixth, young people want their parents to forgive them. We must learn to forgive. There never will be a happy marriage on this earth until people know how to forgive, and the same is true in the relationship between young people and parents. Never hold a grudge. Never let the sun go down on your wrath. Parents, forgive your young people; young people, forgive your parents.

Are you a young person who knows Christ, but your parents don't know Him? You've got a job in your home of living for Christ. I know of one girl who was the only Christian in her home. She prayed and, after about a year, she won her sisters to Christ. She won her mother to Christ and,

finally, a few weeks later, she won her father to Christ. "A little child shall lead them" (Isaiah 11:6).

Parents, don't ever give up praying for your children. A child will never, never get away from the prayers of a praying mother and a praying father. Believe God. Don't give up. God will answer many of your prayers, even after you're dead and gone.

Surprisingly, young people also want authority. They need the security of authority. They need discipline and sometimes chastening. The Bible says, "Whom the Lord loves He chastens" (Hebrews 12:6).

The One Answer

Finally, young people want a faith that they can believe. They need Jesus Christ, because without Jesus Christ there is an emptiness in their life—the purpose and the meaning of life is not clear.

Do you know how to be saved? Do you know how to go to heaven? Christ has already done all the work on the cross. He rose again. He's

alive, willing to forgive you, willing to come into your heart and change you, willing to make you a new person. But what do you have to do? You have to, by faith, receive Him. You have to be willing to repent of your sins and receive Him as Savior. If you are willing to do that, you'll have a faith to live by and a faith to die by.

Young people want a challenge. They want a flag to follow. I'll tell you, Christ can provide it all. Jesus Christ has everything young people are talking about today. He has love, peace, discipline, self-denial, challenge. He offers it all. Put your faith and your confidence in Him, and He can change your life.

I am asking you to follow Christ, to serve Him, to let Him come into your heart and forgive you of your sins, to start you in a new direction. I am asking you to receive Him as Lord and Savior.

RAISE A GENERATION OF YOUTH WHO ARE BOLD FOR CHRIST

Special Prayer Requests

- Les & Beth Thompson
- Bill Vandergriff
- John & Fern Mikalik
- JC Purvis (Uncle Jake)
- Junior Camp
- Adults in Ministry (AIM)
- Teen Ministry
- Children's Ministry
- Pastor Jimmy & Family
- Building Fund
- Church Unity
- Our church leaders
- Each Other
- Our nation and our President



Pray every day – God wants to hear from You!

July Celebrations!!

BIRTHDAYS

- 4th – Wally Douglass
- 12th – Kora Jones
- 21st – James Dean
- 13th – Bill Parent
- 31st – Ashley Jackson
- 31st – Jeff Gier



ANNIVERSARIES

- 7th – Pastor Jimmy & Pam Dean

August Celebrations!!

BIRTHDAYS

- 2nd – Kim Vandergriff
- 2nd – Bobby Dean
- 2nd – Eric Wilson
- 4th – Joey Golden
- 7th – Judy Jackson
- 10th – John Mikalik
- 14th – Daniel Kuhr
- 18th – Aeriell Dean
- 19th – Mary Harper
- 26th – Susan Philibert
- 27th – Fern Mikalik

ANNIVERSARIES

- 20th – Morgan & Laurel Henry
- 22nd – Bill & Darlene Parent

God Bless You All!!



Continued from Page 2 - Michelle's Minute

And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.
Matthew 28:20

He catches us and holds us up!
When I said, My foot slippeth; thy mercy, O Lord, held me up. In the multitude of my thoughts within me thy comforts delight my soul.
Psalm 94:18-19

And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power. 1 Cor. 8:14

He is our helper!

So that we may boldly say the Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. Hebrews 13:6

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

He will heal us!

And said, if thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee.
Exodus 15:26

Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. Hosea 6:1

He is powerful over all!

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? Romans 8:31

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril or sword?
Romans 8:35

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 8:37-39

IN ETERNITY

Promise of What's to Come!

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. John 14:2

But it is written, eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 1 Cor. 2:9

But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.
Matthew 6:20

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.
Revelation 21:3

To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,
1 Peter 1:4

Claim God's Power

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken, cast down, but not destroyed. 2 Cor. 4:7-9

Rest!

And the apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught. And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat. Mark 6:30-31

Be joyful!

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing. Psalm 100:1-2

Joy is the characteristic by which

God uses us to re-make the distressing into the desired, the discarded into the creative. Joy is prayer – joy is strength – joy is love – joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls. Mother Teresa

Praise Him!

Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance. Psalm 42:8

By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. Hebrews 13:15

Trust God. Realize that when we feel out of control, God is always there, and he's never shaken. In Him, there is eternal hope for every situation. Have faith in Him. To have faith in Jesus doesn't mean we try to pretend that bad things are really good. Instead, we know that God will take our problems and turn them into purposes we cannot see yet. When He is done, the day will be even more glorious for our having gone through it with Him. Look for reasons to celebrate God's endless blessings. It's a great way to beat stress, worry and frustration!

From *Our Daily Bread*: Think about Jesus and His disciples as they crossed the Sea of Galilee. When the storm came up and the wind was blowing and the waves were crashing over their boat. The disciples were afraid but Jesus was asleep! "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith." And Jesus calmed the storm. Like the disciples, the more we learn about Jesus, the more we trust Him. Our greatest risk is failing to depend on Him when life seems out of control.

"Keep your eyes on Jesus and you'll soon lose sight of your fears."

I hope to see you in August. Remember, our meeting will be at 12:00 pm this month because of work day.

Love In Christ,
Michelle



God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

Just for Laughs!



First Baptist Church of Barberville

P.O. Box 97
Barberville, FL 32105

PHONE:
(386) 749-3928

Pastor Jimmy Dean
E-MAIL:
pastor@barberville.net

AIM Editor:
Michelle Golden
baseballmom0610@yahoo.com



We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.barberville.net

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

God, if it's true our treasures
are in Heaven.. could I take
a low interest loan while
stuck here on
Earth? Ya
know.. us
being family
and all.



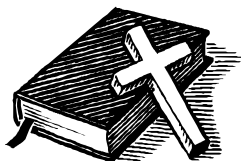
but lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven,
where neither moth nor rust consumes and where
thieves do not break in and steal. **Mt. 6:20**

Church Bulletin Humor

- Thursday night - Potluck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.
- Try Our Sundays. They're Better Than Baskin-Robbins!
- This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.
- Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.

This Month's Bible Verse

A faithful man shall
abound with blessings.
Proverbs 28:20



Bible Trivia

Bible Trivia:

- At what hour of the day did Jesus die?
- Who said this? "As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord."
- Moses was watching a flock of sheep when the Lord came to him. Whose flock was he watching?

- Who was the last prophet of the Old Testament?
- What was Andrew's occupation before he was called by Jesus?

Look for the answers in next month's newsletter!

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
OF BARBERVILLE**
P.O. Box 97
Barberville, FL 32105

