

The Voyager

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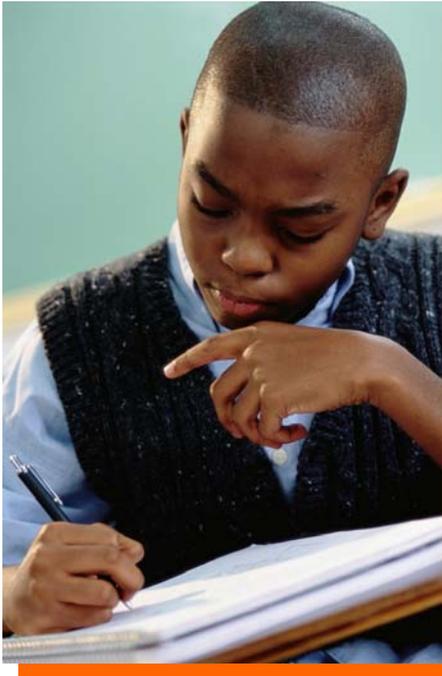
SEPTEMBER 2011

Back to School Study Tips

By Sister Barbara Hilliard

Whether we are parents, grandparents, relatives, youth leaders, teachers, ministers, or just concerned individuals who want to impact the lives of our youth, each of us has an obligation to support and encourage today's youth to strive for the best. Marian Wright Edelman challenges all of us to do our part to "end the epidemic physical and spiritual poverty afflicting millions of our children. We can leave our children with a better, safer, and fairer world if we care enough."

The question one may ask is "What can I do?" Many students lack adequate study skills. Leo Shmuylovich, founder of Virtual Nerd, offers studying tips as students get back into school. To get homework done efficiently and effectively, she offers the following expert steps:



STUDY SPOTS--Designate specific areas for homework and studying, away from noise or distractions. Utilize a quiet, comfortable study space, but don't set foot on that bed. Studying in bed can lead to a nap in a matter of minutes. Sit up in a chair to stay awake.

FAMILY FIELD TRIPS--Take the family on trips to places that will help engage your struggling student in those areas such as a local science museum or library.

WRITE, DON'T TYPE--Although typing notes into the computer can be easier and more efficient for some students, it will significantly decrease retention rates. The simple act of holding and using a writing utensil, such as a pen or pencil, stimulates brain function through acupuncture points in the hand.

REFERENCE PAST CLASSES--Keep old assignments on hand, or in a folder, for reference. When questions arise, consult the previous coursework for answers and insights.

PLAN STUDY TIMES--Create a daily schedule to save time and deter wandering. This helps the student to stay on track and focused on the task at hand.

SAY NO TO DISTRACTIONS--Limit TV, internet, and phone use to only after homework has been done, and position them as privileges rather than rights. Set a certain amount of time per week that your child can use

each technology and try to find programs on TV and internet that can be educational.

VIRTUAL NERD (www.virtualnerd.com) offers parents with teenage children the opportunity to provide children with the help they need at an affordable cost. Designed specifically for students, they can drill down, backtrack, and replay videos at a pace that works for them. Additionally, it provides high-quality video content along with an interactive 'chalkboard' that allows students to work on specific problems or concepts with which they are struggling.

Let's get involved with the education of our youth. Helping them reach their fullest potential is not only a goal but also a responsibility.

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Doing What We Can

Sometimes we may get discouraged because what we're doing for the Lord seems unsuccessful. The children in the Sunday school class we teach are restless and inattentive. The neighbors we're trying to reach with the gospel are politely indifferent. The members of our own family are far from the Lord. The world we lift up to God in fervent intercession grows increasingly violent and anti-Christian. This can add up to deep soul-discouragement.

Listen to the words of a Salvadoran clergyman who was murdered for his fearless denunciation of violence and injustice. He wrote: "We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. . . . We cannot do everything, and there's a sense of liberation in realizing that." This attitude helps us to do small things and to leave "an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest."

That agrees with the apostle Paul's encouragement to be faithful in our tasks and to wait on God who "gives the increase" ([1 Cor. 3:6-7](#)).

Don't allow discouragement to cause you to quit. In God's own time our work will bear fruit.

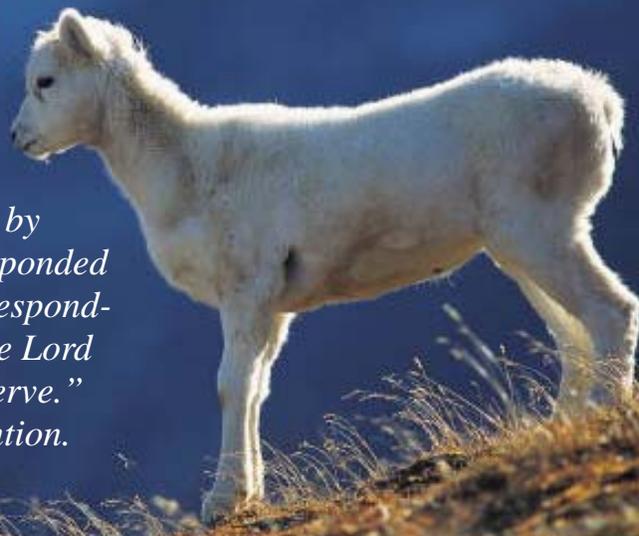
Reprinted from *Our Daily Bread*, Oct. 5, 2006.



God is Calling. Will You Answer?

A Special Guest Article by Sister Arva Fuller

As Jesus was being tempted by Satan in the desert, He responded to one of Satan's tests by responding, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve." Matthew 4:9c. God wants your attention. Are you listening to God?



There are so many things in this world that vie for our attention to God: our jobs, our family, our social networks, our television programs, and just our "stuff." God desires to be first in our lives, first in our attention, first in our praise. God is calling us. ***Will we answer?***

God is a jealous God. In Deuteronomy 4:24, God tells the Israelites: "For the Lord your God is a consuming fire. A jealous God." The Israelites were being warned against idolatry, putting other gods and things before the Almighty God, and He was not pleased. God is calling us. ***Can we hear Him?***

So if we don't give God the attention He desires, He has many ways to get our attention. He will bring circumstances into our lives to force our view to Him. Accidents, job losses, family strife and other unexpected storms may blow into our lives, to help us drift back to Him. At those times, we may say "Why, God?" Perhaps a better response would be, "God, what are you trying to tell me?" God is calling. ***How will you answer Him?***

Our prayers may go unanswered. We are then desperate to hear God's answer. However, prayers remain unanswered for many reasons. Sometimes we ask for the wrong things (James 4:3); our attitudes are rebellious or disobedient (I John 3:22); what we've asked for is out of God's will for us (I John 5:14). God understands, but "no" is, in some situations, the best answer for our prayer. God is calling. ***Does He have your attention?***

When we give God our undivided attention, we are then privy to the secrets of God. We will then understand that God works for good in us, in every situation. As we live in the spirit, it gets easier to hear God. We know and hear His voice more clearly.

As we listen for and hear God calling us, we should experience an attitudinal change. We should experience a feeling of renewal and peace. We should also keep the lessons learned so that we give God all of our attention. Yes, there will be times when we are tempted to stray, and times when we will stray. Fortunately, God loves us. When we confess our shortcomings, He absolves us completely.

Blessedly, we have a manual that provides us with every instruction God has provided to live life as God intends. Our Bible must permeate all of our body. Like Jesus, once we have the Bible in us, we can respond as He did when tempted by Satan: "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve." God is calling. God does what He has to do to get our attention. In whatever way it happens, we will respond when we hear His voice.

God deserves our undivided attention, but sometimes we get distracted. He waits to speak to us, but sometimes the volume of our lives is too high. Allow the events of life -- both pleasant and painful -- to prompt us to give Him ourselves, our praise and our attention. God is calling. ***Be ready for the conversation.***



We Salute Sister Geraldine Kelly

MEMBER PROFILE:



To recognize an individual who has spent most of her adult life as an active member of Mount Helm Baptist is certainly a rewarding, pleasant experience. Her involvement and service to the Church for more than fifty years are a testament not only of her love for her church but also her desire to be of service to mankind. She relates to people of all ages--children, youth, adults, the elderly--and readily assists wherever there is a need.

This honoree has served on numerous committees including the Caring and Sharing Committee, the Pulpit Search Committee, the History Committee--just to name a few. She was one of the organizers of the Women's Sunday School Class and is one of the longest serving deaconesses. She has served as chair of the Deaconess Board for a number of years, and she teaches Sunday School.

Great is her faithfulness. Among her favorite passages of scripture are Hebrew 11:1--"Now faith is the reality of what hoped for, the proof of what is not seen." and Matthew 17:20--"Because of your little faith, He told them. For I assure you: If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will tell this mountain, 'Move from here to there', and it will move. Nothing is impossible for you."

WE PROUDLY SALUTE AND HONOR SISTER GERALDINE THOMPSON KELLY.

September Holiday Facts



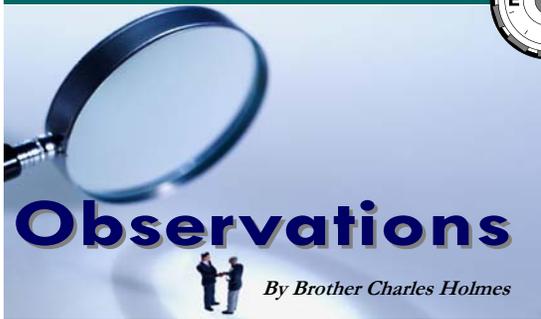
LABOR DAY — Annually held on the first Monday of September, it was originally organized to celebrate various labor associations strengths of and contributions to the United States economy. It is largely a day of rest in modern times. The first Labor Day was held in 1882. It became a federal holiday in 1884. One reason for celebrating this on the first Monday in September was to add a holiday in the long gap between Independence Day and Thanksgiving.

INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY — September 8 was proclaimed **International Literacy Day by UNESCO** on November 17, 1965. Its aim is to highlight the importance of literacy to individuals, communities, and societies. UNESCO reminds the international community of the status of literacy and adult learning globally.

PATRIOT DAY — This is an annual observance on September 11 to remember those who were injured or died during the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001. Many American refer to this day as 9/11. Nearly 3000 people died during terrorist attacks in New York, Washington, D.C., and Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS DAY — Many families in the United States observe National Grandparents Day on the first Sunday after Labor Day. It is an observance and not a holiday. The official song of this observance is "A Song for Grandma and Grandpa" by Johnny Prill. The official flower for the day is the "forget-me-not."

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE — Also known as the **World Peace Day**, it occurs annually on September 21. It is dedicated to peace, and specifically the absence of war, such as might be occasioned by a temporary ceasefire in a combat zone. To inaugurate the day, the "Peace Bell" is rung at UN Headquarters (in New York, United States). The bell is cast from coins donated by children from all continents. Given as a gift by the United Nations Association of Japan, it is referred to as "a reminder of the human cost of war." The inscription on its side reads: "Long live absolute world peace."



On the Horizon . . . September Events

A Report of The Mississippi State Baptist Christian Conference

The Congress met in Jackson, Miss., the week of July 18-22, 2011. There were several delegates representing Mount Helm. A few members had significant roles. Among those who were presenters include Reverend Rhodes who taught a course on Congregational Leadership in the 21st Century; Sister Olivia Thomas who presented a Day Lecture on Public Relations Ministry: Communicating Your Church's Vision; and Sister Arva Fuller, church music programs.

Sister Garnett Galloway and I attended the class, "Survey of Revelations". Before I saw the teaching schedule, I had hoped that Sister Delores Wright of New Mount Zion would teach the class as was the case last year. Instead, Reverend Dr. Albert Calvin, pastor of Mount Horeb Missionary Baptist Church of Greenville, Miss., taught the class. To my utter delight, I learned a great deal under his tutelage and acquired more spiritual insight about the Book of Revelations. No longer will I shun reading and trying to make sensible understanding of this Book of the New Testament. Somewhat regretfully, the Book of Revelation is not subject for argument until Chapter 20. Thus, I fear that most Baptists, including myself, will not even peruse this book or have the privilege to hear a focused sermon on Revelations in the very near future.

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The *Mt. Helm Voyager* newsletter will be available to our members on the first Sunday of each month. Members are encouraged to visit www.mthelm.org to access a downloadable pdf on the Monday following the first Sunday of each month.

Articles, photographs and notices of special events may be submitted to Sister Barbara Hilliard. We thank you for your support.

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- 4 COMMUNION SUNDAY
- 5- 9 Pastor Rhodes will preach Revival Services at Christ Temple Church of Christ Holiness, USA, Hazlehurst, Miss.
- 5 LABOR DAY
- 14, 21, 28
 - Odyssey of Life Institute (6 p.m.)
 - Youth Meeting (6 p.m.)
 - Prayer Meeting (7 p.m.)
- 8 INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY
- 10 ACT Examinations
- 11 PATRIOT DAY
NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS DAY
- 12 Brotherhood Bible Class, Monthly Meeting
- 14 Senior Program –10:00 a.m.
Update on Social Security and Prescription Drug Plan
Barry Carpenter, Presenter, Social Security Administration
- 15 Pastor Rhodes will present a lecture at Greater Fairview Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.
- 16 Pastor Rhodes will server as the Keynote Speaker, 17th Annual Recognition and Awards Gala, Hinds County Human Resource Agency, Jackson, Miss.
- 18 YOUTH SUNDAY
- 21 W.W. Colley Missionary Society Meeting 10 a.m.
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE
- 23 FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN
- 29 QUARTERLY CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING