

The Voyager

Launch Out into the Deep

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Charity Bruce Wins Jackson District Missionary Baptist Association Essay Contest



The Power of Prayer in the Life of A Young Believer

Editor's Note: Mount Helm Baptist Church offers special congratulations to Sister Charity Bruce, the recipient of the \$500 Book Stipend Award from the Jackson District Missionary Baptist Association, Inc., the Woman's Auxiliary. This is her award winning essay. She is enrolled as a fresh person at Tongaloo College.

The things in life that affect us the most are usually the things we do to or for ourselves. As a young Christian, it is my belief that a proactive lifestyle is complimentary of a saved lifestyle. Since childhood, I have been involved in church and participating in worship, service, and prayer. As a young adult, I have come to the realization that those very acts have shaped and molded my lifestyle and my future. A Christian lifestyle, although rooted in service, is truly about the relationship developed between yourself and our Savior. Prayer is the avenue in which communication between the Father and the servant take place and is the pivot point for a healthy relationship. Common phrases like, "prayer still works," or "take it to the Lord in prayer" have become staples in the

church and have been implemented as reminders that conversation between us and the Lord must be constant. In my opinion, prayer is important in the lives of young believers for several reasons such as building a relationship with God, developing moral fiber, and strengthening Faith in God.

Communication is the most important factor in a relationship. If it does not exist, the relationship will fail due to lack of support. It is important to realize as a Christian, especially a young servant that our God is supportive and willing to listen to our needs, our hopes, and our desires. In fact, beyond listening to our needs, He is willing to give us all the desires of our heart. The Bible even tells us in Proverbs 15:8 that the prayer of the upright gives God joy.

(Continued on page 3.)

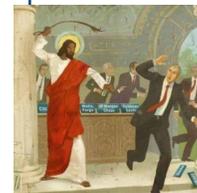
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Garbage in the Temple

A number of years ago, a government investigation discovered that some truckers were hauling garbage in the same refrigerated trucks that were used to transport food. Part of the problem was that trucks making long trips could not afford to return empty.

According to the truckers, some considered garbage a dream commodity. They were paid to transport something that couldn't be damaged. During congressional hearings, a food science professor likened the problem to serving potato salad from a cat's litter box.



This "pollution for profit" scandal is nothing compared to the one described in John 2:13-22. Jesus cast out the money changers from the temple because their schemes for financial gain had desecrated His Father's house.

But just as bad is polluting the temple of our bodies with thoughts and practices that don't belong there (1 Corinthians 6:19).

In many ways, we are no better than those truckers or the temple merchants of Jesus' day. We think it would be more profitable for us to carry the garbage of this world's values in our minds. May God forgive us, cleanse us, and help us to cast out everything that defiles the temple in which He alone has the right to dwell.

Reprinted from *Our Daily Bread*, January 26, 2002.

All New Everything

— Isaiah 65:17-25



Pastor C. Edward Rhodes

Many of our churches are mired in traditionalism. Notice I used the term “traditionalism” and not “tradition”. Jeroslav Pelikan made the following distinction between the two: “Tradition is the living faith of the dead, traditionalism is the dead faith of the living. And, I suppose I should add, it is traditionalism that gives tradition such a bad name.”

Traditionalism is the conviction that



“the way we do things

VS

Traditionalism

here” should remain the same yesterday, today, and forevermore. In this way, our cherished traditions become Golden Calves that unintentionally replace our love for the true and living God.

As pastor and author Tim Keller puts it, idolatry is turning a good thing into a god.

But if we truly believe the God who is revealed in the Bible, we must be open to the new things that He is doing and will ultimately do. Indeed God does not change (Malachi 3:6) and there is no “shadow of turning” in Him (James 1:17), but the Scriptures reveal to us a God who promises to do a “new thing”! In Isaiah 43:19 the Lord says, “*For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?*” Notice *He is about to and is doing it at the same time. The question is do God’s people recognize the new?*

Maybe we can’t see it because we are blinded by our traditionalism, or the other –isms that get in the way and obstruct our view. In Isaiah 65 we hear the Lord’s response to Isaiah’s intercessory prayer, wherein the prophet requests the Lord’s presence and redemption of Judah. What is humbling is that the Lord answers. Israel is praying to God about their physical exile but God is more concerned about their existential and spiritual exile. They are not only far from home. They are far from Him. They have walked in their own ways. They have worshipped the Lord with their lips but their hearts

were far from Him.

They were guilty of the gravest sin: idolatry. . Idolatry is about control, about humanity acknowledging a higher power but one that can be made with human hands and manipulated. Idolatry leads to injustice and immorality because it wrongly orders our worship, diminishes our Creator, and turns us against him, ourselves, and others.

Sometimes idolatry is traditionalism.

It dethrones the true and living God from our hearts and replaces a dynamic relationship is dead religion.

But in spite of (and maybe because of?) Judah’s (and, yes, our) unfaithfulness, God is doing and will do a new thing. Isaiah 65:17-25 details God’s radical transformation of the cosmos, a transformation that will provide *shalom* in the deepest and fullest sense of the term. This “peace on earth

and goodwill toward all” will be the result of God’s restorative initiative. It is *God* who is doing the new thing, not us. This does not mean that we should not be engaged in transformative work. It is a reminder that any lasting transformation will not come about through humanism. God, not us, will ultimately get the glory for making all things new.

Three things are learned from these verses.

First, this renewal will be *cosmic*. It will be bigger and grander than any one person or place. Galaxies and solar systems, stars and planets will all be changed. Verse 17 should remind us of Genesis 1:1. As it was in the beginning, this new creation will begin with God and will include God’s creative activity in both the heavens and the earth. We earthlings won’t be the only benefactors of a new creation. and 2 Corinthians 5. The whole creation groans and waits for this new creation. And every time souls are added to the Church, becoming adopted children of God, we get closer to all new everything. It’s not all about us. All creation will be blessed from this divinely initiated new thing.

(Continued on page 3.)



All New Everything (Continued from page 2.)

In fact, this helps us better understand what the Apostle Paul is getting at in Romans 8 and 2 Corinthians 5. The whole creation groans and waits for this new creation. And every time souls are added to the Church, becoming adopted children of God, we get closer to all new everything. It's not all about us. All creation will be blessed from this divinely initiated new thing.

Second, this cosmic transformation, though universal, has particular and even personal implications. Verses 18 and 19 center on Jerusalem and verses 20-23 personalize the impact of the new creation. Israel will indeed be restored and there will no longer be "weeping and wailing." The new creation of all things may be too massive for us to comprehend, but we all long for the day when tears will be wiped from our eyes and when we'll be done with the troubles of this world. The trauma, tragedy, and terror of human existence will be no more. Our short lives, which are filled with trouble, will no longer experience such pain. In this new creation we will be able to know what life abundant is. We will no longer pursue life, liberty, and happiness. It will be ours completely. Our lives and labor will find ultimate rest and reason.

Third, the whole created order will be in harmony. The tensions within and between different communities—even different species—will give way to peace. Ultimately, the Messi-

ah will overcome the serpent even as he has already overcome death and the grave. Death and weeping will be no more. Fear and war will be wiped away. There will not be murder, the survival of the fittest, or violence of any kind. The wolf and lion will not harm—nor be harmed—on the Lord's holy mountain in that day.

All of this has implications for our worship. We must worship our creative God, not our traditions. We must worship Him with the past, present, and future in mind. Worship isn't about our preferences but based on God's promises to make all things new.

So may our worship and witness be ever open to the new and surprising things God is doing. Let's make a new tradition of worship that readies us for the new creation. May our worship be a rehearsal for the new heavens and new earth.

RHODES TO RESIGN FROM MT. HELM

Pastor Rhodes has accepted a position at Alcorn State University (ASU) to serve as the first Rector of Oakland Memorial Chapel and Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Sciences effective September 13, 2013.

The congregation of Mount Helm wishes much success and many blessings to Pastor Rhodes and to Allison as they embark on this new chapter in their walk with God.

The Power of Prayer in the Life of A Young Believer

(Continued from page 1.)

Prayer is a key component in building a relationship with our Father in heaven. If we are missing that component, we are missing out on a true relationship with Him. Without a relationship with God, how can we ever better ourselves?

It might sound cliché but our desire as Christians is to be better today than we were the day before. Ironically, many of us will strive for physical signs of self-betterment but rarely evaluate the spiritual health of our lives. If prayer is an option for you as a Christian and not an obligation, then your relationship with God is not where it needs to be and you are restricting the Spirit of God from guiding and helping you along the path. Prayer is our remote control that allows us to turn on the channel that God can use to speak to us through His spirit. Communing with the Holy Spirit, our comforter will always result in making morally accepted decisions. As a young Christian, it is my job to influence everything around me. My influence is limited to the strength of my relationship with God, my ability to make sound decisions, and my faith.

As a young Christian, prayer is the first stepping stone in our quest to strengthen our faith in God's word. When we pray, we are pray-

ing the will and word of God over our lives. It is important that we as Christians understand that faith requires action. Prayer is the communication we have with God to make sure that the actions we are taking line up with His will for our lives. In essence God speaks something into our lives, we believe what He speaks, we then seek Him in prayer, and after talking with Him we walk out on faith and proactively seek after what He has spoken. As we progress through life, we can see evidence that our prayers are heard and received by the Father. Prayer is a simple process that truly begins with a sincere utterance out of our mouths and sincere worship in our hearts. However, no matter how simple the process may seem, it is essential to our progression as Christians.

The things that affect us most in life are the things we do to or for ourselves. I am confident that prayer is a proactive trait of Christianity. I am also confident that a proactive prayer life will lead to a progressive lifestyle. I may be a young Christian, but I understand that prayer is not an option but an obligation for those who truly love the Lord. Prayer is an all day, everyday task charged to believers, but it is one of the most beneficial tasks to be completed in life. Prayer changes things, but more importantly prayer changes us.

STAFF

Sister Barbara Hilliard, Editor
 Sister Olivia Thomas, Associate Editor
 Sister Arva Fuller, Writer
 Brother Charles Holmes, Writer
 Sister Angela Norwood, Writer

The *Mount Helm Voyager* newsletter will be available to our members on the first Sunday of each month. Members are encouraged to visit our website at 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 at admin@mthelm.org.

MAILING ADDRESS:

P.O. BOX 11098, JACKSON, MS 39283-1098

STREET ADDRESS:

300 E. CHURCH STREET, JACKSON, MS 39202

CONTACT INFORMATION:

PHONE: 601-353-3981 FAX: 601-353-7411

Email: admin@mthelm.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday: Closed
 Tuesday: 9:00 A.M. — 12:00 P.M.
 Wednesday: 2:30 P.M. — 5:30 P.M.
 Thursday: 9:00 A.M. — 12:00 P.M.
 Friday: 2:30 P.M. — 5:00 P.M.
 Saturday: 8:00 A.M. — 9:30 A.M.
 12:00 P.M. — 2:00 P.M.



On the Horizon: September Events

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 11:00 A.M.</p> <p>2</p> <p>4, 11, 18, 25</p> <p>6:30--7:00 P.M.</p> <p>7:00--8:00 P.M.</p> <p>6</p> <p>8 11:00 A.M.</p> <p>9 6:30 P.M.</p> <p>11 10:00 A.M.</p> <p>14</p> <p>15 11:00 A.M.</p> <p>19 6:00 P.M.</p> <p>7:00 P.M.</p> <p>21</p> <p>22 11:00 A.M.</p> <p>29</p> | <p>Worship Service: Communion Sunday</p> <p>LABOR DAY</p> <p>Intercessory Prayer (Sanctuary)</p> <p>Bible Study (Sanctuary)</p> <p>READ A BOOK DAY</p> <p>Worship Service</p> <p>NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS DAY</p> <p>Brotherhood Bible Class Meeting</p> <p>W.W. Colley Missionary Society Meeting</p> <p>Senior Forum</p> <p>PATRIOT DAY</p> <p>YOM KIPPUR</p> <p>Worship Service: Youth Presiding</p> <p>Usher Board Meeting (Immediately After Service)</p> <p>Quarterly Joint Board Meeting</p> <p>Quarterly Church Business Meeting</p> <p>INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE</p> <p>Worship Service</p> <p>FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN</p> <p>Fifth Sunday Early Service Schedule</p> <p>Sunday School — 8:00 A.M.</p> <p>Worship Service — 9:20 A.M.</p> |
| <p>CHOIR PRACTICE SCHEDULE</p> <p>Wednesdays, 5:30 — 7:00 P.M.</p> <p>Saturdays, 9:30 A.M.—Noon</p> | |

Update Your Member Information

We are in the process of updating our Mount Helm member database. This information is used to communicate with and serve our members. It helps the administrative team and various ministries share information, send out alerts, and process church-wide mailings. If any of your contact information has changed or is inaccurate, please complete, tear-off and submit the form below to our Church Administrator, Sis. Barbara Hilliard. PLEASE NOTE: A separate form is needed for each person. Thank You!

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____

Cell Phone _____ Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Month/Day of Birth _____ Year Joined Mount Helm _____