

# Faith



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## 'For I was hungry and you fed me ...'



Spirit of Luke Ministry comes to Gilberttown

Choctaw Sun photos by Dee Ann Campbell

GILBERTTOWN -- Spirit of Luke Ministries made its 2nd visit to Choctaw County on Saturday as part of the group's ongoing ministry to bring medical care, food, clothing, and the gospel message to the Black Belt. The ministry team, which is headed by a Birmingham physician, Dr. Sandra Ford, and her husband Henry, set up their mobile medical unit at the Gilberttown Nutrition Center, giving local residents the opportunity to get free medical screenings and a variety of other forms of assistance. The team saw 42 patients for medical screenings at the event.



The Spirit of Luke volunteers served 140 fish sandwiches and hot dogs to local residents as part of their 'Food for the Soul' outreach on Saturday.



The focus of their ministry was the handing out of gospel tracts and Bibles to those who attended the event. The group gave away Bibles to more than 50 local residents, along with even more Gospel tracts.

# The meaning of Lent

By Dan Nixon  
First UMC, Butler

**BUTLER** -- The season known as Lent is the 40 day time period which takes place before Easter. It originated as an observance of the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert fasting, praying and being tempted by the devil. Many churches use this time period as an occasion for repentance, fasting, praying, and reflection as Easter Sunday approaches. While some churches have a more formal observation of Lent, the basic principles of Lent are the same. It is a time to prepare for and remember Christ's suffering and death for the sins of the world.

With this in mind, I would like to pass along an article I received several years ago over the internet. I have verified its authenticity, and the message is worth

repeating. "When Minister Joe Wright was asked to open the new session of the Kansas Senate, everyone was expecting the usual politically-correct generalities, but what they heard instead was a stirring prayer, passionately calling our country to repentance and righteousness.

The response was immediate. A number of legislators walked out during the prayer in protest. In six short weeks, the Central Christian Church had logged more than 5,000 phone calls with only 47 of those calls responding negatively. The church is now receiving international requests for copies of the prayer from India, Africa and Korea.

Commentator Paul Harvey aired the prayer on "The Rest of the Story" on the radio and received a larger response to this

program than any other he has ever aired!

### THE PRAYER

"Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask Your forgiveness and to seek Your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, "Woe on those who call evil good," but that's exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values.

We confess that: We have ridiculed the absolute truth of Your Word and called it pluralism. We have worshipped other gods and called it multi-culturalism. We have endorsed perversion and called it an alternative lifestyle. We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery. We have neglected the needy and called it self-preservation. We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare. We have killed our unborn children

and called it a choice. We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable. We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self-esteem. We have abused power and called it political savvy. We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition. We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression. We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.

Search us, O God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Guide and bless these men and women who have been sent to direct us to the center of Your will. I ask it in the name of Your Son, the living Savior Jesus Christ. Amen."

What do you need to reflect upon during Lent?

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