

Faith

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Pleasant Hill Baptist Church dedicates new addition at Homecoming 2007

PLEASANT HILL — Pastor Jimmy D. Singleton and the congregation of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church dedicated the new addition to their building on Sunday, April 1st during Homecoming services. Ground was broken almost two years ago and the addition — featuring two new Sunday School rooms, bathrooms, and an expanded fellowship hall, is now nearing completion. A number of local and visiting groups came to praise the Lord in song, including: (top left) members of the Glory Road Quartet, Buck Jordan, Jimmy Dement, Buddy Eason, Terry "Pineapple" Bradford, Choctaw Countian Ronnie Gibson (manager of the Choctaw Farmers Co-Op in Butler), and Sherry Young; (at left) R.L. Taylor, Robert Taylor, Lou Ann Taylor, Jessica Taylor, Rodney Turner, and Allen and Fannie Smith; and, (top right), Fannie and Allen Smith.

Choctaw Sun photos by Tommy Campbell

NDP observances planned in Gilberttown, Butler

By Dee Ann Campbell
The Choctaw Sun

GILBERTTOWN — Thursday, May 3 will be a day for unity. It will be a day when millions of Americans in every city and town in every state in the nation will unite for one purpose — to pray.

The 56th annual National Day of Prayer is now being planned both nationally and locally, with Christians of every denomination planning events that range from small gatherings in churches to large gatherings on the steps of courthouses in the nation's largest cities. This year, those plans include a focus on the need for a

unification of God's church to pray for resolutions to problems throughout the world.

The National Day of Prayer committee has selected 'America, Unite in Prayer' as this year's theme, focusing on Chronicles 7:14: "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray, and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

"At this crucial time in history, with our armed forces engaged in a desperate struggle in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere, we encourage all people of faith to set aside

their differences and publicly seek God's wisdom and direction for those in harm's way and for our homes, communities and country," said National Day of Prayer Task Force Chairman Shirley Dobson, wife of Focus on the Family founder and chairman Dr. James Dobson. "Our Founding Fathers recognized the power of prayer and gathered regularly to ask for God's blessing. We can do no less."

Honorary Chairman for the 2007 event, Dr. Chuck Swindol, will address the national event in Washington D.C. In addition, gospel music recording artists Ernie Haase and Signature

Sound have recorded "I Pledge My Allegiance," the National Day of Prayer's 2007 theme song.

The National Day of Prayer tradition began before the founding of the United States, when the Continental Congress set aside a day of prayer in 1775. In 1952, Congress established an annual day of prayer and, in 1988, that law was amended,

designating the National Day of Prayer as the first Thursday in May.

This year, as in years past, proclamations have been signed by President George W. Bush and all 50 governors naming May 3 as the 56th annual National Day of Prayer.

As in previous years, National Day of Prayer events are being planned

in Butler and Gilberttown, with evening prayer gatherings occurring simultaneously at both ends of the county. Local ministers and musical guests will be featured at both events.

More information about the local National Day of Prayer events will be made available in the coming weeks.

God's Word speaks for itself

By Dan Nixon
Pastor,
First United Methodist Church of Butler

Did you know that? Psalm 118 is the middle chapter of the entire bible?

Psalm 117, before Psalm 118 is the shortest chapter in the bible?

Psalm 119, after Psalm 118 is the longest chapter in the bible?

The Bible has 594 chapters before Psalm 118 and 594 chapters after Psalm 118?

If you add up all the chapters except Psalm 118, you get a total of 1,188 chapters.

Chapter 1,188, or Psalm 118, verse 8, is the middle verse of the entire bible? Should the central verse not have an important message? "It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man." -Psalm 118:8.

It is gratifying to see that this verse, Psalm 118:8 is at the center of the Bible because it is something that I have preached for years. One of the most important things I tell my congregations is that "Whenever I preach or conduct a Bible study or teach a lesson, never take my word for the context, or for what I say the Scripture says, or means." "Always, always look up my message to see if what I am saying is true." Today, too many people trust their salvation to their pastor or their Bible School teacher. Come the Day of Judgment, Jesus is not going to accept "Well, my pastor said ..." or "My teacher said ..." God will only accept what His Word has said.

Evidence of this false trust can be found with those people who trusted Jim Jones or David Koresh. These two alone were responsible for leading over 1,000 people into eternity without a Savior. Today, there are many churches, preachers and pastors who are leading people astray with false doctrine. Some may simply be in error, while others are deliberately leading members of their congregations away from the truth.

How can you be certain your teacher or preacher is telling you the truth? First, whenever your pastor or teacher quotes the Bible or states a doctrine using Scripture, examine the context of that Scripture. This means to look at the whole chapter from which the quote is taken. Second, if the teaching is consistent with the context of the passage, then see if the message being presented conforms to the whole message of the book, letter, psalm or proverb. Third, look to see if the doctrine being taught is in line with the teachings of the entire Bible. If the teaching matches up with the entire Bible, then it is true and can be profitable to those who believe, and act upon it.

Remember, just because an idea or a teaching sounds good, it may be a lie. For example the saying "God helps those who help themselves." sounds good, but is not found in Scripture. In fact, the Bible teaches us that: "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8) God sent His Son Jesus to save us, because we could not save ourselves. Christ helps those who can not help themselves.

KID'S KRUSADE

Heritage Church of God
Wed. - Fri. April 25-27

Time: 3:30 P.M.

With Dana Sowell
From: North Columbia
Church of God

U.A.R.A.G.M.
GO AND REACH ALL GOD'S EARTH

Sat., April 28, 6:30 P.M.

Youth Night:

Rev. Brock Brown
From: Lee University
Cleveland, Tenn.

Sunday, April 29

Guest Speaker:
Rev. Brock Brown

Pastor: Rev. Clovis Lewis