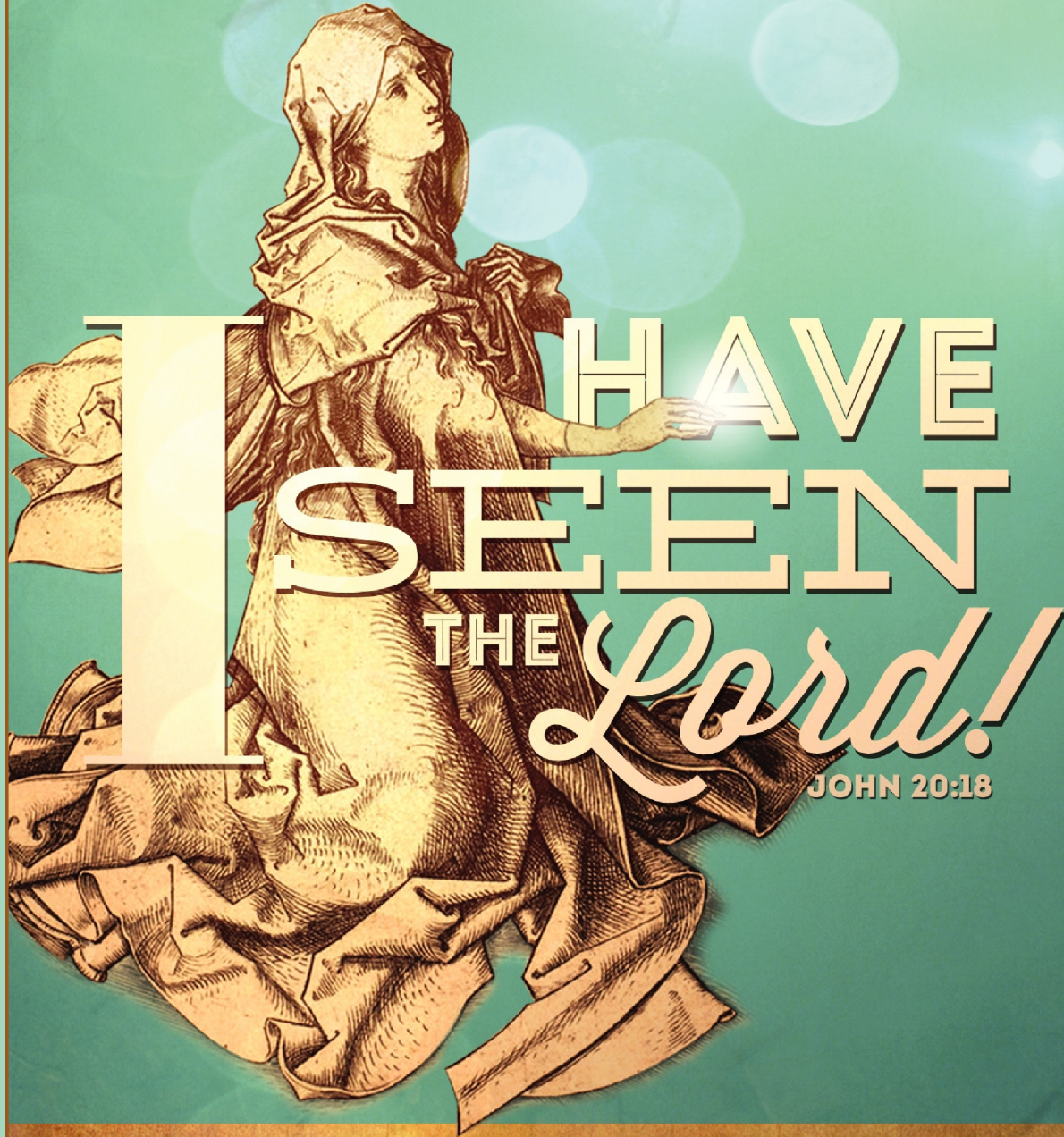


April Connections
Lakewood Baptist Church



JOHN 20:18

Message from Brother M.R.

Dear Friends,

Though it seems impossible the calendar does not lie. I have now been at Lakewood for a year. March the 10th 2013 was my birthday, and it was also the first day of the joint revival with Lakewood and Central. Though it seems like only a few weeks ago it has been a year. It seems as though my weeks feel like days, and my days seem like hours as I have tried to find my way around all the people and ministries. I guess the old saying is true that time flies when you are having fun. Honestly, the first year here has been a fabulous blessing for myself and my family. I now find myself straining to find the words that express the reality of my appreciation for all you have done for us. Through my heart situation, and now Katie's cancer you have supported us and loved us beyond description. For me to simply say thank you seems hopelessly inadequate. Yet I know that God alone can empower our words and actions to honestly convey the truth of our heartfelt gratitude. We are blessed beyond description. We are moved to praise and thanksgiving. We are humbled and appreciative. We are amazed at how the Lord has shown His love for us through you. We thank God for you!

It is a great thing to be loved by so many and to have the opportunity to do what you love. God has really been moving here at Lakewood this first year and He is not finished by a long shot. The anticipation of what could come this year with the foundation God has laid is very exciting. I can see God using the new study courses with Dr Horner to equip the church to take on and conquer areas of influence where we have failed in the past. I can see the reputation of the church growing throughout the community as we continue to focus on loving one another above all else. I can see the dream of our family life center actually coming true. I can see the unity of our present church family even growing stronger as we discover the real power of working together. I can see our fellowship continuing to grow stronger as we grow spiritually. I can see the spirit of appreciation and cooperation expanding as one victory leads to another. I can see the enemy in full retreat from a loving church well grounded in the scriptures and driven by a single calling and purpose united in love. Oh it may have seemed impossible a year ago but not today. For nothing is impossible with God! I can see myself writing this letter a year from now apologizing for not having bigger dreams. Until then, just keep your eyes on Jesus and love one another!

**Join us for a Finger Food Fellowship celebrating
Brother M.R.'s First Anniversary
immediately following the concert Sunday night April 13th.**



We will start the next class on April 6th (Sunday) at 4:00 for weigh in and 4:30 for the bible study. Our last class for the session will be June 22nd.

Children are a gift from God

All of our Awana/Flyte kids had a great time at the annual lock-in, which was held on Friday night, March 7. After enjoying a pizza supper at the church, the older kids headed to the Hollywood Connection for an evening filled with laser tag, roller skating and mini golf. The Sparks, our younger kids, stayed at the church and had a scavenger hunt and a bonfire complete with smores. What a fun night we all had, and a great big thanks to all of the leaders who made the evening such a success for our kids!

The annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 12 at 11 a.m. on the front lawn of the church. I am in need of individually wrapped candy and plastic eggs for the egg hunt. Please bring your donations to the church office as soon as possible so that we can stuff the eggs in time for the hunt. The Young Adult Bible Fellowship class is sponsoring a Barbeque Sandwich Lunch directly following the Easter Egg Hunt. Plates are \$5 (extra sandwiches \$1 with plate purchase) and all proceeds will benefit the Belize Mission Trip. Please purchase your tickets from any member of the young adult Bible Fellowship class!

We are still in need of loving volunteers to staff a much-needed toddler Sunday School class on Sunday mornings. Please contact Patrick Thornton if you can serve in this ministry!

Firm Foundations for Future Generations



Lakewood Baptist Church
Child Development Center

Cabbi Black

The CDC wants to thank all of you who participated in our Spring fundraiser. With all of your support we are able to make much needed updates in the church and daycare. **Thanks again!!**

We are getting geared up for **Summer Camp 2014!!!** We have been planning and getting different ideas for camp and finalizing our calendar. We will begin Summer Camp on **Tuesday, May 27th**. If you know anyone who needs childcare for children grades kindergarten through 5th, please contact the CDC office for more information. We will begin registration April 8th through April 10th. **We look forward to Summer!!!**

Welcome New Member
Mary Godwin

Sympathy to the Families of:
Jessie Little
Edna Hodge
Jody Kelly

“I will sing to the Lord”

Charles Keown

Music & Senior Adults

A **Palm Sunday Easter program** will be presented by the Alleluia Choir, Orchestra and special guest, Terry McKay, who has a ministry of sign language, on Sunday night, April 13th at 6 pm. Come worship with us and prepare your hearts for Easter weekend. Also plan to stay after the concert for Brother M.R. 's First Anniversary Fellowship.

Church Golf Tournament – April 18-19th at the Bagby State Park

Entrance fee this year is **\$125 per person** which includes, 2 rounds of golf, range balls, one night lodging with 2 persons to a room, a breakfast buffet, and lunch at Michele's on Saturday where prizes will be awarded. Please turn in your reservation to Charles Keown or Onezima Everritt by Sunday April 6th so we know how many to expect. Please include the name of who you would like to share a room. The tournament will be limited to the first 24 golfers and is open to members and former members of Lakewood, prospects and friends who have ties with our church family. Mike Welch will be our guest speaker. **Play begins Friday, April 18th at 2 p.m. and Saturday at 8:30 a.m. @ 110 Meadow Links Drive, Fort Gaines, GA 39851.** Hope to see you there.

Singspiration – April 24th @ Lakewood

Music begins at 10 a.m. followed by lunch in the fellowship hall. The Amen Choir will sing 2 songs; “I Have Decided” and “Beneath the Shadow of the Cross.” Dress will be fuchsia and black for the ladies and white and black for the men.

Mystery Trip - Tuesday – April 8th

Cost - \$18 is due when you sign up and includes the event and bus ride. Lunch is not included, but is also a Mystery (not likely a place you have been) Departure from Lakewood is 7 a.m. returning by 3:30 p.m. The Mystery trip is open to anyone who would like to go, but limited to the first 40 persons who sign up. Don't miss it!

Shaping the Future

Andrew Spires

Youth & Younger Single Adults

Dear Parents & Grandparents,

Paige & I love your students, and we treat them as if they were ours. I want to take a moment to tell you our heart and where we see your students right now. We have a teenager (Jordan) and one almost there (Colt), so we are in this battle together. We love your students enough to write this. **Your youth are in a bad place. There is a war raging against their very souls** and they **ARE** being swayed by society and their peers. We have never seen a generation of teenagers who are more stressed, anxious, depressed, suicidal, over-committed, over-medicated, over-worked and over extra-curricularated (is that a word?), and it is killing them. We know you want the best for them, the best grades, the best college, the best teams, performances, test scores, friends, etc. We all want the best for them, but they will not be the best at everything. I was not, you were not, and they will not finish #1 in every area in which they compete. Unfortunately, we see many parents pushing these standards and unrealistic expectations in every area of their kids' lives. They cannot do it all; they cannot handle the stress and are being crushed under the weight of the expectation. Now, please hear me, it is not just your expectation, it is the expectation of their coaches, teachers, administrators, colleges and the pressure they feel from their peers. Don't get me wrong, I am a huge believer in goals, always doing your best, and expectations are good because they cause us to work harder and achieve more. However, we as parents need to realize that our expectations must be realistic expectations based on each student. Our two students (Jordan, & Colt) could not be more different, one is self-motivated and one needs constant encouragement, and I'm sure you can relate.

Let me start by saying that your student is probably not going to Yale, Harvard, or Notre Dame (in 18 yrs of ministry I've only had one), and that is ok. Your kids are probably not going to play a professional sport (in 18 yrs. I've had none), and that is also ok. However, your students are awesome and can be amazing, productive, courageous young adults, who love, have passions, have dreams, and who can accurately display the love of Christ to the world around them. The resounding question in my mind is; **should we as parents really want more than that?** Our culture has shifted to a place where parents are told that they are not allowed to be the ones who determine the limits for their students; simply put our culture has lost its fear of God. Parents hear my heart, you are called by God to set the priorities for your students, you are the ones who should help determine their schedules, you are the ones who are ultimately responsible for the balance in

their lives, and you are to be the primary spiritual leader in your students lives. We see your students more stressed than ever with homework and studying every night of the week and with countless projects to finish. We see students practice a sport/s almost year round, so you can barely take a family vacation, send them on a mission trip, or get them to church because the coach threatens them that they will not play in the next game, **which is simply unacceptable!** Now, understand where I'm coming from, I was a good student, who was also an athlete, I studied and did homework, I went to practice, but my parents still placed a priority of worship in my life, and it stuck with me. I pushed back, I tried to sway them, played on their emotions, but God was always honored in our household and worship was not open for debate. I know society has changed, it used to reserve Wednesday's and Sunday's as worship days, there were no games, practices, or tournaments out of respect for those who went to church, but that is no longer the case.

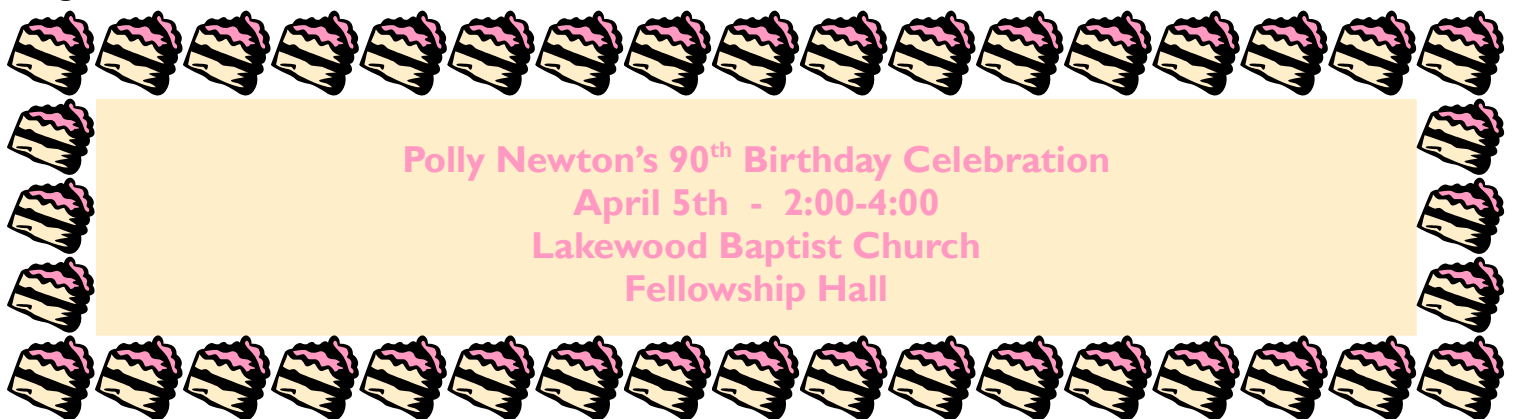
So, how do we change this? First, we can't just sit around and take it, please know you are not powerless in **ANY** of these situations. Get enough parents together to talk to the administration or teachers about the amount of homework, go to the coaches or athletic directors and talk about practice and game schedules. Don't be afraid to stand up for your faith! Talk to your students about their schedule, see if they are over-committed, and help them learn balance.

Recently, I taught a lesson comparing influence & conviction. My goal was to show our students how easily they will abandon their convictions for the sake of ease, popularity, or to fit in. We then spent time identifying their influences, and you'll be happy to know you as parents made the list. However, you were not at the top and neither was God. For the overwhelming majority of students we find that their friends exert the most influence over them on a daily basis. They will follow a friend even if it goes against something they know to be contrary to the Word of God. So, the question I have for you is who are your students' friends/influences? When they go off to school daily, stay late for drama, band, clubs, or practices who are they with? Have we as parents over invested in accolades and extras instead of influencing them to see Christ in us? I've taught this lesson several times to several groups of students and one thing comes up repeatedly when I ask why they aren't influenced by or share the same convictions as their parents. **Their answer is convicting to me; "my parents don't practice what they preach". This tells me that our students are watching us, listening, and learning but what is the message we are teaching? This also says that I'm failing my young adults as a spiritual leader.**

We are asking you to give worship a primary place of importance in your family's life. Not just coming to church, youth, or the occasional service project but really commit to living your faith in front of your students. **Give them an influence worth following.** We have them for just a couple hours a week at best, and in the time we have with them we teach **R.E.A.L.** truth. We treat them as young adults not kids, and I teach them the hard truth of the Word of God. Hear me, I am not asking for you and your students to spend every waking moment at church. We are not asking you to have them here every night of the week. They need activities, sports, and outside friends that bring balance to their life. Sports, academics, and the arts are all wonderful things as long as they are balanced. After all, we want your students to go to those outside events and friends and become an influence for Jesus, showing them the love He has invested in us. What we are asking from you and your student to commit to 1 or 2 things a week that will feed them spiritually and give them the opportunity to engage each other in a community of faith, the way their faith calls them to. Finally, we want to tell you that we know it is hard. We know these decisions are not easy and you have the enormous weight of cultural and societal expectation bearing down on you, not to mention your own busy schedule. **But know this, we are in this together, God has called us to disciple-making, and we should start with our students! We as parents and grand parents are to be the primary reflection of Christ to our young people.** Church and student ministry are merely support mechanisms meant to join with you to help facilitate spiritual growth in your student, where they have an active, growing relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior & Lord of their lives. Parents we see you and your students suffering and we want to help, let's do this together. Over the next few months the student ministry will offer some parent-only classes and some parent-student classes that we will ask you to attend, I trust you will attend and hopefully understand your student more.

May God bless you & your home.

Paige & Drew



Polly Newton's 90th Birthday Celebration
April 5th - 2:00-4:00
Lakewood Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall

In Memory:

Ralph Horne
for Flood Closet from Clara Jean Watson
for Circle of Influence from J. D. and Diane Whitehead
for Budget from Sally Kennedy
for Food Closet from Brenda Slappey

Glenda Thomason for Food Closet from Janice Noble

Melvin T. Hamilton for Circle of Influence from J.D. and Diane Whitehead

Jessie Little
For Food Closet from Billy and Cathy Greene
For Amen Choir from Clara Jean Watson
For Amen Choir from Gary Newsome

Lou Cadenhead for Alabama Children's Home from Clara Jean Watson

In Honor:

Gail Brantley for the Food Closet from Pat Holland
Jean Russell for the Food Closet from Pat Holland
Cathy Greene and Faith/Sunshine BF Class from Sally Kennedy

Friday, April 9th, 2014
J.P. & Esther Benton will
celebrate their 68th Anniversary.
Please join us in celebrating
God's blessings,
faithfulness & abundance
as we honor these two
very special people
and their enduring love.

**Wednesday Menus For April**

4/2

Sloppy Joes,
Whole Kernel Corn,
French Fries,
Salad & Dessert

4/9

Pork Roast, Mashed
Potatoes, Green Beans,
Rolls, Salad & Dessert

4/16

Deli Sandwiches, Broccoli
Salad, Potato Salad,
Cole Slaw, Salad &
Dessert

4/23

Ham, Sweet Potato
Casserole, Squash, Salad
& Dessert

4/30

Beef Stroganoff,
Peas & Butterbeans, Rolls,
Salad & Dessert

Ministerial Staff:

M.R. Hamilton, Pastor
brothermr@LBCPC.org

Charles Keown, Minister - Music & Senior Adults
charles@LBCPC.org

Andrew Spires, Minister - Students and Singles
andrew@LBCPC.org

Patrick Thornton, Minister - Children
patrick@LBCPC.org

Jerry Horner, Minister - Discipleship & Outreach
jhorner@lbcpc.org

Office Staff:

Onezima Everritt, Finance Ministry Assistant
onezima@LBCPC.org

Carol Breault, Office Ministry Assistant
carol@LBCPC.org

Linda Keown, Music & Media Ministry Assistant
linda@LBCPC.org

Child Development Center

Cabbi Black, Director

cabbi@LBCPC.org

Tammy Evans, Administrative Assistant
tammy@LBCPC.org

February Giving	Budget	CTB	Missions	Other	Total
2/2/14	\$18,611.73	\$81.00	\$495.00	\$100.00	\$19,287.73
2/9/14	\$14,041.63	\$531.00	\$2,883.40	\$2,357.25	\$19,813.28
2/16/14	\$ 8,284.01	\$135.00	\$394.00	\$163.00	\$8,976.01
2/23/14	\$7,929.27	\$62.00	\$1,240.24	\$470.88	\$9,702.39

April 2014

Check out our website for up to the minute changes @ LBCPC.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	2 5:45 Awana/ Flyte/Youth	3 Dr. Horner's Class @ 6:30	4	5
----- Phenix City Schools Spring Break -----						
6 Baby Ded. @ 10:45 Lord's Supper 1st Pl. 4:00 Bib St. @ 4:45 Youth Ch. @ 5 Kids Ch. @ 6	7 Amen Choir @10:30	8 Mystery Trip 7:00am to 3:30pm Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	9 VKWMU@10am 5:45 Awana/ Flyte/Youth Deacon Meeting	10 Prayer Wall 7:00 Sanctuary Dr. Horner's Class @ 6:30	11	12 Easter Egg Hunt 11:00-1 BBQ Lunch at 12:00
13 1st Pl. 4:00 Bib St. @ 4:45 Kids Ch. @ 6 Concert@ 6:00 7:00 Fellowship For Bro M.R.	14 Amen Choir @10:30	15 Amen Choir @ Lunch with the Lord 11:30 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	16 5:45 Awana/ Flyte/Youth Finance Meeting	17 Dr. Horner's Class @ 6:30	18 Office Closed CDC Closed ---LBC Golf Tournament----	19
-----VIP Week-----						
20 Easter Baptism -----VIP----- PM Worship	21 Amen Choir @10:30 CiCi's Spirit Night 4:30-8	22 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	23 5:45 Awana/ Flyte/Youth CDC Meeting	24 10:00 am Singspiration @ LBC - Lunch Dr. Horner's Class @ 6:30 JEG BW @ 7:00	25 Bus Trip to Red Door @ 5:15	26 Feed the Homeless 11-2
27 Belize Lunch 1stPl.@4 Bib St. @ 4:45 Church Conf. Youth Ch. @ 5 Kids Ch. @ 6	28 Amen Choir @10:30	29 Alleluia Choir @ 6:30	30 5:45 Awana/ Flyte/Youth			

Regularly Ongoing Weekly Activities

Sunday

9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service
9:30 AM Bible Fellowship
10:45 AM Blended Worship Service
10:45 AM Bible Fellowship
11:15 AM Kidz Worship
6:00 PM Worship

Wednesday

5:00 PM Family Night Supper
5:45 PM Youth Bible Study
5:45 PM Awana / Flyte / Youth
6:00 PM Orchestra Rehearsal
6:00 PM Adult Prayer and Bible Study
7:00 PM Praise Team

Thursday

2:00 PM Clothes Closet
2:00 PM Food Bank

* All times are Eastern.



Malachi's Box - Trinidad



The last distribution of the day was in a tough neighborhood called Fabeau Village where gangs were prevalent and homicides frequent. When we arrived at the Community Center, only a few children were there. School at been dismissed and the children were told to return later to the center for a special event, but a soft mist was falling and perhaps that kept some of them away. The teachers were clearly disappointed.

As more children began to arrive, the program started with singing and a special puppet show. By now the team had their distribution routine down: unpack the cartons filled with shoeboxes, stack the boxes on tables by gender and age – Boys, Girls, 5 to 9, 10 to 14. After the program, the children would line up and we would hand out the boxes, in no particular order, one box after another to the next child in line. It was routine. It was random. But then came Malachi.

Malachi was a six-year-old boy who really didn't want to be there. Most of the children were there with their moms, but Malachi's mom had died two years before of HIV/AIDS, and his father – well, his father was in prison. So Malachi reluctantly came that afternoon persuaded by his cousins.

While some of the teachers knew Malachi's sad story, almost no one knew about his secret admiration for Spiderman. Spiderman was his hero. Maybe his escape mechanism, though he wouldn't have said that. Could he dare to believe that there might be something "Spiderman" in his box? But no, that would be a dream too big. So the little face stayed sad all through the music, all through the puppet show, all through the distribution.

The big moment came. All the children were sitting in their seats with closed boxes in their laps. They would open them all together at the same time. "Hold them up," said the leader up front, "Hold the box over your head. We'll count to three and then you can bring your box down and open it up. No peeking. Are you ready? Boxes up. One . . . Two . . . Three . . . Open your boxes!"

Down came Malachi's box. Other kids around him were squealing with delight. But Malachi was speechless, then a huge smile lit up his face from ear to ear, for inside his box were all things "Spiderman" – Spiderman stuffed figure, Spiderman activity book, Spiderman tee-shirt, just the right size! And on and on the "webbed? wonder" went!

Who could have possibly foreseen this back in the States in November when a little boy and his mom went shopping for Operation Christmas Child? They decided they would fill their shoebox with all the things the little boy loved most – "Spiderman" things. And who could have guessed that THAT box would have been sorted at a Processing Center into a carton bound for Trinidad? And that THAT particular carton would have been transported to a specific community center in Fabeau Village where the boxes would be handed out randomly to boys, 5 to 9, standing in line and that THAT very box, three months later, on a very drizzly and gloomy day in February, February 19th to be exact, would be placed in the hands of a little boy who had a hurt in his heart no one could touch and a secret wish in his heart no one could fulfill?

But Someone knew. And Someone made it happen better than any Marvel comic could. Spiderman to the rescue! Only we call his name Jesus. And on that downcast day, in February, in Trinidad, at the Fabeau Community Center, Jesus showed up, I mean really showed up, for a little boy named Malachi, a name that means "God's Messenger"—all from a "random" shoebox indisputably predestined to touch a little boy's heart!

Contact Information:

Lakewood Baptist Church

Website: LBCPC.org
4011 Lakewood Drive,
Phenix City, AL 36867
Main Office: 334.298.6433
Fax: 334.298.4873
Hours: M-Th 8:30 - 4:30 F- 8:30 - 4:00

Child Development Center:

334.298.6461
Website: LBCPC.org/cdc
Hours: M- F 6:30 - 6:00

April
2014

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