


Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

APRIL 2016

VOL VII: ISSUE 4

LBCPC.ORG



Whatever you do
WORK AT IT WITH
ALL YOUR **HEART**
as WORKING FOR THE LORD
not for men.

Colossians 3:23



Welcome Home.



A message from M.R. Hamilton

SENIOR PASTOR, LBC

This April is really special as I have found my life coming full circle in God's plan to bless me. Let me explain. This month I will be traveling back to Northern Missouri to a church in which I have never in my life spoken before, the First Baptist Church of Green City, yet it will be a homecoming as the pastor there is Rodney Dorr. Now some of you who are reading this letter are already smiling with me as you know exactly what that means. I first met Rodney while I was a student at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City. He was, at that time, the pastor at Maysville Baptist Church and they were needing to build. He had contacted the North American Mission Board for help and they sent him my name as I was serving in the area. I can remember

the first meeting with his building team like it was only a few days ago and not the twenty years that have passed since

Are you here
looking for
an answer or
an excuse?

then. I tried my best "you can do it" message but they were not convinced. The stumbling block for them was the promise that the Builders For Christ would pay their own way and come and help them build. I can remember the head of that team Mr. Russ Wright, who was also the bank president in charge of the building loan as well. His professional career as well as his church were on the line should this project not

go as planned, and he was hard pressed for a lot more than a promise from me that God would honor their step of faith. I can remember the very moment the spirit changed in that meeting when I asked them why they were there. Are you here looking for an answer or an excuse? If you want an answer God has one for you, the Builders For Christ! They are real and ready to be the answer to your prayers. I walked out of that meeting knowing I had stuck my neck out a country mile, and I prayed for a building team like I have never prayed for anything in my life. The Builders for Christ from Phenix City, Alabama were the answer! That would start the relationships that would lead me to serving here. So you see when Rodney contacted me I couldn't help but feel like this April, God's plan for my life will have come full circle. I will be back where I once took a leap of faith, to be reminded of God's faithfulness then and forever. You see, I don't believe in coincidence, and I don't believe that God is taking me back there right now just before our building project for no reason. No I believe he is trying to remind me that He will take me a whole lot farther than I am willing to go. So be praying for me April 4th through the 10th as I will be having a homecoming in a place where I have never been. I will be celebrating how much God has blessed me through you, and how you have been God's answer for my prayers for more than twenty years now, though I have only been Pastor here for three. So this April my walk with Christ will have come full circle and it only took twenty years. God was faithful then and perhaps He desires to remind me that He will be with me on the next go around as well.



A message from **Dr. Jerry Horner**

MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH, LBC

On the last day of April, I will begin my eighty-first year on this earth, which is the Oriental way of saying that it's my eightieth birthday. All my life I have been advancing my definition of old age.

When I was a youth, sixty was old, but with the passing years, my view of old kept moving farther away. In my teens, eighty seemed to be light years away, located at the edge of the grave. Looking back, I find that the years between childhood and now have flashed by at the speed of light. I guess it's because once you're over the hill you pick up speed. I can well identify with an inscription on a clock case at Chester Cathedral in England: "When as a child I laughed and wept, time crept. When as a youth I dreamed and talked, time walked. When I became a full-grown man, time ran. When older still I daily grew, time flew. Soon I shall find in traveling on, time is gone."

I suppose I first became aware of the reality that I might be getting old when I discovered that the snap, crackle, pop I was hearing every morning was not my breakfast cereal. There were other clues as well. I'll never forget the feeling that came over me when a young stranger addressed me as "Pops." Then there is the fact that I had to explain certain things to my grandchildren, such as "dialing a number," or "the life of Riley," or "Kilroy was here." Young ladies would rush to pick up something I had dropped, while I was still trying to decide whether to try to bend over or squat. When waitresses began to call me "Sweetie," or "Darling," or "Hon," I was vain enough to think it was my natural charm, until it hit me that it was my natural age. I recall that when I was a child, I regarded nap time as punishment; now, it's like a

brief vacation.

I really don't mind birthdays, because they're good for you. Statistics show that the people who have the most birthdays live the longest. I've never understood why some people get upset when they reach a certain age, whether it be forty or fifty or whatever. Why should anyone complain about growing older? Think of all the people who don't have that privilege. I have discovered that even though you can't help getting older, you don't have to get old. Being eighty is not particularly a great achievement, and it requires little effort. Anybody who lives long enough can do it. But age is more than a matter of chronology; it's also a matter of attitude and disposition. How well you live is a greater measurement of life than how long you live. Fifteen hundred years ago, a wise man wrote these words: "Yesterday is but a dream, and tomorrow is only a vision, but today well lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope."

One of my favorite biblical heroes was an octogenarian named Caleb. He was at a stage when most people are ready for the front-porch rocking chair, saying, "I've had my day. Let the young people take over, while I reminisce about the good old days." But Caleb was of a different spirit (Numbers 14:24). He was not satisfied with a pension and easy retirement. He was not content to write memoirs; he wanted to win mountains. He was not among those who see a difficulty

in every opportunity. He saw an opportunity in every difficulty. Instead of asking for strength to match the mountain, he asked for a mountain to match his strength.

I admit that old age is a temptation to settle for molehills, but there isn't much challenge in molehills. The best cure for senility and hardening of the arteries is to ask God for a mountain. The secret of Caleb's attitude is found in Joshua 14:8, where he announced his decision that he would wholly follow the Lord. The word "wholly" means completely, without reservations, questionings, or provisos. That decision covered all of his subsequent choices, and it was not a difficult decision for Caleb to make, because he knew that with God's presence, he could do mighty things (Joshua 14:12). Every year, I cover many thousands of miles in a preaching and teaching ministry that takes me to many countries around the globe, and people often ask me how I do it. My answer is the same one that Caleb gave: "If the Lord be with me, I will be able." In regard to an extensive ministry at my age, I have a prayer that I borrowed from three spiritual giants of the Old Testament: like Hezekiah, I pray for an extension of time (2 Kings 20:1-6); like Jabez, I pray for an enlargement of territory (1 Chronicles 4:10); and like Elisha, I pray for a greater endowment of power (2 Kings 2:9). When I was a teen preacher, people used to say to me, "You do pretty good for your age." Well, I want to keep going until they can say that again.



A message from **Andrew Spires**

STUDENTS & SINGLES, LBC

Can you believe it's April and we're already a third of the way through 2016? Sounds crazy right, but summer will be here before we

know it! As the temperature goes up, we are ramping up our fundraising efforts for our summer missions. In the month of April alone we'll have two **Parent's Night Out** events, a **Missions Yard Sale & Car Wash**, and a **Sunday morning Pancake Breakfast** all to help support Romania missions! As always, we deeply appreciate your support as we prepare ourselves physically and mentally to go and serve. Please be in prayer for the fifteen Lakewood folks that will go and serve and the others who will join us from other states and churches. Also pray for the children in the public schools of Bistrita (pronounced Bistritza), the town where we will serve, where we'll be doing our VBS style presentation called School of Heroes and also Camp Hope where we'll be doing our children's summer camp program daily. Our prayer and hope is to see a mighty move of God among the children and that it will spread into the homes and villages in the surrounding communities. We also will get to help with local mission churches, many of which

are gypsy churches. From what we hear these people, though a little rough around the edges, are incredibly passionate about the Gospel once saved. Every team member is looking for God to use us in whatever way He has planned, and we are excited that He chose us for this task!

Other April events in the student and young adult ministry include a group viewing of **God's Not Dead 2** on Saturday, April 9th (time: TBA), a **Worship Night** on Wednesday, April 13th 6:30-8:30pm, **Faith Day @ the Braves vs. Mets** game on Sunday, April 24th (leaving after the 1st service), and **Feed the Homeless** on Saturday, April 30th. I am especially excited about God's Not Dead 2 as Paige and I had the chance to preview this sequel and we're excited about the reach for the Gospel that this movie is sure to have. Also, the Faith Day @ the Braves vs. Mets game comes with the added benefit of a free concert afterwards with Christian artist and pioneer Toby Mac, who our students will definitely enjoy. As you can tell, we're going to be really busy!

Thanks again for all your prayers and support! Remember you can drop off your Missions Yard Sale donated items on the Youth Room side (2nd floor glass double doors, South Educational building) the week of April 11th-15th.

Lakewood Medley

IN MEMORY OF:

Bill Brown for Budget

from J.D. and Diane Whitehead

Joyce Costello for Budget

from J.D. and Diane Whitehead

Montie and Clide Miller for Annie Armstrong

from Bobby and Clara Jean Watson

IN HONOR OF:

Clara Jean Watson's birthday

for Challenge to Build

from Jimmy and Susan Graham

George and Wynell Maxwell

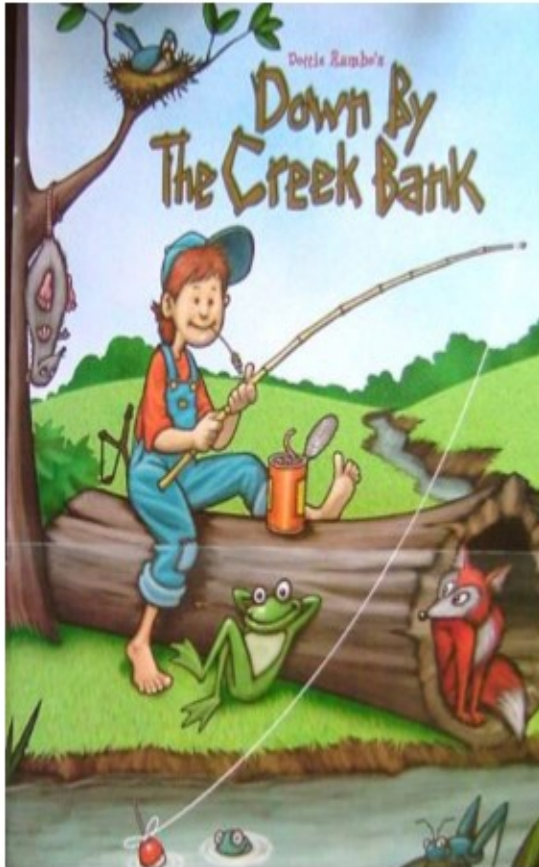
for their 50th Anniversary for the Food Closet

from Janice Noble

A message from Patrick Thornton



CHILDREN, LBC



All of our Awana/Flyte kids had a wonderful time at the annual lock-in, which was held on Friday, March 4. After eating a pizza supper at the church, the older kids headed to the movies to see "Alvin and the Chipmunks," and then proceeded to Lakewood Elementary to play several very lively games of dodge ball. The younger kids went to LES and climbed the rock climbing wall and then returned to the church and made several crafts. A great big thanks to all the leaders who worked the lock-in and provided our kids with a great night of fun and Christian fellowship!

The annual Easter Egg Hunt was held Saturday, March 19. We hid about 1700 eggs and the kids had a wonderful time hunting for their Easter egg treasures. Thanks to all who donated candy for the egg hunt, and a special thanks to our friends at Little Caesars Pizza who donated coupons for free pizza and crazy bread tokens which were also hidden in the eggs!

The children's choir will be presenting the musical "Down by the Creek Bank" on Sunday night, April 24, at 6:00 p.m. We invite you all to come out and hear this musical full of timeless classics as the kids share their faith through song.



Priscilla **SHIRER**
SIMULCAST

REGISTER NOW

ON LBCPC.ORG OR BY CALLING THE
CHURCH OFFICE AT 334-298-6433

APRIL 23, 2016

God has a plan and a purpose for your life, so resolve to **DIG DEEP** into **HIS WORD** this year. And with Priscilla's unique approach to **TEACHING, ENCOURAGEMENT,** and **PRAYER,** you'll leave *spiritually revived.*

Lakewood Happenings

April 2016

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
Lord's Supper 6:00pm Kidz Choir Romania Mission Team Meeting 3	10:30am Amen Choir 4	6:30pm Alleluia Choir 5	10:00am VKBW 6	2:00pm Clothes Closet 2:00pm L.O.A.F. 7	6:30-10:30pm Parent's Night Out 8	God's Not Dead 2 9
6:00pm Kidz Choir Alleluia Choir Concert 10	10:30am Amen Choir 11	6:30pm Alleluia Choir 12	7:00pm Deacon Meeting 13	2:00pm Clothes Closet 2:00pm L.O.A.F. 14	k-6th Grade Bonfire @ the Thornton's 15	8-2pm Youth Yard Sale 16
9:00am Pancake Breakfast 6:00pm Kidz Choir Church Conference 17	10:30am Amen Choir 18	6:30pm Alleluia Choir 19	7:00pm Finance Meeting 20	2:00pm Clothes Closet 2:00pm L.O.A.F. 7:00pm JEGBW 21	LBC GOLF TOURNEY 22	9-4:30pm Priscilla Shirer Simulcast 23
10:00am Leave for Braves Game 6:00pm Kidz Choir Musical 24 25 26	7:00pm CDC Meeting AMEN CHOIR TOUR TO NEW ENGLAND 27 28	6:30-10:30pm Parent's Night Out 29	Youth & Singles Feed The Homeless 30

February Giving

	TITHE	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
2/7	\$23,735.83	\$845.00	\$ 1,067.00	\$ 5,687.27	\$31,335.10
2/14	\$13,180.02	\$195.00	\$ 870.00	\$2,459.00	\$16,704.02
2/21	\$9,865.50	\$145.00	\$580.00	\$3,375.00	\$13,965.50
2/28	\$16,746.16	\$92.00	\$ 993.00	\$2,321.45	\$20,152.61

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

SUNDAY

- 9:00am Contemporary Worship
- 10:00am Bible Fellowship
- 11:00am Blended Worship
- 11:15am Kidz Worship
- 6:00pm Evening Worship

WEDNESDAY

- 5:00pm Family Night Supper
- 5:45pm Students Get R.E.A.L.
AWANA
- 6:00pm Orchestra Rehearsal
Adult Prayer & Bible Study
- 7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal

I want YOU to be my guest

4.9.2016

10 AM - 10 PM

Awakening

On the 110th Anniversary of Azusa Street we invite you to join us for a day of fasting, prayer, proclamation of the Gospel, signs and wonders, worship and equipping! For 12 hours! Let's REVIVE this region to the power of Jesus Christ and see a Third Great Awakening!

GARRETT-HARRISON

STADIUM

Phenix City, Alabama

info 706.992.2322

register at www.azusanowsoutheast.com

**NO NAMES, NO DENOMINATIONS,
NO POLITICS.... AWAKENING!**

Free admission - concessions available

Relay for Life is right around the corner!

Here is your chance to help!



In our Bulletin on April 10th & 17th there will be a Dining to Donate flyer to take to Applebee's on 280 Bypass April 19th and they will donate 15% of your check to the American Cancer Society

Only \$5 per adult meal,
\$2.50 per child meal with a
maximum \$15 per family!

Let's Eat!

Dinner is
served from
5:00-5:45pm.

APRIL WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

4/6

SMOTHERED
PORK CHOPS
RICE & GRAVY
GREEN BEANS
ROLLS
SALAD
DESSERT

4/13

TACO SALAD
BANANA PUDDING

4/20

SCRAMBLED EGGS
BACON
BISCUITS &
SAUSAGE GRAVY
GRITS
CINNAMON ROLLS
JUICE

4/27

BAKED SPAGHETTI
GARLIC BREAD
SALAD
DESSERT

To make dinner reservations, email Carol at carol@lbcpc.org or call 334.298.6433.

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