

Connections

LAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH OCTOBER 2021 VOL XI: ISSUE 10 LBCPC.ORG

FALL FESTIVAL

October 24th 12-2:

BAKE SALE
PROCEEDS FOR
AWANA OCC

INFLATABLES
GAMES
DUNK TANK

\$8 LUNCH



Welcome Home.



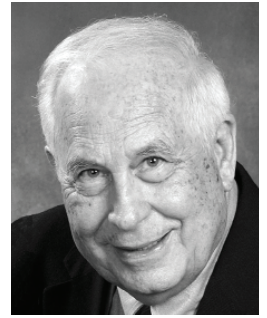
A Message from *M.R. Hamilton*

.....
SENIOR PASTOR



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A Message from *Dr. Jerry Horner*



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MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP & OUTREACH

Romans 8:31 asks a very provocative question: "If God is for us, who can be against us?" Your immediate answer may be, "I've got plenty against me!" You can list things such as disease, worry, fear, inflation, trials, terrorists, corruption, discouragement, rejection, loneliness, enemies, weakness, death." It's easy to answer the question, "Who can be against us?" But that's not the question. The question is, "IF GOD IS FOR US, who can be against us?" Rather than conveying doubt, the Greek word translated "if" does the opposite. It actually gives assurance, and it could be translated "since." Consider in a personal way this assurance before answering the question, "Who can be against us?"

GOD is for you. Your friends may have forsaken you, your family may be ashamed of you, and you may feel stranded all alone, but almighty God, who created and controls the universe and who knows all about you, has promised you, "I will never leave you; I will never forsake you."

God IS for you. Not "may be," not "has been," not "was," not "could be," but He is for you.

Today. At this hour. At this minute. Right now, as you read this sentence. No need to wait in line or make an appointment for next week. He is with you. He could not be closer to you than He is at this second. His love for you won't increase if you are better nor lessen if you are worse. He is for you. God is FOR you. Are you too discouraged to go on?

God is for you. Turn to the sidelines; that's God cheering your run. Look past the finish line; that's God applauding your steps. Listen for Him in the bleachers, shouting your name. Too tired to continue? He'll carry you. Too discouraged to fight? He's picking you up. God is for you.

God is for you. Had he a calendar, your birthday would be circled. If he drove a car, your name would be on his bumper. If there's a tree in heaven, he's carved your name in the bark. We know He has a tattoo, and we know what it says. 'I have engraved you on the palms of my hands,' He declares. — Isaiah 49:16

God is with you. Knowing that, who is against you? Can death harm you now? Can disease rob your life? Can your purpose be taken or your value diminished? No. Though hell itself may set itself against you, no one can defeat you. You are protected. God is with you.



A Message from Andrew Spires

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MINISTER OF STUDENTS & SINGLES

Academics, Athletics, or Adonai?

Disclaimer; as you read this article, it is possible that some of you will be offended, but please know my heart, what I write is carefully thought out and is not aimed at any one person or family. These statements are indicative of society and the Church (universal) as a whole. My hope is that you receive them as intended.

Being involved in student ministry for over 25 years you tend to notice changes and trends. It gives you the opportunity to see what worked and what didn't. When I first started in student ministry (1996), the promoted model was to build a big ministry, heavy on numerous events and fun, with the goal of having as many students as possible, and hopefully through saturation, some would get saved along the way. In those days, it was relatively easy to attract groups of 100+ students a week, many who came for other reasons than Christ. These ministries were often 100ft wide, but only 2 inches deep, I know, because I helped to build a few of these. So many kids came and went, it was hard to really get to know them, much less truly invest in their lives. You felt good and effective because the numbers were high, and the students seemed excited about God, but something was off as we saw many fall away after high school? At the same time, the Church as a whole began to see student ministry in a negative light. Since all we did was have fun, the student pastor was often just an 'older kid' himself who babysat younger kids, then sprinkled a little Jesus on them and sent them home. The trend soon became obvious; students who had once seemed solid, often fell apart after their student ministry years were over. My colleagues and I were left to ponder what had gone wrong? We came to the conclusion that the ministry model had to change, that we had been focusing on the wrong things; numbers didn't mean anything, fun didn't mean anything, only lives saved for eternity truly mattered.

In the midst of that desire to change, a shift began inside the Church that persists to this day; student ministries across the board began to shrink numerically. This can be attributed to a number of factors; the attractiveness of sin and the world, the overall decline in attendance in the Church with less families attending together weekly, and the ascendance of academics and athletics (& other extracurriculars) to the place of supremacy in a student's life and schedule. Sin has always been attractive, but it more readily available than ever before. It's not that academics and athletics weren't always important, but they began to control the family's entire schedule. Students missed church to do homework, or skipped church for practices or games. Let me pause for a moment and provide a little context; I was a high school athlete, and I made good grades, but what we see as normal today was certainly foreign to my upbringing. Paige and I have raised two (now adult) children who were once involved in sports and we certainly encouraged the pursuit of excellence in their academics. Sports, and other extracurriculars, can teach teamwork, unselfishness, commitment to a team, comradery, lifetime friendships can be formed, and can potentially lead to scholarships. Likewise, academics often opens doors to the future, to scholarships in institutions of higher learning, to lifetime friendships, and can lead to great jobs/careers. Neither of these things are bad or sinful in and of themselves, but when they take over the lives of your student and your family, there's often trouble ahead. The trend soon became more clear; we seemed to be turning out smart, talented, athletic people who had some knowledge about Christ, but who were not truly redeemed? As they graduated student ministry, they often graduated from their faith and something had to change! So, we as student pastors, met together, we bemoaned the state of student ministry and the Church, and com-

plained about things such as; the overall lack of support for student ministry in the Church, the lack of cross-generational discipleship in the body, the lack of committed volunteers, the power of athletics and academics in student/family lives, and the lack of parental spiritual involvement in their student's lives. We brainstormed for new ideas, and soon discovered this wasn't just a local church problem, it was a universal Church problem. Every other student pastor we interacted with around the country seemed to have the same problems, it was systemic.

Finally, more than a decade and a half ago, a shift came, a "new" model of relational student ministry fostered through discipleship, depth of teaching, evangelism, missions, and service. This "new" model was not new at all, it was biblical, it was how Christ trained his closest followers, the ones we call the disciples. He did life with them, He taught them constantly, He gave them opportunity to do ministry themselves, He was real with them, as they lived together for three years. Remember, the throngs of people who once followed Him, they eventually departed, even His disciples floundered for a moment or two, but those same disciples became the Apostles and changed the world through the power of the Gospel. Within the relational discipleship model, we've begun to see more victories, more true disciples who were ready and equipped to model out their faith in the next stage of life. We began to train ministry leaders, missionaries, and committed church members. This is the type and style of student ministry that the Lord has enabled and built here at Lakewood. While this model is massively more effective than its predecessor it is not infallible, there are still students who fall through the cracks, still students who don't get it, still students who reject Christ, still those who attend for the wrong reasons, and still others who fall apart after student ministry, but we are now far more effective for the Kingdom.

Yet, the same old problems remain; sin is still attractive and rarely fought, there's little to no parental spiritual leadership in the average Christian home, and the idolatry of academics and athletics is rampant. Yes, idolatry. An idol is anything that consumes the most of your time, talent, and treasure, and everyone is worshipping something. I know someone's blood is boiling right now, but remember this article is written by an athlete who still loves most sports, and who did well in school. We've taken something good, a gift from God, that can be formative and a blessing to young people, and turned it into a god/idol. It may not be a carved image on a shelf, but its medals, plaques, and trophies adorn our homes' walls and mantles. All year long, our weeknights and weekends are filled with homework, performances, special events, games, tournaments, and ceremonies, leaving no time for real family interaction, much less family worship. Many students are in such advanced classes, and their homework load is so heavy and burdensome, that they stress over it daily. Many students play multiple sports (or even just one sport), and with the advent of travel ball, they play it all year long, leaving no time of rest. One parent takes one kid to one practice or game while the other one takes the other. It's a vicious cycle. The pressure to conform and fit into this model is tremendous. Parents feel the pressure to make sure their kid doesn't miss out and fits in with their peers. Parents are often too tired from work and chauffeuring kids to practices and games to invest in their own spiritual growth, much less their kids. It's not intentional but the busyness of life crowds out the Lord. We should enjoy watching our kids use their God-given talents, but if that's the limit of our investment in them, we are falling way short. (Continued)

If this has stepped on your toes, then you might be asking; so what are we to do? Are we supposed to forbid our kids from taking challenging classes, forbid them from playing in the band or joining a ball team? No, we all want our kids to be intelligent and prepared for a career, and we want our kids to enjoy their hobby or sport, but I'd ask you to consider four final points. First, parents often ask me what's the biggest key to successful parenting, to which I say; **stay consistent**. Whatever rules you make, stick to them, stay united, demand unconditional obedience, and show your student that your will is stronger than theirs. Your kids will eventually follow through willful or forced obedience. Kids are like water, they flow to the weakest spot, freeze in it, and bust it wide open. They will use parental disagreement against you and your spouse. They will always go to the parent who most often gives them what they want. They will manipulate your emotions and use your words and failures against you. Stay strong, stay consistent, and present a united front. However, when you try to model consistency and you get angry or make a mistake, tell them that you we're wrong, admit it, and ask forgiveness. Then commend them for their obedience in spite of your error. Second, **be real**, just be honest with your student about your sins and failures, don't hide them, and don't think they forbid you from parenting your kids correctly. Show them that you are not perfect, that you don't have all the right answers, but that you do have their best interests in mind. Your past or current struggles with sin may also be their current struggle. You may be able to impart some wisdom that leads them to victory. Guide them with your experience, spiritually invest in your children. Third, **practice balance**. The great thing is that academics, athletics, and Christianity aren't mutually exclusive! You can have a brilliant, athletic, and talented student who passionately loves the Lord. You must find a way to balance the temporal, while placing emphasis and priority on the eternal. How dare we repeat phrases like; "Only what is done for eternity will last!" then organize our schedules as if today is all that matters! For my family, this meant we had a conversation with each coach before the season started and told them that our family placed priority on worship, and that our child could not play or practice past a certain time on Wednesday or at all on Sunday. We expressed a hope that this would not affect their status on the team, or ability to play/start, but we were willing to make the

statement and accept the outcome. Though a few coaches initially objected, it never affected the ability of our children to play, or start, which spoke to God's faithfulness. We never prioritized ball-games or tournaments above worship. We never allowed our kids to skip church for homework. Instead, we helped them organize their time to accomplish their work, which was indeed harder for one of our kids than the other. Our kids were expected to be at church on Sunday and Wednesday. We found balance, and believe me, it was very tough at times. My wife and I didn't always agree, but I can confidently say that we did our best to prioritize Christ in our family. Finally, and most importantly, **check your filter**. Anything and everything that enters you or your family's lives must be filtered through Christ. Jesus isn't a part of my life, He is my life! We do this by asking some serious questions; does this help me model out Christ to others especially my children, does this deter or improve my personal walk with the Lord, does this allow me time to invest in the spiritual growth of my family, and does this prioritize or lessen worship of the Lord? If the answer is no, to any of these questions, then that thing doesn't find root in your family's life or schedule. Parents you have the right to determine your student's schedule...period...not the other way around. Teach your students that things you do don't determine who you are. Our identities must be found in Christ alone, nothing else!

It's at this point I want you to ask yourself a question; what kind of student do you hope to turn out? Only a student with great grades? Only an athlete with great stats? Only a band member with a college scholarship? Or, will you have done all you can do before the Lord to turn out a young adult who can truly say Jesus is Adonai. As you know, Adonai is the Hebrew word most often translated LORD in our English bibles. The Jews would insert the word Adonai for God's name, which they believed too holy to write or speak. I truly believe we all want students and young adults who are unashamed to call Jesus LORD! We know the results are always up to the Lord, but let's do our best to invest in the spiritual lives of our children more than we do their school-work, hobbies, and sports! It takes effort to turn a ship that has been going in one direction for a long time, but it's not impossible! God bless,
drew

Opportunities for Women @ LBC

Wednesday, October 6th @ 10:30am

Rex Carter's Class

Baptist Women's Missions Union - Virginia Kennedy

Sunday, October 17th @ 12:00pm

Fellowship Hall

Pumpkin Craft & Lunch

Cost is \$20 Please sign up prior to event

Thursday, October 28th 6:00pm

Home of Tammy Smith

Baptist Women's Mission Union - Jane Ellen Gaines

Sunday, October 31st 4:30pm

Fellowship Hall

5 Week Bible Study - Hope Has Come

Cost of book is \$12.99

A Message from *David Stephens*

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CHILDREN'S MINISTER



Last month Lesley and I had the opportunity to attend the Child Discipleship Forum in Nashville TN. We were able to engage with leaders in children's ministry from all over. There were many excellent ministry strategies presented, and it was a very timely event to participate in and learn from. It was a wonderful thing to be in a room with many leaders who have a calling to serve the family/ children and the future of the church. Here are a few of my thoughts regarding the discussion on the cultures influence on the church.

Romans 12: 2 reads 'Do not conform to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of you mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.

We are talking about the concept of one conforming versus transforming. We are asking the question are we conforming to the patterns of this world or are we being transformed by the Holy Spirit. Are we seeing the lives of our kids, our families being transformed? We have the Roman world, Caesar Augustus, Pax Romano, Roman roads helping Christianity to spread. The Roman brand, the Roman culture was the air you breathed. There is Roman rule through violence and increasingly violent towards the increase of the followers of Jesus. Is Paul not warning against cultural forces that are influencing the Roman church? These forces can swallow us whole if we let them. Western culture is powerful and alluring, it's beauty and promise can make us lose our perspective. There is a temptation to be saved thru money, sex, creativity, the good life, sports. Many are entertained and distracted into a state where we are not able to really see beyond the short range view of our culture. The question we must ask ourselves is this: Is the culture disciplining Christians more than the church? If this is happening how is it happening? Research tells us that 60 -70% of kids leave the church in high school. We have countless men and women of faith caught up in scandal leading the next generation to doubt faith. Our young people do not understand what biblical Love looks like, and they scroll through social media every night before bed comparing their public veneer life against culture. This leads to deep seated insecurities. We see the rise of individuality versus the need for community. We see the increase in consumption Christians versus contribution Christians. (Shameless plug here for the need for kid's ministry volunteers) We see people exhausted and not able to rest, in that there is a fatigue that is settling on our people. We've lost the perspective that we should not be working for rest, but we work from rest. The term discussed is 'Disproportionate Exposure'. We are exposing ourselves in ever increasing amounts to a culture that is increasingly anti-Christian. We have to assume that our kids are over exposed to cultural discipleship. We must develop mind-renewing ministry that is counter formation. What I mean is that it's not just the spiritual formation of our people we also have to counter the cultural discipleship that is also forming our people. We must equip parents to be primary for spiritual milestones. Parent's may teach what they know, but they reproduce who they are. As adults we must be discipling while being disciplined if we have a prayer of thinking we could disciple kids. We must drastically increase our engagement with the Word of God. Studies show that there is dramatic impact if one has at a minimum four deep engagements with the bible each week. **What do we get, when we do this? Glad you asked. We get clarity with a renewing of our mind that leads to Holiness.**

October Calendar

**Kid's Ministry Vision Meeting ~ October 3rd after 11am service ~ Kid's Worship Room
Fall Festival & Bake Sale 10/24 from 12 – 2PM to support AWANA OCC**

We are in need of Kids Bible Fellowship helpers. I'm starting a team of adults that float around to the elementary teaching rooms to assist with various components of the time. Our children's Sunday morning teachers need help, and we have a wealth of very capable people throughout our entire church that can help. I'm asking for a commitment to serve 1 Sunday a month during 10AM in the children's ministry.

Please support our OCC pack night in November, our goal is 1000 boxes. Let's fill up all the spots on our mural in the front lobby, alongside the marble container in lower back lobby. **\$9 ships a box. \$25 packs a box from beginning to end including shipping. If you support AWANA OCC with a 1 or more boxes, I have a fun Lakewood bag for you. (While supplies last)**

Lakewood Happenings

October 2021

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
12:00pm Vision Meeting Kid's worship room 3	4	5	10:30am Virginia Kennedy Women's Missions 6	7	8	9
Lord's Supper 5:00pm Deacons Meet 10	6:00pm GriefShare 11	13	15	14	15	16
Church Conference 17	6:00pm GriefShare 18	19	7:00pm Finance 20	21	22	9:00am Church Wide Work Day 23
Fall Festival 24	6:00pm GriefShare 25	26	27	6:30pm Jane Ellen Gaines Baptist Women 28	29	11:00am Singles/ Young Adults Feed the Homeless 30

August Giving

	BUDGET	CTB	MISSIONS	OTHER	TOTAL
8/1	\$24,398.51	\$230.00	\$1,401.08	\$340.00	\$26,369.59
8/8	\$20,412.51	\$205.00	\$3,434.20	\$824.60	\$24,876.31
8/15	\$12,340.32	\$115.00	\$1,221.19	\$1,175.00	\$14,851.51
8/22	\$12,652.75	~	\$343.00	\$1,165.00	\$14,160.75
8/29	\$14,084.79	\$550.00	\$1,187.00	\$150.00	\$15,421.79

ONGOING ACTIVITIES: SUNDAY

9:00am Contemporary
Worship
10:00am Bible Fellowship
11:00am Blended Worship

WEDNESDAY

6:00pm Prayer Meeting
6:00pm AWANA/FLYTE
6:30pm Youth Worship

In Memory of:

Judy Carter

From Mr. & Mrs. JB Scarborough
for Youth Ministry
From Clara Jean Watson for Benevolence

Clara Grimes

From Mr. & Mrs. JB Scarborough for
Youth Ministry
From Clara Jean Watson for Benevolence
From Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Barbaree
for Amen Choir

From Margaret Wilson for OCC

Sue Bagget

From Glenda Medley for General Fund

Nell Holder

From Mr. & Mrs. Ken Nobles for Food Closet
From Margaret Wilson for OCC

Harry Horne

From Lake Yonah Association for Amen Choir
From Angela Brock for Amen Choir

Form Mr. & Mrs. Berry Skelton for Amen Choir

William Hightower

From Patricia Thomas for Food Closet

In Honor of:

Charles & Carol Clegg 50th Anniversary
From Clara Jean Watson for Benevolence

Gary Newsome and Jeanne Adams

From Joseph Ryan for COI

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

HOMECOMING

SUNDAY ~ NOVEMBER 7TH

11:00AM

FAMILY ACTIVITIES CENTER

Music ~ Food ~ Fellowship

Message brought by Brother Wayne Williams

**WELCOME
HOME**

NEW MEMBERS

**GARY & DONNA
BRADSHAW**

**Watch for
Deacon nomination
forms**

October 3rd in your bulletin

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FRI 8:30AM-12PM

CONNECTIONS (USPS #463270) is a monthly publication by Lakewood Baptist Church. Periodicals paid at Phenix City, AL.

POSTMASTER: Send all address corrections to: Lakewood Baptist Church, 4011 Lakewood Drive, Phenix City, Alabama 36867