

Kentucky District News

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WINTER YOUTH RETREAT



By: Dalena Puckett
Carrollton, Kentucky

It all begins on Tuesday night, running around trying to stuff everything you need for three days into one or two duffle bags and doing your best not to forget anything. Some are even rushing around on Wednesday morning putting in the items that, while trying to go to sleep, you had remembered that you needed. Finally, you are all set to go. You rush out the door to make it to the church on time to meet everyone else. Everyone packs into the church van, the pastor has prayer for a safe journey, and you're off

to Winter Youth Retreat '94!

This describes what was going on in my house around Winter Retreat time. After my youth group arrived in Madisonville, we checked into the motel and began getting ready for church. While we were making the finishing touches on our hairdos, we all wondered what kind of preacher Bro. Jim Booker would be. Finally, everyone was ready to go. We all piled back into the van for the short ride to the church. The service that night was great. Bro. Booker preached to us that God is on our side, so we have nothing to worry about. It was a great message, and

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UPCOT Kentucky District News



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FUNDAMENTAL DOCTRINE

The fundamental doctrine of this organization shall be the Bible standard of full salvation, which is repentance, baptism in water by immersion in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and the baptism of the Holy Ghost with the initial sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance.

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Winter Youth Retreat

Continued from page 1

many young people were touched in a special way.

Thursday morning arrives and once again, the motel rooms are total chaos. After everyone has had about three cups of orange juice, we are finally ready to go. We heard an inspiring message from Bro. Adcock, and then a powerful sermon from Bro. Hendricks. Our District Youth President, Bro. Ron Tiller, then followed with a great sermon about "Becoming What You Worship." Many young people left with a greater desire to do a work for God and to be a soul winner.

At two o'clock all that wanted to met at the Lonestar gymnasium. The guys had a great time playing basketball, and the girls had a great time cheering them on. Because we were all Christians, no one got mad or had a bad attitude. NOT!! Still, all in all, we had a wonderful time.

Thursday night's service was awesome. Bro. Booker preached to us a powerful message on the importance of realizing just how late it is. Many young people made a commitment to God that they would teach at least one Bible study in 1995. We heard the testimonies of two young people who had already won someone through a Bible study. This helped us to realize that, Yes!, it can be done. I can win someone to the Lord from my school.

On Friday morning, we heard two great messages, one from Bro. Penrod and the other was delivered by Bro. Donnie Tiller. Then during the rally session, we heard a great sermon from Bro. Scott Marshall, our District Youth Secretary. It was a message which the young people of today need to realize; JESUS IS COMING! Afterwards, there was a very powerful move of the Holy Ghost that caused many young people to linger even after we had been dismissed. It was something awesome to be a part of this.

What better way to end a youth retreat than with the anointed singing of the Mattoon Youth Choir from Mattoon, Illinois. They truly blessed our hearts with a number of powerful and anointed songs. To those of you who were not there to hear them, all I can say is that, "You missed it!"

After the service was over, all of those who had purchased a ticket gathered in the Outreach Center for a Pizza Party. We had a great time of fellowship while enjoying a few slices of pizza. Then, the youth from Lonestar Pentecostal Church blessed us with a series of skits that had a unique blend of humor and a spiritual message. They made us realize that we are wasting precious time by not witnessing to our friends every chance we get. It was a great banquet.

The Youth Department would like to thank several people for helping to make Winter Youth Retreat '94 a success. A big thank you to the congregation of Greater Lighthouse and Pastor Ron Hendricks for the use of their facilities. Also, thanks to all the day speakers and especially to Bro. Booker for coming all the way from Wisconsin to bless us. Bro. Tiller would like to say thank you to the Youth Committee and to Bro. Marshall, for none of this would have been possible without you. Thanks to all the pastors and parents that allowed your young people to come be a part of this great event. And most importantly, thanks to Jesus Christ for coming and being a part of each service. See you all in July at Senior Youth Camp '95.

The phone call brought bad news. A friend of many years in another city was ill. It could be terminal. My mind ventured back through several years of fellowship with this brother. I can remember the time when he was a stalwart prayer warrior in a local church. However, time has a way of eroding convictions as well as faithfulness. For several years he has been embroiled in fractious divisions within his local church. No amount of talking or advising could change him. He knew he was right. The reason the Bible says, "Stubbornness is as idolatry" is because a stubborn man always worships his own opinion. Unfortunately, this was the case with my friend. Now, he's quite ill.

Instantly, my mind went to the Scripture: I Corinthians 11: 30 — "For this cause many are weak and sickly among you and many sleep." The immediate subject was order at the Lord's table. But there is an overarching as well as an underlying purpose in it all. Paul said that Jesus commanded us, "This do in remembrance of me." The opposite of remember is dismember. The Body of Christ was beaten and bruised at Calvary. The embryonic church was in disarray. Now Jesus establishes this ordinance: Come together around my Body, my Cross. Remember — bring yourselves back together as you think upon my death. Calvary brings the church together.

The reason this is mentioned in I Corinthians is, disunity was their problem. Paul struck the resounding chord in I Corinthians 3:3 — "For ye are carnal, whereas there is among you envy, strife and divisions." He goes on in verse 16 to say, "Know ye not, ye are the temple of God? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy." We Pentecostals have often preached about, "Don't Defile the Temple" and we speak of smoking, drinking, dissipation — that's all true. But, it doesn't happen to be the subject of I Corinthians. The subject was dis-



Pastor G. L. Vittitow

District Superintendent
Louisville, Kentucky

I read this article by Brother T. F. Tenney, Louisiana District Superintendent, from the Louisiana Challenger. I requested it be printed as a guest superintendent's article this month.

WHY SOME AT CORINTH WERE SICK

unity. Yes, disunity and division defile the temple of God. God hates anyone who sows discord among brethren (Proverbs 6:19).

It is the will of God for His people to live in unity. Could it be that causing disunity, sowing discord in the Body of Christ, is what brings about weakness, sickness and even death? God is just. The law of the harvest is true. "Whatever a man sows, that shall he also reap." If you sow seeds of disunity in the Body of Christ, then you will reap it in your own body. Something enters your members that cause discord in the harmony structure of your physical anatomy. Suddenly, you are weak, then sick, and even some, Paul said, have died. Why? Because they dismem-

bered the Body of Christ and made no effort to reunite it, even around his cross.

The signal message is, Everything should be laid at the foot of the Cross and we should come together at Calvary in forgiveness and repentance. Let me urge you to never be a part of a clique of disunity in your local assembly. Don't ever lend your ear to the slanderer. Disunity brought sickness to Corinth and I'm convinced that it brings sickness today. You inflict a malady upon the Body of Christ, and you reap it in your own body.

Morgan Blake once said, "I am more deadly than the screaming shell of a cannon. I win without killing. I tear down homes, break hearts, wreck lives. I travel on the wings of the wind. No innocence is strong enough to intimidate me, purity strong enough to daunt me. I have no regard for truth, no respect for justice, no mercy for the defenseless. My victims are as numerous as the sands of the sea, and often as innocent. I never forget and seldom forgive. My name is gossip."

I've said it before. Let me remind you again. The beginning of all unity is humility; the beginning of all division is pride. Come to the foot of the cross. Lay it all there. For, if not, "some are weak, many are sick, and others are dead." That's what happened at Corinth.

This Wonderful Truth

Pastor Terry House
Park Falls, Wisconsin

Being raised in a Baptist home, going to a Baptist Bible College, and pastoring a Baptist church for several years, I had often said that I liked being a Baptist and that I would be a Baptist until God showed me something better. I really didn't believe that God would show me anything else.

Jerry Falwell and other leaders in our denomination would teach the importance of reading and memorizing scripture. From age 16, I read with an appetite for the Word. A major doctrine of our denomination taught that once a person was saved they could never be lost again. It was through reading and memorizing that God, to my surprise, began to show me something better. When I would examine a text on so-called "eternal security," by reading several verses that lead up to my text, then reading several verses after the text (putting the text in context), it was then that I clearly saw that we had been wrong and that it was not only possible, but probable, that most people would either turn back or just fail to go all the way with God. It really is true

that a scripture taken out of context becomes a pretext.

My preaching began to change in 1985. It was costing friendships that I had known for years. Within the next year God revealed holiness as the only acceptable lifestyle. Now my preaching engagements came to a close. My days as pastor were numbered and I was told so by the top people in the Baptist movement. I removed the television from our home one and a half years before we came to Pentecost. As I began to speak about the evils of television, I lost my church. Also, I was "disinvited" to partake in services at other churches. The last few friends that I thought I could count on looked into the holiness message, and feeling the cost was too high, they also turned me away. I told my family that if I were to preach any more that it would have to be on a street corner because there was not a church left that I knew of that would stand still for a holiness message. Although it was a very lonely time with the loss of lifetime friends, it was also a time of bonding with God. I began to raise

my hands in church services. By now, I was sitting under a Baptist pastor who would apologize to the congregation for the behavior of my wife and I and tell them that our church was not charismatic. Sister House and I began to question teachings. We had been taught all these years that the book of Acts was a historical book, that it had little value for us today. Since we were accused of being Pentecostal, I wanted to know what Pentecostals believed. They believed salvation was in, of all places, the book of Acts. They believed the gifts of the spirit were still in operation today. Again, I went to the Word and found that the gifts did not cease with the apostles. I had been taught that I Corinthians 13:8-10 meant that when the Bible was completed in the Isle of Patmos, the gifts ceased. As before, when put in context and verse 12 considered, we saw that the Bible was not talking about the completion of the canon, but was talking about heaven. Gifts will cease when we get to heaven. It no longer seemed foreign to me to hear someone speaking in

tongues.

I remember sitting on my couch in Lexington, Kentucky, and looking toward the ceiling and saying, "God, is there not one church in this town that loves you and will truly serve you?" It was then that a dear brother in the Lexington United Pentecostal Church drowned while fishing. Being an Embalmer and Funeral Director at Milwards, I was assigned to his case. The funeral was at the church and I loved what I felt and experienced there. Sometime later, I called the office of the church and spoke to a man. I asked, "Does your pastor preach against T.V.?" He said that Pastor McGraw does speak out against the evils of television. I know that might sound like a strange prerequisite to coming to a church, but God had shown me that no person would ever be used as he could be in the gifts as long as the television was a part of his home. We began attending Lexington UPC in April of 1993. Very soon, I heard preached Jesus name baptism. My first thought was, "I have been baptized." Again, I went to scripture and every time anyone was baptized in scripture it was in Jesus name. The apostles of John were baptized again in Jesus name.

I saw that Matthew 28:19 was titles for Jesus. In June of 1993, my wife, my two sons and I were baptized in the name of Jesus. We received the Holy Ghost speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gave the utterance just like those in the book of Acts.

I had read David K. Bernard's book *The Oneness of God* two and one-half times and could see in scripture that all references were to one God, never more than one. The word "trinity" is not in scripture. But there was still something missing. Then, one day as I was praying and thinking on these things, God gave me the revelation of one God!

I went through the house singing "It's all in Him, what a mighty God is Jesus and it's all in Him."

I told Bro. McGraw that I had believed my preaching days were over, and I was going to make a career in embalming and funeral directing. But I can't let it go. Preaching reminds me of Jeremiah and the fire he said was shut up in his bones. With the blessing of Bro. McGraw, the Lexington United Pentecostal Church, and the Kentucky District Board, we now pastor Faith Apostolic United Pentecostal Church in Park Falls, Wisconsin. Praise God for this wonderful truth!



The Kentucky District
United Pentecostal Church

Ladies Auxiliary

Presents

The 13th Annual
Ladies Retreat

"Virtuous Women"

March 10 & 11, 1995

Ministering to the needs
in our relationships with
God, spouse, family
church and community.

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Please make your own
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Refer to "UPC Ladies Retreat"
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| 822 Mammoth Cave | |
| Cave City, KY 42127 | |
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| 1-800-321-4245 | \$28.00 |

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NAME: _____ AGE: _____ PHONE: _____
ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____
CHURCH: _____ PASTOR: _____ MARRIED: _____ SINGLE: _____

I have made my motel reservations: YES NO *SATURDAY ONLY _____

Lodging will be at local motels and you *MUST* make your own reservations. Cost per lady for the RETREAT is \$30.00. This includes two meals and retreat expenses. Please send \$30.00 (non-refundable) with this form by FEBRUARY 23rd. *Cost for SATURDAY only is \$15.00 and you *MUST* pre-register. NO PHONE CALLS. We would like ALL ladies to register for both days. Mail to: Mrs. N. Edday, 225 Crabb Avenue, Eminence, Kentucky 40019.



AN APPOINTMENT

Pastor James Gullett

Section N Presbyter
Grayson, Kentucky

For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away. (I Peter 1:24)

It seems that I no sooner get up until it's time to go to bed. Yesterday I would run outside to see where the noise was coming from (it happened to be an airplane), but, today they can shake the house and, not that I don't hear it, I pay it no mind. I eat one meal and wonder what we are having for the next. It all seems like a vicious circle. (It is) I enjoy living and am not in a hurry to die, but I must stop and think about the future. I read a sign on a church board one time that struck fire in me. It said, "Where you go hereafter depends on what you go after here." I have always believed in a hereafter and since I see the aging process in full bloom, it pays to take heed to myself.

Hebrews 9:27 says, "And it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." We all must face judgment, but we don't need to stand before God condemned. We have a Savior, one who died to save us from sin, Jesus Christ. He told his disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. When this was said in Mark 16:15, you and I were in the mind of God. The preaching of the gospel was to prepare a people for the Lord.

One cannot come any way they want, all must come the way the Lord says. He told his disciples that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name

among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. (Luke 24:47) We find all nations present in the second chapter of Acts where we find the church being born. We are the church, born as the apostles were of water and the Spirit. It matters how we are born. Remember where we go from here depends on what we do here. We have the privilege to except and/or reject. God gave us a mind to understand that as the grass springs up, it also withers just as we are born, we also die and after death the judgment.

The church that was born on the day of Pentecost is still the church that He is coming after. We need to be in that church. One Lord, one faith, one baptism. (Eph. 4:5) The way into that church is through repentance, baptism, and the infilling of the Holy Ghost the same way as they were filled in the first church in the Book of Acts. The same commandments he gave the apostles are for us today. Remember all flesh is as grass; we are going to meet our God so don't go unprepared.

Mark 16:20 says, "And they went forth and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following, Amen." The God of heaven was with the apostles when they went forth. Don't you think we should preach what God gave the apostolic church?

Remember, it is once appointed unto man to die, but after that God will judge.

Be A Potato

Marketa Rudd

To "Be A Potato" may sound strange
But let's see what we can arrange.
A Potato, everyone likes to eat-
Some not so much and others more than meat.

It can be fixed so many different ways
But way down deep a potato taste it still displays.
They can be boiled, baked, fried, or mashed;
But its taste the cook has not snatched.

You say, How does this apply to me?
Let me explain and you will see:
In our walk with God we often feel defeat,
But let me be a little more discreet.

Sometimes we are chafed, upheaved, calefacted and
crushed;

For this is to make us more than just mush.
We must be rooted to the Word and planted in waters deep,
Remember, we're not just a "couch potato" put here to
sleep.

For if we stayed wrapped-up-whole in our own little pot
of stew;

How would we know just what God could do?
So let us not forget that to be boiled, baked, fried or
mashed on this path we trod
Makes each one of us a "Potato for God".

United Pentecostal Church

Kentucky District News

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