

The Good News

December 2011 | Newsletter of St. John Praise & Worship Center

“For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

Mark Your Calendar

1.08

Leadership Training

1.15

Prison Ministry

2.26

Black History Program

4.15

SJPWC Anniversary

4.16-20

Week of Refreshing

5.06

Mothers' Day Recognition

6.09

Bi-Annual Business Meeting

6.17

Fathers' Day Breakfast

6.25-29

Vacation Bible School

Pearls from the Pulpit

Apostle Larry T. Barnett, Sr. Pastor

There are many times in life when we are faced with tough situations, tough circumstances, and tough decisions. As a matter of fact, there are times in which life can be rather disappointing. Despite one's level of dedication, commitment, and love for God there are times when we are all faced with the storms and tragedies of life. The American poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, wrote in his poem The Rainy Day, ***“Be still, sad heart, and cease repining; behind the clouds is the sun still shining; thy fate is the common fate of all into each life some rain must fall, some days must be dark and dreary.”***

Longfellow was simply trying to tell us that life is filled with ups and downs, and the storms you are going through, while unique too you, are not new under the sun. Stop punishing yourself by believing that you have somehow fallen out of the favor of God and that you are the only one going through a rigorous trial. In the gospel according to Matthew 5:45 Jesus said, **“...he maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.”**

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Pearls from the Pulpit (continued)

Continued from page 1.

Despite your spiritual status, whether saint or sinner, you are going to face some challenges as you travel along the highway of life. The good news for those who love God and who have a relationship with Him through the shed blood of Jesus is that you can face your disappointments calmly with the assurance that God has made you more than a conqueror. To those who don't know the Lord, the response of Christians to disappointments may appear strange and ridiculous. The child of God is not oblivious to heartaches, pains, and sufferings but understands their position as Kingdom citizens and know that the way out of a dilemma is to literally turn your disappointments into praises!

In the Old Testament book of Genesis we find the story of a wife who never truly had first place in the eyes of her husband. Leah, the older sister of Rachel, was given to Jacob by means of deception. The Bible records that Jacob was passionately in love with Rachel who was beautiful and desirable. Jacob agreed to work seven years for Laban, the father of both Rachel and Leah, in exchange for the hand of his youngest daughter. After the seven years were concluded Jacob and Rachel were wed in a public ceremony. However on the honeymoon night Laban slipped Leah into the wedding bed and was not discovered until the next day. Jacob was shocked, surprised, and angry the day had been cast and the relationship consummated! In other words, it was too late, whether he wanted her or not Leah was now his wife. Jacob's love for

Pearls from the Pulpit Continued ...

Rachel was stronger than the deception of Laban and the *“weak eyed”* condition of Leah! Consequently he agreed to work another seven years to obtain his true love.

What a disappointment Leah must have endured, realizing that while married to Jacob she could never truly be the *“apple of his eye.”* It is during disappointing moments that the saints of God know to turn to call on God. In Genesis 29:31 the Word of God says, ***“And when the Lord saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel was barren.”*** Each time Leah felt disappointed she called on the Lord and God blessed her. Whenever she would give birth she gave a testimony chronicling her disappointing situation and the victory that God gave her. ***“...She said surely the Lord hath looked upon my affliction; now therefore my husband will love me...Because the Lord hath heard that I was hated, he hath therefore given me this son also...Now this time will my husband be joined unto me, because I have born him three sons...” {Genesis 29:32-34}*** Unfortunately, her status and position within the family structure remained unchanged. Sadder still is the fact that while she is crying out to God, her focus is not necessarily on the relationship she has with God but on the earthly relationship she desires to have with Jacob. It is not until the birth of her fourth child that her testimony changes. In Genesis 29:35 the Bible states, ***“And she conceived again, and bare a son: and she said, now will I praise God: therefore she called his name Judah...”*** The name Judah literally means ***praised!*** There are some storms that only cease when we learn to truly trust God and praise our way out.

Pearls from the Pulpit (continued)

Regardless as to who may have hurt us or disappointed us along the way we must learn to turn our disappointments into our praises. If you whine and complain about all of the hurtful experiences that you've endured in this life you will never be able to move forward to those things that are rewarding. Mourning over past broken and failed relationships can only serve to sabotage and hurt present and future relationships. The fact that you may have been

physically, emotionally, and spiritually wounded by those who should have been your protector and your strength is not an indication or indictment against all others. It was in the midst of being rejected and being second best that Leah mustered the strength to praise God anyway. Despite her physical malady, despite the fact that she was given to Jacob through deceptive means, and despite the fact that she shares a husband with her younger sister, Leah declared I will

praise God. She may not have felt like praising the Lord but she praised Him nonetheless. Our praises to God have nothing to do with our feelings or emotions; they are the result of our intellectual or mental will. In other words, we must mentally will ourselves to praise Jesus in the midst of suffering; not because we feel like it but because intellectually we know that it is right to praise Him! ***TURN YOUR DISAPPOINTMENTS INTO YOUR PRAISE!***

CHRISTIAN CRAFTERS

The SJPWC Christian Crafters meet Mondays each week, if the Preparatory Academy is in session on that day. Weekly meetings enable members to discuss any problems a student has with their project or to exchange patterns. Currently, the Crafters are working on crocheting and understanding pattern instructions.

Currently there are five students and an honorary member. The group's current project includes working on a charity event of making baby afghans to be donated to a local hospital.

Most current student crafters are senior citizens. Youth are invited to join in learning these crafts. More classes will be added as enrollment grows with youth and other interested crafters. Contact Sis. Marian Smith for enrollment information.

SJPWC Annual Nursery Trip

This year during the first weekend of August 2011 we took the children ages two to eight to Chuck E Cheese's. The helpers for the trip were James Pink (driver), Joann Pink, Shari and Kiara Frison, Jensine, Urian and Sarahn Cooper, and Jasmine and Justin Prewitt. Every child who attended received a soft drink, two slices of pizza, and sixteen tokens compliments of the church. Each child received a goodie bag donated by Ms. Kiki. They really enjoyed themselves and cannot wait for the next trip.





Greetings from Bishop Wambugu

Dear Friends,

May the peace of our Good Lord at this Christmas season be with you. May His loving kindness meet all your needs now and forever more.

Reflection and Review of the year 2011 floods my eyes with TEARS Of JOY. The GOODNESS of God has been very REAL to us this year. The year 2011 has been a year of MUCH LABOR, GREAT PROVISIONS and MARVELOUS RESULTS. Almost in every area of our work much has been done, needs met and satisfactory results realized. Praise God for the COLLECTIVE EFFORT of EVERYBODY involved in one way or another.

We basically have THREE CATEGORIES of STAKEHOLDERS or PARTNERS. The first category are THOSE IN THE FIELDS. This is the team of WORKERS at the churches, Teachers at our LEADERSHIP SCHOOLS, COOKS and WORKERS at the FEEDING CENTERS, THE ORPHANAGES' WORKERS, CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS and PASTORS. The SECOND category is THE OFFICE STAFF MEMBERS. This is the TEAM that works with me EVERYDAY. The team LINKS the FIRST CATEGORY and the THIRD ONE.

The THIRD CATEGORY includes

(I) International Churches and FRIENDS who SUPPORT US,

(II) THE SHORT TERM MISSIONARIES who come to WORK WITH US, THOSE WHO MARKET US and PRAY for US.

The success of our work in Africa this year 2011 is the GREATEST ever. So many accomplished Jobs, Kids moved to their NEW HOME and Hundreds of SOULS brought to the Lord and Christian faith. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR WORKING WITH US. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR GIVING and TRUSTING us.

Two requests for 2012 FORECAST and PROJECTIONS.

1. URGENT and IMMEDIATE NEED to COMPLETE THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE ORPHANAGE (HOUSE OF MERCY).

2. High DEMAND of SCHOLARSHIP for the 27 students in High School in January 2012. Some \$4,000.00 will be needed for School fees. We will have about 60 kids in Elementary Schools with some \$1,500.00 needed for Books and Uniform.

Sorry that I have to share this with you NOW. It is for the reason that while I should be ENJOYING CHRISTMAS, I cannot. My eyes are on January 3, 2012 when SCHOOLS open in Kenya. Right at the TURN of January 1, 2012 Rose Tambasi (House Mother at Orphanage) and ALL others in charge of Scholarships will be calling me. PRAY FOR ME!!

May I WISH YOU MERRY CHRISTMAS and a BLESSED NEW YEAR 2012. THANKS!!

Forever His and Yours,



26th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SJPWC celebrated the 26TH Anniversary of Pastor Larry and First Lady Carol Barnett on November 4-6, 2011. The chosen theme for the special occasion was John 15:16. Speakers for the celebration were Overseer Bonnie Bigelow from Jesus Is Lord Church of Deliverance in Georgetown, Delaware on Friday and Sunday. Saturday's speaker was Bishop Charles Rodgers from New Dimensions Ministries in Memphis, TN.

Many SJPWC members and friends participated in anointed music and dance during the three-day celebration. Those on program included the SJPWC Praise Team and Choir; Minister Margaret Bingham; Breanna Richmond, Arrealle Owens; Miracles in the Making—Sha'kurr Johnson; Sha'Kerria Childress, Erik Vasser; Shirley Grundy; Deacon Davelle and Sherry Massie; Christina Johnson; Deacon Tony and Minister Teresa Smith; Deacon Edward and Peoria Tucker; Zera Dancers; Mother Ruby Howell; Invulnerably ChoZen; Min. Lorraine Townley; Min. Royce Barnett; Bishop Nell Washington from Peoria, IL; Minister Caleb Barnett; Rev. Alice Rogan. A skit, written and directed by Rev. Stephanie Fisher and Sis. Breanna Richmond, was performed during Saturday's service.

Pastor and First Lady's youngest son, Sean sang a song entitled, *"My Soul Has Been Anchored"* that was in honor and remembrance of his sister, Cala, who passed away in February 2011.

Rev. Alice Rogan performed a dance with "wings".



Rev. Alice Rogan performing Wings of Praise, Isaiah 61



Sean Barnett sings a solo at the Sunday service to Pastor Larry and First Lady Carol Barnett



Pictured above is Minister Joann Pink who recently completed a Bachelors' Degree from the School of the Prophets in Poplar Bluff. Congratulations, Minister Pink!

MISSION TRIP 2011

SJPWC looks forward to the 2012 African Crusade in July. For more information, please contact Apostle Larry T. Barnett.

The 2011 African Crusade team visited Naivasha and Narok in Kenya, and the cities of Githurai and Ronghi, Nairobi.



Worshippers were dressed in white for the solemn procession into the sanctuary.

HOMECOMING

SJPWC celebrated 135 years of ministry in October. Mother Lexie Pigeon served as mistress of ceremony. Also on program were Tanija Johnson, Minister Vivica Clark; Zera Dancers; Mother Clarissa Henry; "God's Design"; Gloria Bellamy; Deacon Edward and Mother Peoria Tucker; and Invulnerably ChoZen.

Bishop Ron Webb of Mt. Calvary Powerhouse Church in Poplar Bluff, Missouri was the honored speaker.



Mother Peoria and Deacon Edward Tucker have remarks at 135th Homecoming Celebration



Mother Clarissa Henry speaks at the 135th Annual Homecoming

ANNUAL KESHA CELEBRATION

Pictured above is "First Dad" Rev. Burdis Barnett who participated in the skit performed at SJPWC during the Annual Kesha celebration December 31. The regal ceremony featured several SJPWC members dressed in white offering praise and worship to our Lord and Savior. Members of the group will perform the worship performance again the second Sunday in January.



Pictured left are the children who participated in the Kesha celebration at St. John. They are holding signs indicating words of praise

SJPWC Missionary Society

The SJPWC Missionary Society's purpose is to unite all women of the church into a missionary program that will stimulate growth in witnessing and working in the church, home, and community. The Missionary is for people, it is for training, it is education, and it is for fellowship. The Mission administers a wide range of duties for the sick and shut-ins, as well as other loved ones. We strive daily to do more to uplift the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.

had the pleasure of choosing free items of clothing, shoes, coats, hats, kitchen tools, etc.



Missionary Society meetings are held each Wednesday of the month with the exception of the 5th Wednesday. On the third Wednesday, the Mission has service at Cache Valley in Ullin at 2 p.m. Fourth Wednesday service is held at Daystar in Cairo at 2 p.m. The first and second Wednesdays' meetings are held at SJPWC at 3 p.m.



The Missionary Society plans to have an Annual Day later in 2012. Their most recent Give-A-Way day was a huge success. Many area citizens came out and

There are many ways to support the African orphans. With the House of Mercy orphanage in Guithrie, Kenya, no longer renting, but on their own land, and housing so many children from infants to teens, there are still many needs to be met. Our "little becomes much" when we place it in God's Hands. You can recycle much more than cans. See Deacon James Williams for more information.

"By the sovereignty of God, I am chosen and selected to be divinely connected for kingdom perfection."

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WE ARE ON THE WEB!
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BRIDGES

Four years ago, Humbled Hearts Ministries, 501c3 arm of St. John Praise & Worship Center, introduced a program to the public called BRIDGES. BRIDGES is a bible based 12-step recovery support group for persons suffering with addictions and choose to include Jesus Christ in their recovery process. This program is available to anyone 18 years of age and older and offers support for ANY addiction. People suffer in so many areas of their lives because they fail to look at the real issue of addiction, YOU and your loss of control. So many habits that we consider as "the norm" control our day to day situations so much that we fail to realize the control that it has taken over the choices we make each day.

BRIDGES will help you understand what the recovery process is for addictions and who it is for, which in all honesty most of the time is yourself. We ALL suffer from some sort of addiction.

We must realize that addictions are not just from drugs and alcohol. People struggle with food, gambling, low self-esteem, and unhealthy relationships, just to name a few. God has anointed this support group to be able to accept, understand and work to overcome the addiction through the recovery process. We study from the Life Recovery Bible which teaches the 12 steps to recovery of addictions and the Word of God. Without God, there is no true recovery.

BRIDGES is excited for the things to come in 2012. We believe that manifestation of the vision Resurrection House is coming soon. Resurrection House will be a 90-day post treatment facility for persons recovering from their addictions. God moves each week within the group. Please continue to pray for our group. Together, with help of the Lord, we will see lives change one step at a time.

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY

The Communications Ministry is responsible for communicating with the membership, friends, covenant partners and others. Sometimes it takes the form of letters, written and verbal announcements such as newsletters, flyers, bulletins, programs, pictures, television and radio. It also includes our printing department which prints tithe envelopes, stationery and other items. Each of these areas of SJPWC work together to spread God's message of salvation and love to the world.

If you would like to J.A.M. (Join A Ministry), please do so. Contact any one of the Ushers for information on how to become a "DO MEMBER" as a member of this or any of the 19 other ministries offered at SJPWC. By taking an active role, you help to spread the "Good News" of Jesus Christ.

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