



THE RAINBOW BEACON

May 28, 2008

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RAINBOW MINISTRY IS BUSY, BUSY AND NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The State of Alabama has a problem, and Governor Riley says government cannot solve it. He believes churches can! More than 11,000 Alabama inmates are released into the free world each year. Presently, about 3,000 will return soon after. As Chief Deputy Commissioner Vernon Barnett, a member of the church, points out, *A lot of these people don't have friends and family. If the people in the church will accept these people into society, that alone is a big step.* And so Governor Riley has established a new initiative, the **Community Partnership for Recovery and Re-Entry**. It's called the **CPR Network** for short.

Governor Riley, in his talk to volunteers in Montgomery last week, pointed out that the church is much quicker and better equipped to handle catastrophes than government. He used, as an example, government's response to Hurricane Katrina. The state sent in trucks of water and ice, but he said the churches rushed in with food and volunteers who helped provide comfort to victims and who helped rebuild. Columnist Robin DeMonia said in the Birmingham News recently, *Alabama's churches have great capacity to minister to some of society's most rejected members. And they have a calling to do so-and from a much higher authority than Riley.*

Rainbow and churches of Christ throughout the state are in the forefront to provide what the Governor is asking. First of all, our elders oversee the state prison ministry which had seen the need and was already heavily involved in exploring aftercare and educating Christians about the problem. The two CASA support classes held here at Rainbow weekly reach out to those overcoming substance abuse. Substance abuse is the overwhelming reason Alabama is in this predicament. Berry Shirley has developed Get Out! Stay Out! to solicit employers to provide jobs for those released.

Get Out! Stay Out! Is a model for the state. It's a much needed employment agency for those released enabling them to have a resume and job opportunities.

And, then, there's Rainbow of Hope, Inc., the non-profit agency formed by several members here at Rainbow to establish and operate a recovery home for women. The goal is to build a home for as many as 32 women. This is a work in progress because we are awaiting the IRS letter stating we are non-profit. This is still about 3-4 months away. Until we have this, grants and other big sources of funds are not available to us. So, the group is selling on Ebay and other ventures. **A big fundraising event is set for Friday & Saturday, June 6th and 7th.**

This is a huge **Yard Sale!** Becky Bagley, Ginna Lengyel, Barbara Brown, Betty Hale, and Betty Long are the prime movers of this. **Selton & Betty Long** will host at their home and lot next door. We hope to have the tent used for the 411 Sale earlier. How can you help?

◆ Look around your house, clean out your garage or storage rooms and donate items for the Yard Sale that you don't use. Your gifts will go to this tremendous cause! We need good clothing and shoes, men's women's, children's; household items, furniture, toys, etc.

◆ Volunteer to help prepare for the events. Work will begin on sorting and pricing items on Wednesday. Or, work at the Yard Sale. Tell Betty Long, Becky Bagley or call the office and tell Ray Cox you are willing to help.

◆ Most importantly, pray for it's success!



This is the group of more than 20 from the Rainbow, Roebuck Parkway, Madison, Fort Payne and Muscle Shoals churches who attended the Governor's Conference in Montgomery last week to announce the CPR Network. Governor Riley said the state cannot do the job for released inmates and is asking the churches to help. Tony Cleveland, Selton & Betty Long, Ray Cox, Barbara Brown and Pat Morgan attended from Rainbow.

Ministering to society's most rejected members offers the church tremendous opportunities to do much good and to reach people with the gospel of Christ, mankind's only hope!

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Jesus Christ came to do the work of his father, and that work was to save men and women from sin. This he did by giving his life to be crucified on the cross. This was a task he was going to do whether his disciples stayed with him or not.

John 6:66-67 tells us that many of his disciples drew back and walked no more with him. Many of his followers found his teaching too demanding and too straight down the line. This is so today, many will not walk with the Lord because his teaching is too straight for them.

Most people want to follow a cause whereby they can make the conditions suit them. If we re going to walk with Christ, it will have to be his way because the work can only be done the way he has said it must be done.

Norman

Stinson Carpenter from **Rainbow Omega** will be speaking during our June 22nd evening service. We will have more details as the date approaches.

In Search of the Lord's Way radio and television program is rated among the top three religious programs in America!!

Congratulations to **Kennedy Gibbs!!** Kennedy graduated from Southside Elementary last week and was the recipient of the Presidential Academic Achievement Award. Kennedy is also a member of the Beta Club for her outstanding academic achievements. Way to go Kennedy!!

The **Ladies Bible Class** will take a hiatus for the Summer, but will resume classes this Fall. If you have questions, please see Barbara Brown or Kathy Overbey.

THE HARVEST CONTINUES AT THE ECDC!

Tony Cleveland, the deacon who directs the Rainbow jail ministry, tells of **six more men immersed into**

Christ this past Tuesday. These new brothers had studied with Tony and **Berry Shirley** in weekly classes and through our Bible Correspondence system with Tony and wife, **Jane**, doing the



Tony & Jane Cleveland

teaching. The coupling of the NewLife Behavior classes with correspondence teaching leads the student to Christ. It's a powerful combination. This brings the conversion total of our combined prison/jail-correspondence ministries to **57 to date in 2008**. Tony and Berry were scheduled to baptize three women into Christ this Thursday

An Un-Televised Thought

The thing that nags at me when I watch a lot of television is not so much what TV does to me and my family, but what it keeps us from doing. Things like....

- ...talking and listening to each other
- ...looking at each other
- ...reading, thinking
- ...painting, building, creating
- ...exercising, playing, singing
- ...making one another laugh
- ...knowing each other better
- ...discovering our hidden talents
- ...comforting each other
- ...participating in life together

instead of watching an electronic imitation.

By Jack Wiens



BLAKE'S BOX

With all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:2-3

Almost Here!!!

It's almost here! This weekend begins a two week schedule full of activities for us to be involved with.

- ☺ This **Friday, May 30th**, we are having a "**lock-in**" from 7 p.m. – 7 a.m. for our young people who are going into the 7th grade this fall through those who will be seniors. It will be at the home of Rebekah Jones. All of those attending are asked to bring their favorite snacks. If you need a ride out to our house, the church van will be leaving the building at 6:45 p.m. and we will be more than happy to take people home the next morning if needed; just let me know.
 - ☺ Then on **Saturday, May 31st**, our community outreach ministry will be hosting a **FREE Community Car Wash** from 8 a.m. until noon. This is a great way to be of service to our community and all those who come through will be given information about Rainbow, our VBS and the opportunity to sign up for WBS.
 - ☺ Then on **Monday, June 2nd**, our **VBS** begins!! We are going to have singing, crafts, refreshments and some of the best Bible classes. We have a great line up of teachers this year:
 - 2 & 3 year old class – **Megan Brooks and Madison McGlaughn**
 - 4 & 5 year old class – **Rebekah Jones**
 - 1st & 2nd Grade – **Kellie East**
 - 3rd & 4th Grade – **Jessica Sims and Jonalyn Amberson**
 - 5th & 6th Grade – **Dave Lasseter and Kevin Gobble**
 - 7th – 12th Grade – **Nic Weymoth**
- All the fun and learning begins this Monday at 9:30 a.m. – (if you can be here by 9:00 a.m. so we can register the children) Let's all be inviting and praying for those we invite.
- ☺ Finally, the two weeks will conclude when several of us will be making our yearly trip to **Backwoods Christian Camp** for **TEEN WEEK!** So far we have over 20 signed up to go; but we could use some more adult help. So adults if you are able to go, just let me know. We will be leaving for camp, Sunday June 8th and return home on Friday, June 13th.

Remember In Prayer...

Jane Willaby, friend of Suzy Wallace, is in Gadsden Regional Hospital.

Don Parker, Tim's dad, is in ICU at Riverview.

Elizabeth Khan, mother of Rita Phillips and Susan Wallace and grandmother of Sandy Dean.

Bobby Golden is in need of our prayers as he is going through a tough time.

Joyce Flynn has an appointment scheduled with a neurologist for her sciatic nerve pain.

Rita Bowdoin is suffering from terrible migraines. She will be seeing a neurologist - who specializes in headaches - very soon.

Sarah Simmons, mother of Gene & Doug Brown, is not doing well at this time.

Jackie Lynn Farley, friend and neighbor of Rita Phillips, is having health problems.

Michael Turner, neighbor of Sandy Dean, is now at home recovering from a terrible auto accident.

Catherine Bowen, Paige Buckner, Kim Clay, Carol Golden, Mitch Dover, Betty Campbell, Jennifer Davis, Kathleen Honeycutt, Wanda Logan, Gene Mayhall Sr., Ruth Mayhall, John David Naler, Arlie Neal, Redda Norton, Ron Patterson, Max Pruett, Jerry Reeves, and Berry Shirley.

Shut In Members: **Charles Bell, Leona Chance, Sarah Foote, Gurnie Foote, James Gardner, Dot Greenhaw, Vennie Guyton, Betty Jones, Butch Jones, Cathy Langston, Hassie Moon, and Inez Quarles.**

"When you're down to nothing, God is up to something."

"Amateurs built the ark; professionals built the Titanic."

"Stop telling God how big your storm is. Instead, tell the storm how big your God is."

"Nothing puzzles God."

"The only reason you're upset is because the devil set you up."

"Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape."

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit." - Aristotle

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ELDERS

Mike Bowdoin 442-0389
John Bowling 442-6608
Eugene Brown 547-1673
Norman Flynn 413-1688
Craig King 442-1630
David Wallace 546-0642
John Wallace 442-5887

MINISTERS

Norman Flynn 413-1688
Blake Jones 442-0988

DEACONS

Jeff Birchmore 547-3718
Tony Cleveland 538-5295
Wayne Gobble 613-3500
Steve Lorren 442-8192
Chris Mikle 413-1038
Tim Parker 442-4877
Bruce Phillips 549-1236

TIMES OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Bible Class 9:30 A.M.
Worship Hour 10:30 A.M.
Worship Hour 5:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 P.M.
Wednesday morning Ladies Bible Class will resume meeting in the Fall.

OFFICE EMAIL ADDRESSES

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CONTACT ELDER FOR JUNE

Mike Bowdoin - 442-0389

INTERNET LINKS

Church Website: www.rainbow-coc.org
Beacon Online: www.rainbowbeacon.org
Joint Worship: www.jointworship.info
Zimbabwe Info: www.zimbabwe-report.info

BUILDING LOCK UP FOR JUNE

Doyle McCarver / John Wallace

RAINBOW RECORD

SUNDAY MORNING	242
BIBLE STUDY	141
SUNDAY EVENING	127
MIDWEEK STUDY	128
LOCAL BAPTISMS	4
OTHER RESPONSES	8
WBS/JAIL BAPTISMS	57
ZIMBABWE BAPTISMS	78
INDIA BAPTISMS	905
CONTRIBUTION	6,554

MEMORIES

10 YEARS AGO: Jeremy Lorren and Kim Whittenmore were baptized into Christ by Chris Barnett.

20 YEARS AGO: Congratulations were given to Steve and Cindy Livingston on the birth of their son.

30 YEARS AGO: A bridal shower was given for Miss Belinda Long by the ladies of our congregation.

SERVANTS

SUNDAY, June 1, 2008

Welcome Blake Jones
Scripture Reader Jeremy Krienke
Opening Prayer George Elliot
Closing Prayer Tim Parker
MCGUFFEY CLASS: Group No. 2
 Leader: Gary Udaka

WEDNESDAY, June 4, 2008

Announcements David Wallace
Prayer Alan Gentry

SERVE THE FAMILY

Bruce Phillips, Presiding
Jason McArthur Jeff Birchmore
Elmus Scott Roy Helms
Colin Windham Mike Simmons
Dax McDonald Larry Naler

USHERS:
Bruce Phillips Wayne Gobble
Robert Edmonson Roy Harris

GREETERS: Tony & Jane Cleveland

SUNDAY AM COMMUNION CUP PICKUP:
 Elmus Scott Family

NURSERIES:
BABY: A.M. Megan Brooks
 P.M. Jane Naler
TODDLER: A.M. Madison McGlaughn
 P.M. Shari Daniel

COMMUNION PREPARATION: Dewey & Janet East

WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL

We had another super week as our Rainbow WBS teachers taught 354 people the gospel of Christ! This means that, on average, our teachers taught 51 people a day! 15 Rainbow teachers taught last week and these are the names and number of people each taught:

Kathy Overbey	67
Bobby/Carol Golden	6
Claire Walker	4
Betty Long	65
Tony/Jane Cleveland	24
Ray Cox	14
Joyce Flynn	23
Eugene/Barbara Brown	113
Jan Hamrick	15
Alan Gentry	3
Kelly East	8
Betty Hale	12