

BBCS Newsletter

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF
SODUS

December 2006
January & February 2007

BBCS Newsletter
Winter Issue

Harvest Festival and Dinner Celebrating God's Season of the Harvest

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On the Jewish Calendar 5767-Dec/Jan/Feb, Kislev/ Tevet/Shevat

25 Kislev-164B.C., Judas(Judah) Maccabeus of the Hasmonean family and his men crushed the Syrians, recaptured the Temple, and rededicated it to God after 2,300 sacrifices, 1,150 days. (Daniel 8:14)

Feast of Lights, victory of the Maccabees, and rededication of the Temple on 3rd anniversary of decoration by Antiochus Epiphanes (John 10:22)

15 Shevat-New Year of the Trees. In Leviticus 19:23-25, the Lord states that they are not to eat of the fruit of trees in the first three years after planting. In the fourth year "all the fruit thereof shall be holy to praise the Lord." In the fifth year, they are free to eat of the fruit. This is the day used to calculate the age of trees.



Who are these folks?

These and many fun faces were roaming the fellowship halls at this year's Harvest Festival on Oct.31st. This is an event held each year to come together for fellowship, fun and well, playing games of all sorts, no matter what age you are. I overheard a few of our dad's already putting in dibs for next year for the inflatable

games. A great time and a great event.

Another blessed event to celebrate God's Season of the Harvest is the annual Harvest Dinner held at the Williamson High School. The kids also get an opportunity to play games in the gym. It is also a way to work off a little turkey at the same time.

This was a wonderful way to invite friends & family, to meet others and above all to rejoice and give thanks to God for this Season of the Harvest.

See more pictures Inside Pull Out Edition.



Our children waiting for turkey and all the trimmings. Harvest Dinner held at the Williamson High School on Nov.18th



Threescore and More Group: Meets Monthly Every 3rd Thursday

If you enjoy visiting at the VA Hospital & Blossom View Nursing Home, sending cards to sick and shut-ins, support missionaries, help with the Operation Christmas Child project, being a prayer warrior, Bible studies and love to eat, then this ministry group may just be the place

to stop in and hang your hat (if you're in one spot long enough to hang a hat). Their purpose is fellowship, community and service. They plan to embrace a wide range of activities which also includes educational sight seeing, recreational and musical to name

a few. Proverbs 16:31 is the verse this ministry has chosen to go before them.

The next scheduled meeting is January 18th-Fellowship Hall. For information, call: Ron & Vivian Ganze (315-879-1023)

A Note From The Editor...A Time to Reflect...by Ken D.

This time of year a lot of people take some time to reflect on the year that is coming to a close. If you're like me, you probably made a new year's resolution or two. Hopefully you followed through with yours and achieved some rewarding goals. One of mine didn't come to pass, and it frustrates me every year I try: I did not achieve *sinless perfection!* (Now many of you may be appalled at that; more than likely you'd be appalled to even think that I would make such a resolution! I don't really...I know my heart and know God is continually testing the reins. See *Jeremiah 17:9,10.*)

Try as I may to walk as Jesus would walk if He was in my place, I failed. The sin nature seems to mock the good desires of my heart and raise it's ugly head in many facets of my business. It's amazing how you can be walking in the peace of the Lord and having a victorious heart of joy one minute, then some fallen spirit will try to steal

your joy and hit you in that place of contention. Then you are face-to-face once again with the reason Jesus came. The Just dying for the unjust.

I cannot gain heaven apart from the shed blood of Jesus Christ and my belief that He is the Son of God and that He loved me enough to die for me and make a way for me to be restored to have eternal fellowship with that same Lover of my soul.

May I shed something, too. May I shed the body of this death, the allurements of this world, the tears, the distresses, the heartbreaks, the shattered dreams and the relentless opposition to all that is good and right that seems to be bent on everything evil and wrong, the blind leading the blind into the abyss with reckless abandon.

So how else did I do this year? As a writer, I experienced one of the biggest "writer's slumps" in my lifetime. I had high hopes of securing an agent for help in promoting a book I am writ-

ing, but not long after sending off my proposal, the mailbox ended up with (yet another) rejection notice. I had made the mistake of placing too many eggs in one basket, only to end up with discouragement. This threw me into a depression that's lasted for most of the year, fighting a melancholy "Oh, what's the use?" heart that only Jesus can change.

But that's just me. Many of us (maybe "most" of us) experienced some short term and longer term trials this year. Some may not even be over. There are trails that can last months or years and get seemingly worse. Some physical, relational or financial.

Maybe a misunderstanding between you and a neighbor or someone you did business with. Maybe hard feelings over being held back when you feel you should have advanced. Maybe you, too, placed too many eggs in one basket, and someone or some thing came along and burst your bubble. Maybe it was your parade and it got rained on. It was your party, but you're the one crying.

(Cont'd pg.2 Inside Edition)

A Mission's Cupboard Update...

It is our hope to expand our mission's cupboard with supplies much needed and appreciated by the 17 missionaries we support. With the new year approaching, a basic list of items would help get us to a great start. A visiting schedule of our missionaries will be made available by the missions committee as soon as they are known, then we would focus on their individual needs. Current contributions

will go to stocking the cupboard. The list of items: bed sheets, towels, wash clothes, hand towels, blankets, pillows, underwear, socks, dress clothes (different sizes for families), children's

A basic list of items for stocking our mission's cupboard would help us get a great start

books, toys, teddy bears, Christian CD's/books, board games, diapers/wipes, gas cards and car maintenance products.

This is a basic list. If you have other items you wish to donate please contact Christie Lawson or the mission's committee for more information. Thank you so much for your continuing support of our missionaries.

Reflections of Mary...a devotion by Pam Riggelman

A devotion was given by Pam Riggelman on Dec. 9th, giving her listeners a deeper look at Mary. "Reflections of Mary" embraced four points:

- Mary found favor with God
- Mary was trusting even though she didn't understand
- She was willing to lay aside her plans for God
- She was humble

Studying the Bible is a way to get to know our Lord & Creator. It is like reading His love letter to us. It is also a command, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth". 2Tim.2:15

Currently, there are two women's bible studies restarting in January. For dates, times, locations & areas of study available, please contact Pat,



Ladies Bible Study Groups- Christmas Tea hosted by Sandy Stone, Dec.9th

(our church Secretary), for more information.

Ask Pastor Jay...

Question:

Is fasting something the Lord desires from Christians today? And if so, how and when?

Answer:

The spiritual or religious discipline of "fasting" would be known by most as a self-denial from food either by extreme reduction or elimination for a certain period of time.

The discipline of fasting is addressed several times in the New Testament (yet not past II Corinthians), however; it is never com-

manded or forbidden by Jesus.

In Matthew 6:16 Jesus begins some teaching about fasting by saying "when you fast". This implies that fasting was a regular part of the spiritual life of the people of his day.

It is interesting to note the different people who practiced fasting in the New Testament.



Pastor Jay

1. Pharisees (Matthew 6:16)
2. Disciples of John (Mark 2:18)
3. Elders in the church (Acts 14:23)
4. Seeker: Cornelius (Acts 10:30)
5. Jewish Prophetess: Anna (Luke 2:37)

Christian Husband/Wife

(I Cor. 7:5) ...Cont'd pg. 4

Our Special Night of Christmas Caroling...

Bible Baptist Church of Sodus experienced a special blessing of ministry the Sunday evening of December 10th. Many of us went Christmas caroling! We went on several different routes in separate teams, but all with the same goal: to bless some people, many of them shut-ins, with the joy of Christmas in song and small gifts.

The evening had started out on a comical note: Pastor Jay was organizing "drivers" from "followers" by having the "drivers" sit on one side of the church and the "followers" sit on the opposite side. At one point, he looked over at the "followers" in an attempt to get head count per vehicle and mistakenly asked, "Who over here isn't singing?" (He meant to say "driving"!) Not a soul

raised their hand! When no one did, Pastor realized what

he had just said. All had a great laugh as Pastor mimicked, "I'm not gonna raise my hand for that question! (Cont'd Inside Section...)

"I was blessed seeing the people's faces, their reaction, and some even sang with us."

Tents in the

The theme for this Sunday's Kids Church was about building a tabernacle in the wilderness and the instructions from God on what He wanted Israel to do. The lesson was given by Donice Mulberry, it was unclear if this lesson included smor's.

We would like to take this time to welcome our new Kids Church Directors, Bob & Cindy



Fellowship Hall...

Watrous. We are blessed to have Bob & Cindy take on this blessed & noble ministry. A Kid's Church meeting will be upcoming for those who wish to be a part of the King's Kids Church. We ask for your prayers & God's blessings for Bob & Cindy and for the upcoming plans for the new year .

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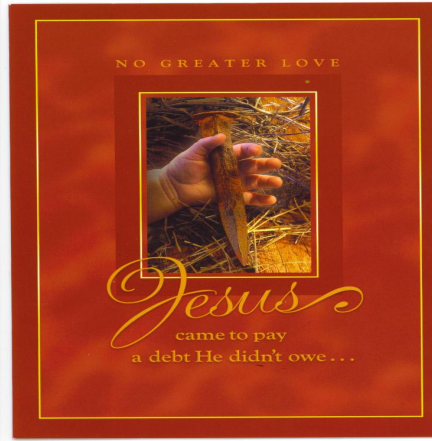
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No Greater Love, Jesus came to pay a debt He didn't owe...because we owed a debt we couldn't pay. Wishing you all the blessings of Christmas.

"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him." 1John4:9

There is a photograph of a powerful reminder of the purpose for which Jesus came. Resting within the warm innocent hand of the Babe in the manger is the cold, piercing nail of the Cross. Together, they dramatically depict the immeasurable love of God for all mankind. God sent His only Son to die in our place for our sin-that we might live.

There is no greater love than this.

Ask Pastor Jay (Cont'd)

As to the "How?" of fasting we are given little information in the New Testament, but what we have is very helpful. In His Sermon on the Mount Jesus addresses the hypocrisy and self-righteous lifestyles of the Pharisees. Part of this self-righteousness came through the discipline of fasting.

Some have suggested that as part of their religious prowess, the Pharisees would fast two times weekly. This sacrifice was something they did not want to go unnoticed. In Matthew 6:16-18, Jesus directly confronts this self-righteous behavior.

16 "Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 17 But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, 18 so that you

do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly."

In this text, Jesus admonishes his listeners not to be like the hypocrites (Pharisees) who made it a point to have their facial posture betray their private fasting. In contrast, if we fast we should put on a "happy" face and allow God to be our only fasting witness. This is not to say that people can never find out if we are fasting, but we should carefully guard our motives for revealing our fasting and see if they are self-serving.

The "When and Why?" of fasting is addressed briefly in the New Testament as well. The following situations or settings seem to be motivators for fasting.

1. Extreme sorrow/sadness.
Matthew 9:14-17

2. Intense Prayer
Luke 2:37

3. Seeking of God's Will
Acts 14:23

4. Husband/Wife Spiritual Intimacy
I Cor. 7:5

In addition to "fasting" by abstaining from food for a certain period of time, I believe we could benefit from an occasional fast in other areas of our life. Here are some "fast" suggestions...

TV fast, Hobbie fast, Computer fast, Cell Phone fast, Sports fast