

the Lamp



..as a light shining
in a dark place.
2 Peter 1:19

September 2005

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Number 9

Father Open Our Eyes



Mike McAlister

What is it that you “see” today? It doesn’t take much awareness to point out the sad things going on around us. It doesn’t take a lot of insight to discover the hurting things, the missing things, or the frightening things. It requires no genius to show us how bad off we are.

What we need today is people of faith who will risk helping us “see” God in the midst of the evil that any worldly-minded person can see. What is it that you “see” today?

In 2 Kings, chapter 6, we find that the army of Aram had surrounded the city where Elisha lived. His servant saw the army and cried, “Oh, my lord, what shall we do?” (Just the kind of guy you want around in a crisis! He may have been the patriarch of that enormous, world-wide tribe known as the Hand-Wringing-Woe-Sayers. Many of us are obvious descendants.)

Elisha answers his servant: “Don’t be afraid. Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” And then Elisha asked God to open the eyes of his servant. (It is so hard to see the things of God until we ask Him to open our vision to more than our worldly-minded limitations. The only kind of “realist” that is helpful in the Kingdom of God is the one who is also a realist about the power and potential of God in any situation.)

When God opened the servant’s eyes, he saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. The day was a victory of faith in God, not of fear-based “realism.”

1 John 4:4 tells us that we are over-comers of the evil forces because “greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.” Jesus has promised His eternal presence with us through His Spirit. He proclaims that His Kingdom will stand and that the gates of hell will NOT prevail against it. He promised His victory even as He warned of our times of trial and as He marched toward His cross.

People of faith must agree with Him and ask for our eyes to be opened that we might “see” the victory of God . . . even when the enemy has surrounded us. Father, open our eyes!

Mike McAlister



Daily Bible Reading

A daily Bible study schedule for the month of September.



Ministry Highlights

Todd Smithgall, our Deacon over Adult Education offers some reflections on teaching and education.



Calendar of Events

A calendar highlights special dates along with listings of special events and birthdays for the month of September.

Ministry Spotlight

Teach or Educate?

1 Psalm 148-150 1 Cor. 11:16-34	17 Ecclesiastes 1-3 2 Cor. 9
2 Proverbs 1,2 1 Cor. 12	18 Eccles. 4-6 2 Cor. 10
3 Proverbs 3,4 1 Cor. 13	19 Eccles. 7-9 2 Cor. 11:1-15
4 Proverbs 5,6 1 Cor. 14:1-20	20 Eccles. 10-12 2 Cor. 11:16-33
5 Proverbs 7,8 1 Cor. 14:21-40	21 Song of Sol. 1-3 2 Cor. 12
6 Proverbs 9,10 1 Cor. 15:1-32	22 Song of Sol. 4,5 2 Cor. 13
7 Proverbs 11,12 1 Cor. 15:33-58	23 Song of Sol. 6-8 Galatians 1
8 Proverbs 13,14 1 Cor. 16	24 Isaiah 1-3 Galatians 2
9 Proverbs 15,16 2 Cor. 1	25 Isaiah 4-6 Galatians 3
10 Proverbs 17,18 2 Cor. 2	26 Isaiah 7-9 Galatians 4
11 Proverbs 19,20 2 Cor. 3	27 Isaiah 10-12 Galatians 5
12 Proverbs 21,22 2 Cor. 4	28 Isaiah 13-15 Galatians 6
13 Proverbs 23,24 2 Cor. 5	29 Isaiah 16-18 Ephesians 1
14 Proverbs 25-27 2 Cor. 6	30 Isaiah 19-21 Ephesians 2
15 Proverbs 28,29 2 Cor. 7	
16 Proverbs 30,31 2 Cor. 8	



Todd Smithgall

As Deacon of Adult Education (and Care Groups, New Member Ministries and Bereavement Ministries), I find it enlightening that a search of the entire Bible for the word “educate” produces only one matching scripture! “Educate” appears only in a couple of translations, and even then the connotation is negative.

In the New Living Translation, Proverbs 17:16 says “It is senseless to pay tuition to **educate** a fool who has no heart for wisdom.” Ouch!

Yet a similar search for the word “teach” finds between 100 and 150 matches, depending on the translation, and they are almost all positive. God teaches Moses what to speak. Priests teach God’s law to Israel. Parents teach their children. Jesus teaches his disciples, then Israel, the ways of God. Jesus teaches us how to pray. Paul and Timothy carry on the teachings of Jesus. Jesus is known as the great teacher. When teaching stops, bad things happen!

So, we see a strong biblical mandate for teaching, but only brief mention of education in a negative context. But aren’t they the same? Today, don’t we interchange the terms “teacher” and “educator”? Let’s look at the definitions:

Teach:

- show or explain to (someone) how to do something
- encourage someone to accept (something) as a fact or principle
- cause (someone) to learn or understand something

Educate:

- give intellectual, moral, and social instruction to (someone, esp. a child), typically at a school or university
- provide or pay for instruction for (one’s child), esp. at a school
- give (someone) training in or information on a particular field

It seems that “education” mostly concerns the process of transferring information – give, provide, pay for, with no mention of the result. Someone can “educate” in my presence and make no impression on me whatsoever, if my heart is closed to their message.

continued on page 3

MINISTERS
MIKE MCALISTER, PULPIT
MIKE ROSS, OUTREACH
JUSTIN BRUNER, YOUTH AND FAMILY

ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE
SUNDAY
BIBLE CLASSES 9:00 A.M.
WORSHIP 10:15 A.M.
CARE GROUPS 6:00 P.M.

TUESDAY
LADIES BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY
BIBLE CLASSES 7:00 P.M.
THURSDAY
LADIES CLASS 10:00 A.M.

cont'd from page 2

“Teaching”, on the other hand, concerns the change in the mind of the student. *Teaching is incomplete until I have been changed by it.*

Obviously, then, a teacher has responsibility for knowing the minds of the students. Here at this church, as we consider and make improvements to our adult “education” ministry, let’s resolve first to change it into a “teaching” ministry in the pattern of Jesus. We are to be students and then teachers of Christ, and “education” is just one tool for that greater purpose.

Let’s not stop at fulfilling our commitment to “education” - presenting the information (the Gospel) through a process (our class offerings in all their forms). Let’s complete the great task of “teaching”, by taking personal responsibility for each other’s minds and souls!

Todd Smithgall
September, 2005



Announcements



Ladies Bible Fellowship – Ladies, you are invited to Duda Fulgham’s home for a time of Bible study and fellowship on the *First Thursday* of each month, beginning September 1st. We will meet from 7 to 8:30 P.M., and the topic of our first Bible study will be “In Everything Give Thanks.” Duda’s phone number is 281.484.7303 and her home address is 11506 Gullwood Dr., Houston, 77089.

FWD Community Prayer Breakfast will be Tuesday, September 20th, 2005, in the FHS Cafeteria from 6:00 - 7:30 AM. Cost: \$5 per person. Please RSVP by contacting Ed Hoskins.



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Fall Courses:

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Isaiah, Jeremiah & Lamentations
Knowing the God of the Bible
Christian Growth Course
Functions in Public Ministry
Worship in the Book of Psalms
Personal Evangelism
Introduction to Counseling

Communion Preparation

Debbie Brown &
Angie Scanlon

Greeters

John & Donna Simpson, Maria
Lopez & Lorena Counterman

Contribution Counters

Debbie Brown &
Weldon Womack

September 2•0•0•5

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				QUILTING NIGHT 7:00 P.M. 1 ELDER'S MEETING 7:00 P.M.	2	3
5:00 P.M. Fusion 316 4	LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED 5	6	7	QUILTING NIGHT 7:00 P.M. 8 ELDER'S STUDY 7:00 P.M.	9	10
5:00 P.M. Fusion 316 11	12	13	14	QUILTING NIGHT 7:00 P.M. 15 ELDER'S MEETING 7:00 P.M.	WEDDING REHEARSAL 16	WEDDING 17
5:00 P.M. Fusion 316 18	19	20	21	QUILTING NIGHT 7:00 P.M. 22 ELDER'S STUDY 7:00 P.M.	23	24
5:00 P.M. Fusion 316 25	26	27	28	QUILTING NIGHT 7:00 P.M. 29 ELDER'S MEETING 7:00 P.M.	WEDDING REHEARSAL 30	

← MEALS ON WHEELS →

FWD COMMUNITY PRAYER BREAKFAST 6:00 - 7:30 A.M. FHS CAFETERIA

Happy Birthday!

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 - Charles Kirklin,
Naseem Khonsari | 10 - Weldon Womack | Becky Jackson |
| 3 - Jerry Savage | 11 - Jade Warren, Leigh Ann Adair | 23 - Cole Scanlon |
| 4 - Mike Kingham, Anel Sacramento | 14 - Susan Cox | 25 - Bubba Davis |
| 5 - Jacob McAlister, Kristen Foulk | 15 - Diane Bailey | 26 - Brawner McDonald, Randy Jackson |
| 6 - Peggy Guilliams | 16 - Glenda Duncan | 27 - Tyler Adair |
| 7 - Nik Kovitz, Becky Wooley | 17 - Kristy McGinn, Faith Boggs | 28 - Nina Harrison, Sandra Harrell |
| 8 - Josh Kirklin, Nancy Smotherman | 18 - David Veatch | 29 - Amy Williams |
| 9 - Amy Bruner | 19 - Connie Young | 30 - Ann Taft |
| | 21 - Charlene Fulgham, Amy Williams, | |



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