



The Church of Service, Discovering New Dimensions of Faith in God's Authoritative Word

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Pastors Pen

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Laborers for a Ripe Harvest

36 When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. **37** Then He said to His disciples, **“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”** Matthew 9: 37 – 38

Growing up in Southwest Georgia I recall the summer months, especially August, the month of my birth, when what was called the field bus would come through our neighborhood and see many boards being taken to the field to harvest whatever crop that was ready for harvesting. There were some who would earn all their money for the year during harvest time and would use those funds to survive off of for the entire year. Today that scenario has changed dramatically. No longer do those buses come through my neighborhood because this is a generation that chooses to not work in the field to harvest crops. This presents a severe problem for the owners of the farms because without those to harvest the crops they literally die on the vine.

As Disciples of Christ we have a commission from Christ himself telling us to “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). As we look around us it is clear that there is a strong need to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with the world. There are far too many who are destined to suffer an eternal death unless we take seriously the mission we have been given by Jesus Christ. When we think of the fact that each of us who is saved is saved because someone shared the good news with us. The sense of urgency has not changed. Satan is still endeavoring to steal, kill and destroy all that he can and he will constantly be on his job. So what is our response in a time of few laborers and a plentiful harvest?

We must keep in mind that Jesus has already done the hard work. He paid a price that enables all the world to have a right to the tree of life. As laborers we simply need to tell our testimony of faith and the Good News of a Christ who loved us so much that He gave His life so that we could live eternally. Share with your family, friends, neighbors and even strangers when the opportunity presents so they won't suffer the same fate. But Jesus also has something for us that surpasses any pay from a farmer. "For the Son of Man is going to come in His Father's glory with His angels, and then He will reward each person according to what they have done." Matthew 16: 27. Join the dedicated few and become a laborer of a ripe harvest for Christ.

Mission Statement: We, of the St. John's Missionary Baptist Church, exist for the purposes of bringing God's lost children to salvation, and exalting the Lord through our worship and our works to edify and equip the saints in His Word.

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Worship Service 10:45 am
Tues. Teen Bible Study 5:00 - 5:45 pm
Tues. Prayer 5:30 pm
Tues. Adult Bible Study 6:00 pm
3rd Tues. Monthly Mid-Week Church Service 6:00 pm

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St. John's of Lawton Herald**

Published Monthly

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Notice to Our Readers

The views expressed by the authors/originators of materials in this publication are not necessarily those of St. John's Missionary Baptist Church of Lawton, OK. Please address any errors noted in this newsletter to *The St. John's Herald*, Attn: Editor, P.O. Box 2625., Lawton, OK 73502 or e-mail to sjmbcherald@gmail.com

SJMBC Media Team



**Brother
Ian Copeland**



**Brother
Kevon Howard**



**Brother Danny Bowen
Ministry Leader**



**Newsletter
SJMBC Herald**



SJMBC Media is the utilization of media formats, such as audio, video, graphics, and digital communication tools. Brother Danny Bowen, the ministry leader states, "SJMBC Media's purpose is to transmit messages, disseminate information, and facilitate worship, outreach, and interaction with the congregation, and the wider community." At SJMBC, we have expanded our reach to a broader demographic using live streaming and online material by using multimedia, ensuring accessibility for anyone unable to attend physically. SJMBC media also aids in efficiently transmitting teachings, promoting spiritual development and comprehension via recorded sermons, Christian educational resources, and inspiring content.

SJMBC Media team consists of Brother Danny Bowen, Brother Ian Copeland, and Brother Kevon Howard. Bro. Howard and I are 9th grade students, respectively from Cache and Lawton High Schools. Bro. Bowen is sharing his technical expertise in our handling of visual media church equipment, editing of church media videos, and live-streaming platforms. Our team must also prioritize ethical issues, including upholding privacy and copyright and ensuring openness in communication.

There are also many disadvantages to overcome, such as technological glitches interrupting services, worries about accessibility for all individuals, and considerations regarding privacy and security issues. There is a need to balance tradition and innovation while preserving human relationships in our ever more evolving digitalized society.

SJMBC Media not only live-streams (media team), but there are many other ministries with media outlets: such as printed fliers, informational material and bulletins (Sis. D. Hoggatt), SJMBC Herald Newsletter (Bros. L. & I. Copeland), broadcast media, and digital platforms such as social media (Bro. K. Howard), and the church website (Bro. D. Bowen). The role and scope of SJMBC media are multifaceted and continually evolving. Our church media plays a crucial role in reaching a broader audience, transcending geographical boundaries, and engaging with younger generations who are more digitally inclined. Our media team was crucial in maintaining religious activities and community connections during times when in-person gatherings were limited, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our prayer is that through media, our membership will have growth by enhancing outreach and engagement and fostering a sense of community. We are reaching a wider audience, engaging with Christians and non-believers, while creating connections that will hopefully encourage regular attendance and church participation by leveraging our various forms of media. -SJMBC Herald, Ian.C.

August Birthdays

Belinda Anderson
 Minister Lynn Anderson
 Barbara Branch
 Clinton Branch
 Taikeria Copeland-Bass
 Mary Bailey-Harris
 Kennedy Russell
 Stephanie Russell
 Veronica Sawyer
 Patrick Small
 Davison Virgil
 Carl Smith
 Sherrell Wallace
 Zelah Locklin
 Patricia Patterson
 Whitney Hale
 Marsha Crockett



“Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom” (Psalm 90:12 KJV)



Do you know this month's SJMBC mystery family?



July mystery person was Tiff Pennick

Celebrating Anniversaries this Month



The proud religious law-keepers came to Jesus. They tried to trap Him by saying, “Does the Law say a man can divorce his wife for any reason?” He said to them, “Have you not read that He Who made them in the first place made them man and woman? It says, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and his mother and will live with his wife. The two will become one. So, they are no longer two but one. Let no man divide what God has put together.’” (Matt. 19:3-6 ESV)

Celebrating anniversaries during the month of August are Bro. Patrick & Sis. Joyce Small, and Bro. Reginald & Sis. Pam Ramey.



The Small's



The Ramey's

Blessed are the husband and wife who continue to be affectionate, considerate, and loving after the wedding bells have stopped. Blessed are the husband and wife who are as polite and courteous to one another as they are to their friends. Blessed are they who have a sense of humor. Their marriage shall be much brighter. Blessed are the parents who abstain from alcohol. Their children will surely follow their example.



The Parable of the Bags of Gold “Being a Good Steward”



“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. Also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’ “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ “The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’ “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ “Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed.

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In Our Thoughts and Prayers



Please keep the following families in prayer: Sis. E. Elliott, Sis. M. Thomas, Sis. D. Hill, Sis. S. Wallace, Bro. J. Brown, Sis. M. Bowen, Sis. L. Smith, Deacon R. Cole, Sis. B. King, Bro. V. & Sis. S. Campbell, Sis. L. Pierce, Sis. R. Rouse, Bro. J. Williams, Bro. & Sis. Branch, Sis. B. Davenport, Bro. H. Williams, Sis. D. Persinger, and Sis. V. Sawyer.

Our sincerest condolences to Sister Veronica Sawyer and family during the transitioning of her son, Brother Samuel G. Sawyer and Sister Sherrell Wallace and family during the transitioning of her beloved husband, Brother James Wallace.

Trust in God's Plan

It's hard to understand; why God takes those we love. Does He need them more than we do, in Heaven up above? No one on earth can pretend to know what's in God's plan. All we can do is have faith and trust we'll see our loved ones again.



Inspirational Quotes

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." – Joshua 1:9 KJV



"One child, one teacher, one pen and one book can change the world." – Malala Yousafzai



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." – Nelson Mandela



"All students can learn and succeed, but not in the same way and not in the same day." – William G. Spady



"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn." – Benjamin Franklin



"Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family." – Kofi Annan



"If a child can't learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn." – Ignacio Estrada



MEDICAL CORNER:



Stroke, a cardiovascular disease that affects the arteries leading to and within the brain, is the third leading cause of death in the U.S. Stroke occurs when a blood vessel that carries oxygen and nutrients to the brain is either blocked by a clot or bursts.

Immediate Action is Critical!

If you suspect your loved one is experiencing a stroke, call 911 and get to the Emergency Department immediately. When a stroke happens, it is very important to get medical care as fast as possible. Time is critical in reducing the affects of a stroke!

Warning Signs of Stroke

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arms or legs (especially on one side of the body)
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or trouble understanding
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or loss of coordination
- Sudden, severe headache with no known cause

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"Bags of Gold"

Continued from page 3



So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them."

Conflict in Churches

Knowing is half the battle. Simple awareness may help to prevent church conflicts in its early stages. It is best to stop the dispute quickly. “The beginning of strife is like releasing water; Therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts.”

(Proverb 17:14 NKJV)

Becoming aware may help your church leaders adjust expectations and make strides to prevent or resolve conflict. If you don't believe that church conflicts are common, just ask your Sheppard.

People often behave with self-centeredness, ego, and pride. When they feel that life is about them, instead of the body of Christ, they take things personally. Self-centeredness causes one to experience hurt feelings easily. James observed, “Where do [a] wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?” (James 4:1 NKJV). Solomon wrote, “By insolence comes nothing but strife, but with those who take advice is wisdom” (Proverbs 13:10 NKJV). The focus should be on Jesus the Christ!

Maturity helps a person understand that differences in perspective broaden understanding. Mature people learn to disagree without being distressed. Mature people are self-aware and seek to improve their weaknesses. Immature individuals have not learned to avoid disputes over a person's personality or style. Likewise, maturation helps a person understand the futility of fighting over things that cannot be controlled. “Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking, be mature” (1 Corinthians 14:20 KJV). Believers must learn to think, behave, and communicate with maturity.

In reality, change is the norm. When policies or priorities change in the church, misunderstandings and stresses are likely to occur. When pastors and church leaders make strategic decisions, an effective process of communicating these new directives and norms is crucial. Even so, some church members may struggle to accommodate the changes. Some people have a greater propensity to resist change than others. In times of change, one may benefit from evaluating emotional responses to change. Often change leads to feelings of powerlessness or insecurity because one may trust the status quo at church instead of trusting God for security and peace. “The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe” (Proverbs 29:25 KJV). Only God provides security in our constantly changing world!

Power is the influence a person has on his or her environment, relationships, or self. Shifts in power may create gains or losses. Power is the ability and means to get things done. We can use power negatively or positively. The severely damaging seesaw power approach creates the illusion that you are more powerful when you make the other party less powerful. Jesus, the Son of God, used his power to serve others and to look out for those who were disadvantaged or in need. “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45 KJV). Jesus' use of power is a model for a person of influence. God forbid that anyone would use power to abuse or hurt someone! Likewise, power and influence in the church should ultimately be directed to Jesus the Christ, who is the Head of the church.

Factions in the church may intentionally or unintentionally engage in political maneuvering and posturing that leads to conflict. For example, senior church members may favor proven methods, while younger members desire to change. The Bible addresses politics among factions. The Apostle Paul dealt with factions in the Corinthian church. “For you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? For when one says, “I am of Paul,” and another, “I am of Apollos,” are you not carnal?” (1 Corinthians 3:3-4 KJV). Paul did not commend those who followed him (“I follow Paul”) but condemned each of the factions. Paul identified these political factions in Corinth as distractions from the mission of the church and selfish in motivation.

Conflicts arise among church staff and members when authority is unclear. When lines of authority are unclear, church volunteers and leaders sometimes exercise authority out of the realm of their responsibility. Such conflicts may become worse in times of crisis. A biblical example of the lack of clarity and authority was during the transition between Kings Saul and David in Israel (1 Samuel 16-31 KJV). Severe and complicated relational difficulties erupted among those in authority and the citizens of Israel. The Israelites could not understand Saul and David's relationship. Eventually, a physical conflict erupted. Saul's pride, which led to his suicide, provided David with opportunities to prove his integrity amid the confusion (1 Samuel 31 KJV).

The real or perceived differences among congregations play underlying roles in communication and conflict. Remembering why others talk and act as they do may prevent misunderstandings and false assumptions. When people discover and discuss their personality styles, healthy communication may result. More importantly, biblical fellowship among people is the best way for Christians to understand one another and grow together. -Paraphrased by SJMBC Herald



We are looking forward to praying with you.

Please List Your Request
Place Card in Offering Plate or Give to an Usher



Please Pray For: _____

DATE: _____



PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

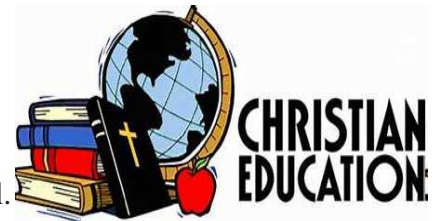
St. John's Missionary Baptist Church Of Lawton
Rev. Davison A. Virgil, Pastor
1504 SW N.H. Jones Avenue
Lawton, OK 73501
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2625
Lawton, OK 73502-2625



Prayer Request Cards: Prayer is essential in the life of a Christian. There is great power in prayer and we endeavor as a church family to stay in prayer for one another. In both Matthew 6:5-15 (KJV), and Luke 11:1-13 (KJV), Jesus teaches His disciples to pray. Even today He is teaching us to pray, and James 5: 16 (KJV) teaches us to "...pray one for another." As a church family, it is important that we use prayer as a means to bless one another. Our prayer card helps to ensure that we know each other's prayer needs and afford us the opportunity to pray for each other for specific needs. Please complete the pledge card and mail it in or email your request to the church secretary at secretary.sjmbclawton@gmail.com.

We Need You, Your Children, and Grand-Children in Sunday School Because...

- Sunday School teaches the bible, the message of God Almighty.
- Sunday School prepares one better to face the problems of life.
- Sunday School teaches obedience and respect for parents and those in authority. Sunday School will give the student the opportunity to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Sunday School helps build strong character.
- Sunday School presents opportunity to share Christian experiences.
- Sunday School shows the student how he can be of service in this sinful world.
- Sunday School brings together those with whom you can form true friendships.
- Sunday School gives the opportunity to bring others under the message of the Gospel.
- Sunday School teaches songs of real beauty, comfort and praise.
- Sunday School gives the opportunity to discuss spiritual problems in small groups with those of the same age.
- God says: Seek ye the Lord while he may be found. (Isa.55:6 KJV)
- God says: Search the Scripture; for they are they which testify of me. (St. John 5:39 KJV)
- God says: Train up a child in the way he should go. (Prov. 22:6 KJV)
- God says: Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (Col. 3:16 KJV)



Biblical Men, Money and Possessions

Genesis 14:17-24; Job 42:10; I Chronicles 29:9-14; Ecclesiastes 2:1-11; Matthew 19:16-22; Matthew 27:1-5; Luke 12:16-21; Luke 19:8; and Acts 5:1-11.

Match the Biblical man with the appropriate attitude he had about money/possessions:

- Abraham
- Job
- David
- Solomon
- Rich young ruler
- Man who built barns
- Zacchaeus
- Judas Iscariot
- Ananias



- Prospered twice as much after he lost everything
- Acknowledged God for giving wealth for the temple.
- Gave a tithe as he recognized God as His supply.
- Was willing to sell his soul for some money.
- Found he couldn't take wealth with him when he died.
- Found all his great work meaningless without God.
- Was sad because he couldn't part with his possessions
- Changed his attitude toward his possessions.
- Lied about his possessions and was stricken dead.



Up Coming Church Events

- Usher's Annual Day - August 18, 2024 at 3:30pm, SJMBC Sanctuary, guest speaker is Pastor Gerald Wilburn of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church of Lawton.
- On September 14, 2024: Graveside Memorial Services: 11:00am at Highland Cemetery (Rev. T.O. Mitchell), and Sunset Memorial Cemetery (Rev. Jesse L. Davenport and Rev. Perry Clay).
- 76th Anniversary Worship Service: September 15, 2023, 3:30pm, SJMBC Sanctuary, guest speaker is Pastor Joe Jackson of Emmanuel Calvary Missionary Baptist Church of Hobart, OK.
- Pastor Willie Tiller's 3rd Pastors Anniversary Worship Service: October 13, 2024, 11:00am at Union Baptist Church of Lawton, OK, guest speaker is Pastor Davison Virgil of SJMBC of Lawton, OK.
- Pastor Davison Virgil's 3rd Pastors Anniversary Worship Service: October 20, 2024, 3:30pm at SJMBC of Lawton, OK, guest speaker is Pastor Dr. Emory Virgil of Providence Missionary Baptist Church of Thomasville, GA.
- SJMBC Fall Revival is October 21 - 23, 2024; 6:30pm nightly, guest speaker is Pastor Dr. Emory Virgil of Providence Missionary Baptist Church of Thomasville, GA.

For more information on upcoming events, please contact the administrative assistant at (580) 357-3542.

Prayers
for



Back to School



It's that time of the year again, when students of all ages get ready to go back to school. School can be a big adjustment, whether you're sending your child off to kindergarten, college, or you're going back to college yourself. As both a man of faith and a grand parent of three school-age children, I can all but imagine the sorts of things that parents, kids, teachers, school administrators, and community leaders might be feeling in light of the unpredictable realities that face them this school term during the many changes within our educational system that will eventually affects us all.

Our hope at SMBC is that through prayer, they will be touched in ways that lets them know the care-filled love of Jesus, who knows them by name. If we pray as one can and when one can, trusting always that the Spirit prays in and for us when we can no longer find the right words or even the will to pray.

Our prayers for teachers and administrator is to love and show compassion for their students and to be patient when things that don't go as planned. Parents & teachers, please help the children to find grace when they may make mistakes and to love themselves and the truth. Parents help direct and protect your children through tough times and instill in them wisdom, courage, and strength. Parents, help them to know that with God in their lives, that all things are possible, even their dreams: teach them to steer away from things ungodly and illegal. Students young and old, allow Jesus to accompany you and bless your goings and comings. My heavenly Father, bless their learning and their playing: protect their hearts from fear, keep them safe, give them good friends, and joy. From the desk of the editor, "Thanking you all in advance for loving the administrators, teachers, parents, and most of all, our students." - SJMBC Herald I.B.C.



Giving Thanks in Times of Sorrow

Grace to you and peace from God our father and the Lord, Jesus Christ.

II Corinthians 1:2

WWYD



What do you say, when your friends loses loved ones. Who need or wants peace at times like these. Society dictates that we should be unhappy and miserable. What would you do with a verse that says "rejoice always?" What about another that says "in everything give thanks?" Or pray without ceasing?" Do you agree that these verses do not apply in a situation so full of grief as death? What do we say when our friends reaches out an empty hand and says, "Help Me?"

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God (II Corinthians 1:3-4).

Now is the time to decide if the Bible really means anything to you or not. What if it were you my brother or Sister, would you want to be comforted? (Read Colossians 2:6-9)

There is a spirit of faith available every day independent of circumstances, independent of people, and of people's choices. "Rejoice"

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Knowledge is intended to be our friend, but it may also be made our enemy. -Dr. J. L. Davenport



How Can I Be Saved?

"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

(Matt. 16:26 KJV))

I. The Meaning: In the original language, the word "saved," in its simplest form, means to be made whole; it also carries the connotation of being rescued. So then, when we at St. John's speak of being saved, we speak of being rescued by God from the deprivation, the clutches, and the consequences of sin; we speak of being restored, made whole or complete again by coming to a right relationship with God.

II. The Price: Do not be dismayed. The price of being saved is neither costly nor complicated. But you must admit that you are a sinner. Romans 3:23 (KJV) state: "**All have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God.**" But what is sin? Sin is an act of disobedience to the will of God for your life. It could be a lie or lust, sin is sin.

You must realize that sin has a punishment. Romans 6:23 (KJV) state: "**The wages of sin is death.**" The word "wages" literally means the result or the product of sin is death. Death is separation from God, both in this world and in the world to come.

And you must be assured of God's love. Romans 5:8 (KJV) state: "**While we were yet sinners, God demonstrated His love toward us, in that Christ died for us.**" The amazing message here is that while we were behaving as God's enemy, sinning against Him, His love was so merciful and gracious that He sent His only begotten Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world, through Him, might be saved.

Finally, to be saved, you must confess and believe. Romans 10:9 (KJV) state: "**That if thou shall confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shall believe in your heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shall be saved.**" If you believe that God raised Jesus of Nazareth up from the grave and can confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, you shall, not maybe, be saved.

III. The Prayer: If you desire to be saved, would you pray the following prayer: "Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. And I know that Jesus died for my sins. I believe You raised Jesus from the dead, and I want Him to be my Lord and Savior. Jesus, come into my heart and save me. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen."

The Bible says that when you pray that prayer, it immediately resulted in your salvation. Should you ever doubt whether or not you are saved, read I John 5:12 (KJV) that states emphatically: "**He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.**" If you have Jesus living within you, you have eternal life.

If you do not have a church home, then find a Bible believing church and get involved in the Bible Study program of that church. Talk to the pastor or one of the leaders about baptism and determine in your heart and mind to walk with Jesus all the days of your life. Should you need help in finding a church, call St. John's at (AC-580) 357-3542; we will be glad to assist you. May God bless and keep you.