

Macedonian Call

August 2022



In her book titled, *The Family: Unchanging Principles for Changing Times*, Dorothy Patterson has written the following: “God defined the family

as the foundational institution of human society. Before there were civil governments or assemblies of worship of any kind, God established the home in the Garden of Eden. He created the man and the woman and then brought them together. They were to forge a unique companionship with each other; they were to exercise dominion over the world God had created; they were to continue the generations by linking hands with God Himself in procreation; and they were to praise and worship God. From the beginning God has used the family as the primary classroom and as the foremost object lesson for teaching men and women about Himself and for challenging them to the holy lifestyle He demands....The family was God’s idea and not a human invention to be adapted by a nation or a cultural phenomenon to be embraced by a particular generation.”¹ Much of what’s been taking place over recent weeks in the halls of Congress and by the current presidential administration to destroy God’s design and purpose for family has flown under the radar. Of course, there was tremendous publicity regarding the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* by SCOTUS, which is a blessing, but only the beginning toward eliminating the legal slaughter of innocent babies. In hasty and unfounded reaction to that decision some politicians, activists, celebrities and media pundits have attempted to generate fear regarding the high court’s interference in other issues political liberals and secular progressives hold dear. So they are moving fast to protect their anti-God and anti-family agenda. Here are just five recent examples of their misdeeds: (1) In July Congress passed what’s known as the “Respect for Marriage Act.” The act passed by the House would force states to recognize any union between two individuals—regardless of sex—as marriage. This bill, by the way, passed the House with a bi-partisan vote. (2) The Department of Education has published a proposed rule that would force federally funded schools to accommodate gender ideology in all school activities and programs.

This change would mean requiring biological males to use women’s facilities, forcing faculty and students to use others’ preferred personal pronouns, and withholding funds from those institutions that refuse to comply. (3) The Department of Health and Human Services has proposed a rule that would force medical professionals to provide and insure controversial cross-sex interventions and abortion services.² (4) On July 25th, The Department of Health and Human Services announced a new rule that would force insurance providers to pay for breast removal and other transgender surgeries, including for minors.³ (5) In April President Biden said the following at an award ceremony for teachers at the White House: “We always talk about ‘these children.’ They’re not someone else’s children. They’re our children....You’ve heard me say it many times about our children, but it’s true: They’re all our children.....They’re not somebody else’s children; they’re like yours [the teachers’] when they’re in the classroom.”⁴ These types of anti-God and anti-family attacks aren’t going to stop unless we commit this nation and its leaders to prayer. And, in the election this fall, vote in a way that will reflect the Christian beliefs and biblical values we claim to possess. ~ Pastor Randy (Rom. 1:16)

¹ Patterson, Dorothy Kelley. *The Family: Unchanging Principles for Changing Times* (Broadman & Holman: Nashville, 2002), 19-20.

² Eckert, Jared. “House-Passed ‘Respect for Marriage Act’ Isn’t About Marriage.” (*The Daily Signal*, 07/20/22 at dailysignal.com, accessed 07/26/22).

³ Blair, Douglas. “New HHS Rule Would Force Insurers to Pay for Children’s Sex Changes.” (*The Daily Signal*, 07/25/22 at dailysignal.com, accessed 07/26/22).

⁴ Remarks by President Biden at the 2022 National and State Teachers of the Year Event,” 04/27/22 (whitehouse.gov, accessed 07/26/22).

**You are invited to join us for
Sunday School each week at 9:45 am.
Classes are available Nursery
through Senior Adults!!**

**BIBLE
STUDIES
FOR LIFE.**

Summer Bible Study Series
Contagious Community: Living Beyond Yourself
 Wednesdays at 6:30 pm



**"Ladies Night Out" - August 18th
 @ 7:00 pm. We will be going to
 Chic Custom Creations in
 Lincolnton to make cards and
 assemble treat bags for
 Boger City Rest Home.**



**Men's Monthly Meeting
 Saturday, August 27th
 7:00 am**

Fellowship Hall

**All men are invited to join us for a light
 breakfast, mission & ministry updates,
 Bible study & prayer.**



**Choir Practice Sundays
 @ 5:00 pm
 New Members are Welcome!!**



**Leaders Meeting
 Sunday, August 21st
 in the Fellowship Hall
 following the morning worship service.
 Lunch will be provided**



**Students 7th—12th grade
 Share the love of Christ in our
 Community!!
 August 8th 2-5pm we will bake
 snacks for our area First Responders**



A Note From Susan

"The Solid Rock"

Written by Edward Mote
 (1797 – 1874)

"So ignorant was I that I did not know there was a God. My Sundays were spent on the streets (of London) in play." Those were the words of Edward Mote, who rose from an unruly childhood to become a great writer and minister.

Eventually Mote became exposed to the Word of God, and was baptized at the age of 18. He was apprenticed to become a cabinetmaker, a career which he successfully conducted for another 37 years. One day while walking to his work, he began thinking that he should write a hymn. Before he reached his shop, he had the chorus: "On Christ the solid rock I stand, All other ground is sinking sand." Before the day ended, he had four stanzas.

At the age of 55, Mote became pastor of a Baptist church in Horsham, Sussex, where he did not miss a Sunday in the pulpit for the next 21 years. In his 77th year, as he lay on his bed of sickness, he replied, "I think I am going to heaven. Yes, I am nearing port. The truths I have preached I am now living upon, and they will do to die upon. Ah! The precious blood, which takes away all our sins. It is this, which makes peace with God."

What a victorious ending of a useful life. He was reared in a godless home, learned an honorable trade and gave it all up to become a preacher. His memory will remain for generations because he took time one day to write a simple gospel song.

"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock."- Matthew 7:24 ~ Susan



Special Project

Join in the fun and be helping hands!!

7th—12th grades special project working at Long Shoals Wesleyan Academy
 Friday, August 19th
 @ 8:30 am



**Children 1st—6th
 Grade
 Wednesdays @ 6:30**

A Note From Ashley

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 reads, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus..." As we walk through seasons of uncertainty, financial strain with rising inflation rates, etc. it is essential that we remember and follow this instruction from Paul. "Rejoice always" sounds simple, but once we go through an hour, a day, or a period of time riddled with unpredictability sometimes our response is far from joyful. It can be easy to rejoice on the "good days" but what if we cannot remember the last good day we had? Just deciding to be happy or brush it off can often be our first response. But what if our first action was prayer? Not just a prayer, but continuous prayer without ceasing. Easier said than done right? In Children's Church this past Sunday the kids and I had a lesson centered on prayer. I asked our students what their prayer lives looked like. Prayer for some was an occasional action, a last resort, and for some was a daily habit. The passage of Scripture we focused on was about the story of Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane from the book of Matthew. Throughout the entire story Jesus is distraught. At first his sorrow comes solely from the knowledge of his upcoming crucifixion. But as the evening progresses, He becomes increasingly frustrated with his disciples. As many of us know, the disciples were instructed to wait, and pray. What did they do instead? They slept. After I shared this story with the kids I asked them, "So what were they supposed to do?" Most answered pray, and then one student said pray and wait. Sometimes our patience runs thin, and prayer becomes a last resort, or an occasional occurrence when our lives don't go the way we wanted. But we are forgetting the instructions of Jesus and Paul: pray continually, rejoice always, and wait. Our joy should not be based on our circumstances, but in God. Circumstances change, but God never does. Realistically most of us can't spend our whole day with our heads bowed, and our eyes closed. What we can do is spend each minute of every day in a constant, flowing conversation with God. If you are reading this and mentally doubting your ability to attempt this, my suggestion would be to just try. Exercise practice not perfection. Just think how much could change in our lives, our families, and in our culture if prayer was the first resort. ~Ashley



A Note From Pastor Joe

6 out of 12 times I begin my article by saying "Can you believe it's Jan, or April or June, etc." I'm not going to say that about August. I'm not, but.... No I'm not!! But it is the 8th month of the year!! Only 4 more left! Can you believe it? Some say, "Where is the time going?" or "Where has the time gone?" "I wish I had more time." I think the more important question is what am I doing with the time I have! Over two hundred verses in Scripture focuses on time. My favorite is Colossians 4:5-6. Please read and you will find out what to do for the last 4 months of this year.

1. Live wisely among unbelievers
2. Make the most of every opportunity
3. Let your life be gracious and attractive which will produce in you the right response to everyone, believers and unbelievers.

Get your focus on Christ and remember the older we become the less should be our frowns and greater should be our smiles if our focus is right! Tick-tock, tick-tock, tick-tock. With big smiles ~ Pastor Joe



Our weekly Bible study will resume on Thursday, August 11th at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. This is a very special time of fellowship, prayer and Bible study. We invite all senior adults to join us.

**ECLM Tuesday, August 9th—8:30 am
Lunch Following at a local restaurant**



**August 12th—Transportation Museum
Spencer, NC**

**August 26th—Splash Pad in Maiden
2:00—4:30 pm**