

# THE MOUNTAIN CITY MESSENGER

Volume 3, Issue 2  
February, 2013

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

### Week of 2/3:

Mon – Jeremiah 7:1-29  
Tues – Jeremiah 9  
Wed – Jeremiah 13:15-27  
Thur – Jeremiah 15:1-9  
Fri – Jeremiah 52  
Sat – Lamentations 1

### Week of 2/10:

Mon – Jeremiah 12  
Tues – Psalm 74  
Wed – Psalm 35  
Thur – Psalm 56  
Fri – Jeremiah 6  
Sat – Lamentations 2



2/10 - A Widowed City  
2/17 - A Broken People  
2/24 - A Suffering Prophet

*"<sup>25</sup> The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him." (Lamentations 3:25)*

3/3 - A Ruined Kingdom  
3/10 - A Penitent Nation



## I LOVE YOU!

Those 3 little words are often heard on the 14th of this month every year, but I wonder how many people truly understand what those 3 words mean?

[16] By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.  
(1 John 3:16)

The Apostle John was referring to Jesus dying on the cross for our sins so we can live for Him. That kind of love is frowned upon in today's "me first" society. So this month, why don't we take some time to put others first so we can show them what true love is all about?

Let's grow together!  
-Earl Winfrey  
Earl@mkdisciples.org

# I JESUS L O R D

### Week of 2/17:

Mon – Jeremiah 18  
Tues – Jeremiah 20  
Wed – Jeremiah 38  
Thur – Jer 48:21-47  
Fri – Lam 3:1-33  
Sat – Lam 3:34-66

### Week of 2/24:

Mon – 2 Kings 19  
Tues – Jer 25:1-14  
Wed – Jer 25:15-38  
Thur – Jer 50:1-28  
Fri – Jeremiah 50:29-46  
Sat – Lamentations 4

### Christians on Earth:

"We may be pilgrims, but we're not drifters."

"Don't let them nationalize you. Stay a foreigner or stranger." - Rick Atchley

*"<sup>25</sup> The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him."*

(Lamentations 3:25 ESV)

Check us out online:

[www.fccmntcty.org](http://www.fccmntcty.org)

Mailing Address:

PO Box 402  
Mtn Cty GA 30562

Church Office:

706-746-3168

Facebook:

FCC Mountain City

Mkdisciples Study Group

Early Morning Snuggles

Missions we support

Florida Christian College

Open Door Libraries

Rio Bravo Ministries

Please keep us informed of any address changes so we can keep our records up to date.

February 13, 2011 was the date I began preaching here at FCC of Mountain City GA. In a couple of weeks, it will be my 2nd anniversary as the preacher, and I have been truly blessed to serve the Lord in this church! We have seen a few changes as a church and we have all grown as a result. I am excited to see what will happen as the years go by and God continues to work through us to reach the community around us! My signature at the end of the emails I send contains a reference to the Apostle's Paul's prayer that is recorded in Ephesians 3:14-21. I pray this prayer often for our church and I want to encourage everyone else to do the same. I love being your preacher! - Earl

"[14] For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, [15] from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, [16] that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, [17] so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, [18] may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, [19] and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

[20] Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, [21] to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen." (Ephesians 3:14-21)

### **Making the Most of it All**

*"Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time."*

*Ephesians 5:15-16*

*Someday when the kids are gone, there will be plenty of ice cream just for Barbara and me. I won't find the can of Hershey's chocolate on the lower shelf...empty and with a sticky bottom. We will return to a small refrigerator and eat on the antique table we used when we were first married.*

*Cars will be clean again. The floorboard won't be covered with Sunday School papers or petrified McDonald's French fries. And gum, Legos, Matchbox cars, doll combs and even fishhooks won't be smashed into the carpet.*

*Doors will be shut, and I won't have to go through the house turning off every light. We won't stumble over herds of teddy bears, dolls, and stuffed animals grazing or napping on the carpet.*

*Fewer tools will be lost. No frantic search parties at bedtime for lost blankets. Socks will miraculously find their mates, and the car keys will be right where I left them.*

*But of course other things will have changed, too.*

*When the kids are gone, we won't hear the pitter-patter of little feet running down the hallway, then feel a warm, wiggly body crawling into bed and snuggling with us early on Saturday morning.*

*No more little-girl, frilly Easter dresses or first days of school. No winter picnics or log cabin play-houses. No more fishing and hunting trips or wiener roasts or just goofing around with a childish hand in mine.*

*Someday there will be no more handmade Father's Day cards or wooden plaques titled "World's Best Mom." No more crayon drawings, verses and stick people drawn on construction paper and displayed on the refrigerator.*

*So until someday arrives, we're going to cherish our moments together. We're going to try to take seriously—but happily—the apostle Paul's counsel: "Making most of your time."*

*Sticky or not*

*(taken from "Moments Together for Couples" by Dennis and Barbara Rainey)*

"The man who complains about the way the ball bounces is likely the one who dropped it." - Lou Holtz

**"How lonely sits the city that was full of people! How like a widow has she become, she who was great among the nations! She who was a princess among the provinces has become a slave." (Lamentations 1:1)**

When Jeremiah wrote the book of Lamentations, he was recalling a very painful event in his life. That event was the siege of Jerusalem and the capture of the Jews. The details of this siege are recorded in Jeremiah 52 and 2 Kings 24:18-25:30. For years, Jeremiah was warning the Jews about the wrath of God and how their infidelity was out of control, but nobody wanted to hear what he had to say. Instead, the king surrounded himself with prophets who told him what he wanted to hear and the end result was a nation that frowned upon the truth that Jeremiah was preaching. And now that the Babylonians destroyed them, Jeremiah had the right to feel satisfied that his prophecies came true. However, his heart was crushed when he watched Jerusalem burn to the ground because there was nothing he could do about it.

In order to work through his grief, Jeremiah wrote a collection of poems that helped him sort out his thoughts and deal with the pain in his heart. That collection of poems became the Old Testament book Lamentations so we can have this useful resource today. By learning about the struggles of Jeremiah, we can see that we are not alone in our struggles with this life. Way too often, we look beyond the realities of life that are recorded in the Bible because we think that being a good Christian means we have to focus on the positive. Instead of opening up and letting our Christian friends comfort us in our time of need we have a tendency to shut down and hide our pain because we don't want people to see our weaknesses. We are afraid that the people at church will look down on us for being human, and the sad part is the world feels the same way. Somehow the American church has created this reputation for being insensitive to the needs of people who are hurting, and until we can correct this issue, we will never be able to reach those who really need help.

The American church needs a reality check, and it starts with evaluating what is being taught in the church service. A quick study of the songs that are sung and the sermons being preached will reveal a disturbing trend that has contributed to this image of the church being unrealistic. When a person is struggling, the immediate response appears to be to pray harder and sing passionately at church. If we can somehow find the right song to sing and the right words to pray, we will forget about our struggles and the world will be ok. While all of that sounds good on the surface, this kind of response is like putting an angry bird band-aid on a broken leg. Instead of trying to praise our way out of despair, we need to take an honest look at our situation so we can figure out how we got into this mess, and then we can see how to fix the problem. This is why the book of Lamentations is such a great book for those who struggle.

As Jeremiah processes the destruction that took place, he writes about the city of Jerusalem that was destroyed (Chapter 1), and then reflects on the sins of the people who turned away from God (Chapter 2). After expressing his grief over the tragedy, Jeremiah turns to his own frustration and pain as he cries out to God (Chapter 3), and then he focuses on the real cause for the tragedy which is the infidelity of the nation (Chapter 4). In chapter 5, Jeremiah is now ready to accept the reality of the situation as he prays for God to restore them. Working through the details of the tragedy helped Jeremiah cope with his pain, and that is a great lesson for those of us who are struggling with life.

## God gives what's right, not what is left.

### Good Groom-ing

*"And if the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you." Isaiah 62:5b*

Flying home from Atlanta one Saturday evening, I sat next to a young woman who was impeccably groomed in every way, except for the streaks on her cheeks where tears had washed away some of her rosy-red blush. My heart went out to her, but my head said, *None of your business, Liz. Don't interfere.* As usual, I ignored my head and went with my heart: "What brings you to Louisville?" I asked softly.

She turned my direction, and a fresh flow of tears began. "I don't know!" Inside, a still, small voice got my attention: *Hush, Liz! Let her talk.* I pressed my lips together (for me, that's almost an aerobic exercise), assumed my most compassionate expression, and simply nodded.

"I'm g-g-getting married," she stammered, daintily blowing her perfectly powdered nose. "How wonderful!" I exclaimed, my vow of silence forgotten. "I'm not so sure." Her voice was high and strained. "My entire family and all my friends live in Florida, plus I have a great job there. I'm leaving my whole life behind." Another trickle of tears slipped out of the corner of her eye.

"I moved to Louisville from far away too," I explained, trying to comfort her. "It's a great place to live."

"I guess so," she murmured, sounding unconvinced.

Despite my efforts, I was not helping one bit. Until the perfect question suddenly presented itself: "Do you love him?"

Her expression changed instantly. "Oh, yes!" She blushed at her own enthusiasm, then stumbled over a rush of words. "He's very kind and considerate, really intelligent, and handsome too." As she brushed away the last of her tears, she told me about her beloved husband-to-be, how much fun they had together, how impressed her family was with him, and, yes, how much she loved him.

I nodded and listened, knowing no further questions would be needed.

When we landed and headed into the gate area, I picked him out of the crowd instantly. Even from a distance, he was obviously a fine young man. Tall and broad-shouldered, he was armed with a warm, welcoming grin and a dozen red roses that matched her red suit perfectly. When she ran into his embrace with a teary smile, I made myself look away (very difficult) rather than invade their privacy. A few happy tears sneaked into my own eyes.

When you find the right One, it's easy to forsake all others and follow Him.

(Taken from "Rise and Shine" by Liz Curtis Higgs)

### General Prayer Items for the month:

(Please see the weekly bulletin for the church prayer list.)

Church Leadership

Ministries of the church

Members

Visitors

Lost Souls

Those needing work/Home sales

The persecuted church

Missionaries

Future Kingdom Workers

Those serving in the Military

Government

Schools

### Evangelistic Opportunities:

Does your neighbor go to church?

Does your neighbor know that you go to church?

**Marriage Advice: Being married is a lot like living in California...If you find a fault, don't dwell on it!**

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)

### A. THE BIBLE CONTAINS 66 BOOKS, WRITTEN...

1. Over a 1600 year span
2. Over a period of 40 generations
3. By approximately 40 authors from every walk of life; e.g.:
  - a. Moses, political leader trained in the universities of Egypt
  - b. Peter, fisherman
  - c. Amos, herdsman
  - d. Joshua, military general
  - e. Nehemiah, cup bearer to a king
  - f. Daniel, prime minister
  - g. Luke, a physician
  - h. Solomon, king
  - i. Matthew, tax collector
  - j. Paul, tentmaker and rabbi
4. In different places
  - a. Moses in the wilderness
  - b. Jeremiah in a dungeon
  - c. Daniel on a hillside and in a palace
  - d. Paul inside prison walls
  - e. Luke while traveling
  - f. John in exile on the isle of Patmos
  - g. Others in the rigors of military campaign
5. At different times
  - a. David in times of war
  - b. Solomon in times of peace
6. During different moods
  - a. Some writing from the heights of joy
  - b. Others from the depths of sorrow and despair
7. On three continents: Asia - Africa - Europe
8. In three languages: Hebrew - Aramaic - Greek
9. Which subject matter includes hundreds of controversial topics
  - a. The origin of man and the universe
  - b. The nature of God
  - c. The nature of sin and man's redemption

The Bible is truly amazing as it has a theme throughout that is connected even though there were so many contributors at various periods of time. Only God could have been able to create something like this so we should have confidence that this is truly God's Word!

In our movement, we are known as people of the Word because our churches commit to using the Bible as our authority for how to live as God's church. This is a reputation that was earned, but I wonder if we deserve that title today? How deep have we gone with studying the Bible?

We know a lot of facts about the Bible and we know of the commands that are written inside, but do we know the story that it tells? That is why we are committing the rest of the year in Sunday School and Wed Night Bible Study to learning more about the story inside the Bible.

On Sunday mornings, we will be learning about the life of Christ as this will be a chronological study of the 4 Gospels.

On Wed nights, we will be studying God's people from the Garden of Eden to the church in the book of Acts.

*"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." - Romans 12:12 (NIV)*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
S.S. - 10am Worship - 11am  Wed meal - 6pm Wed B.S. 6:45	Every Tuesday at Chick-Fil-A 7am: Men Discipleship Group				1 Craft Day - 9am	2
3	4	5 Men's Night at Church 6:30pm	6 Elders/Deacons Meeting 5pm	7	8	9
10 Fellowship Meal after Church	11	12	13	14	15 Game Night - Pasta Bar 6pm	16
17	18	19 Men's Bible Study 7pm	20 Food Pantry 5pm	21	22	23
24	25	26 March Newsletter deadline	27	28		

**Don't forget to pray for those churches around us and near our hearts!**

- FCC of Franklin, NC
  - Toccoa Christian Church
  - Providence Road Church of Christ (Charlotte, NC)
  - First Christian Church of Fairburn, GA
  - Lilburn Christian Church, GA
  - Coastline Christian Church (New Smyrna Beach)
  - Southlake Christian Church (Groveland, FL)
  - Christian Church at Deleon Springs, FL
  - Tomoka Christian Church (Ormond Beach, FL)
  - N. Citrus Christian Church (Citrus Springs, FL)
- If anyone knows of any churches that need to be added to this list, be sure to let Earl know.

Servers for February:  
 Morning Prayer - Luke Turner  
 Offering Prayer - Josh Berg  
 Server - Ernie Smith  
 Communion Meditation - Mark Mason  
 Communion Preparation - Virginia Berg

"I never teach my pupils. I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn." - Albert Einstein

"The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax." - Albert Einstein