

The background of the top half of the page is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, showing the blue field with white stars and the red and white stripes. The text is overlaid on this image.

the theme

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH
July - August 2018

July & August

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From the Pastor...

There has been one huge question that has been crowding my mind and heart for the past few years. "What are we supposed to be doing as a church?" It has become scripturally clear to me that my first understanding, given way back at my first pastorate, is still true. We are to be making disciples. That was what Jesus did. That was what Jesus taught His disciples to do as His ascension was in view. That's what Peter, John, Mark, Barnabas and Paul did. Discipleship was carried out by Lois, Eunice and Lydia. Men and women took on the pleasure of helping others understand the connection to and growth in God that has been made available to us. There is no doubt in my heart and mind that discipleship is the essential centrality of all that we are to be and do.

Let me ask you to think with me for a minute. Forget all that you know of your church experience. Lay aside for one moment everything you know about Sunday School, worship services, student ministries, choir, Wednesday night dinners and all that we've come to experience as church. If all that you knew was that you've been given the pleasure of helping others connect with God and grow in Him, how would you do it? (Take a few minutes and think it through. It's just you and opportunity to do what Jesus, Paul, Lydia and many others did. To do what Jesus told us to do. How would you do it?)

You'd probably start by finding a way to meet people. It's this connection point that would allow you to speak into people's lives with the love and truth of God. You'd likely desire that people would grow more interested and engaged in knowing more truth. A conducive setting would be beneficial where folks could get to know and trust you, where questions could be asked and answered with scriptural truth cloaked in love. As the one's you disciple receive the truth and trust God more with their lives, you'd want to release them to serve God and others in ministry and discipleship as well.

That is actually what the programs of the church

were began to accomplish. "Let's provide a great worship experience so people can connect to God and to us." "Also, let's have Sunday School so we can give folks a place to learn and grow in their connection to God and us." "Ok, let's look for and engage people in ministry opportunities so that these folks can use their gifts to serve God and others." You see, all these initiatives we find in church were put in place to accomplish a goal. They are a part of the process to introduce people to God, to help people grow in God and to release people to ministry for God. They are intended to make disciples.

But process break-downs happen. Rather than seeing the worship service as a place of connection with God and the church in order to help someone move to deeper growth and ministry, the worship service becomes its own feature. Sunday School becomes its own thing. Childrens, students, Wednesday nights and on down the list become their own products of themselves. The events of church cease to be a direction of flow to bring lost people to salvation, saved people to growth and growing people to serve in ministry. The events have just become programs unto themselves.

What has been impressed upon me is that we must be intentional about what Jesus was intentional about. We must be intentional about making disciples. There must be a flow of direction to what we do. As I've been walking us through a series to equip us in making disciples, those notes and lessons are only part of the process. In order to lead people in a growing truth of God, we have to encounter the people to lead and have the destination we are leading them to in view.

We can still be used of God to make disciples. "I will build My church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it!" Making disciples is still the plan and pleasure of God that He has entrusted us to pursue. But we must work together throughout the entirety of the church so that we are together in this.

Pastor Leroy

A Lesson I Never Really Learned

I remember many of the lessons I was taught as a child. One particular instruction I received often was simply, "Be still." I guess I was quite active because this instruction was given frequently and sometimes with a hint of frustration. Well, this is a lesson that I never really learned. In fact, I am still attempting to learn it; although not at my mother's plea, but at my Heavenly Father's gentle bidding.

The Psalmist penned this instruction in Psalm 46: 10: "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth!" Then the Psalmist in verse 11 concludes, "The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. *Selah*"

This is interesting because God begins with the instruction to "Be still" (A term that still echoes in my ear from childhood). Then the Psalmist ends with the Hebrew word *Selah* as is common in the Psalms. This Hebrew word literally means "to hang". It is instructing us to pause and ponder what has been stated. Honestly, I am still not very good at being still. How can I be still when there are so many tasks to be done? There are so many responsibilities that compete for my time. Is this even possible?

Martin Luther once remarked, "Work, work, from early until late. In fact, I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer." Luther had learned to be still. Like Luther, we must learn to see prayer as the most powerful and efficient use of our time. Yes, time is limited, but the power that we receive from time spent in prayer is not. Prayer releases God's power in our lives.

In his book, *The Weapon of Prayer*, E.M. Bounds states, "It is better to let the work go by default than to let the praying go by neglect. Whatever affects the intensity of our praying affects the value of our work. 'Too busy to pray' is not only the keynote to backsliding, but it mars even the work done. Nothing is well done without prayer for the simple reason that it leaves God out of the account. It is so easy to be seduced by the good to neglect of the best, until both the good and the best perish. How easy to neglect prayer or abbreviate our praying simply by the plea that we have church work on our hands. Satan has effectively disarmed us when he can keep us too busy doing things to stop and pray."

Charles Lowery gives the following illustration in the September 2001 issue of SBCLife:

"My golf teacher said, 'No wonder you don't have any power. Your back swing is too fast. A little pause at the top is what gives you the power.' He was reflecting what my mom said, 'Be still,' with the emphasis at the top. Which is what the Psalmist said: *Be still and know that I am God*. I need to pause at the top, where the power is."

So, today I will attempt to finally begin to learn this lesson. Be still...Selah.

PraiSing Him,
Pastor Jeff

GET INVOLVED!

- Children's Choir (Grades 1-6) - Wed. at 6pm
- Adult Choir - Wednesdays at 7:00pm
- Orchestra - Sundays at 9:00am
- Youth Praise Band - Sundays at 5pm

Student Ministry

The Salt Mine Luke 14:33-35

email: Shannon@centralofmelbourne.com

Live As People Who Are Free

As we approach Independence Day, it is a great time to consider what it means to be free. Because the freedom we experience in our country has come at such a great cost, we should be sure not to waste it. Men and women have made such a great sacrifice, even death, so we might be free. Wasting our freedom is a huge insult to those who gave so much.

As God's children, we experience an even greater freedom, "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:36) The freedom we have as believers is the knowledge of the mystery of Christ Jesus, Salvation, eternal life and His will! This awesome gift came at an awesome cost and to waste this freedom is an awesome insult to our Creator.

What do we do with such an incredible gift? In the midst of the subject of submission to authorities, 1 Peter 2:16 says, "Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God." History teaches us that doing religious work from the flesh is a recipe for destruction. Before his encounter with Christ, Paul was wasting his life ravaging the church and persecuting followers of The Way while all the time thinking he was doing the Lord's work. So, we should not act religious but instead live as servants of God.

Regardless of our circumstances, we are free to serve the Lord. After Paul's conversion he became an instrument of God. He was freely doing God's will whether in prison, in life, or even in death. Likewise, because of Christ we are free to do God's will regardless of our circumstances. I pray that we all will live in the freedom of Christ Jesus as free people by loving God and loving our neighbor. Jesus loves you!

Shalom,

Shannon England



Preschool Ministry

The sail shades are coming!

City permit has recently been approved for the engineering design. Poles will be manufactured and sail shades ordered soon.



*Welcome David Edward Nelson
Born May 9th to the proud parents of
Andrew and Beth Nelson. Congratulations!*

Childcare for second hour on Wednesday nights, 7pm to 8pm, has been suspended June through August.

With the addition of babies, shortage of paid workers and volunteers, vacations, & other schedule conflicts, we currently do not have the needed help to care for all the children. The Preschool Committee has agreed to suspend childcare from 7pm to 8pm. Childcare will be available for Bible study and children's choir hour 5:45pm to 7pm on Wednesdays.

Volunteer Needs Continue

We need volunteers and a paid worker to help fill in the gaps, especially through the summer months due to shortage of volunteers and paid workers with vacations, camp counselors, births and family plans.

Be in prayer for this need and how you can be an answer to that prayer. Thank You! For inquiries please contact the church office (321) 723-3681, or Karen White at karenw@cfl.rr.com.

Role changing for Preschool Director position

Two separate positions: Preschool Sunday school director and Preschool Coordinator. If you can help in a supportive role or want to lead in one of these important ministry positions, please see: Karen White, Jimmy Black or Ted Wolfe. **Thank You!**

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

In Acts chapter 8, Luke provides an account of Phillip and an Ethiopian Eunuch. The Eunuch was reading through the book of Isaiah and kinda stumped over a passage he was reading. The Holy Spirit moved Phillip to get closer to the Ethiopian where he engaged him in conversation. Phillip started from the passage the Ethiopian was reading and "beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him (Acts 8:35b)." We do not know all that Phillip shared with the Ethiopian, but in the next verse, the Eunuch saw some water and excitedly inquired about baptism. The few moments that Phillip shared with the Eunuch was life changing for the Eunuch.

As I think about this account, I can identify with both the Eunuch and Phillip. There have been times when I struggled with a passage, but some brother or sister shared some insight and then I understood it more clearly. At other times, I have been blessed to share some insight on a passage that someone else was struggling with. It's a real blessing either way. I see our Sunday School classes much the same way as we study the pages of Scripture together each week. Your teachers have spent much time preparing each week so we might learn, but in many cases the Sunday School teachers also learn as the class shares. I hope you are actively engaged in Sunday School. If you are not and want to know where to plug in then please see me Sunday. We will find the right place where you will be blessed and have the opportunity to be a blessing.

Your brother in Christ,

Jimmy Black

Missions at Central

BGR

Baptist Global Response (BGR) helps you meet the needs of people around the world. Together, we strive to demonstrate the love of God so people have the opportunity to experience the full and meaningful lives He created them to enjoy. We work with proven and trusted partners overseas to discover needs, find sustainable resources to address them, and apply effective and efficient solutions. All of this is done in a way that involves local people, thus building individual and community dignity. (We are part of SBC under the Cooperative Program.)

Partner and Pray for BGR

How can you partner with BGR? We would like to connect you to people in need all over the world to respond to their needs with the love of Christ. Here are some ways.

Visit GOBGRS.ORG TO:

- > Sign up to receive prayer requests.
- > Read more stories of God's work.
- > Make a donation.
- > Receive copies of Baptist Global Response magazine.
- > Pray for Baptist Global Response activities.
- > Find our latest volunteer opportunities
- > Discover training opportunities.

NEW ON THE LIBRARY SHELVES

"Captive In Iran; A true story of Hope and Triumph amid the horror of Iran's brutal prisons written by the 2 women who lived this story!



Saints Alive

July 16th

11:30 AM

Shells Restaurant for lunch!



August 13th

11:30 AM

Central Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
Bring your favorite covered dish to share

Speaker: Our own Chris Gibbs
on Disaster Relief



Women's Ministry

Becoming A Woman Of Excellence

A woman of excellence
Is what I long to be,
Filled with your godly wisdom
So it is part of me

A woman of integrity
No matter what I face,
Standing up for righteousness
And for your saving grace

A woman of destiny
Living out your plan,
Knowing where you'd have me walk,
Being guided by your hand

A woman of promise,
Standing on your word;
Holding on to all the truths
While carrying out your work

A woman of compassion
For the ones in the dark,
Those that do not know your love
And have darkness in their hearts

A woman that will never
Compromise the faith
With what the world may offer,
But will keep the narrow way

A woman who loves Jesus
And will only follow Him;
Gladly to give up the world
So His light can shine within

Lord, this is my earnest prayer
As a daughter by your grace,
Grow in me these qualities
As I walk with you in faith.

By M. S. Lowndes



Our Church Family,

Thank you so much for the prayers, cards, food and support you have provided for our family during mom's illness and after her passing. Mom loved Central. Your love and compassion is greatly appreciated.

Love Jana & Mike Galluccio

July - August at a Glance

July 4th - Church Office Closed

July 9th - 13th - VBS

July 15th - Church Council

July 16th - Saints Alive @ Shells Restaurant

July 22nd - 28th - Student Life Camp

August 13th - Saints Alive

August 19th - Business Meeting

Regular Sunday Activities

9:30 am - Sunday School

10:45am - Morning Worship Service

5pm - Youth Praise Band Rehearsal

6pm - Joint Evening Worship Service

6:30pm - G.A.'s, Acteens, Blitz

College/Young Adults after evening service

Wednesday

5:20pm - Family Supper

6pm - Bible Study, Youth Group, Children's Choir,
Ladies Bible Study, ESL

7pm - Adult Choir Rehearsal

8:30pm - College/Young Adults

MINISTERIAL STAFF

Leroy Williams, Senior Pastor
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Jeffrey Hagans, Minister of Music
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Shannon England, Student Minister
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OFFICE STAFF

Kathy Schluter, Office Manager
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OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9am-5pm



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