

FROM OUR PASTOR

May
NEWSLETTER

His Workmanship

by Brett Mask

There are some exciting things going on at Salem, and I'm just blessed to be apart of such a great church family. I don't know where to start, because things have been so busy lately. Not busy in a bad way, but in a great way. I was so proud of our Easter Outreach Project, and then the response that we got on Easter Sunday was amazing to me. It just goes to show that when we step out of our "comfort zone" a little, it can make a huge difference.

My prayer for the upcoming months is that we would seize every opportunity that we have to do what we know that God has called us to do as individuals and as a church. Since our Wednesday Bible Study has been studying the book of Colossians, I am reminded of what Paul wrote to the Colossians in 4:5-6, "Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned, as it were, with

salt, so that you may know how you should respond to each person." We've got to make sure that we do just that. We need to make the most of the opportunities that we are given by God.

Do you know that God created us for "good works." That is right. God created each one of us so that we could participate in His work on the earth. In Ephesians 2:10 Paul writes, "For we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Every opportunity for worship, training, and witnessing at Salem Baptist Church has the aim of helping you and me to fulfill whatever good works that God has prepared for us. As we look to the future, please pray and act with me as we make every effort to become the church that God has called us to be.

In Christ,
Pastor Brett



Makes Us Stronger

By Brody Bearden

As a teenager, I think I had weak ankles.

Not weak as in if you look at me funny, my ankles might break. But weak as in there were multiple times throughout the years that I would be nursing a sprained ankle. Cross county, basketball and baseball provided many opportunities for me to twist each one as I pushed the limits of what they were designed to handle.

But now...they are a lot stronger.

I can feel the difference even while out for a jog or racing around the bases in softball. They are stronger...much stronger.

I've read that when you workout (ie. lifting weights at a gym) you are actually tearing your muscles. I repeat, you are tearing your muscles. But when they grow back, when they heal from the tear, the grow back stronger.

Interesting.

They've got to be broken down in order to be built up.

Broken. Torn. Ripped.

A few months ago a friend of ours began asking questions about the gospel and desiring to know more. It became apparent that she was hungry for Jesus. Through conversations and prayer, she ultimately gave her life to Christ.

Then things started getting shaky.

Her grandfather got really sick.

She broke up with her boyfriend.

Her job promotion fell through.

She didn't get accepted into hygienist school.

Each breakdown stacking heavily on top of the other. They kept coming.

She started asking the question, "Why?"

Honestly, I ask the same question.

But here's the only way I could explain it. We've got to be broken down in order to be built up.

2 Corinthians 12:9

"...My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

When we are broken, when we are beat down, when we are torn apart, it is then...and only then that the full power of God is realized.

That's where we get our strength...from God.

And sometimes we need to be torn in order to be made stronger.

I see it in my ankles...stronger.

I see it in my spiritual life...stronger.

I won't say it is painless and easy, but I will say that it is only when we find our strength in the Lord that we realize the potential of our faith.

My encouragement for you this month is that you would look to God for your strength. Be reminded that sometimes he tears us down to build us up. And be assured that His plans and ways might not be our plans and ways, but in all things He works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. May you grow stronger this month.

Peace, Love, Christ

Brody

Upcoming Events

May 6th - Malibu Grand Prix Lock-in
9pm until 7am
A few spots left: \$20

June 6th - 10th - Impact Youth Camp
Cost: \$150

**Alaska
Mission Trip**

Please
continue to
pray for all
the
preparations
for our
mission
team to
Alaska this
summer in
July.



Talk to Tina Nation
today to see how
you can help!

Children's church
Schedule for May

- May 1 - Blake Arnold
- May 8 - Jay & Shonda
- May 15 - Kelli Smith
- May 22 - Shannon Peterman
- May 29 - Brody & Trisha

**There is a new topic of study for the
Adult Bible Study on Wednesdays.
For the next couple of months, the Bible
Study will concentrate on The Tabernacle
in Exodus. We will examine how the
specifics of the Tabernacle and its
furnishing relate to our life in Christ.**

May Birthdays and Anniversaries

- JERRY PETERMAN-5/3
- KATIE WALKER-5/5
- ANNE HANSFORD-5/5
- LINDA YOUNG-5/6
- AMANDA BUCKMAN-5/6
- KURK & JANET LANCE-5/6
- STEVE TERRY-5/6
- AGNES NORTON-5/8

- KELLEY HOWARD-5/14
- BILL & ANSIE
SCHOEMAN-5/14
- DAN FULLER-5/15
- LEWIS SANDERS-5/17
- JANE SANDERS-5/20
- TAYLOR HOUSER-5/22
- RITA TOMPKINS-5/22

- RITA HARWOOD-5/22
- BERT & DOROTHY
BUCKMAN-5/22
- HARLEY GRACE HAYES-5/23
- JOSEPH PINSON-5/23
- JUSTIN SANDERS-5/28



**Salem BBQ Fundraiser
Saturday, May 7th, 2011
@ Salem Baptist Church
5-7pm**

**Dine-in or Carry-out
Cost: \$ 8 per plate**

BBQ Pork, Stew, Slaw, Bread, & Dessert



Get Your Tickets TODAY from any of the Missions Team Members!

SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH
694 Salem Church Road
Lexington, GA 30648