
THE CURRENT

RIVER OF LIFE CHURCH | AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA

Summer 2009

PASTOR'S CORNER: SIGNIFICANCE

By: Pastor Keith Solomon

How much does it mean to each of us to know we matter? Humanity spends every day of existence given to us trying to prove to someone that we count. Sometimes it's a parent, a peer, a boss, a spouse, or perhaps even ourselves. If we can do enough, or be impressive enough, then we will be significant. If we are significant, we will not be forgotten. We all want to be more than a blip on the radar of history. If God's Word paints any one clear picture, it is that we matter deeply to Him. That we are so significant that God would go to tremendous lengths to redeem us, reclaim us, and win us to Himself. A few weeks back, Overflow was studying David's life as he was called from being a shepherd and anointed to eventually be king. Over and over in David's story you get the strong idea that no one was particularly impressed with David, but God. Samuel wasn't impressed. He spoke of how impressive David's brothers were, but made no mention of David. David's father, Jesse, was so unimpressed by David that he didn't even bother to bring him in from the fields when Samuel asked to see "all" of Jesse's boys. David's brothers ridiculed him for rising up against Goliath's words. King Saul snickered at the little kid who couldn't even walk in the armor he was supposed to wear. Goliath laughed at him, and mocked him outright for being tiny and, well...insignificant. No

one thought this young shepherd boy counted. Most didn't even notice he was there. There were certainly no thoughts among his family and countrymen that David might eventually be the most renowned king in their history. No one really saw him. Well, someone saw him. Someone saw him worshipping out in the field. Someone saw him fight off the predators pursuing his father's sheep. Someone was watching, someone who never thought David was insignificant. God had seen him, noticed him, loved him, and made plans for him. This God spoke to Samuel saying, "Don't judge him by what you see. I see things you don't."

What does that mean for us? We count. You matter. Your significance may never even be measured by the eyes of the world, but God has seen you. The cross screams that we matter more than we understand. Jesus' blood proves that we are "the apple of His eye" and precious to Him. Never let anyone or any circumstance convince you otherwise. The blessing of the Christian life is that we don't have to waste away our days trying to uncover our purpose for existence. You are your Beloved's, and all His desire is for You (Song of Solomon 7:10)

Pastor Keith

HILARITY WITH A PURPOSE

By: Kay Mortimer, Editor

Laughter is good medicine, the Word of God tells us. Get ready, Aiken, for a huge dose of good medicine. Trust me, you will be rolling in the floor.

Abundant Vine Christian Store welcomes Torry Martin for his debut performance in Aiken on August 22 at 7 pm at River of Life Church. He will also be joining us for our Sunday morning worship service on August 23.

Torry is an Alaskan author, actor, and comedian with an exciting testimony of God's forgiveness and grace. His "Torry Stories" will thrill you with their home-spun humor and will touch you with their heartfelt messages.

I had the privilege of meeting Torry over a year ago at a writers' conference, but really got to know him much better this year. He is an awesome brother in the Lord with a tender heart for God and His Word, and a heart of love for people.

Torry writes for *Adventures in Odyssey*, produced by Focus on the Family. He is the creator of the Wootton Bassett character in that beloved children's series. He is a well-known speaker, dazzling audiences of thousands across the country.

Two-time Drama Grand Prize Winner for The Gospel Music Association, he also writes church comedy skits and dramas, as well as books, which are available through Abundant Vine Christian Store here in Aiken.

Don't miss this exciting night of hilarity with purpose. Join Abundant Vine Christian Store as we welcome Torry Martin to Aiken. Give this Alaskan a good dose of Southern hospitality, and you'll get a heaping dose of good medicine in return.

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SPECIAL WRITING

Hearse with a trailer hitch

By: Kay Mortimer, Editor

Ever seen a hearse with a trailer hitch? Or a cartop carrier? Absurd, you say? I must agree. I haven't seen one either. But do the Scriptures indicate such an incredible notion?

Rev. 14:13 says, "Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, 'Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Yes,' says the Spirit, 'that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.'" (NKJV, emphasis mine)

Perhaps, then, the more accurate phrase is that we will never see a hearse with a cartop carrier on

it. Psa. 49:16-17 says, "Do not be afraid when one becomes rich, when the glory of his house is increased; for when he dies he shall carry nothing away..." (NKJV, emphasis mine) All earthly possessions we amass will mean nothing to us when we depart this life.

However, though we carry nothing with us, the works that we do as believers shall follow us. The Greek word here depicts the image of the good deeds of the believer accompanying them as they ascend into heaven at death.

This encourages me to pursue the things that truly matter in life. Understanding this motivates me to make every day of my life count for the kingdom of God. I recently heard a sermon where the pastor talked about living our lives so that, when we pass, it costs the kingdom of God that we are gone. He encouraged us to make our lives count so that there is a cost, or void, because of our death.

We have a small window in the house of time called "life." May we make these words, penned centuries ago by the great Chris-

tian John Wesley, our dictum for every day:

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

When my window of life closes, may my life have been valuable for God's kingdom. Although there isn't a hearse with a cartop carrier, may the trailer following me carry good works done for God's honor.

FAMILY AND MARRIAGE COALITION

Raising godly children

By: Roger Rollins, FAMCO Director

Are you a parent, a grandparent, the friend of a parent? Do you know parents? Surely you do! Ever watch children run wild in the church or the store while their parents are telling them (sort of) to behave? From the child's behavior, it's obvious he or she is not used to behaving and doesn't intend to start now. We are watching another juvenile delinquent in the making. The child and the parent may eventually survive, but there is an easier way.

Do it God's way now. Teach them it is better to obey than to sacrifice. God is much more into preventing problems than fixing them. He sent Jesus to provide the fix for our relationship with Him, but I have the feeling He would rather we (from Adam

and Eve on to us) had chosen to be obedient from the beginning.

We recently announced a new fellowship group at ROLC [beginning Sunday, July 12, 6:30pm](#), at ROLC. This fellowship group is for all parents of pre-teen and teen age young people. A condensed version of the Parent Project is being taught by Jamie Murphy, a trained facilitator and Minister of Outreach and Family Ministries at the Immanuel Baptist Church in North Augusta. [A nursery is provided.](#)

The Parent Project is a nationally recognized parenting class used by churches and many social and government agencies. It teaches parents how to properly show love and affection to their children, implement discipline that is effective in today's fast-paced

lifestyles, control the influences that affect the way that children think, and provide the direction that their children need.

This class is taught on an ongoing basis in North Augusta, and at the Aiken Department of Public Safety. It is being utilized by the Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Social Services, Aiken County Schools, and local law enforcement. Many of our "at-risk" youth and their parents here in Aiken are being required to take this class as a consequence of their behavior, and it is changing their behavior!

Jamie Murphy's prime goal when he conducts these classes in churches is for the parents to be the Godly influence that they should be in order to raise up

another generation to follow Jesus Christ faithfully. He believes too many times the young people in our evangelical churches graduate high school and leave the church. It is Jamie's desire to change this trend.

A textbook will be used and the church will subsidize its cost. Each couple will be asked to pay \$10 to help with the costs. [Please let Roger Rollins \(649-2447\) know as soon as possible that you will be attending.](#) Don't let cost be a barrier. All parents, no matter how skilled you are, will benefit from this class. Join it even if late, but join it! For your sake, your child's sake, and the sake of our nation.

Email the editors at currentnewsletter@aikenriveroflife.org with any comments.

WHAT DO I HAVE TO OFFER? PART I

By: Denise Merchant

God does not call those who are equipped; he equips those whom he has called.

Smith Wigglesworth

The Word of God shows us that He calls those who we would scratch our heads and say, "Why?" There are others, such as Eli and Elijah, that we would say, "Oh yeah, I can see that!" What did these people of history have to offer to those of their day and especially to those of us reading their stories over 2000 years later? They were mentors. Their stories tell of their right and wrong actions in order to direct us toward or away from those actions.

Every one of us has a story to tell: something we have walked through or perhaps are walking through now. God does not allow us to go through valleys so that we can take what we have learned about Him and our circumstances and hide it away

deep in our souls forever. The Word says to "count it all joy when trials and tribulations" come your way. Each trial is a stepping stone to a greater faith and deeper walk with Jesus. We may be one or more steps ahead, or behind others. I have learned that there is always someone ahead and someone behind us.

So what is mentoring? Tim Elmore in his book, *Life Giving Mentors* says, "Mentoring is a relational experience through which one person empowers another by sharing their wisdom and resources. Mentoring is a brain to pick, a shoulder to cry on, and a kick in the seat of the pants." We all need a brain to pick and a shoulder to cry on and some of us need a lot of motivation!

Mentoring is as old as known civilization. The word "mentor" actually originates from the ancient Greek culture. Such great thinkers as Plato, Socrates, and

Aristotle were mentors. Alexander the Great was a student of Aristotle. The Greek form of mentoring was Academic, Passive, and Theoretical, the major emphasis being academic greatness.

The Hebrew model of mentoring goes deeper than the surface knowledge. The Word of God says that wisdom is applied knowledge, hence the model Jesus taught the 12 disciples. This model deals with more than just head knowledge; it goes to the root of heart knowledge. While the Greek model is Academic, Passive, and Theoretical, the Hebrew model is Relational, Experiential, and on-the-job training. The disciples did not go to Jesus school and then be fishers of men. They learned as they walked with their mentor, Jesus.

What did Jesus have to offer? He walked with and obeyed His Father daily. He was man as we are and went through similar strug-

gles. He was tempted and tried by Satan. He fought against his own flesh daily. He even exhibited some self preservation when he asked the Father, "If this cup could pass from before me." He learned as He walked with the Father and passed that wisdom onto the 12 who He called to be mentors. There is no doubt that the disciples received on-the-job training.

"Probably the greatest word picture for what mentoring is all about can be summarized in the little story of a boy and his dad walking down a rocky road one evening. After stumbling and falling to the ground, the boy looked up at his father and said, "Dad, why don't you watch where I'm going?"

I believe we can say with great accuracy that that is what mentoring is all about—watching where others are going. Tim Elmore

DATES TO REMEMBER

JULY

Sat. July 11 and Sun. July 12
Friday, July 24

New Fellowship Groups
Leadership Meeting

Mon. July 27 thru Thur. July 30

Youth Retreat

AUGUST

Sun. August 23
Wed. August 26

Torry Martin, special speaker
Christ Central Outreach

SEPTEMBER

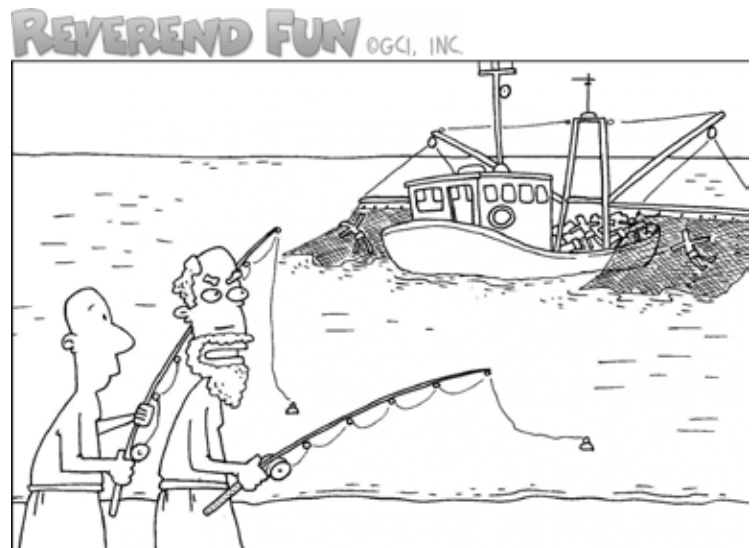
Sun. September 20
Sat. September 26

Dinner on the Grounds
Women's Conference
featuring Laurie Morris

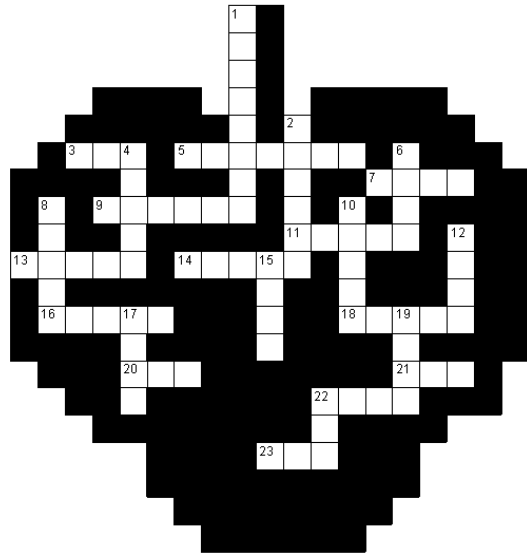
Sun. September 27

Laurie Morris, special speaker

All church-sponsored events must be recorded with Linda Solomon in the business office with an Event Form prior to being placed on the calendar.



Creation



Across

- 3. God removed one of these from man to make woman
- 5. Creatures
- 7. What God used to water the Garden
- 9. To make for nothing
- 11. Our planet
- 13. Healing type plants
- 14. Eve was the first one

Down

- 16. Little night lights
- 18. Grew in the garden; one was of life; one was of the knowledge of good and evil
- 20. The heavens
- 21. First woman
- 22. The lesser light that rules the night
- 23. The greater light that rules the day

Down

- 1. Another name for the Garden of Eden
- 2. The _____ of Eden
- 4. They fly in the air
- 6. These swim in the seas
- 8. These are sown to grow plants; fruits reproduce by these

- 10. Apples, oranges, and bananas
- 12. God created our earth in 6 of these
- 15. First man
- 17. What God did on the 7th day
- 19. Where God planted the first garden
- 22. Adam was the first one

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| Aaron | Esau | Jonathan | Samuel |
| Abel | Esther | Joseph | Sarah |
| Abraham | Eve | Joshua | Saul |
| Adam | Gideon | Leah | Solomon |
| Benjamin | Hannah | Lot | |
| Cain | Isaac | Moses | |
| Caleb | Ishmael | Nehemiah | |
| Daniel | Isiah | Noah | |
| David | Jacob | Rachel | |
| Elijah | Jeremiah | Rebekah | |
| Elisha | Job | Ruth | |
| Enoch | Jonah | Samson | |

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BIBLE VERSE: CHILDREN

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. (21) Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. (22) Slaves, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. (23) Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, (24) knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

COLOSSIANS 3:20-24 ESV

CHURCH SERVICE TIMES

SUNDAY

- Sunday School
for All Ages 9:15 am
- Sunday
Morning Worship
10:30 am
- Sunday Evening Worship
6:30 pm

WEDNESDAY

- Church Dinner 6:00 pm
- Overflow Youth Ministries
7:00 pm
- Ministries for all ages
7:00 pm

SATURDAY

- Evening Prayer Service-
every 1st and 3rd Saturday at
7pm in the new sanctuary.

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