



Handfuls of Purpose

Ruth 2:16 (KJV)

Volume II

P O BOX 309 * SWORDS CREEK, * Virginia * 24649

Jan - Feb 2006

From The Pastor's Desk

A New Year, A Renewed Spirit

In chapter thirty-seven of the book of Ezekiel we find an interesting vision given to Ezekiel by the Lord. The vision of the valley of dry bones represented the spiritual state of the Israelites. Again they had strayed from the relationship that God desired to have with them. They were disobedient and God described their hearts in chapter thirty-six as "stony".

In the vision the valley was "full of bones" and they were "very dry". Many churches today are like the Israelites at this time, having stony hearts. Many are crowded with pews full of dry bones. Maybe it is because of misplaced priorities or disobedience to the calling of God. It could be because of unrepentant sin or unforgiving attitudes. God is more than willing to give us the answer if we would be willing to listen.

In the verse 3 God asks an amazing question; "Can these bones live?" Ezekiel was confounded by the question and simply answered, "O Lord God, thou knowest". God asked the question not seeking an answer, but so that He could give the answer. In the vision, God's power is displayed as the bones did come to life.

E z e k i e l 3 7 : 1 0 (K J V)
So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

It was the power of God that brought life to the dry bones, but Ezekiel had an important part in the vision as well. Do you see what it was? He was obedient. The verse said that he prophesied as he was commanded. Dry bones in church pews can also experience new life and a renewed spirit in the same way. It must be by the power of God, but also requires our obedience.

Our church is experiencing a tremendous movement of the Spirit of God. He has placed before us great opportunities. I stand in awe when I look back at what He has done in the past year and I believe that it was small in comparison to what He is getting ready to accomplish. Today, as we look toward a new year and catch a glimpse of the vision He is placing before us, I think that He is asking us, "Do you believe that I can do what I am showing you?" He is certainly able; are we willing? Are we willing to be obedient? Are we willing to make the sacrifices necessary? Are we willing to rearrange our priorities?

This willingness can only come through a renewed spirit. In Psalm 51 David cried out to God: "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." God told the Israelites in Ezekiel's day; "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you." Let's begin the New Year by asking and allowing God to give us a renewed spirit. Then and only then will He be able to make our way prosperous.

Pastor Chris

New Land, New Opportunities

On Tuesday January 17 the church closed on the property purchase from Mrs. Charlotte Hughes. We want to thank Charlotte for her generosity to the church. Furthermore I rejoice in being able to tell you that we paid for the property in full without incurring any debt. Our God is so good! Thanks to His goodness and your giving we can now begin to focus on the next stage of His plan without having to pay off a bank loan. It is a very exciting time at Swords Creek Community Baptist Church!

"If We Let God Guide, He Will Provide"

Wednesday Night Bible Study

We are beginning a new discipleship study on Wednesday nights. Starting January 11 we will be studying *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren. This will be an important study for you individually as well as for our church. When each member grows stronger spiritually the spiritual strength of the church is multiplied. Rick Warren says this in his introduction: "This is more than a book; it is a guide to a 40-day spiritual journey that will enable you to discover the answer to life's most important question: What on earth am I here for?" While our study will last much longer than 40 days, I pray that you will invest the time and make the commitment to come join us for this life changing study. Remember, as you grow, we grow!



From The Desk
of
Gregg Johnson, Minister of Music

Stirred, not Shaken

In the space of a year, a tsunami, an earthquake, brutal storms and floods have claimed more than 300,000 lives and cost at least 100 billion dollars in damage. Humans prefer to view these catastrophes as the result of misfortune, of randomness, or the unfathomable forces of Nature. But the exceptional disasters of the past 12 months raise far more difficult questions. Could God be trying to get man's attention? Could God be trying to shake man out of his day-to-day routine to warn him of a much greater event coming?

While I was working the other day, I had the privilege of talking to Jim Fuller, pastor of Green

Valley Baptist Church. And though he was just looking for a vehicle for his wife, we got to talking about how each other's church was doing, who was saved and what not. And the sad thing was that for both churches, that we seem to see less people, save and unsaved, coming forward. We agreed that many people today have become so callous and hardened that nothing seems to stir them. And if there is a greater tragedy, it is that if something does shake someone now it is only for a brief time. I look at our congregation today and notice people seem to just mouth the words but it doesn't come from the heart. People don't show any emotions in church anymore, not that you have to show emotion to praise God or to get saved. Even in some of our past meetings at church where God's Word was delivered in a very powerful way and you felt the Holy Spirit move, people still will not move. Have we become that cold and unresponsive to God's Word? I guess I will never forget some of those meetings we have had in church and youth camp's where a hymn or song was sung and the Holy Spirit would start moving in such a strong way, that people would come forward both old and young alike and their would be no preaching.

That reminds me of a story that Rev. Jr. Hill told of the cold winters in Canada. It would get so cold that when someone died the frozen ground would be virtually impossible to dig through. That is when they started asking local churches if they could bring the bodies to the local churches for storage. Like these Canadian churches, many American churches have got so cold you couldn't tell the dead from the living. Our lives, including myself, could be read like a prescription or recipe. PLEASE STIR LIGHTLY AND NEVER SHAKEN.

Let me finish with a verse of scripture that reads from Hebrews 12:25-29, "See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? V.26- At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." V. 27-The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. V.28-Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, v.29- for our "God is a consuming fire." NIV Ed.

Your Brother In Christ
Shoney

Church Web Site

In an effort to reach more people and provide additional communication, our church has developed a website. On our site you find our service schedule, upcoming events, announcements, information about our ministries and missions, and much, much more. We ask you to visit our new site at www.sccbaptistchurch.org and we welcome your comments and suggestions for other items that would make the website more beneficial. The site will be up and running in the near future.

Church Cookbooks

“Homemade With Love” We still have plenty of our church cookbooks. You may purchase them at the church office anytime. The cost is \$10.00.

Swords Creek Community Baptist Church’s Vision Statement

- G Glorify our Lord.
- R Reach the lost.
- O Overcome the world.
- W Worship in Spirit and in Truth.

News From The Youth Pastor

Over the holiday season the youth have been involved in numerous activities. On December 14th, the youth had a Christmas Party where we all drew names and exchanged gifts and ate lots of food. We have recently sponsored a child through the Compassion organization in which the youth gives their own money and 10% of any donation given to the youth to send to her. Her name is Wendy and she lives in El Salvador.

On December 27th, seventeen youth and 6 adults left for Pigeon Forge, Tennessee for a youth convention. There were some great speakers and Christian comedians, such as, Justin Lookado, Tina Marie and Mike Williams. We saw Jeremy Camp and Third Day in concert and we were seated close to the stage both nights of the concert. We all stayed in a cabin and experienced heart felt devotions and not only became closer to each other but closer to God. We came home on the 30th. We would like to thank Jay and Shirley Howard and Pete and Lynn Melchor for joining us on this trip. We had an awesome time and we can’t wait until next years trip.

In the New Year we are looking forward to starting some new bible studies such as The Disciple, Living Pure Inside and Out and others. We look forward to seeing each of you on February 12th. for our annual Valentine’s Day Banquet. We will be taking donations for the meal for this summer’s trips. We hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and we hope to see the youth group grow in numbers as well as grow spiritually.

Thank You and God Bless
Jacob and Tiffany Musick

Do you need a day out? Come on out the second Thursday of each month and enjoy great food and great fellowship. We may have some SURPRISE trips in the coming year. In the past few years we have been to the Old Mill in Damascus, to the Zoo in Knoxville, Tennessee, to the Breaks for lunch and to Natural Bridge, Virginia. Please come out in support of our Seenagers.

Charlotte Hughes, Director

News From The WMU

The WMU’s had a wonderful Christmas. We started off the month with a Christmas party on the 5th. with a great time of fun and fellowship. We made goodie bags filled with candies and toiletries and distributed those to residents of some of the local nursing homes as well as some of our shut-ins. We also used some of the money we had raised throughout the year to purchase 10 coats for the “Coats for Kids” drive.

On January 14, we hosted a Fellowship Breakfast for ladies throughout our community. Although the weather wasn’t very cooperative, we still had 45 present for that, with visitors from 4 other churches. We enjoyed a delicious breakfast, and were truly blessed with special singing by Lynn Melchor and Beth Goodie and guest speaker, Margie Smith, from Richlands. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make this a success and also thanks to those who braved the weather and came on out. We appreciate your support. We are planning a “quilting bee” for February 20. We would like to encourage all our ladies in the church to come and help out on the quilt. This would be a great opportunity for us to get to know one another a little better—especially those who are new in our church. If you don’t know how to quilt (many have said they don’t), we’ll teach you, or just come and spend the day with us and enjoy the fellowship. (We will be serving lunch—see one of the WMU ladies for details.

Our next monthly meeting will be Monday, February 6, at 6:30 PM. We will be making plans for our quilting bee as well as discussing future project ideas. We would like to invite all our ladies to attend—we’d love to have YOU!

Cindy Gross, WMU Secretary

Here’s A Note From The Children’s Director

I would like to thank Becky Young for serving as children’s director this past year. She did an excellent job. The children’s Christmas play was a blessing to us all. God Bless you Becky.

As children’s director I do request the prayers of each of you. Our children’s programs include two classes on Sunday morning, the 2’s and 3’s class and the 4 year old through third grade. Then on Sunday nights we have started again the Team KIDS (Kids in Discipleship) Club. This includes children 2 years old through 6th grade. The children enjoy earning stickers

with a money value to buy items from the Teamkids store. We also have a Wednesday night program for kids 2 through 6th grade. In the near future Bro Jacob will be starting a Junior Youth Class for 4th grade through 6th grade. We are always in need of teachers. Please pray and ask God if he's calling you to be a teacher or helper in the children's program.

In Christ Love
Gale Carter, Children's Director

If you have a favorite scenery or pictures that we could use as backgrounds for the projectors, please e-mail them to Honakers@sccbaptistchurch.org

O P P O R T U N I T I E S O F T H E W E E K

Sunday

Sunday School	10:00 AM
Morning Worship	11:00 AM
Children's Church	
Adult Choir Practice	after PM Service
Evening Worship	6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study	7:00 PM
Youth	7:00 PM
Children's Program (G-Force)	7:00 PM

Just a Note From our Chairman of Deacons

It has been an honor to serve as a Deacon at Sword Creek Community Baptist Church for several years. As chairman at the present time, I am extremely grateful to our Deacons for their commitment and loyalty in fulfilling their obligations to our church family, our pastor and staff. God has placed these men here to serve and I urge you to call upon us for spiritual or personal needs

In His Love
Wayne Bostic

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