

King's KC Courier

GLORIOUS PRESENCE CHURCH

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INVITE SOMEONE TO CHURCH

By Pastor Curtis E. Leins

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Three Important Facts:

1. 82% of unchurched people said that they would be open to visit a church, if they were asked by a friend or family member.
2. Though the vast majority of Americans say that they believe in God, only 20% currently go to church. Those who drop-out still believe in God and are open to returning.
3. Only 2% of all church members have invited an unchurched person to church. 98% have never extended an invitation!

“Sure. I believe in God.” Most of the people you know would make this statement. The majority of people in our country believe in God. However, only 20% of our neighbors and friends attend church. The amazing thing is that over 80% of them would gladly visit a congregation if they were invited. Unfortunately, we church-goers are not doing the inviting. Only 2% of those who attend church invite their friends, neighbors, and family to worship.

This coming September 13th is our *Back to Church Sunday*. All of our fall programs will be up and running: Youth Ministry, Sunday School, Adult Education, Home Groups, College and Career Ministry, Mighty Men of God, and Women of the Word, to name a few. If you were to invite someone to come to church, it could literally change his or her life for eternity! We are making plans right now so that we will be ready for anyone and everyone to come.

But, we need your help. All of the preparations, plans, and ministries will be of little benefit if people do not come. Make sure that you invite someone to come to church on September 13th. As they make plans to bring their children back to school, they can make plans to bring their family back to church. Your part is to make a personal invitation. It does not cost you a thing to invite them. It may cost them a great deal if you do not.

So, September 13th is *Back to Church Sunday*. Please make plans now to invite someone to Glorious Presence Church. In fact, you don't even have to wait that long. You could invite them today.



BLESSING FOR OBEDIENCE , A PROMISE FROM GOD

By Pete Kouba

“Shall a man afflict God, for you afflict me. And you have said: Wherein do we afflict thee? in tithes and in first fruits. And you are cursed with want, and you afflict me, even the whole nation of you. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in my house, and try me in this, saith the Lord: if I open not unto you the flood-gates of heaven, and pour you out a blessing even to abundance.” (DRB)

Promises. How often have promises made to us been broken, even by people who are closest to us? Or worse, how often have we broken the promises made to people whom we love and cherish most; let alone promises that we make to God our Father? Let’s face it, we mere mortals are pretty familiar with broken promises – on both sides of the coin.

But we have a Father in heaven who makes, *and keeps*, His promises to His beloved children. He makes His declarations clear all throughout His Holy Scriptures. If you’ve been around churches, even for a little while, there’s a pretty good chance that you’re already familiar with the passage quoted above from the book of Malachi and God’s near dare to us, promising to open the flood-gates of heaven and pour out a blessing of abundance if we will simply bring all the tithes into the storehouse so that there will be meat in His house. It’s pretty simple stuff really – do what God asks and He will bless us abundantly.

What I often miss in this passage is the part where Almighty God holds up a mirror and simply points out a plain truth – “you are cursed with want... and you afflict me”. Yup. Ever since J.W. Woolworth started spreading his wares on shelves in his store, and Sears & Roebuck started sending Christmas catalogs home, we, I, have been consumed with want. Today we can add Amazon.com, Ebay, and a host of other media to the things that vie for our attention and increase our cursed want. It’s bad enough to be running to the “stuff mart” when we don’t need to, but then to find out that my cursed want afflicts God - *that* stings. I don’t want to afflict God, or rob from Him, as another translation puts it. Happily, in God’s economy I simply give to Him from what he has already given to me and His abundance overcomes my want.

We at Glorious Presence Church are blessed to be a part of a body of members who trust in God and His promises. For many years individuals and families have performed acts of worship, obedience, and trust by quietly placing their tithes and offerings into those simple slotted oak boxes at the entrance to our sanctuary. There has been “meat” in our house – enough to meet our financial obligations, enough to support Kingdom work around the world, enough to give to friends and neighbors when they are in time of need, and enough to lay groundwork for a building project.

Today the world around us is not doing so well financially and we are personally affected. Some of us have lost our jobs. Others have had hours cut or salaries frozen or reduced. At the same time, many of us have increasing expenses with growing families, school tuition, gas, food, taxes and most everything else rising in cost. These things have not taken God by surprise; he told us long before He sent His Son that there would be times like these. In the midst of this difficult time church giving has fallen off quite a bit for the first half of this year and we want to keep you aware of the situation.

Compared to the past 3 year average, 2009 giving is almost \$28000 behind for the time between January and July. Our 2009 budget was set about 5% lower than it was in 2008, and 10% lower

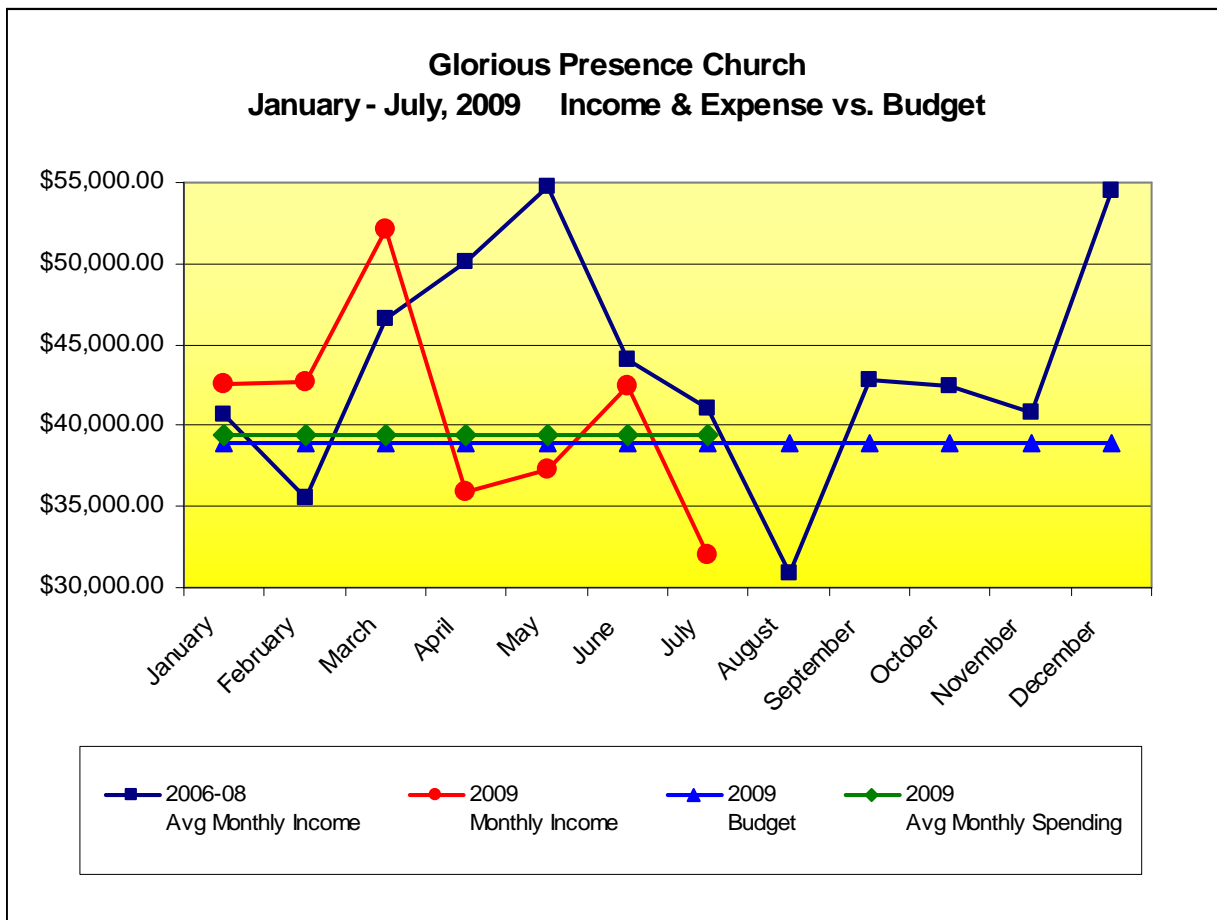


than it was in 2007. We are currently spending at a slightly higher rate than planned this year. Our income through July is about \$9000 more than what we've needed so our budget is being met, but our ability to grow is hindered.

Glorious Presence has a vision for growth – God’s Kingdom right here in Cecil County. He will provide the resources through His faithful people. If you already are bringing the tithe into God’s storehouse, Thank You for your faithfulness! You are making sure that this church continues to meet current needs in our community. If you are experiencing a time of hardship right now, please accept our prayers and whatever help we can give you – God will use this too for His glory. If you can increase your giving to bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, will you please prayerfully consider it? God keeps his promises – and we are eagerly awaiting His abundant outpouring of blessings and you won’t regret it! Test Him and see, it’s OK, He already said so.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete Kouba, Treasurer



“There are many times, Lord, when I think I know better than you what I need in my life. Thank you for knowing what my heart truly desires and for giving me only what I really need.” Dr. Robert H. Shuller
“Take Delight in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.” Psalm 37:4



GPC 2009 Income/Expense Report									
	General Fund		Building Fund		Earmarked		Totals		
Month	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net
January	\$41,349.01	(\$35,492.23)	\$980.00	(\$2,444.99)	\$225.00	\$0.00	\$42,554.01	(\$37,937.22)	\$4,616.79
February	\$40,787.09	(\$41,559.05)	\$1,095.00	(\$4,552.61)	\$860.00	(\$4,051.00)	\$42,742.09	(\$50,626.66)	(\$7,420.57)
March	\$49,271.79	(\$35,858.86)	\$944.00	(\$4,607.78)	\$1,844.00	(\$1,774.00)	\$52,059.79	(\$42,240.64)	\$9,819.15
April	\$34,287.80	(\$30,733.96)	\$1,573.00	(\$2,351.49)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$35,860.80	(\$33,085.45)	\$2,775.35
May	\$36,191.93	(\$29,561.29)	\$1,138.00	(\$5,862.99)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$37,329.93	(\$35,424.28)	\$1,905.65
June	\$41,128.51	(\$39,305.80)	\$1,279.85	(\$5,601.48)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$42,408.36	(\$44,907.28)	(\$2,498.92)
July	\$28,718.32	(\$29,214.29)	3,301.43	(\$2,943.04)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$32,019.75	(\$32,157.33)	(\$137.58)
August									
September									
October									
November									
December									

General Fund	2009 Budget	% of Annual Budget	YTD Expense	% of Budget Category	% of Annual Budget
Administration	\$67,550	14.5	\$45,573.80	67.5%	9.0%
Benevolence	\$53,000	11.4	\$30,531.16	57.6%	6.5%
Bld Related Exp	\$41,500	8.9	\$22,914.44	55.2%	4.9%
Property	\$14,600	3.1	\$9,250.89	63.4%	2.0%
Ministry Related	\$20,250	4.3	\$14,003.06	69.2%	3.0%
Payroll	\$222,700	47.7	\$125,277.13	56.3%	26.9%
Totals	419,600	89.9	\$247,550.48	59.0%	53.1%
Building Fund					
Maloney Rd.	\$46,800.00	10	\$28,364.38	60.6%	6.1%
Totals	\$466,400.00	99.9	\$275,914.86	59.2%	59.2%

“Before reading the Bible, pray. Invite God to speak to you. Don’t go to Scripture looking for your idea; go searching for His.”—Max Lucado



SUNDAY SCHOOL

By Deb Worley

The Sunday School year is almost upon us and we are gearing up for a wonderful, fun filled year of learning more about Jesus. Parents, teachers and students are filled with anticipation as we move toward the dates listed below. If you have questions and want to speak with some one concerning our Sunday School Program please see our Sunday School Deacon, Richard Berry.

- August 30 and September 6 - Sunday School Sign up in the Narthex
- August 30 - Commissioning of Teachers, workers and children's church workers in the 10:30am service
- August 30 - Teacher's Meeting after the 10:30am service - Lunch provided
- September 6 - Sunday School launch (However, it will be children's church, youth providing worship music and Doug teaching from the theme of the first Sunday School lesson.)
- September 13 - Sunday School classes

FORGIVENESS OR UNFORGIVENESS

By Richard Bedford

Matthew 6:14,15: For if you forgive men when they sin against you (offend you) your heavenly father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your father will not forgive your sins.

Jesus vs Satan

John 14:30 For the prince of this world is coming. He has nothing in me. NIV: He has no hold on me.

Question: When the prince of this world comes, what does he find in you?

Satan had a hold on Judas who betrayed Jesus. Judas loved money. This led to his downfall..

Psalm 66:18,19: If I regard iniquity (lawlessness) in my heart, the Lord will not hear me. But for those who confess and forsake their sins, His ears are open unto their prayers.

Matthew 6:11-13: "Give us this day our daily bread, forgive us our debts as we have forgiven our debtors...and lead us not into temptation, but *deliver us from the evil one.*"

Being Holy Ghost Skilled

By Doug Mann

When I became a real believer in Jesus, I was a bicycle mechanic. I had prayed for the job and had great favor in order to stay in it. My supervisor told me years later they didn't think I would make it during training. I was too slow at first, and I was left handed, for which they were not prepared. When he told me this; I had his old job, and he actually worked for me, an arrangement to which we agreed. I was better at management; he was a better crew foreman. But what had changed?

I was reading my Bible, learning about the Holy Spirit. One of the earliest passages of Scripture was in Exodus 31:

¹Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²“See, I have called by name Bezalel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. ³“**I have filled him with the Spirit of God** in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and **in all kinds of craftsmanship**, ⁴to make artistic designs for work in gold, in silver, and in bronze, ⁵and in the cutting of stones for settings, and in the carving of wood, that he may work in all kinds of craftsmanship. NASB

Could God fill me with the Holy Spirit for “Craftsmanship”?

I had heard, seen, and learned about people filled to do miracles, speak in tongues, words of wisdom, knowledge, prophecy, but **Craftsmanship?**

So I prayed and asked God for it. To be filled with the Holy Spirit to do my job, to fix and assemble bicycles. It became quite a ride, no pun intended. I got ideas to speed up production and increase quality. I began to out produce everyone. Actually, my personal production went up 70% on some weeks. I went on a ten day mission trip and still out produced the rest of the crew by the end of one month. My employer sent all the new guys to me, “The Jesus guy” for training. Our clients would call the national office and say, “We want the ‘Jesus guy’ to service our store, we will wait.” Yes, I was witnessing at work, wearing obnoxious Jesus T-shirts and scared the devil out of the new trainees. “He’s gonna’ train you how to do this job and make good money, but he’s gonna want to cast demons out of you too,” is what they told the new employees. Some of them came to me shaking until they had some time to get to know me. (Yes, I got to cast out a few demons too, always a fringe benefit.)

There’s more to that, but I want you to examine where you are.

Are you filled with the Holy Spirit to do your job? You should be, you need to be.

- Read these scriptures in Exodus 31 and take them to heart.
- Ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit to do your work, whatever it may be.
Conduct yourself as one filled to do it.

Let’s believe God for creative ideas, wisdom and knowledge to get our work done and be a witness to others while doing it; for favor in the workplace, or favor to get the jobs we need. Imagine a small army of Spirit filled students, salesman, mechanics, contractors, programmers, receptionists, secretaries, lawyers, doctors, nurses, even parents filled with the Holy Ghost for parenting! And more.

Whatever the task God has given you today, be filled by Him to do it, and see the difference. Be awake and aware of God’s placing you where you are today, and seize it.

I wonder. Would God place you in a task He would not fill you to accomplish? ASK and be **“Skilled with The Holy Ghost!”** like Bezalel.

THE CHURCH: TO SPEAK OR NOT TO SPEAK

By Judy Bedford

One of the earliest traditions in our nation was the election-day sermon. On the Sunday prior to the election and usually on election day pastors of all denominations would enter their pulpits and preach a sermon that was related to the major religious and moral issues that were involved in that election.

One way of approaching this was to preach a popular type of sermon referred to as a “Jeremiad.” The Old Testament prophet Jeremiah who in the 7th century B.C. preached to the nation of Israel that their problems as a nation came from their abandonment of the covenant with Yahweh and their return to the false gods of idolatry.

It was the obvious position of the early ministers that the leaders of the people needed to be godly above all else. So when a person ran for local or national office, his character became the major topic of sermons.

Many of the election day sermons made use of Proverbs 29:2: “When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked rule the people groan.”

The church in the early years gave lucid prophetic challenges to culture and government based on the Word of God. They knew the Scripture to be true that says, “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.” They loved their nation and wanted to see God’s blessing on her.

It is sad that for the most part, many churches have been silenced when it comes to any issue that can be categorized as “political.” Both pastors and laymen are afraid to speak out in a prophetic manner for fear of losing their “tax exempt status.”

One of the themes running throughout Scripture is that the Gospel and the cultural mandate are not at odds with one another. In the Sermon on the Mount preached early in Jesus career, He made it clear that his disciples are to be “salt and light” to the world in which they live. As Pastor McKnight said last Sunday, salt is a preservative and as Christians we need to infiltrate the whole culture with the truth of the Gospel and all its implications. Jesus told us that we are the light of the world, a city that is set on the hill, whose light cannot be hidden. Pastor also mentioned that we, as salt, will make the world thirsty for truth.

If the church chooses to co-exist with a sinful and dark culture, choosing to be something else, we will not be obeying Christ’s teachings. The church is not here to maintain the status quo and “not rock the boat.”

There will always be those in power who do not want the church to have a voice, for whatever reason. This should not surprise us because Jesus told us in John 15:18 that “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.”

Then Peter and John were arrested for preaching the gospel, they were commanded not to preach or speak in the name of Jesus anymore.

Zachariah 8:16 says, “These are the things you should do: speak the truth to one another and render true and sound judgment in your courts.”

Speaking the truth to our culture is not an option. It is a mandate.



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To-

SUMMER MEDITATION



It is the preserving kettle on the stove and new potatoes in the supper pot. Summer is ripening tomatoes and the insistent cicada notes punctuating the obsessive heat of mid-afternoon.

Summer is the smell of corn pollen, and the tantalizing taste of roasting ears. It is the stain of blackberry juice on work-worn fingers.

Summer is the flame of phlox blooming in back yards and hollyhocks laden with double and triple blossoms. It is summer when the crookneck squash produce by the bushel, and the winter squash busily swell beneath the broad canopy of leaves. July and August bring the first sprays of goldenrod nodding along Appleby Road in the late afternoon heat.

Summertime is baby rabbits just old enough to pilfer in the garden. It is fledgling birds all dressed up in their first adult feathers with places to go and things to taste. Already summer is courting a new look. Some say it is too early, but in God's design, it is right on time. Milkweed is in fat pods now. The seasons are not fixed. Only man attempts to anchor them with a calendar. Growing things make their own schedules. They lean and sway with the wind. They hurry or delay their maturity with the rains and the sun. Their sole purpose is to grow and perpetuate themselves.

Summer is not over yet; it is just getting a little worn around the edges.

The deadline for the next Courier will be 18th of September. Please send any communications to [<mjkirchner@juno.com>](mailto:mjkirchner@juno.com) as I will be recuperating at that time from knee replacement surgery. Many thanks to all who submitted articles, gave praise and most of all to those who supplied the needed corrections and proof reading. And now I will hand this beloved project over to the capable hands of Jacqui Kirchner .

May you always hear the whisper of wings,

Judy Bedford

