

EchoEs from the Valley

May 15, 2009

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Homecoming

June 7, 2009



May 25, 2009

A Loving, Accepting, Affirming Baptist Church

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The Hearts Of The People And The Doors Of This Church Are Open To Everyone



A Message From Our Pastor

We all long for peace, security, health and a meaningful existence. Because of those longings we exert lots of time and energy towards their maintenance. You take care of a problem, overcome illness, resolve conflicts. Then, just when you are ready to kick back and enjoy life, thinking no other crisis can possibly occur, one pops up.

There is always, it seems, another negative intruder looming just over the horizon, ready to snatch our contentment and consume more of our time and energy. At least that seems to be the story of America these days. In this first decade of the twenty-first century, we have been faced with a number of major crises: terrorists' attacks, brutal storms, floods, earthquakes, raging fires, an unstable economy, escalating energy costs, violent crimes and now the threat of Swine Flu. These are enough to make even the strongest of us feel a bit insecure. "What in the world is going on?" we ask.

So, what do you do? How do you handle insecurity and the fear it brings? Some people overreact very quickly making unwise decisions driven by fear. Fear can cripple you, immobilize you, and render you totally ineffective. How should you conduct yourself during times of crisis?

We have been told from childhood that we should face our fears; standing up to them. That's generally good advice! When a new difficulty comes your way resulting in fear, don't run, don't shut down. Face it! The reality is that everyone has fear, but the goal is to not let your fear have you!

Human beings have always had a problem with fear. Sometimes our fears so control us that we develop tunnel vision concerning the future. The only thing we can see is gloom, doom and despair. When we allow this to happen we are robbing ourselves of something very

important.....the joy of faith.

One writer addresses the issue well:

"Do you know what Fear and Faith have in common? - - A future that hasn't happened yet. Fear believes in a negative future. Faith believes in a positive future. Both believe in something that has not yet happened. So I ask you, if neither the positive or negative future has happened yet then why not choose to believe in the positive future? What do you have to lose but the fear that is sabotaging your joy and success."

We humans are vulnerable to so many things—to attack, to natural disaster, to personal loss, to illness and suffering. That will always be a reality, but the fear that springs up in this vulnerability can be overcome through faith and trust in the God who has proclaimed to us:

"Do not be afraid for I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God: I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will uphold you with my victorious right hand." (Isaiah 41:10).

God has made many wonderful promises to us. Often in the Bible he declares, *"Do not be afraid!!"* Clearly, He wants us to live our lives with faith and trust in Him. He wants us and confident, not self centered and fearful.

The key to experiencing security in your life is to depend on God and the things that are eternal, not temporal. Jesus said that we have eternal life and that no one can snatch us out of His hand (John 10:27-29). Paul declared that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ (Romans 8:35-39) and that we are sealed in Him by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13,14). How much more secure can you get than that?

When your ultimate trust is in temporal values and the security offered in this life, you are always subject to insecurity because these things are subject to failure and can be lost.

The greatest sense of security you can experience is the byproduct of taking a firm grip on values and relationships which will endure as long as God Himself. He is eternal. He is our Rock; our fortress; our deliverer. He is our unwavering and eternal security.

We do well to remember and follow the advice of Jesus offered in Matthew 6:33:

"But seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things will be added unto you."

And always remember.....

The PAST is history.

The FUTURE is a mystery.

RIGHT NOW is the gift. That's why it is called the PRESENT.

"This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad it it."

Have a great day!

Pastor Mike



FAITH like POTATOES

Based on an inspiring true story
of a farmer who found faith.

A farmer moves his family to South Africa and suffers a series of seemingly insurmountable losses. Through unlikely friendships and much needed divine intervention, he discovers his life's true purpose and it sustains his unwavering belief in the power of faith.

A moving life journey of a man who, like his potatoes, grows his faith, unseen until the harvest.

Where there's LOVE, there's HOPE!



"CAN" Hunger

To help CAN Hunger at Valley Brook, please bring can goods, can meats, peanut butter, macaroni and cheese, puddings, etc. on Sunday, May 24. Our newly created friend, *Oscar the Grouch* will be rolling to each Sunday School class to pick up your donations. He will return to the church vestibule for worship service for your added convenience. These donations will keep our pantry filled and help those in our community who are in need.

Reminder: Check cans and food packages for expiration dates



Saturday; June 20, 2009

11:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

The Summer Kick-Off will be FUN for all! Please come and see vintage cars, eat a hot dog, listen to a great band and to our own special super singers! There will be a moonwalk, a clown, some puppets and a cakewalk!

Plan to attend, invite your families and friends for a FUN-FILLED day!

Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
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VALLEY BROOK
A Loving, Accepting, Affirming Baptist Church
1198 N. Valley Brook Road - Decatur, Georgia 30033
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The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand.

And whatsoever; ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.

Colossians 3:23

Volunteers

ARE THE HEART OF THE CHURCH!

Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

Psalms 100: 2

And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap.....

Galations 6:9

From the Editor:

The **Echoes'** staff invites your input. Let us know of your committee work, group activities that are underway and of interest. If you are able to help with an article, please provide the church office with that information in written form or via e-mail at echoes@vbbchurch.com

Remember, the **Echoes**, is your newsletter.