



Happy New Year



January 2011

A New Year -- A Time of Evaluation -- A Time of New Beginnings...

Facing a new year can elicit a variety of responses. Some feel a sense of excitement and renewal in looking forward to the coming year. Others feel like life is spinning out of control, wondering where the year went. Some feel lost without a clear purpose in life. Regardless of how you feel about the New Year, it is always a good time for reflection and evaluation as individuals and as a church body. As we begin 2011 at Cropwell Baptist Church let's conduct a spiritual evaluation. Newly released research information compiled by the Barna Group for 2010 provides a portrayal of how the religious environment and the church in the U.S. is morphing into something new. As we review the Barna Research findings, let's compare our church to these findings and see how we measure up:

1) **The Christian Church is becoming less theologically literate.** Examples include the finding that few adults believe that their faith is meant to be the focal point of their life or to be integrated into every aspect of their existence. The data suggest that biblical literacy is likely to decline significantly. The theological free-for-all that is encroaching in Protestant churches nationwide suggests the coming decade will be a time of unparalleled theological diversity and inconsistency.

2) **Christians are becoming more in-grown and less outreach-oriented.** Despite technological advances that make communications instant and far-reaching, Christians are becoming more spiritually isolated from non-Christians than was true a decade ago. Examples of this tendency include the fact that less than one-third of born-again Christians planned to invite anyone to join them at a church event during the Easter season; teenagers are less inclined to discuss Christianity with their friends than was true in the past; most of the people who become Christians these days do so in

response to a personal crisis or the fear of death (particularly among older Americans); and most Americans are unimpressed with the contributions Christians and churches have made to society over the past few years.

- 3) **Growing numbers of people are less interested in spiritual principles and more desirous of learning pragmatic solutions for life.** When asked what matters most, teenagers prioritize education, career development, friendships, and travel. Faith is significant to them, but it takes a back seat to life accomplishments and is not necessarily perceived to affect their ability to achieve their dreams. Among adults the areas of growing importance are lifestyle comfort, success, and personal achievements. Since we continue to separate our spirituality from other dimensions of life through compartmentalization, a superficial approach to faith has become a central means of optimizing life experience.
- 4) **Among Christians, interest in participating in community action is escalating.** Christians are more open to and more involved in community service activities than has been true in the past. While we remain more self-indulgent than self-sacrificing, the expanded focus on justice and service has struck a chord with many. However, despite the increased emphasis, churches run the risk of watching congregants' engagement wane unless they embrace a strong spiritual basis for such service.
- 5) **The postmodern insistence on tolerance is winning over the Christian Church.** Our biblical illiteracy and lack of spiritual confidence has caused Americans to avoid making discerning choices for fear of being labeled judgmental. The result is a Church that has become tolerant of a vast array of

morally and spiritually dubious behaviors and philosophies. This increased leniency is made possible by the very limited accountability that occurs within the body of Christ. There are fewer and fewer issues that Christians believe churches should be dogmatic about. The idea of love has been redefined to mean the absence of conflict and confrontation, as if there are no moral absolutes that are worth fighting for. That may not be surprising in a Church in which a minority believes there are moral absolutes dictated by the scriptures.

- 6) **The influence of Christianity on culture and individual lives is largely invisible.** The Christian church is in desperate need of a more positive and accessible image. The primary obstacle is not the substance of the principles on which Christianity is based, and therefore the solution is not solely providing an increase in preaching or public relations. The most influential aspect of Christianity in America is how believers do, or do not, implement their faith in public and private. It is people's observations of the integration of a believer's faith into how he/she responds to life's opportunities and challenges that most substantially shape people's impressions of and interest in Christianity.

So let's ask ourselves: Are we theologically literate? Are we outreach oriented? Are we interested in spiritual principles and in our community? Are we tolerant to sin? Finally, are we influencing society for Christ? 2011 is a time of new beginnings...So let's shine for Jesus !





Happy New Year !

New Members at Cropwell

We praise the Lord for the way He is adding to His church. **In 2010, we received a total of 48 new church members, which includes 23 baptisms.** The women's ministry will be recognizing all of the new women at a special reception in their honor on **Sunday, January 16th** at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Ladies, please mark your calendars and plan on showing these new ladies your love and support at this special event.

Last Chance to Sign up

Also, just a reminder that the last day to sign up for our women's Bible study on the Book of Revelation by Beth Moore will be Sunday, January 9th. Sign up sheet is located in Welcome Center.

Crazy Love Clothing Closet

We hope to have our "Crazy Love Clothing Closet" up and running by February 2011. Please donate your gently-worn men, women, and children's clothing items for the poor in our community. Donations can be dropped off in

Room 308 on Wednesday evenings or Sundays, or during our normal office hours. Please donate items that you would wear (No torn, stained, or damaged items). Please wash, iron, and hang your items on garment racks.

Find a Sunday School Class

If you are not currently attending Sunday School or small group Bible study on Sunday mornings, please visit some of our classes and find the one that is right for you. Classes begin every Sunday morning at 8:45 a.m.



God Give us Faithful Men

His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. (Matthew 25:21)

The Gallup national polling organization has said that our nation faces a crisis that is neither political nor economical, but moral and spiritual. God says that faithfulness is the basic ingredient of character. You will not know God's blessing apart from faithfulness. **What our nation needs are men who are:**

Faithful to Family – Remain faithful to your wife. Adultery is the ultimate act of unfaithfulness, but you don't have to commit the physical act of adultery to be unfaithful. Some have love affairs with their work, with sports, and other things. Also, your children need a dad who will be faithful.

Faithful with Finances - Did you know that God might be withholding a spiritual blessing from you because He's first tried you with money (Luke 16:11)? If

you haven't been faithful with the money God has given you, why should He give you the true riches—that's spiritual power, insight into the Word of God, answered prayer, fellowship with Jesus Christ, and joy?

Faithful to the Fellowship – This means to the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible teaches that we are to be faithful to the fellowship. Friend, I believe we ought to be in the house of God on a regular basis, bringing our prayers, tithes, Bibles, love, and influence.

Faithful to Friends - If I were to ask you today to sit down and write letters to five people that you know that you could count on or that you consider to be a faithful man; would anybody write you a letter? Are you known as a faithful man?

Faithful to the Faith – We must be faithful to the Word of God. I see a generation of young people today with no conviction. They don't know the great truths of the Word of God. They don't stand for the faith. We need to be

faithful because Jesus Christ is faithful to us.

How to be Faithful

• **Be faithful in the small things.** If you'll be faithful in the small things, the big things will take care of themselves (Luke 16:10). The big things in life are made up of little acts, little words, and little thoughts. Use integrity in the small things.

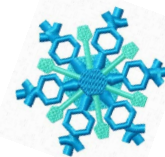
• **Be faithful in the secret things.** What you are in secret is what you are. I'm talking to many who travel a lot and go into motels, and on the television are R-rated and X-rated films. Nobody's in there but you and Jesus. Be faithful in the secret things.

• **Be faithful in the sacred things.** Be faithful to meet with God. Do you know how you have faithfulness? Not by resolution, not by gritting your teeth, but by abiding in Him. Come to Him; be committed to Him; surrender to Him; yield to Him; and God will make you faithful.

(Adapted from Article by Pastor Adrian Rogers)



January News



Upcoming Men's Events

Men's Conference

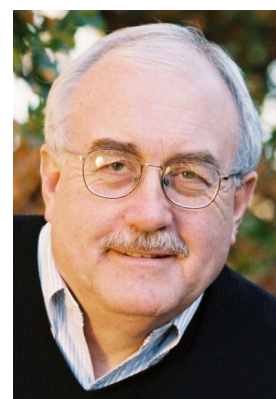
Cropwell Baptist wants to equip our men to be the Faithful men that God desires. We want to encourage all of our men to participate in our upcoming Men's events. The first event is a **Men's conference at CrossPoint Church in Argo.** Guest speaker will be Steve Farrar, founder and chairman of Men's Leadership Ministries and author of several books including: Point Man, Finishing Strong, and Battle Ready. **This event is for all men, single or married from Middle School to Senior Adults, January 28-29, 2011.** Cost is \$30 for adults and \$20 for middle school

through college-age students. Please sign up in the Welcome Center if you would like to join with the men of our church for this exciting Men's Weekend.

Men's Day at Cropwell

Also, mark your calendars for **Sunday, January 30th.** This will be **Men's Day at Cropwell Baptist** and the men will be leading both the Sunday morning & Sunday evening services. There will be singing and personal testimony from some of the men of our church. Also, we will have an all-men's choir for Men's Day. Brother Andy would like to practice the music with the men's

choir after the Wednesday evening service on January 26th. Also, we will have our Fishers of Men event in March. Be watching for more details in the coming months.



Guest Speaker for Men's Conference will be Steve Farrar

Updated Church Directories

We are hoping to do a new print-out for our Church directory notebooks in the next few months. If you are a new member, we should have a picture on file for you. However, if you have been a member for a while and did not previously submit a photo for our directory, please email the church secretary at sdaniel@cropwellbaptist.org to submit your photo or you can bring one by the church office to be scanned. Also, you may want to submit a new photo if you have had a change in your family status. If we do not receive a new photo by the end of January, we will use the photo on file.



Haiti Meeting

If you are a part of the Haiti Mission Team please make every effort to be at our next meeting on **Sunday, January 23, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.** Also, please be sure you start the process to get your Passport for Haiti. If you have not already done so, please turn in your \$100 deposit for Haiti and your Ocoee Application to Pastor Bill as soon as possible.

RA Basketball Info

If your child signed up for R.A. Basketball, you will be contacted in the near future concerning informational meetings and practices.

Children's Ministry

Bible Drill classes for our children and youth will begin January 2, 2011 at 4:30 pm and will repeat every Sunday afternoon during January through March. The actual Bible Drills are scheduled for the month of April. Also, if you are participating in the Bible drill, please mark your calendars for the **Bible Drill Retreat at Shocco Springs on January 28 and 29.** Money and forms for the Retreat are due to Ms. Ashley by January 2, 2011. **DIG resumes January 5, 2011.** Mrs. Mollie will be working with our children to prepare for our upcoming Spring musical.



JANUARY 2011



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><u>Avg December Attendance</u> 289 - Sunday School 372 - Sunday Morning 153 - Sunday Evening 2010 Offerings as of 12/19/10 \$ 889,434 <u>Under budget by \$ 92,019</u></p>						1
2 No Choir <u>Rehearsal</u> Bible Drill Class @ 4:30	3 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	4 WOM/Knifty Knitters @ <u>10:00 am</u> Visitation at 6:00 pm	5 DIG RESUMES at 6:15 <u>NO MEAL!</u>	6	7	8
9 W. Morrow Baby Shower <u>2 - 4 pm</u> Deacon's Mtg @ 4:30 Bible Drill Class for Children & Youth Drillers	10	11 Women's Bible Study @ 10:00 am Women's Bible Study @ 6:30 pm	12 Family Meal resumes at 5:00 pm in FLC	13	14 Parents Night Out 6-10 pm Sign up in Preschool Area	15
16 Sanctity <u>Of Life Sunday-</u> Bible Drill @ 4:30 Women's Reception at 5:00	17 Visitation at 6:00 pm	18 Knifty Knitters @ 10 am Women's Bible Study @ 10:00 am Women's	19 St. Clair Baptist Assoc. Secretaries Luncheon hosted by Cropwell Baptist	20	21 Sunday School Game Night in FH	22
23 Children's High <u>Attendance Day</u> Bible Drill Class @ 4:30 Haiti Info Mtg @ 5:00	24	25 Women's Bible Study @ 10:00 am Women's Bible Study @ 6:30 pm	26 Men's Choir Rehearsal @ 7:40 Acts 1:8 Missions Committee Mtg. @ 6	27 OMEGAS Monthly Meeting	28 BIBLE DRILL RETREAT FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH @ SHOCCO SPRINGS MEN'S CONFERENCE @ CROSSPOINT CHURCH	29
30 Men's Day at Cropwell	Bible Drill @ 4:30 Child. SS Teacher Mtg @ 4:45					