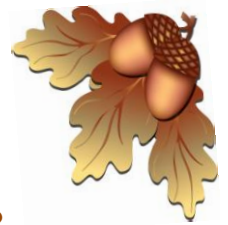


October 2011

Cropwell Newsletter



Should Christians Meditate?

(Adapted from "Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life" by Donald Whitney)

Meditation is defined as the act of engaging "in mental exercise for the purpose of reaching a heightened level of spiritual awareness." Let's assume that we're talking about meditating on a particular passage or phrase in the Bible, or on an aspect of God. **Meditation is a middle sort of duty between the Word and prayer, and has respect to both.** The Word feeds meditation, and meditation feeds prayer. These duties must always go hand in hand; meditation must follow hearing and precede prayer. To hear and not to meditate is unfruitful. We may hear and hear, but it is like putting a thing into a bag with holes...It is rashness to pray and not to meditate. **What we take in by the Word we must digest by meditation and let out by prayer.**

These three disciplines (the Word, Meditation, and Prayer) must be ordered so that one may not jostle out the other. *Men are barren, dry, and sapless in their prayers for want of exercising themselves in holy thoughts.* William Bridge, a Puritan Preacher, once said "If man can but fall into a meditation of God, and the things of God, his heart will soon come to prayer...Begin with reading or hearing...go on with meditation, and then end in prayer. Reading without meditation is unfruitful; meditation without reading is hurtful; to meditate and to read without prayer upon both is without blessing."


Upcoming Events

- Nov 4:** Secret Church
- Nov 5, 12, 19, 26:** Back to Bethlehem Workdays
- Nov 6:** Time Changes
- Nov 16:** Children's' Gratefulness Get Together
- Nov 20:** Covered Dish Meal (AM)
Joint Thanksgiving Svc (PM)
- Dec 2,3,4:** Back to Bethlehem
- Dec 10:** Lottie Moon Brunch (AM)
Student Ministry Dinner (PM)
- Dec 11:** Children's Christmas Party

Featured Events:

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

 **PARENTS NIGHT OUT – Friday, October 7th**
Sign up in Preschool Area

 **CHILDREN'S MUSICAL – Sunday, October 9th**
“Amazed by Your Love” – Evening Service

 **FALL BREAK -- Wednesday, October 12th**
No Preschool or Children Activities (DIG)

 **CAMP WORLD SONG – October 22nd**

 **FALL CELEBRATION FOR CROPWELL KIDS**

Instead of Heroes Unmasked, we will be hosting a Fall Celebration event for our preschoolers and children on Saturday, **October 29th from 4:00 – 7:00 pm** at Pastor Burden's home located at 3350 Stemley Bridge Road. Join us for food, fun, and fellowship! All families with preschoolers and children through 6th grade are welcome! Invite a friend to join you!



Dinner & a Movie

Bus Trip – October 1st
Leave church at 3:00 pm
Movie at 4:15 pm
Dinner to follow...
September 25th last day
to sign up!

OCTOBER

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU



OCTOBER 5	NO MEAL
OCTOBER 12	Chili & Crackers; Salad; Cobbler
OCTOBER 19	Beef Stroganoff; Salad; Roll; Strawberry Shortcake
OCTOBER 26	Breakfast Meal




**Marriage, Family, Sex,
and the Gospel**

secret church | friday, november 4

Sign up Now in Welcome Center for our next Secret Church. Intense Bible Study from 6 – Midnight.

Quote of the Month

 *In all Christians, Christ is present;
in some Christians, Christ is prominent;
but only in a few Christians is Christ preeminent.*

■ J. Henry

Back to Bethlehem 2011

SIGN UP NOW!

If you would like to be a part of our outdoor drama, designed as an outreach to our community, please sign up during the month of October. Sign up will begin on Wednesday, September 28 at the Missions Banquet in the FLC. You may sign up for one of the following roles during the month of October:

- ❖ **Speaking Part** (in costume)
- ❖ **Non-Speaking Part** (in costume with no main speaking part)
- ❖ **Security** (help with security/parking - must be graduated from high school)
- ❖ **Childcare Worker** (help Mrs. Patsy keep kids of the cast & crew)
- ❖ **Childcare Needed** (you have a part in B'hem and need childcare)

- ❖ **Greeter/Registration** (help greet and assimilate the people who come)
- ❖ **Construction** (men to help build the city of Bethlehem)
- ❖ **Set Decoration** (women to help decorate the city of Bethlehem)

BETHLEHEM WORK DAYS

We will be working on set up/construction of the City of Bethlehem on all four Saturdays in November (5, 12, 19, and 26). The work day schedule will be as follows:

- ❖ **7:30 a.m.** – Breakfast
- ❖ **8:00 a.m.** – Work begins
- ❖ **Noon** – Work ends
(Lunch is served for workers)



2011 SCHEDULE

Dress Rehearsal

Wednesday, Nov. 30 @ 6:00 pm

- ❖ No Meal; Eat before you come

1st Presentation

Friday, December 2

- ❖ Cast & Crew arrive @ 4 pm
- ❖ Tours begin at 6:00 pm

2nd Presentation

Saturday, December 3

- ❖ Cast & Crew arrives at 4 p.m.
- ❖ Tours begin at 6 p.m.

3rd Presentation

Sunday, December 4

- ❖ Cast & Crew arrives at 4 p.m.
- ❖ Tours begin at 6:00 p.m.

CLEAN UP DAY

Monday, December 5

- ❖ Breakfast at 8:30 a.m.
- ❖ Work begins at 9:00 a.m.
- ❖ Lunch at Noon
- ❖ Continue work until finished



Church News...

Reserving Church Facilities

Members of Cropwell Baptist Church may reserve the Family Life Center and Fellowship Hall for church functions (banquets, church ministry events, baby showers and bridal teas for church members, etc.) and non-church functions* (family reunions, birthday parties, anniversaries, etc.) If you need to reserve either the Fellowship Hall or Family Life Center, please be sure to contact the church office so that your event can be added to the church calendar. You will also need to sign out a key and pick up an Events Packet. This packet outlines church procedure concerning use of facilities as well as your responsibility concerning clean up, use of church supplies, etc. Please note, due to the rising cost of heating/cooling, the rental fee for using a Cropwell Baptist facility for a non-church event* will be \$25 per hour, \$20 per additional hour, and \$65 maximum. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

An Evening with David Jeremiah

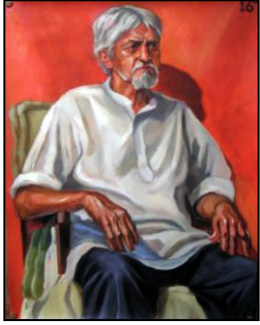
Join Dr. David Jeremiah in Huntsville, Alabama at the Von Braun Center on Thursday, November 10th at 7:00 pm. Log on for FREE TICKETS at www.davidjeremiah.org/rallies or call 1-800-947-1993.

Hear Dr. Jeremiah share a message of hope in these tumultuous times!



October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<p align="center"><u>Average September Attendance</u> Sunday School: 295 Morning Worship: 313 Evening Worship: 200 2011 Offerings as of 09/18/2011 \$677,276** ** \$107,070 under budget</p>						Bus Trip 1 to see Courageous Movie (Leave @ 3 pm) Dinner to follow	
2 ❖ I'm Christian @ 4:45 ❖ Deacon's Mtg @ 4:30 ❖ Choir Rehearsal @5:00	3 Boys Ministry @ 6:00 pm	4 ❖ WOM/Knifty Knitters@ 10 ❖ G Team Visitation ❖ Girls Ministry @ 6 ❖ Men's Bible Study @6:30	5 NO MEAL Prayer Svc, DIG & Student Ministry @ 6:30	6	7 PARENTS NIGHT OUT 6-10 PM Pray for Pastor Bill as he travels to Ecuador on Mission Trip	8	
9 ❖ Choir Rehearsal @ 5:00 ❖ Children's Musical @ 6:30	10 Boys Ministry @ 6:00 pm	11 ❖ Girls Ministry @ 6:00 pm ❖ Men's Bible Study @ 6:30 pm	12 NO DIG ! <u>Menu:</u> Chili & Crackers, Salad, Cobbler Prayer Svc, & Student Ministry PELL CITY SCHOOLS FALL BREAK	13 Widow's Banquet in FH	14	15	
16 ❖ 5:00 Choir Rehearsal	17 Boys Ministry @ 6:00 pm	18 ❖ Knifty Knitters@ 10 ❖ O Team Visitation ❖ Girls Ministry @ 6 ❖ Men's Bible Study @6:30	19 <u>Menu:</u> Beef Stroganoff, Salad, Roll, Strawberry Shortcake ❖ Prayer Svc, DIG, Student Ministry @ 6:30	20 OMEGAS Bus trip to Blue Bell Creamery (Leave @ 8:30)	21 Mission Festival @ Camp World Song SS Game Night @ 6:30	22 Mission Festival @ Camp World Song	
23 ❖ 5:00 Choir Rehearsal	24 Boys Ministry @ 6:00 pm	25 ❖ Girls Ministry @ 6 ❖ Men's Bible Study @ 6:30	26 <u>Menu:</u> Breakfast Meal Prayer Svc, DIG, Student Min. @ 6:30 Acts 1:8 Mtg	27 OMEGAS	28	29 Fall Celebration for Preschoolers & Children thru 6 th Grade & Families @ Burden Home	
Offering 30 for needy in Pell City	31 Boys Ministry @ 6:00 pm	Pray for Dr. Johnnie Stevens as he leaves for Mission Trip to Guatemala					



**This story was submitted by one of our church members
and is a good reminder to us all.**

Crabby Old Man

When an old man died in the geriatric ward of a nursing home in North Platte, Nebraska, it was believed that he had nothing left of any value. Later, when the nurses were going through his meager possessions, they found this poem. Its quality and content so impressed the staff that copies were made and distributed to every nurse in the hospital.

One nurse took her copy to Missouri. The old man's sole bequest to posterity has since appeared in the Christmas edition of the News Magazine of the St. Louis Association for Mental Health. A slide presentation has also been made based on this simple, but eloquent poem. And this little old man, with nothing left to give to the world, is now the author of this "anonymous" poem winging across the internet.

*What do you see nurses?.....What do you see?
What are you thinking.....when you're looking at me?
A crabby old man.....not very wise,
Uncertain of habit.....with faraway eyes?*

*Who dribbles his food.....and makes no reply.
When you say in a loud voice..... "I do wish you'd try!"
Who seems not to notice.....the things that you do.
And forever is losing.....A sock or a shoe?*

*Who, resisting or not.....lets you do as you will,
With bathing and feeding.....The long day to fill?
Is that what you're thinking?Is that what you see?
Then open your eyes, nurse.....you're not looking at me.*

*I'll tell you who I am.....As I sit here so still,
As I do at your bidding,as I eat at your will.
I'm a small child of Ten.....with a father and a mother,
Brothers and sisters.....who love one another.*

*A young boy of Sixteen.....with wings on his feet.
Dreaming that soon now.....a lover he'll meet.
A groom soon at Twenty.....my heart gives a leap.
Remembering, the vows.....that I promised to keep.*

*At Twenty-five, now.....I have young of my own.
Who need me to guide.....And a secure happy home.
A man of Thirty.....My young now grown fast,
Bound to each other.....With ties that should last.*

*At Forty, my young sons.....have grown and are gone,
But my woman's beside me.....to see I don't mourn.
At Fifty, once more, babies play 'round my knee,
Again, we know children.....My loved one and me.*

*Dark days are upon me.....my wife is now dead.
I look at the future.....shudder with dread.
For my young are all rearing.....young of their own.
And I think of the years.....and the love that I've known.*

*I'm now an old man.....and nature is cruel.
Tis jest to make old age.....look like a fool.
The body, it crumbles.....grace and vigor, depart.
There is now a stone.....where I once had a heart.*

*But inside this old carcass.....a young guy still dwells,
And now and again.....my battered heart swells.
I remember the joys.....I remember the pain.
And I'm loving and living.....life over again.*

*I think of the years, all too few.....gone too fast.
And accept the stark fact.....that nothing can last.
So open your eyes, people.....open and see.
Not a crabby old man.....Look closer.....see ME!!*

Remember this poem when you next meet an older person who you might brush aside without looking at the young soul within. We will all, one day, be there too!



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Donna Armstrong	10/1	Lynn Miller	10/17
Laura Smith	10/4	Teresa Glemba	10/17
Frances Arnold	10/5	Roger Harris	10/18
Joan Hollaway	10/5	Glenn Wilson	10/18
Bobby Jenkins	10/6	Ian McDanal	10/20
Bobby Goodwin	10/6	Bryan Sims	10/20
Debbie Dorough	10/7	Paul Farr	10/21
Elaine Goodgame	10/7	Coltan Watlington	10/22
Etheleen Funderburg	10/7	Suzette Maddox	10/23
Rebekah Poe	10/7	Beulah Butterworth	10/26
Brian Carr	10/9	Chloe Howard	10/28
Jason Roop	10/10	Joe West	10/28
Kira Price	10/12	Tom Coram	10/28
George Langham	10/12	Leon Nix	10/29
Tom Hall	10/13	Bobby Ford	10/29
Joyce Strong	10/13		
Kacia Frieze	10/14		
Alston Funderburg	10/14		