

## PRESCHOOL EXTENDED SESSION

### 10:30 AM WORSHIP (April 12)

**TODDLERS I:** Crystal Hill, Stacy Barton

**TODDLERS II:** Tim Bass, Michele Wilder

**TODDLERS III:** Dallas Ratliff, Crystal Owens

### USHERS (April 12)

Waymon Ferrell, Chairman

Bill Orrick, Carl Cumbow, Aaron Carroll



### GREETERS (April 12)

Fred & Sue Luethke, Jess Bowling, Gary Coates,

C.B. & Ina Shanks

### April 20 Visitation - Deacon Representatives

Aaron Carroll, Rick Hill

### And the People Came . . . (April 5, 2009)

Sunday School	169
Bible Study (B. Seymour)	118
Homebound	1
SONshine Seniors Bible Study (Fri.)	11
Total in Bible Study last week	299

### And the People Gave . . . (April 5, 2009)

Weekly Requirements	\$ 9,573.45
Received April 5	\$ 14,627.31
Designated April 5	\$ 2,721.91

Our church is supported by tithes and free-will offerings.

It is the privilege of all members to give regularly as God has prospered.

### **HOSTESS HAPPENINGS**

Our next Wednesday Meal will be April 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. The menu: Baked Chicken, Potatoes, Green Bean, Cornbread, Dessert and Drink. **Deadline for reservations will be Monday, April 13.** Cost: Children (ages 4-10) - \$4.00; Children 3 and under – free.

**Instrumental Praise Ensemble will no not have a rehearsal session on Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.**

# APRIL Youth Events

- **Thursday, April 9** – Lamplight Theater/Easter Drama. Meet at the church at 4:30 – fast food on the way.
- **Saturday, April 11** – Invisible Child Concert with the Jeremy Curtis Band. Meet at the church at 2:00; Dinner at Salsaritas.
- **Friday, April 24** – 30 Hour Famine Lock-In. Meet at church at 6:00 – Dinner on Saturday at 7:00.
- **Sunday, April 26** – **Movie Night** – “Fireproof” Fundraiser for World Hunger.



## **Calvary Baptist Church**

Pastor:	Dr. Donnie C. Brannen
Music/Education:	Rev. D. Mikel Caywood
Secretary:	Jennifer Ramey
Organist:	Frances Mooney
Pianist:	Debbie Johnson
Keyboard:	Lemuel Mixon
Drummer:	Brian Shoemaker
Parish Nurse:	Barbara Bowling, RN

Periodicals

Heart and Hand (USPS 974-380) Published weekly except Christmas week by Calvary Baptist Church, 1238 Pine Street, Kingsport, Tennessee 37664-2432. Periodicals Postage Paid Kingsport, Tennessee.

# Heart and Hand

*“Experiencing Christ Through Caring and Sharing”*



**Calvary Baptist Church**  
1238 Pine Street  
Kingsport, TN 37664  
(423) 245-9157

*Filled with compassion Jesus reached out and touched the man. – Mark 1:41*

Vol. LXIX No. 14

April 7, 2009

## Schedule of Ministry

### Sunday, April 12

**EASTER SUNDAY**

9:15 AM Bible Study

10:30 AM Morning Worship

No Evening Activities at Calvary Baptist Church

### Tuesday, April 14

10:30 AM Bertha Smith Circle

### Wednesday, April 15

5:30 PM Wednesday Meal (FH)

No Handbells

6:30 PM RAs, GAs, Acteens & Mission Friends

6:30 PM Business Meeting

7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, April 16

6:30 PM Pauline Martin Bible Study (CH)

### Friday, April 17

12:00 Noon SONshine Seniors Bible Study

6:30 PM Singles & Single Again Outing



## SHADOWS OF A DRY, THIRSTY LAND

*O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water.* (Psalm 63:1 - NIV).

Years ago, I read a story about an African evangelist who was invited to preach in America. The trip was a nightmare of missed and delayed flights, and he found himself coming into his destination city frazzled, exhausted, and with barely enough time to get to the church to step into the pulpit for his speaking engagement. As he rode from the airport to the church, he cried out in prayer, "Oh, Father, I am so dry, so dry! What can I tell your people?" The Lord replied, "Tell them you are dry."

We all have periods of spiritual dryness in our lives. Sometimes, they're caused by our own negligence of the Lord, but not always. Even David, "a man after God's own heart," confessed to a time of dryness in Psalm 63. That it was not sin that caused his dry season is evident from the first verse: "*O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you...*" So what then caused David's feeling of dryness? The superscription tells us that David wrote this psalm "*when he was in the desert of Judah.*" That explains it. He was in terribly forbidding surroundings as he was being chased by Saul, who in his jealous, deranged fury, desired to take David's life. So it is with us. Uncomfortable circumstances, difficult challenges, adverse situations, overwhelming obstacles, and the unrelenting attacks of the enemy can combine to parch us dry. How do we navigate successfully those desert places in our walk with the Lord? David shows us in Psalm 63.

First, notice **HIS PARCHED PRESENT (v. 1b - "...my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water")**. David pulls no punches in his assessment of his current situation. It's not pretty. His problem is not just the body-wearying dehydration of the desert, but the soul-parching feeling of distance from God. Often, in the desert places of our lives, God seems terribly distant, terribly silent, even terribly absent, and that is surely the worst part of it. The distance, silence, and absence, of course, are all in our perceptions, and not in reality. In truth, even when God seems most distant, He is closer than our next breath. But in the desert places, we often find ourselves crying out, "Where are you, Lord?" David, in spite of the direness of his situation, does not call out for water or for relief from the pursuit of his enemies. His greatest desire is not rescue from his situation, but to find God in

the midst of his situation. A change of circumstance would be but a temporary fix. Only God can truly satisfy the deepest thirsts of our souls.

Second, notice **HIS POWERFUL PAST (v. 2 - "I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory...")**. David reminds himself of times past, times when God's presence seemed tangible enough to touch. He reminds himself of how he had seen God's power and glory made manifest in other dire situations of his life, such as his battles with lions, bears, Goliath, and any number of other enemies of the Lord. When we go through the dry places in our spiritual walks, we should remind ourselves of all the many times God has come through for us in the past.

Third, notice **HIS PRESENTATION OF PRAISE (vv. 3-7 - "Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live; and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night. Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings")**. Imagine! Here's David - tired, hot, thirsty, hungry, on the run, sleeping fitfully if it all - but all the while praising God and composing this psalm. In the desert places, we seldom feel like worshiping the Lord. But worship is our only hope, our only lifeline. God draws near when we praise Him. There is incredible power in praise - power to cope, and ultimately, power to conquer.

Finally, notice **HIS PROMISED PROTECTION (vv. 8-11 - "My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me. They who seek my life will be destroyed; they will go down to the depths of the earth...But the king will rejoice in God...)**. David had a diehard confidence that his foes would not succeed in their efforts to kill him. Why did he have that confidence? Because God's promise that he would become king had not yet come to pass, and he knew that God's promise had to come to pass. Even in the desert places, God's promises still stand, and we can be confident that He will work all things together for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose, and for the glory of His holy name.

Are you in a desert place today? Rejoice! In Isaiah 44:3, God promises, "*I will pour water on the thirsty ground, and streams on the dry ground.*" Jesus promised, "*If any man thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, from his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.*" Thirst is a prerequisite for receiving God's

refreshment. There are breakthroughs that only come after we've gone through hot, dry, arid desert places. Hold to His promises, trust in His love, seek His face and follow His lead until He turns the desert places green.

## CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION

What an incredible time of celebration and worship it was this past Sunday as our choir presented the Easter musical *My Chains Are Gone!* Were it not for my 200+ (++, etc.) pounds of ballast, I would have had rapture practice right there! And the celebration continues this Resurrection Sunday. I will be preaching a message on "The Awesome Power of a Risen Savior," and we'll see together how the same power that raised Christ from the dead is still at work in our lives and situations today. **BRING A FRIEND!** Statistics show that the unchurched are more likely to accept an invitation to church on Easter than any other Sunday of the year. Then, on April 19, we will again celebrate Christ's awesome power to save as we celebrate the ordinance of baptism. In order to help me in my ongoing quest to learn everyone's names, April 19 and 26 will also be **NAME TAG SUNDAYS**. If you wish, create your own artistic name tag to wear; if not, a simple stick-on name tag will be in each bulletin those Sundays. On April 26 for our evening service, we will show the movie "FIREPROOF" in the social hall as a youth fund-raiser for world hunger. Created by the creative team at Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia, this movie, starring Kirk Cameron, is a story of a marriage in trouble saved by God's power. If you haven't seen it, you definitely need to, and if you have, I'm sure you'll want to see it again.

God is moving at Calvary! Thank you for making the last two months the most exciting time in almost 24 years of ministry!

Numbers 6:24-26,

Bro. Donnie



National Goal: \$ 65 million  
Our Goal: \$ 5,000.00  
Amt. given as of 4/05/09: \$ 2,746.00