

The First Baptist Messenger

Established 1836

Dr. Fred A. Malone, Pastor

Volume 2009

JULY

Issue No. 6

“Trusting Jesus”

by Edgar Page Stites

“That we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ: in whom ye trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth...” Eph. 1: 12-13

Edgar Page Stites, an obscure but active lay worker, had learned the spiritual lesson of trusting, delighting in, and committing his way to the Lord instead of worrying. He discovered that “while He leads I cannot fall.” God’s way in our lives is far superior to the path we might have chosen. Stites was a faithful member of the Methodist church in Cape May, New Jersey. After serving in the Civil War, he worked as a riverboat pilot and later as a home missionary in the Dakotas. He wrote several other hymns, including the very popular “Beulah Land.”

Mr. Stites poem first appeared in a newspaper in 1876. It was then given to evangelist D. L. Moody, who in turn asked his associate, Ira Sankey, to compose a suitable tune for the words. The hymn was widely used in the Moody-Sankey evangelistic services, and through the years Christians have responded to the implicit, childlike faith expressed so well in this simple but inspiring hymn.

*Simply trusting ev’ry day,
Trusting through a stormy way;
Even when my faith is small,
Trusting Jesus, that is all.*

*Brightly doth his Spirit shine
Into this poor heart of mine;
While He leads I cannot fall;
Trusting Jesus, that is all.*

*Singing if my way is clear;
Praying if the path be drear;
If in danger, for him call;
Trusting Jesus, that is all.*

*Trusting Him while life shall last,
Trusting Him till earth be past;
Till within the jasper wall:
Trusting Jesus, that is all.*

Chorus: *Trusting as the moments fly,
Trusting as the days go by;
Trusting Him whate’er befall,
Trusting Jesus, that is all.*

[information taken from *Amazing Grace* by Kenneth W. Osbeck]



FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART

Psa 23:1 A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

Psa 23:2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.

Psa 23:3 He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

Psa 23:4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

Psa 23:5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows.

Psa 23:6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

The 23rd Psalm is beautiful. It has been loved by millions of Christians through the centuries. Children memorize it, pastors read it at funerals, churches recite it together in worship. It is perhaps one of the most beloved passages in Scripture.

Yet, I wonder at times if we read it and quote it, loving the beauty of its expression without always understanding what it means?

This Psalm has two parts. The first part is David's understanding of God's sovereign work in the believer's life...in David's own turbulent life. He uses the beautiful metaphor of God as a faithful Shepherd of His believing sheep. The second part leaves the metaphor behind and applies its truth to real life situations for the believer. It is the believer's response of faith to hearing that God is his/her Shepherd.

1. The first part is the confession of how a believer is to think of God. It is more than a hope that God will be a good Shepherd. It is actually a confession that God is always a good Shepherd.

"The Lord is My Shepherd, I shall not lack." David confesses that God is his personal shepherd over his entire life. He does not and will not lack anything he really needs. This is a confidence that God is sovereign over his life and that nothing will ever lack that God determines he really needs. How we need to believe this every day. Faith is more than believing God is there. It is believing that He is active in every part of our lives and that we lack nothing. Faith is contentment in the faithfulness of God.

"He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside waters of rest. He restores my soul." The grass may seem greener on the other side of the fence, but faith rests in the wisdom of the Shepherd and trusts that the very pastures we live in are green and nourishing to our spiritual growth. Peter says:

1Pe 1:6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,

1Pe 1:7 so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

The pastures are always green for the believer in God's sovereign rule over all things in our lives. We know that He is always leading us to waters of spiritual rest for our souls. For He Himself is the living waters of rest and peace, no matter what is whirling around us.

And He is continually restoring our soul. After David's great sins with Bathsheba, God sent a prophet to rebuke him and restore him to repentance and faith. God has promised never to leave the believer to his own strength. He is always restoring our daily faith, our needed repentance, our hope in Jesus Christ crucified for our sins. He promises never to leave us to ourselves again. He restores our soul.

"He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake." God is always guiding the believer to love Him and obey His righteous commandments. Whatever we face in life, we can know that God has arranged it so that we will obey His commands for His glory. Jesus said, "if you love Me, you will keep My commandments." Jesus told Peter to "feed My sheep" and teach them "to do whatsoever I have commanded you." Each day's events are leading us to respond with thoughtful and faithful obedience to God. He IS continually leading us in the paths of righteousness.

We are to think like this, to believe like this; to live believing that we do not lack, we are in green pastures of God's care, we are being led to rest in God at all times, that He is restoring our soul daily. It is in believing these things daily about our Shepherd's faithfulness that the sheep find hope and peace.

2. The second part is the believer's response to God's faithfulness. We will walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we will face trials that feel like death itself, we will face the shadow of dying (unless the Lord returns). There will be trials for the believer, even enemies who harm us. But because God is our good Shepherd with us, we fear no evil. We will eat from His table of grace in their presence, enabling us to love them instead of hate them. He will comfort and correct us with his rod and staff. Goodness and mercy shall always be pursuing us in God's provision and protection.

And, we know, because the good Shepherd laid down His life for the sheep, that no matter what happens to us in this life, we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

The Shepherd's Psalm is meant to be believed as well as admired. It is the statement of faith of one who believes God has been, is presently, and will be faithful to the end of our life. It is in the faithfulness of the Shepherd that faith responds with trust, hope, comfort, and faithfulness.

Read the 23rd Psalm. Love it, admire it, memorize it. But more than that, live in its truth. For only then will you live as the good Shepherd calls you to live. Jesus said: "My sheep hear My voice, they know Me, and they follow Me." Take Him as your Shepherd, believe the 23rd Psalm, and you will find the strength to follow Him faithfully.

--Pastor Malone

ARBCA Missionary Focus

Meet one of our missionaries we support with our tithes and offerings:

The Powells– Toronto, Canada – Chris, Val, Hannah and Noah [pastor@covenantbaptistchurch.com]

Psalm 117: "Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is His steadfast love towards us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!"

Chris writes: The shortest Psalm in the Bible is also one of the most poignant and powerful. In a time of change and transition, the "hesed" love of God remains constant. We have seen ample evidence of that throughout this year. It is hard to believe that we are indeed coming up on one year in the ministry. God has shown His covenant-faithfulness to us and to our church family in so many ways and we are thankful for one major way which is through the prayers and support from our ARBCA family. Looking backwards on God's faithfulness over this past year helps us to fix our gaze forward on the author and perfecter of our faith. In uncertain times, He is our Rock and Redeemer (Ps. 78:35)

It has been an eventful year and early spring. I took up the pastorate in July 2008, and settled into the rigors of full-time ministry. We started several initiatives, including a new Covenanter Youth Group for our church's youth, and we look forward to several more in the New Year, including hosting a joint service trip with Grace Baptist, Carlisle, PA in order to mount a VBS-like outreach effort his summer. This, combined with the anticipated birth of our third child by the time you read this, will ensure that we are kept busy for the months to come. The Lord has graciously preserved the family throughout this year. Val finally finished her job as a physical therapist in March and is now working faithfully as a stay-at-home mom and pastor's wife.

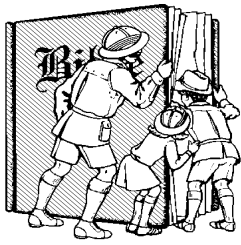
I had the privilege of being invited to preach three times at the General Assembly of L'Association D'Eglises Reformees Baptistes du Quebec (AERBC) in Lac Megantic, Quebec, March 24 & 25. As a newly ordained pastor with very rusty French skills, I must confess that I agreed to do this with some hesitancy on multiple levels. I am, however, glad I was give the opportunity. I left Quebec personally encouraged and challenged. I was delighted to fellowship with fellow countrymen who are confessional Reformed Baptists with the same convictions. I had the privilege of staying with Pasteur Richard Gagnon whose church hosted the G.A. in Lac Megantic. I met most of the pastors in AERBQ, including my fellow ARBCA national pastor in Montreal, Pastor Daniel Durand. There are so many similarities in the challenges our two churches face ministering to two of the largest and most diverse cities in Canada, and I was encouraged to meet him. Speaking French was a true challenge for me, as it has been almost 30 years since I have spoken it fluently (I went to an immersion school in Toronto as a very young child). The struggle to be understood and to understand others in Quebec was also a good opportunity for me to learn just how difficult it is for many in my congregation to do the same. More than half of our mostly first-generation immigrant congregation speaks English as a second or third language. I think this experience helped me as a pastor have more empathy for our people and to think how I might better communicate with our congregation. Every year, Canada accepts 225,000 immigrants, of which approximately half come to Toronto. Being able to communicate with these people is vital to our witness in the city.

Another vital part of our being able to witness is having a place as a church to meet. In the Lord's provision, we have had a good location to rent for our worship services for the past 15 years. We have good exposure with a permanent sign at our current location, and several of our newest visitors are from the local area. We rent from the theologically liberal Bedford Park United Church. We are the "Baptists in the basement." We are thankful for this provision for the past 15 years! However, due to a shrinking congregation and an aging building they can no longer maintain, the United Church has decided they can no longer retain the building; it could be demolished by 2011. This presents new challenges. Church real estate in the city is expensive and in short supply with the conversion or sale of church buildings that has been going on all around the city for years. It took several years for us to find our current rental location when we outgrew our last location and we anticipate that it might be even more difficult today. Buying a building is not a possibility at our current stage of maturity. However, in all this I am also reminded of growing up with my mother's constant quoting of Psalm 50:10 when we faced similar big questions as a family and a church. "Our God is faithful." We rest in God's providence and we know that He has designed this hurdle for our good. Please pray that we would seek His wisdom in this and that we would know how exactly to proceed in terms of our meeting place for the spreading of His Gospel in the city of Toronto.

Our greatest desire is to be used as instruments of His grace in extending His truth. May we be a means of increasing the "extolling of His name" in the future.

Prayer Requests from David and Nicky Vaughn, Missionaries in France

1. **K_____**, a friend of Nicky's who has been vehemently opposed to anything related to religion or God in the past. As her family goes through a very trying time, partly due to the financial crisis, she is reaching out for help and has shown the first signs of being willing to listen to what Nicky has to say about her need for God.
2. **N_____**, a man in the medical field with whom I have had ongoing contact in the last year. He has read two Christian books I have given him and wants to talk more.
3. **S_____**, a classmate of our oldest daughter who is a senior in high school. Because he is an avowed atheist she gave **S_____** the recent book by Tim Keller called *The Reason for God* and **S_____** read it in a few days and found it very interesting. Now she has given him the French translation of Ravi Zacharias' book *Can Man Live Without God?*
4. **V_____**, is suffering from advanced cancer. A church member has been sharing the gospel and giving him things to read; she plans to give him a recent evangelistic sermon preached at church. *[Thank you for your prayers!!]*



Book Room Review

The Big Picture Story Bible

by David Helm; illustrations by Gail Schoonmaker

The Big Picture Story Bible is a large, colorful children's book, designed to teach them that "the Bible is a big book, about a big God, who keeps a big promise!" Children walk through stories and scenes from the Bible in such a way that they see the progression of God's unfolding plan to keep His promise to send His Son, the forever King, and that everyone who trusts in and follows this forever king will one day live in God's forever place, under God's forever rule! And then the book ends – "Can you believe it? Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" It is a delightful book that is simple enough to be used with preschoolers, but will continue to have depth and meaning for children through the middle elementary school years. While it does not have every story in the Bible, it tries instead to paint the "big picture" of God's sure work through all of time to accomplish His purposes to redeem His people and to take them to heaven one day.

[You may purchase this book from our Book Table for \$12..00, or go to [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) to order]



"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine." Proverbs 17:22

Newsbytes and Announcements



Vacation Bible School is set for July 13th – 17th. Please pray for our director, Sarah Smith, and for all the teachers, assistants, and for the spiritual blessing of the children attending.

FEAR



For the Christian, *every fear is ultimately based on a lie*. Here are a few examples:

<u>FEAR</u>	<u>LIE</u>
Fear of death	My security is in this life
Fear of rejection	Worth comes from people
Fear for safety	God may not do what's best
Fear of poverty	God won't take care of me
Fear of suffering	I won't be able to bear it

Did you know that "Do not fear" is the most frequent command in the Bible? It occurs over three hundred times. God is obviously aware of our tendency to worry!"

[Revive, Summer 2009, Volume 40, Issue 2]



The Stimulus Package We Really Need: For the Christian, fear is a reminder to put our faith in God. What happens to us is often out of our control, but what we focus on when we are afraid is always our choice. King Jehoshaphat in the Old Testament provides a good example. King Jehoshaphat faced a terrifying scenario that embroiled him in a battle with fear. Although he had an army and a fortress at his disposal, he did something extraordinary. Instead of hiding his fear and resorting to false bravado, he humbly turned his focus to seek the Lord. He was threatened by forces far greater than his resources to combat them, but he believed there was still hope – in God. *Fear became a stimulus for prayer*. The account of Jehoshaphat's response to fear provides an excellent model for us during these perilous times: *"Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast through all Judah. And Judah assembled to seek help from the Lord...And Jehoshaphat said,...'O Lord, God of our fathers, are you not God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might...We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you.'... And when they began to sing and praise, the Lord set an ambush against the [enemy], so that they were routed."*(2 Chron. 20:3-22) Don't miss this profound truth: Frightening circumstances provide a wonderful opportunity to see the Lord display His glory! And they allow God's people to shine their light even brighter when darkness is closing in. The fear we feel in these difficult days provides incredible opportunity to focus on what really matters. God is reminding us of our need for His mercy and leadership. We may someday realize that this was the moment God called us to revival – that these circumstances were used by Him to ignite prayer, holiness, and repentance across our land.

[taken from "Turning Fear into Faith", by Byron Paulus, Revive, Summer 2009, Volume 40, Issue 2]



Wait for the Lord (Psalm 37:34): Faith is the antidote to fear. Fearful and faith-filled people experience the same circumstances, but faith-filled people respond by depending on God. **Am I a fearful or faith-filled person?**

Fearful People

- Fearful people get upset when the storms of life come.
- Fearful people attempt to manipulate individuals and circumstances.
- Fearful people trust in their own abilities and resources.
- Fearful people make decisions based on their changing emotions
- Fearful people find their worth in accomplishments and what others think of them.
- Fearful people are too self-focused to trust God.

Faith-filled People

- Faith-filled people rest in the providential care of God.
- Faith-filled people trust and all-powerful God for change.
- Faith-filled people put their confidence in the faithfulness of God.
- Faith-filled people are guided by unchanging scriptural principles.
- Faith-filled people find their value in who they are in Christ.
- Faith-filled people conquer fear by focusing on God's presence and promises.

[Revive, Summer 2009, Volume 40, Issue 2 – adapted from *Fret Not*, a radio series on Psalm 37 by Nancy Leigh DeMoss]



JULY 2009

S	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30 Pr. Mtg. PraiSing Him (M. Smith)	2 (H. Spolar)	3 (D. Taylor)	4 (A. Town)
5 LORD'S DAY (M. Vargo)	6 (B. Walker)	7 Evening Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 @ Suzanne Eschete's (F. Walker)	8 6:30 Pr. Mtg. PraiSing Him (G. Alexander)	9 (B. Andrews)	10 (W. Andrews)	11 (C. Axsom)
12 LORD'S DAY Men's Class 5:00 (M. Axsom)	13 (A. Barnett)	14 (N Town Bennett)	15 6:30 Pr. Mtg. PraiSing Him (R. Boudreaux)	16 (J. Hunt Bryant)	17 (J. Carline)	18 (M. Carline)
19 LORD'S DAY (W. Carruth)	20 (R. Clark)	21 Evening Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 @ Suzanne Eschete's (Rachel Clark)	22 6:30 Pr. Mtg. PraiSing Him (N. Covington)	23 (S. Creasy)	24 (F. Daniel)	25 (C. Dighton)
26 LORD'S DAY Men's Class 5:00 (J. Dighton)	27 (J. Durham)	28 (M. Durham)	29 6:30 Pr. Mtg. PraiSing Him (J. Edwards)	30 Deacon's Mtg. 6:30 p.m. (L. Efferson)	31 (S. Eschete)	

Please pray for the families in () each day!



JULY Birthdays

1 – Elish Phares
3 – Philip McKnight
3 – Matthew Singleton
5 – Cooper Roddy

7 - Brian Owens
14 – Kevin Roddy
16 – Mallory Fudge
18 – Ashley Hurst
20 – Brenda Kennedy

21 – Rick Hurst
21 – Grace Moody
24 – Ethan Owens
25 – Amy Hurst
27– Joan Moody

28 – Enoch Johnstone
31 – Joshua Carline
31 – Jacob McKnight

• S U M M E R •
**TRAVEL
BiNGO**

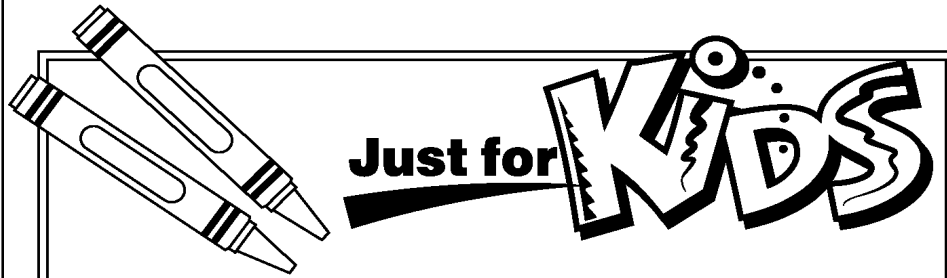
Summer travel is fun, but sometimes getting to the destination can take a long time. Try this homemade bingo game to entertain you and your family while you vacation this summer.

What you need:

- Sheets of 8½" x 11" paper (one for each player)
- Stickers (16 for each player)
- Pencil, pen, marker or crayon

What you do:

1. Before your trip, list different things you might see as you travel.
2. Take each 8½" x 11" sheet of paper and fold it in half, from top to bottom. Fold it in half again from top to bottom. Then fold it in half from side to side and then again. Unfold the paper and you should have 16 equal-sized squares, four across horizontally and four down vertically.
3. Family members write one thing from the list in each of the 16 squares. They can place them in any order. For non-readers, someone can draw pictures in each square.
4. Put the sheets and stickers in the car in an easy-to-reach place.
5. While traveling, when you see an object that's on your card, say it out loud. Put a sticker in that square.
6. The first person to get four in a row wins the first round. The first person to fill two rows wins the second round. The first person to fill the entire sheet wins the game.



TRAVEL BY DAY OR NIGHT

The way people travel has changed over time, but one thing has not changed — God was with people in biblical times just as He is with you and your family as you travel during your summer vacations.

Count the number of letters for each name, and then write the name in the spaces next to the verse that matches. (Hint: Besides counting the number of letters in the name, also pay attention to whether the person is from the Old Testament or New Testament.)

NAMES Paul Moses Joseph The Israelites Abram crowds
Samaritan Jesus Naaman Angel of God

VERSES

“The _____ ... had been traveling in front of Israel’s army” Exodus 14:19

“And _____ went out from Pharaoh’s presence and traveled throughout Egypt.” Genesis 41:46

“Go in peace,” said Elisha. After _____ had traveled some distance” 2 Kings 5:19

“_____ traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem.” Genesis 12:6

“_____ traveled through that area, speaking many words of encouragement to the people, and finally arrived in Greece.” Acts 20:2

“_____ traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God.” Luke 8:1

“Large _____ were traveling with Jesus.” Luke 14:25

“_____ traveled to the plains of Moab and camped along the Jordan across from Jericho.” Numbers 22:1

“_____ led Israel from the Red Sea For three days they traveled in the desert” Exodus 15:22

“But a _____, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.” Luke 10:33

Answers: Angel of God; Joseph; Naaman; Abram; Paul; Jesus; crowds; The Israelites; Moses; Samaritan

Let the little children come to Me...

Where We Meet

12329 Jackson Street
Corner of Jackson & Church St.
Clinton, LA 70722

When We Meet

Sunday Schedule

9:30 a.m. - Bible Study
10:45 a.m. - Morning Worship
12:15 p.m. - Fellowship Meal
6:00 p.m. - Evening Worship

Wednesday Schedule

6:30 p.m. - Bible Study &
Prayer Meeting
Children - "PraiSing Him"

First Baptist Church

12329 Jackson Street
PO Box 552
Clinton, La. 70722

Dr. Fred A. Malone, Pastor
Church: (225) 683-5153
FAX: (225) 683-4768

Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 5
Clinton, LA 70722

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

