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# The First Baptist Messenger

Dr. Fred A. Malone, Pastor

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## "His Lovingkindness"

by Samuel Medley

*"How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings."—Psalm 36:7*

A Christian should never lose his reason for singing about the Lord and His constant lovingkindness. "His praise shall continually be in my mouth" (Ps. 34:1). Lovingkindness has been described as "love in action." God's lovingkindness was the act of sending Christ to be our Redeemer "while we were still sinners" (Rom. 5:8).

**Samuel Medley**, a Baptist minister, lived a dissipated life in the British Navy until he was severely wounded in a sea fight between the French and English in 1759, off Cape Lagos, Portugal. While convalescing, he read a sermon by Isaac Watts on Isaiah 42:6-7: "I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you, and I will appoint you as a covenant to the people, as a light to the nations, (7) to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the dungeon, and those who dwell in darkness from the prison." These verses ultimately led to Medley's conversion and later to his becoming a minister of the gospel. "His Lovingkindness" was written as a personal testimony of thanksgiving to God. The text first appeared in published form in 1782. For twenty-seven years Samuel Medley pastored the Baptist church in Liverpool with much success, especially as a preacher to the sailors. Medley wrote a large number of hymns, but always stated in the preface of his books that his only purpose for writing was to "comfort Christians and to glorify Christ." It has been said that the underlying purpose of Samuel Medley's ministry, both in preaching and in hymn writing, was to "humble the pride of man, exalt the grace of God in his own salvation, and promote real holiness in the hearts and lives of believers."

The sprightly music for this text is an American camp meeting melody in popular use throughout the South before its publication in the nineteenth century. God's lovingkindness...."how free," "how great," "how strong," "how good," – a comfort in death and a source of eternal joy. [information from *Amazing Grace*, by Kenneth W. Osbeck.]

*Awake, my soul, in joyful lays, and sing thy great Redeemer's praise;  
He justly claims a song from me, His lovingkindness, O, how free!*

*He saw me ruined in the fall, yet loved me notwithstanding all;  
He saved me from my lost estate – His lovingkindness, O, how great!*

*When trouble, like a gloomy cloud, has gathered thick and thundered loud,  
He near my soul has always stood – His lovingkindness, O, how good!*

*Through mighty hosts of cruel foes, where earth and hell my way oppose,  
He safely leads my soul along, His lovingkindness, O, how strong!*

*So when I pass death's gloomy vale, and life and mortal pow'rs shall fail,  
O may my last expiring breath His lovingkindness sing in death.*

*Then shall I mount, and soar away to the bright world of endless day;  
There shall I sing, with sweet surprise, His lovingkindness in the skies.*

**Chorus:** *Lovingkindness, lovingkindness, His lovingkindness, O how free!*

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# FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART

## Raising Teenagers (Part II)

- 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
- 2 Honor your father and mother (this is the first commandment with a promise),
- 3 that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.
- 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

As with all ages, the most important thing a parent can teach teenagers is to honor you and obey you along with teaching them the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God uses this Law to teach them their sinful spiritual condition and their need of Jesus Christ to govern their hearts and lives. Until they are converted to Jesus Christ's Lordship, we should expect resistance to God's will for them. Our opportunity at such points is to show them the grace and love of God in our manner as well as to point them to the Lord Jesus Christ for themselves.

We saw last time that adulthood is defined in the Bible as 20 years old (Numbers 1; Ex. 30:14, 38:25-26). Therefore, parents must continue to exercise their calling to "bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" at least till then, yet not provoking them to anger. The book of Proverbs is literally an instruction manual for teaching our children into adulthood.

One of the tensions in raising children is that you have to shift gears as they get older, from the frequent use of the rod in their preschool years, to teaching more of Christian character in the elementary years, to more reasoning from God's Word about life and attitudes in the teen years. Instruction and discipline must be used at all ages, but there is a shift to more conversation and instruction as they get older.

Teens need to know from the Christian perspective the "why" of your teaching and rules; not just "because". Such times are opportunities to develop their thinking from a Christian worldview, to reason from the use of Scripture, and to make them think about attitudes, words, and behavior. We cannot treat them like preschoolers any more.

God has given parents the charge to set up the family life and schedule and activities and privileges, not the children. We are to provide a home according to Paul,

1 Th 4:11 and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you,

1. First, parents have to set and teach the boundaries for teenagers. Family comes before friends, the Ten Commandments are God's morality, House Rules must be followed consistently, and Jesus Christ is the Head of the home.

Parents should anticipate their child's situation, struggles, and need of instruction far ahead of time. This includes teaching in the elementary years your plans for teenage activities, church participation, permitted friendships, sex education, curfews, dating practices, TV, phones, computer activities, driving privileges, etc. Then be prepared to stick to those rules as they get older. If they can argue you out of those boundaries, then they will assume that the rules are not meaningful to you, will lose respect for you, and develop a shifting morality.

Parents tend to let outside influences into their teenagers life too much, robbing them of God's priorities for the homelife, family relationships, and your child's instruction in the Lord. According to Proverbs, parental influence must take precedence over peers and cultural influences. It is still up to parents to govern their teenagers lives and input and freedoms. This includes the influence of peers, cultural models, music, phones, cars, sports, activities with other kids, computer, supervision, etc.

Some things we determined to do with our kids. No personal phone, only the house phone; if they cannot talk on the phone in the presence of parents and family, then there is nothing worth talking about. Today, I would not provide a cell phone, except to contact us, and no text-messaging. No TV unless we approve of the programs. No personal car till college. No computer surfing and games without our approval and oversight; no "My Space" for the negative influence of friends. No dating and going together before graduation, except for proms and group outings. No weeknight outings except school related; they have to spend time with family and do schoolwork.

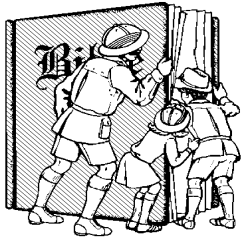
Home rules include regular bedtimes for sleep and curfews. No sinful speech toward siblings; they must admit wrongs to each other and ask forgiveness. Regular times for family meals and Bible reading. Lord's Day observance, attending all church functions and youth meetings. Reading books about God and Christian life we assign. Dates with them for bonding and talking. Dealing with the "silent treatment"; if they don't talk with you, then they will have restrictions from outside activities.

There are many other things, but the idea is for parents to think ahead and teach ahead while they are in elementary and high school. Our calling is to raise them up in the instruction and discipline of the Lord.

2. Second, parents must prepare their children to leave home and establish their own. Every day we are preparing them to leave home in a Gospel manner, teaching them about God and His will for them, giving them more opportunities to try things and learn from their successes and failures, keeping God and family life at the center of their life, preparing them for thinking and living as an adult in this fallen world. These are things we are to teach and talk about ahead of time with them. Even if they resist such talks, we must take responsibility to speak plainly about their responsibility to live for God, not for themselves. Such times give us opportunity to extol the grace of God, the love of God, the love of Christ, the trustworthiness of God to guide us.

In all things, we need the daily love, forgiveness, presence, and teachings of Jesus to live in a Gospel Home, at school, at work, and at play. Parents and teenagers who are committed to the same Gospel of Jesus Christ have the greatest hope of living in peace together, learning from each other, and being a witness to the sad, angry, unloving families around us who need Jesus Christ so much.

--Pastor Malone



# Book Room Review

*The Fear of God – The Soul of Godliness*

By John Murray

This 22 page booklet is taken from a larger work by John Murray, *Principles of Conduct*.

The publisher of this treatise writes: "The genesis of this booklet goes back nearly 30 years to the first time I read the chapter at the conclusion of Murray's book on Christian ethics bearing the simple title *Principles of Conduct*. The chapter had a profound impact the first time it was read, and has continued to impress and influence over the last three decades. From the opening sentence the attentive reader will sense that he is entering holy ground. Professor Murray, as he was lovingly called, leads us by the hand into hallowed territory as we explore the forgotten doctrine of the fear of God. Sadly and tragically the modern concept of God does not evoke the awe and reverence that is found on every page of our Bibles. A quick glance at the Scripture Index on pages 23 and 24 will prove that this doctrine is found from Genesis to Revelation. Murray refers to no less than 38 books in the Bible as he sets forth his case that 'the fear of God is the soul of godliness.' As a Christian publisher it is a privilege and honor to introduce this material to a world in desperate need of the knowledge of God. The words of the Lord through the prophet Hosea are all too true of our day: "My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge" (4:6). The words spoken a few verses earlier reveal the nature of the knowledge they lacked: 'There is no faithfulness or kindness or knowledge of God in the land' (4:1). It is our hope and prayer that this booklet will be scattered throughout the world and the knowledge of God will grow as a result."

-- Michael Gaydosh, *Solid Ground Christian books* [ You may purchase this book from our book table for \$2.00.]



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

# Newsbytes and Announcements

**Christmas Open House December 12<sup>th</sup>:** Pastor and Mrs. Malone are having a Christmas Open House on Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. Child care and a nursery will be provided at the church. Join us for a wonderful time of adult and college age fellowship!



**Our Website is Up and Running:** Carrie King has been hard at work setting up a website for our church. The address is [www.fbclintonla.com](http://www.fbclintonla.com). She is putting the current week's sermon on the homepage, trying to have it available by Tuesday each week. In addition, if you click the "view more" button, it will take you to a page where she has started downloading other sermons. Pastor Malone has been working through the book of Ephesians for some time, and many of the messages from Ephesians are available on the site. He is currently preaching on "Christian Warfare" from Ephesians 6, and all the messages from this section are available. There is also a feed and podcast for those that want to download their MP3 players or their computers automatically each week, without going to the website to look. Carrie is also downloading written transcripts of the sermons; soon, she will have this newsletter available to read on the website. We are very thankful for Carrie's work – take advantage of what is available, and share the news with others that might benefit from the things available on this site!



**Don't Shy Away From Helping Teens Find Biblical Answers:** Dick Staub writes in *Homelife, October 2008*, "During my college years, I was asked to work with high school students at a local church. Knowing those teenagers probably weren't that different from me at that age, I decided to try an unorthodox method to engage them in Bible study. *Jesus Christ, Superstar* had just been released, so I put the controversy to good use. As the teens gathered for youth group, I distributed lyrics to the song "I Don't Know How to Love Him." In this song, Mary Magdalene sings that Jesus is "just a man." Across the top of the sheet of paper, I wrote the question "Is Jesus just a man?" Next to the lyrics I put a list of Scriptures for the students to read and discuss. For the next hour I watched an unmotivated group of teens morph into budding Bible scholars engaged in animated discussion about the text applied to this specific issue. From then on, the basis for my work with teens centered around getting them into Scripture by identifying the questions they were asking and the ideas popular culture was feeding them. I started with cultural issues and moved to Scripture, applying relevant biblical teaching to specific and timely issues. C.S. Lewis once said, "The sources of unbelief among young people today do not lie in those young people... This very obvious fact – that each generation is taught by an earlier generation – must be kept very firmly in mind... Nothing which is not in the teachers can flow from them into the pupils." We need to protect our kids from hostile worldviews and ground them in the Christian worldview by identifying the questions they are asking and the ideas being pushed on them in popular culture. The work starts with parents in the home and extends to the local church. The next generation is going to face a new world – it's up to us to equip them to live out and defend a vibrant Christian faith.



**A Quotable Quote on Humility:** "Should that man be proud that has sinned as thou hast sinned, and lived as thou hast lived, and wasted so much time, and abused so much mercy, and omitted so many duties, and neglected so great means? – that hath so grieved the Spirit of God, so violated the Law of God, so dishonored the name of God? Should that man be proud, who hath such a heart as thou hast?" – Richard Mayo

**On the Lighter Side:** Last summer, my daughter and my 2 ½ year old granddaughter were enjoying a chocolate sundae after lunch one Sunday afternoon. My granddaughter was thoroughly enjoying her treat and exclaimed several times, "I really like chocolate sundaes, mama." After a few more bites she looked at her mama very hopefully and said, "Mama, do they have chocolate Mondays?"



An ARBCA Special Project in Cuba – by Pastor Don Lindblad, Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Kirkland, WA.

Pastor Lindblad writes: Nowhere is God's sovereign providence more clearly seen today than in the Reformation God is bringing about in Cuba. For more than 15 years ARBCA has maintained a practical interest in Cuba. Pastors from our churches, and Coordinator Bob Selph, and David Straub before him, have made numerous trips to visit Daniel Perez and the churches he represents. Most recently, Pastors Jim Adams of Cornerstone Church in Mesa, AZ, and I have traveled together for ministry there. In May, 2007, I made a trip to Cuba under the auspices of the Los Pinos Nuevos Convention. Los Pinos Nuevos (The New Pines), a broad evangelical denomination and seminary headquartered roughly in the center of the island near Placetas, Villa Clara province, was begun in 1928. The Cuban Presbyterian pastor Bartolome Lavastida and the North American Baptist missionary Elmer Thomson began a school for the preparation of Christian workers. By 1936 a fellowship of churches came into being through the efforts of graduates and the churches they had established. Interestingly, and seemingly in spite of the founders' own convictions, the school and convention became classically Arminian theologically, and Higher Life in their views of sanctification. To this day, that has been the semi-official position of Los Pinos churches and pastors. But about five years ago some of the leaders began to rethink their theological position. Within the last 12 months, since my last visit, the seminary and almost 100 pastors registered in the convention have state that they are five-point Calvinists! Humanly speaking, the change is the result of the efforts and ministry of two men: Norberto "Pachy" Quesada and Amauris Pernut. Pachy is the president of the Los Pinos Seminary and the Convention of Churches; Amauris is the president of the youth for Los Pinos Nuevos. Both are strong and able men who have given spirited leadership to this new reformation.

Pachy is not only a graduate of the seminary, but also holds a graduate degree from a theological seminary in Colombia, South America. He is a gifted speaker, with a personality and character commanding respect. In addition to commending the Doctrines of Grace to the pastors and churches under his care, he has a burden to bring the convention into a fully Reformed and confessional position. He also believes the convention needs to be reorganized along more biblical lines. At the moment, decision-making power for all the churches resides in a few, and he is seeking to return that to the churches. He is methodical and careful in his thinking and approach, seeking to bring about reformation with the least amount of fallout.

If Pachy is Calvin, then Amauris is Luther. He is a man of tremendous energy, if not bombast. About a year ago, he sent a letter to all the convention pastors, with board approval, calling on them to rethink their Arminianism. He flooded their mailboxes with materials, and within 12 months a survey showed that all but a few had become Calvinists. Conversations with Daniel, who has followed this with keen interest, who knows the leadership, and who studied at Los Pinos and served four of its churches, confirmed this to be true.

In May 2007, I preached at a men's convention in the Los Pinos church in Vasquez, Holguin province in the east. The pastor was not present on that occasion, but when he later learned that the speaker was Reformed, he immediately requested a return visit. The pastor was Amauris Pernut. The timing was perfect. ARBCA had just received its annual permission to send personnel to preach and to distribute funds in Cuba. Now, with a Cuban Religious Workers Visa in hand, it seemed like the right time to go. In addition, Amauris and Pachy specifically asked Daniel Perez to be official translator for me for the entire trip. Previously marginalized for his strong position on the Reformed faith, Daniel is once again highly respected and his counsel sought in this quest after biblical reformation. In fact, it has been suggested he begin teaching once again in the seminary. Since Amauris is president of the youth, he wanted a speaker for five youth and young adult camps to be held in two locations. In addition, there would be preaching in area churches. The trip was scheduled for 25 days. Unfortunately, Jim Adams was not able to travel at this time, so I went alone, from July 17 – Aug. 11. The first two conferences were held at a church facility in Gibara, a beautiful city on the northeast coast of Holguin province. It is also one of the hottest locations in Cuba, with high humidity and daily temperatures in the 90s. There was preaching twice each morning and usually once every evening. Each camp lasted four days and was composed of young people ages 14-18 or 19-35. The theme for each camp was the same, taken from Daniel 11:32b, "But the people that know their God shall be strong and do exploits." It seemed wise in the context to focus on knowing God and experiencing the grace of God. Interest in the material remained high in each of the conferences. As a rule, even before speaking or meeting the young people, many would come and ask to speak about the Doctrines of Grace and what they meant. Clearly, even the young people had become acquainted with these truths over the past months and years through their pastors' ministries. After two camps, leaders and speaker returned to Placetas and the Los Pinos Seminary facility. Three more camps were held, again, each four days in length. Enthusiasm and interest was again high. All together in the 25 days, I spoke to 950 young people, young adults, and Christian workers. In addition, I spoke in churches most Sundays. Soon after arriving, I was asked for help in bringing further reformation to the seminary and convention of churches. Their plea: Please come twice a year for 15 days to teach pastors; please come annually to speak to as many youth conferences as possible; finally, please come and teach an occasional course in the seminary. They also asked about the possibility of a fraternal relationship with ARBCA as Los Pinos seeks to make great strides in reformation. Clearly, God is at work in Cuba! It is encouraging to see the Lord raise up in this needy land faithful men with a burden for biblical faith, and to use our Association in this great work! *[ARBCA Update, Summer 2008]*



## NOVEMBER 2008

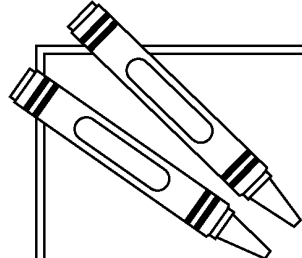
S	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1  (G. King)
2 LORD'S DAY Fellowship Meal 1:30 Lord's Supper (L. King)	3  (R. Lee)	4  (F. Malone)	5  6:30 Pr. Mtg. PraiSing Him  (J. Malone)	6  (C. Mayeux)	7  (I. McKnight)	8  (B. Mizell)
9 LORD'S DAY Morning Worship Fellowship Meal  Evening Worship 6:00  (S. Moody)	10  (B. Owens)	11 <i>Veterans' Day</i>  <i>Family Fellowship @ Malones' 6:30 p. m.</i> (M. Owens)	12  6:30 Pr. Mtg. PraiSing Him  (B. Phares)	13  Ladies' Bible Study - 9:30 am  (Brenna Phares)	14  (E. Phares)	15  (P. Purpera)
16 LORD'S DAY Morning Worship Fellowship Meal  Evening Worship 6:00 (K. Roddy)	17  (P. R. Roddy)	18  Evening Ladies' Bible Study @ Suzanne Eschete's - 6:30 p.m. (J. Rogers)	19  6:30 Pr. Mtg. PraiSing Him  (W. Sager)	20  Deacon's Mtg. 6:30 pm.  (B. Schindler)	21  (D. Sevier)	22  (M. Singleton)
23 (M. Sloan) LORD'S DAY Morning Worship Fellowship Meal Evening Worship 6:00 30	24  (M. Smith)	25  (H. Spolar)	26  6:30 Pr. Mtg. PraiSing Him  (D. Taylor)	27  Thanksgiving Day  (A. Town)	28  (M. Vargo)	29  (B. Walker)



### November Birthdays

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 2 - Sandy Phares       | 20 - Missy Durham      |
| 3 - Jacob Owens        | 21 - Jim Rogers        |
| 3 - Clay Mayeux        | 22 - Bernadine Edwards |
| 5 - Mike Kelly         | 23 - Adam Town         |
| 6 - Zachary Kelly      | 27 - Betty Rogers      |
| 9 - Dawn Taylor        | 27 - Sandra Vargo      |
| 16 - Martha Sloan      | 30 - Nancy Covington   |
| 16 - Rachel Clark      |                        |
| 17 - Tim Clark         |                        |
| 18 - Elisabeth Dighton |                        |
| 19 - Luke King         |                        |

# Children's Corner



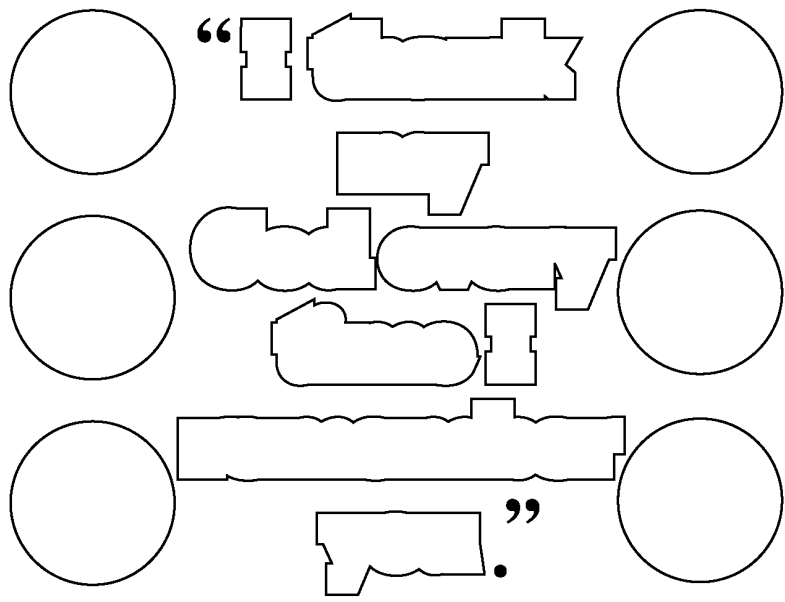
**Just for KIDS**

## Thanksgiving and Prayer

When Paul sent a letter to the church at Philippi, he told his friends how he felt about them. Finish this puzzle to read what Paul wrote in Philippians 1:3.

Match words in the list below to the correct word shape. Then write the letters inside each shape. In the circles, draw the faces of people you're thankful for in your life.

**WORD LIST:** remember    time    you    I    God  
I    my    thank    every



Answer: "I thank my God every time I remember you."

*"...Let the little children come unto Me."*