

A Profile of Edward James Turner Sr.

Associate Minister

Edward James Turner Sr. was born during the morning of December 24, 1977 in Burlington, North Carolina. He was the second child of Douglas and Pamela Turner. His older sister is Candace Rather and his younger brother is Phillip Turner. They were reared in Yanceyville, North Carolina. He attended Anderson Elementary School, Dillard Junior High School, and Bartlett Yancey Senior High School. During his years at Anderson Elementary, **Edward** was a member of Cub and Boy Scouts. At age 11, **Edward** was baptized at Smith Chapel Baptist Church (Pelham, North Carolina) by Rev. Jimmy Richmond.

While in high school, he excelled in football, track, and band. He was nominated for the national Wendy's High School Heisman that was the result of his performance academically as well on the athletic fields. **Edward** graduated from high school in 1996 as a North Carolina scholar. After high school, **Edward** attended the North Carolina Agricultural & Technology State University (A & T). While at A & T, he became a member of INROADS Inc., a national non-profit organization dedicated to developing and preparing talented minority male/female college students for corporate and community leadership. He graduated from North Carolina A & T in 2001 with a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering and certificate in Waste Management. He moved to Charlotte and began work for the company that provided him an internship during college as a manufacturing engineer.

On May 24, 2002, he married his best friend from his hometown **LaTisha Sharon Lea**, after dating since 1999. After almost one year of marriage, they were blessed with their daughter De'La Amari Turner who was born April 3, 2003. In 2005, the Turner family moved back to their hometown of Yanceyville, North Carolina.

— See, **Associate Minister Turner**, page 2



FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH
REV. RICHARD L. MORGAN, PASTOR

FABC Communicator

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- *New Associate Minister at FABC*
- *Flu season is here*
- *Youth, Skating, and Back-to-School*
- *Eternal hope in Haiti*
- *How do you handle Bitter Waters*



During this time, he began to work with Mannington Hardwood Floors located in High Point, North Carolina as a Process Improvement Engineer. In 2007, his job with Mannington relocated him to their Epes, Alabama facility. **The Turner** family decided to reside in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. On February 15, 2009, they were blessed with Edward James Turner Jr.

In March 2009, **Edward** announced that he had submitted to the calling into the gospel ministry. He preached his initial sermon on July 12, 2009 at **First African Baptist Church**.

Currently, he is enrolled at Birmingham Theological Seminary pursuing a Master of Arts in Ministry (Pastoral Leadership Concentration) degree. As God is still working miracles in his life, his goal in the ministry is to share the beauty of God's love to all of his children, to be a "world changer;" changing the world one mind at time. Making Christ known is the only



Youth Conventions

On Wednesday, June 17, the **Sunbeams, Red Circles, and Crusaders** attended Youth Day at the Alabama Baptist Women's Convention in Selma Alabama. Twenty youth attended along with parents, advisors, and adults.

On Wednesday July 15, the **Sunbeams, Red Circles, and Crusaders** attended the Northwest District Convention at Beulah Baptist Church. The host church was Weeping Mary Baptist Church. **Leah McGruder** was elected Sunbeam Assistant Secretary. **Charae Carter** won 2nd place reciting Psalms 121. **First African** won 3rd place for attendance.

NABD Congress of Christian Education Youth Session held Tuesday, July 21 through Thursday, July 23 at Bethel Baptist Church was attended by several children and youth from **First African**. The theme was "Heavenly Vision: The Mission of the Church." Thanks to **Sis. Danielle Datcher** for attending all three days and supervising our children and youth. **Charae Carter** recited Psalms 121 during the Thursday night praise program.

NABD Youth Convention was held Saturday, August 15 from 9am until 2pm. Twenty **Sunbeams, Red Circles, Crusaders**, counselors, parents and adults registered at Beulah Baptist Church from **First African**. The youth program from that Saturday continued on Thursday, August 20 at 5:30 p.m. before the parent body at the NABD Religious Center. The theme was "A Christ-Centered Youth Conference." **Briana Bell** won third place reciting Ecclesiastes 12 and **Nicholas Key** won second place reciting Psalms 8. **Bro. Terrell Byrd** was recognized for services rendered to the NABD Crusader's department.

Special Notes:

- ◆ All conventions/ conferences are held each year.
- ◆ Parents are encouraged to bring their Children and Youth to the weekly meetings on Thursdays at 6:00 pm.
- ◆ All new members needing more information about Youth Meetings and Conventions, please contact **Sis. Linda Carter** or **Sis. Bernida Byrd**.

Labor Day

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day holiday just a year later, on September 5, 1883. In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday, as originally proposed, and the Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a “workingmen’s holiday” on that date. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations, and in 1885 Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country.

As the Industrial Revolution took hold of the nation, the average American in the late 1800s worked 12-hour days, seven days a week in order to make a basic living. Children were also working, as they provided cheap labor to employers and laws against child labor were not strongly enforced.

With the long hours and terrible working conditions, American unions became more prominent and voiced their demands for a better way of life. On Tuesday, September 5, 1882, 10,000 workers marched from city hall to Union Square in New York City, holding the first-ever Labor Day parade. Participants took an unpaid day-off to honor the workers of America, as well as vocalize issues they had with employers. As years passed, more states began to hold these parades, but Congress would not legalize the holiday until 12 years later.

On May 11, 1894, workers of the Pullman Palace Car Company in Chicago struck to protest wage cuts and the firing of union representatives. They sought support from their union led by Eugene V. Debs and on June 26 the American Railroad Union called a boycott of all Pullman railway cars. Within days, 50,000 rail workers complied and railroad traffic out of Chicago came to a halt. On July 4, President Grover Cleveland dispatched troops to Chicago. Much rioting and bloodshed ensued, but the government’s actions broke the strike and the boycott soon collapsed. Debs and three other union officials were jailed for disobeying the injunction. The strike brought worker's rights to the public eye and Congress declared, in 1894, that the first Monday in September would be the holiday for workers, known as Labor Day.



The founder of Labor Day remains unclear, but some credit either Peter McGuire, co-founder of the American Federation of Labor, or Matthew Maguire, a secretary of the Central Labor Union, for proposing the holiday.

Although Labor Day is meant as a celebration of the labor movement and its achievements, it has come to be celebrated as the last, long summer weekend before autumn.

New Antioch Bethlehem District Mission and Evangelism

Advancing the Kingdom of God

On Saturday, August 23rd, 2009, the NABD Jail Ministry celebrated its first outreach event to encourage families and the community to stay connected to love ones who are incarcerated. This program took place at the Barnes YMCA, and was the realization of the vision of our District Missionary and Pastor of Dry Creek Baptist Church, Rev. Johnny Lewis. Rev. Frederick Blackburn, Pastor of Holly Springs Missionary served as Master of Ceremony. Dry Creek's adult and children choirs and Deacon A.D. Sanders provided music for the occasion.

Sheriff Ted Sexton (who presently serves as Asst. Secretary of Homeland Security) greeted the audience along with Metro/County Jail Chief Bailey. Sheriff Sexton reported that there are 692 inmates incarcerated in Tuscaloosa (of which approximately 20 are scheduled for life imprisonment). He said at some point in the future 672 inmates would be re-entering the community. He commented that without a smooth transition a large number of them would probably return to jail. Sheriff Sexton also complimented the efforts of the Mayor's Faith-Based Initiative. Chief Bailey applauded the NABD's "first step" at assisting the families of the incarcerated who themselves are also the innocent victims of crime.

Other speakers included Rev. Claborn May, Pastor of Lloyd Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Rev. Johnny Lewis (who was our main speaker), Rev. McDowell and myself. Rev. May also serves as Chaplain at the Greene County Jail and Former Chaplain of Bibb County Prison. He opened by taking a poll of those individuals who haven't done anything wrong as well as those who have broken the law in the past. He admonished families and friends to aid, assist and support those who are incarcerated. Rev. May's testimony was that God had put a desire in him to minister and gave him a vision of how people in prison can be transitioned into mainstream life. He ended by asking the question: "Can God restore your life?"

Rev. Lewis spoke about the vision the Lord had given him regarding the families of the incarcerated love ones. He said that when he asked the inmates what they missed the most, their answer was family. Rev. Lewis believes very strongly that staying connected (by the grace of God) can help with rehabilitation. He said, "We all stand on the edge of even; only by the grace of God we are kept..." He urged family members to visit, write, and send pictures to help stay connected. Also, send money to put on the inmate's book. He went on to say that little thoughts and deeds may: 1) keep someone out of gangs, 2) help prevent them from engaging in homosexual activity, and 3) prevent them from being institutionalized. Rev. Lewis concluded, "God is big on family connection; God, the son is big on family connection; God, the Holy Spirit is big on family connection. On the cross, Jesus connected with the dying thief on the cross (who represented all of us) to the Holy family.

We were blessed by a testimony from Rev. McDowell. He confessed that his past included seven years of incarceration. He related how staying connected with his parents allowed him to complete his sentence as quickly as possible. He shared that the constant expressions of love and prayers of his family helped him.

– See, *Advancing the Kingdom of God*, page 7

Temptation and Consequences

By Oscar D. Tucker

In the last edition of the **FABC Communicator**, I commented on the Christian practice of fellowshiping. Another binding and necessary obligation is refusing to yield to the temptation to sin. Geraldine, the brainchild of black comedian Flip Wilson, explained that nothing she did, especially sin, was her fault, because as she put it, "The devil made me do it." Oscar Wilde, Irish poet and playwright, wrote in *Lady Windermere's Fan*, "I couldn't help it. I can resist everything except temptation." These quotes suggest that we, as human beings, are defenseless against temptations and therefore we should not be held accountable for yielding. Scripture disagrees with the assessment. The reality of temptation in our daily lives demands that we must not bow helplessly and hopelessly to sinful enticements as if bowing and yielding are all we can do. Jesus showed us the way to triumph over temptation in many ways, a prime example appears in the fourth chapter of the book of Luke. He resisted the scam and trickery of Satan by doing what he knew was right. To that encounter between good and evil you may declare, "Gosh I would like to be able to resist, but I'm not

morally and ethically strong like Jesus." True, but you know the difference between right and wrong. It is just a matter of opting to do the right thing. I am not an expert in spiritual matters. That is the province of **Rev. Richard Morgan** and those of his calling, and I try to leave it to them. However, I am reasonably certain that knowledge is power and the more we know about God the more we will be able to resist sinful temptations.

In the same sense, the more we know about disease, disease prevention, and control the more we are able to resist those temptations that may prove detrimental to our health. The flu season is fast approaching and therein looms the prospect of a deadly flu pandemic. A pandemic is a widespread epidemic affecting people in many countries. In view of this possibility, it is my humble opinion that we must resist the temptation to treat H1N1, or swine flue, with casual indifference. Influenza is a very contagious equal opportunity disease. All of us are vulnerable, some more than others. The Center for Disease Control (CDC), in a general information release dated 5 August 2009, reports,

"In seasonal flu, certain people are at "high risk" of serious complications. This includes people 65 years and older, children younger than five years old, pregnant women, and people of any age with certain chronic medical conditions. About 70 percent of people who have been hospitalized with novel H1N1 virus have had one or more medical conditions previously recognized as placing people at "high risk" of serious seasonal flu related complications. This includes pregnancy, diabetes, heart disease, asthma, and kidney disease." Intelligence is a tool used by combatants of every stripe, to get an edge on their opponents. That bit of intelligence provided by the CDC is good to know, but as individuals we need to know as much as possible about H1N1 so we can protect ourselves, our loved ones, and our neighbors.

I have observed that for two consecutive weeks (this is written 12 August 2009) a call to fellowship has been omitted from early Sunday morning services. Perhaps **Rev. Morgan**, a thoughtful practical leader, in conditioning the congregation to forgo this

— See, **Temptations** , page 6

part of the services for the sake of safety and health. This makes good sense because, according to the CDC, flu viruses are spread mainly from person to person through coughing or sneezing by people with influenza. With less contact, the spread is minimized. People may become infected by touching something—such as a surface object (church hymnal, pew or program)—with flu viruses on it and then touching their noses or mouth, hence hand washing is one of the preventative actions recommend by the CDC. An impending disaster, such as H1N1, may signal a time to practice “social distancing.” That does not mean antisocial behavior. It simply means less physical contact. Whatever **Rev. Morgan’s** motives and I would suggest they are unspoiled by selfishness; the decision is yours to fellowship or not to fellowship.

There will be those of us, I suspect, who will be tempted to use H1N1 and other ailments as *excuses for not attending church services*. Somebody much wiser than I said, “Opportunity may knock once, but temptation leans on the doorbell.” Influenza can be deadly, but with considered precautions we do not have to let it dominate our spiritual or secular lives. We have great adaptive powers that have sustained the human race for eons. God, it is true, helps his own. However, God expects us to use the reasoning power he has given us to do those things that are beneficial to our survival and the survival of mankind. If you jump off the top of Bryant-Denny Stadium, without a parachute or using other precautionary measures, God is not going to suspend the laws of gravity to prevent your death. Likewise, I do not think God will protect you from H1N1 influenza or any other contagious malady if you deliberately expose yourself. Equally important, it is our Christian and civil responsibility to make reasonable alterations in our lifestyles that will protect our Christian brothers and sisters. Toward that end, we all should understand that sometimes social traditions

and customs must be suspended for the greater good, and not be offended when someone refuses to embrace us or shake our hands. Let us not be tempted to conduct “business” as usual, ignoring the warning signs provided us and expose ourselves and others to disaster.

A CDC directive has been included for your information and convenience as an insert with this opinion. For more information, you may contact CDC at 1-888-232-4636, or 1-888-232-6348, or www.flu.gov.

Disclaimer: The writer bears sole responsibility for the opinions expressed herein. He may be reached at 205-553-9456 or otucker@comcast.net

Advancing the Kingdom of God

(continued from page 4)

Part of my expression to the audience was focused on the children of the incarcerated and the need to be especially sensitive to them. These children are the hidden victims of their parent's crimes. Like children of divorced or deceased parents, they often show signs of distress caused by the lack of a stable home life and the separation from parents. Studies have shown that children of incarcerated persons are more likely to experience:

- ◆ Anxiety, depression, and aggression
- ◆ Decline in school performance, attention disorders, and truancy
- ◆ Teen pregnancy and symptoms of post-traumatic stress
- ◆ And, in some cases, if intervention does not occur to break the cycle, evidence indicates that many of these children follow their parents into the criminal justice system.

When we consider the impact of maintaining a "connection" with our incarcerated love ones, we must remember to express ourselves in a loving manner, with a forgiving heart and a mind that stays focused on Jesus. Someone said, "Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift, that's why they call it the present. Don't let the hardship of the past rob the joy of the present and hope for the future."

Be Blessed!

– Submitted by Sis. Diana Bibb

The Flu Season is Upon Us. Please help to Prevent and Stop the Spread of Germs. "Practice these simple rules"

- We encourage you to take the flu shot.
- Wash your hands for 15 seconds with soap & warm water.
- Use your alcohol hand gel when soap & water isn't available.
- Cover your coughs & sneezes with your sleeves.
- Stay at home if you are sick: coughing & sneezing, fever or not, achy joints sore throat; stay at home and call your private physician and seek advice.
- Make sure you get plenty of rest and drink plenty of fluids.
- If your doctor gives you medications take it as instructed.
- If you do not get better notify your doctor.

These recommendations apply to schools, businesses, mass gatherings, and other community settings.



– From the **Health & Wellness Committee of FABC**

Church News

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved families of **Deacons E.O. Jones** whose funeral was on August 22 and **Benjamin B. Fields** on August 25, to **Rev. Oscar J. Rivers** on the passing of his mother Mrs. Lucille Rivers Brown in Queens, New York, and to Bro. **Herman Horne** on the passing of his sister Mrs. Mattie H. James of Tuscaloosa.

The funeral of **Sis. Willie Mae Carter** was on Wednesday, July 8, 2009.

We want to assure those families as well as those mentioned in our church bulletin that they are always in our thoughts and prayers.

Congratulations to **Joseph Jones** and **Terrika Eatmon** who were joined in holy matrimony by **Pastor Morgan** on July 25. We wish for them many years of blissful marriage.

We welcome our new **Associate Minister Edward Turner** and his family and pray that they will experience joy, peace, and fulfillment here among us.

*Happy Birthday Greetings to Everyone born in the months of
September and October*



News from the Youth Department



Skating Party

The Youth of **First African** enjoyed a fun two-hour private skating party at Super Skate on Saturday, August 8, 2009. Thanks to **Sis. Lisa Washington** for the idea and the assistance with coordinating the event. The children and youth really enjoyed a blessed and fun time skating. We observed the skating skills of **Rev. Morgan, Bro. Frank White III**, and several other adults too.

Back-to-School

The 8th Annual Back-to-School celebration was Saturday August 8, 2009 at Beulah Baptist Church. The organizing churches were Bethel Baptist, Beulah Baptist, Macedonia Baptist, St. Peter AME Zion, and **First African** Baptist churches. This year's theme "Achieving Success through Respect, Responsibility, and Resourcefulness" adorned the celebration. **Rev. Walter Hinton** was on program to do the opening prayer, as well as the **Praise Dancers** from **First African**. They performed *In the Sanctuary* and did an excellent job!

Sessions and guest speakers were provided for each grade. A parent's and adult's workshop was conducted by **Sis. Audrey Ellis**, coordinator of social services for the Tuscaloosa City School System. **Sis. Ellis** gave valuable school information and important tips to parents that included ways to help children succeed and things that can be done at home to make school days easier. She had a list of 100 ways to volunteer in schools.

Each child was given a brown grocery bag full of school supplies. Thanks to all children, youth, parents, and grandparents from **First African** who made the celebration a success. God Bless, **Sis. Betty Lawson** and **Bro. & Sis. Terrell** and **Bernida Byrd** for their time and energy in planning this event.



NABD Report

Submitted by Sis. Gladys Stringfellow

The 104th Annual Session of the New Antioch Bethlehem District Women's Convention, an affiliate of the Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention, Inc. was held at the NABD Religious Center at 1629 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Tuscaloosa, Alabama from August 19-21, 2009.

Sis. Edna Thompkins, President

Dr. Vernon Swift, Moderator

Dr. J.L. Simpson, Moderator Emeritus

The welcome program was held on Wednesday, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Elizabeth Baptist, the host church, where Dr. Vernon Swift is pastor. Greetings were extended from the various ministries of the church followed by a skit "Miraculous Encounter with the Master" written and directed by Sis. Josephine Swift. A musical was presented by choirs from other churches, followed by a reception. We were very warmly and graciously received.

The formal program began at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday at the Religious Center. The Convention theme was "God can be trusted always" which resounded throughout the week in lectures and sermons given by the moderator, pastors, president Thompkins, and various officers of the convention.

President Thompkins in addressing the group expressed her gratitude to all who assisted her throughout the year in making the work possible and paid tribute to those who had passed on. In compliance with the theme, "God can be trusted always" she compared the present generation to the children of Israel. In their suffering they cried unto God, he heard and delivered them. He also provided for them. We have the same God today who will hear us if we call on Him and ask him to guide and protect us.

Many storms will arise in our lives, but there is a God who cares, we must trust Him, and discover what his plans are for us. God is worthy, trust Him. Men and things will fail us, but God will not.

The Young People's Hour was on Thursday afternoon under the direction of Sis. Marion Bryant, Sunbeams, Sis. Vertia Killings, Red Circles/YWA and Crusaders Bro. Levert Hedgemon Jr. They sang, recited, gave reports and trophies and certificates were awarded.

The following is a synopsis of the final sermon delivered by Pastor F.A. Blackburn Sr. Pastor of Holly Springs Baptist Church:

Subject: *Dealing with our Bitter Waters*

Scripture: Exodus 15: 22-27

In this text, Israel has now crossed the Red Sea after witnessing the mighty Power of God working on their behalf in the destruction of the Egyptians. The Children of Israel had sung, danced and given praise unto God for all His goodness toward them.

God, because He knows and understands the nature of His People, did not lead Israel by way of the shortest or direct route from Egypt (11 day journey), but led them the long way home by way of the wilderness (40 years of wilderness wandering).

— See, **Synopsis**, page 12

Summer Update from Cheron Hardy Missionary with Eternal Hope in Haiti and House Mother of 48 Orphans At Hope Haven Orphanage By Diana Bibb

It's been awhile since the Ushers' Ministry has shared updated correspondence from Missionary Cheron Hardy at Hope Haven Orphanage in Haiti. Recently, the orphanage had two new additions: two very sick girls- Katrina, four months old weighing about four pounds and Belinda who is three years old and looks like a tiny one year-old. Part of Cheron's testimony was that she was resentful about the new additions because she already felt overwhelmed with the responsibilities of 46 children, teens, and young adults. However, after the first week, when she saw both of those babies go from death to life, she repented of her attitude and was thankful to be a part of God's miraculous work.

We, too, can experience a similar sense of repentance each Sunday after hearing one of **Pastor Morgan's** sermons. It's a matter of letting go of ourselves and letting God take control.

Cheron was blessed with a new staff woman, Solange, who has been a tremendous help! (She is featured on the Ushers' Bulletin Board Display holding baby Katrina). Cheron goes on to share that she'd spent a little time seeking God's will in her life. She turned 30 years old on May 10th, and thanked God for the years he has given her.

Cheron goes on to share that while celebrating her birthday in Santiago with her sisters and friends, she was attacked at gunpoint and with a razor blade and all of her essential belongings were stolen. During all that Cheron experienced, she was thankful that all that is truly dear to her was 'stored in heaven' where thieves cannot break in and steal.

In July and August, Cheron expects to be busy with Vacation Bible School for 200 children and an Evangelistic Basketball Camp for 150 teenagers August 3-7. These activities are in addition to Cheron's day-to-day duties as mother to 48 orphan aged children. In the midst of Cheron's personal ailments, the \$2000 loss related to her purse theft, unexpected costs (generator breakdowns etc), she maintains her belief in God's faithfulness, and she has a sense of anticipation for what God will do. Cheron believes that God will be glorified and His work will be accomplished not because of her abilities but because of His strength in weakness. She asks for continued support through much prayer and giving as the Lord enables you.

Specific Requests:

- Financial provision (She has had a \$600 decrease per month in personal/ministry support over the last four months.) \$5000 US to cover the ministry/orphanage activities and supplies (for apprenticeships, transport, supplies, music lessons, snacks etc).
- Strength and health for children.
- Peace in the orphanage (with 55 in one home in the heat of summer).
- For breakthroughs spiritually and in all other levels to take place in the lives of the children and teens having deep challenges.

That she would have the finances to get a new Internet connection at her home.

Cheron believes that through prayers and support, she has no doubt that a handful of Haitian young people committed to God, loved and nurtured, can turn Haiti around to Christ. Let us as brothers and sisters in Christ share Cheron's hope and pray for eternal love & peace for our neighbors in Haiti.

Be Blessed!

After three days of wilderness wandering, NO WATER! – God had taken care of Israel for some 430 plus years while they were in bondage in Egypt, and now three days in the wilderness and they are MURMURING AND COMPLAINING!

How soon we forget Who God Is; What God Has Done; What God Will Do! We can be assured of What God Will Do based on What He Has Done!

Exodus 15:23, “And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter!”

First, there was No Water, and now they find water that is Too Bitter to drink! After getting their hopes and expectations up they would be able to refresh themselves and give their livestock drink, they find the waters Too Bitter to Drink!

How do we deal with (Handle) our bitter waters?

As children of the living God, we can be sure that as we journey on this earth on our way “From Here to Eternity,” we will come to and be faced with many “Bitter Water Situations!”

A single parent trying to raise rebellious children is bitter water!

A son or daughter addicted to crack cocaine is bitter water!

A daughter or son on the corner selling their body to the highest bidder is bitter water!

After years of waiting for Mr. Right and after marriage discovering he is Mr. Wrong is bitter water!

Parents, after spending much money to get baby daughter through college and she marries a “pot head!” – Bitter Water!

Having a love one tangled up in a homosexual relationship is bitter water!

Being married to a husband who spends his pay check before coming home is bitter water!

After 25 or 30 years working on what seemed to be a secure job and getting laid off is bitter water!

After 20, 30, 40 years of marriage receiving divorce papers in the mail is bitter water!

Seeing your children turn away from the God whom you have served and depended on for all the days of your life is bitter water!

Trying to lead a group of hardhead, stiff-neck grumblers and complainers is bitter water!

It was the attitudes and actions of grumblers, murmurers and complainers that caused Moses, God’s appointed leader, to miss out on the blessings of the Promised Land!

It is not a question of IF, but rather WHEN will we come face-to-face with our Bitter Waters! So, How do we deal with our bitter waters? What do we do when we come to Marah? Verse 24, “And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?”

– See, **Bitter Waters**, page 13

Murmuring against and complaining about God's Ordained Leadership is never the solution to the problem of Bitter Waters! Murmuring and complaining only serves to make a bad situation worse! Moses was God's ordained leader, but he did not have the solution to the problem of Bitter Waters! No, Moses did not have the solution to the problem, but he had wisdom working in his favor. He was wise in the ways of God, so he did what the people should have done. He cried unto the Lord (Verse 25). "And he cried unto the Lord; and the Lord shewed him a tree!"

This is the solution not only to the problem of bitter waters, but to every problem! (God specializes in things that seem impossible; take your burdens to the Lord and leave them there).

Grumbling, murmuring and complaining is never the solution to any problem! Grumbling and complaining will never make your Bitter waters to become sweet!

When Moses cried out unto the Lord, the Lord provided the solution to the problem of bitter waters! Verse 25B, "And the Lord shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet!" God has a tree that will make our bitter waters to become sweet! — This tree is Jesus!

This tree can save unsaved souls; this tree can bring wayward children back home; this tree can break that drug addiction; this tree can cause husbands to love their wives; this tree can cause wives to be faithful to their own husbands; this tree can straighten out your mixed-up life; this tree can help you find Mr. Right so that our daughters will not need to hook up with the first "Breath and Britches" that comes along!

Whatever the nature or cause of your bitter waters, Jesus can and will make them sweet for you!

Jesus, who came through forty-two (42) generations to be born in Bethlehem; baptized by John at the river Jordan; preached in Capernum; healed the sick; restored sight to the blind; fed the hungry; gave drink to the thirsty; raised dead men to life again!

Jesus, who was: falsely accused; given an unfair trial before an unjust judge, and sent out to Mount Calvary to be crucified!

They hang Him upon an Old Rugged Cross, and there He hung until Heaven was satisfied; the S-U-N hid her face in a veil of darkness; the moon took hemorrhage and drifted away; the earth began to reel and rock; a soldier at the foot of the Cross cried out, "Surely, Surely, this man was the Son of God!

Joseph and Nicodemus came and begged His body and buried him in Joseph's new tomb! From Friday evening until Sunday morning, death and the grave thought they had gained a victory, but early on the third day morning, Jesus got up and declared to this dying world that all the power of Heaven and Earth was now entrusted unto his hands!

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*Where Ministry Conforms to
the Needs of God's People
The Friendly Church on the Corner*

We're on the Web

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The *Communicator* is a project of the **Missionary Society** where Sis. Lillie Lawson is president. The purpose of this newsletter is to disseminate information to members regarding the Bible and church activities. Copies are mailed to students and anyone away from home. The newsletter is also sent to sick and shut in members locally.

Any suitable literary or Bible-based articles will be accepted from members for publication at any time. These may be given to **Sis. Irma Mason** or **Sis. Gladys Stringfellow**.

Newsletter Staff:

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Contributing Writers

Church Calendar

- September 7 Labor Day
- September 16-18 Pastor Morgan in revival at
Holy Freewill Church
- September 19 FABC Praise Dancers invited to minister at
Zion Hope Baptist Church,
Duncanville, Alabama (4:00 p.m.)
- September 24 Family Night (6:00 p.m.)
Special New Member Fellowship
- October 31 Fall Festival
- November 15 **Church Anniversary**
- 8:00 a.m. Rev. Walter Hawkins &
Dancy First Baptist Church,
Aliceville, Alabama
- 11:00 a.m., Rev. Delwynn G. Williams &
St. John Missionary Baptist,
Panama City, Florida
- 3:00 p.m. Rev. Harold K. Lester &
Orchard Knob Missionary
Baptist Church,
Chattanooga, Tennessee

***Remember Hour of Power services at
7:45 a.m. every Sunday***

***Bible Study
Monday nights, 6:00 p.m. (Rev. Morgan)
Tuesday mornings, 10:30 a.m. (Rev. Carter)***

***Teacher's Meeting and Prayer Meeting
Wednesday nights, 6:00 p.m.***