



A
Ministry
of:

**CORNERSTONE
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

54 Brighton Street
P.O. Box 438
Belmont, MA 02478
Tel: 617-489-2498

Pastor
ROLLAND C. STARR
Editor

LORD, GIVE US MEN LIKE THIS!

March 2011

J. Allen Blair told of an incident that took place in his life many years ago while he was pastoring in Minnesota. A man from New York by the name of Swanson, who owned a baking company, wrote to Dr. Blair asking if could meet him in the railroad station in Chicago where there was to be a baker's convention. The purpose was to see if Dr. Blair would consider coming to pastor a Church in New York. They had never met before and the man described himself. Upon their meeting in the crowded station Mr. Swanson said, "Let us thank God!" He immediately closed his eyes and began pouring his heart out to God. He prayed on; I thought he'd never end said Dr. Blair. "It was only a matter of a few minutes but it seemed like a half hour. I peeked out of one eye and people were looking and wondering what was going on. This mattered not to Mr. Swanson. He was totally oblivious to everyone else. It was as though only two were there - God and himself! What boldness, what concern, what earnestness of prayer." He went on to say that immediately I was drawn to this saint of God for here was a man who knew how to reach into the heavenly places. The Lord led Dr. Blair to the Church where Mr. Swanson was a board member. He testified: "Mr. Swanson was a constant companion and source of encouragement. Frequently I would hear his knock on my door about eight or eight-thirty in the morning. He would come in and say, 'May we pray?' Immediately we would go to our knees. He would commit me and my work for the day to the Lord and I would likewise pray for him. He would go out praising the Lord! What a joy this brought to my heart, what strength and encouragement as I faced the burdens and discouragements of the pastorate." Then, Dr. Blair went on to say to those before him: "I wonder what kind of a man you are in your church. As your Pastor looks into your face on the Lord's day, can he say, 'Thank God for that man, he is the one who helps lift me into the presence of God?'"

A song that I only recently heard for the first time was sung by our male quartet; it is entitled, "*Lord, Make Me A Faithful Man.*" I really like that song! Not everyone can preach, etc. but everyone can be faithful! Believe me Christian, God expects you to be faithful. Now, in the many years of my ministry, I can say thank God for some faithful men. But I will be honest - over the long haul - they have been few. I think any Pastor would tell you the same thing. There are many who will "love" and "support" you as long as you do not take a stand which goes against their own personal desires or beliefs. There are some who have been "fair weather" friends, but when things really get rough or stormy, and unpopular decisions have to be made, they will shift their allegiance to the unspiritual majority or the vocal minority. This is not a complaint - merely the truth. Of course, it is my responsibility to do and say the right thing regardless of what others may say or do. Often the man of God must stand alone like Joseph, Moses, Elijah, Jeremiah, Paul, etc. But I will echo the words of Dr. Blair; there are few things more helpful in the work of the Lord than having men that you can count upon - especially in the matter of holding you before the Throne of Grace. I am convinced if we had more men in our churches like this, we would see a wonderful moving of the Holy Spirit. **"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."**
~James 5:16b (Challenge Reprint)

CORNERSTONE NEWS

FAMILY BIBLE CONFERENCE

JULY 10 – 15, 2011

Sunday: 9:30, 10:45 & 6:00

Mon.-Fri: 10:00, 11:00, 7:00

Refreshments under the tent - 10:45

THEME:

**“HIGH TIME TO WAKE
OUT OF SLEEP!”**

SEVERAL SPEAKERS * SPECIAL MUSIC

FELLOWSHIP TIME * REFRESHMENTS

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE THIS PLACE!

A preacher told of an old country store that had this sign over the door: *“There is no place anywhere near this place like this place so this must be the place.”* He suggested it ought to be placed on the Church. The grass always looks greener on the other side of the fence. If we stop to think about it, we would probably not want to trade places with anyone else. One man became dissatisfied with his house and put it up for sale. Then, he began to look for another house. He saw one advertised which was the house of his dreams. How shocked he was to find it was his old house. Let's all take the attitude, *“There's no place like this place...It's not perfect, still, there's no place like this place”*

MISSIONARY SPEAKER: Travis Harris, long time missionary to Belgium and Holland will be speaking and showing pictures of his work on SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2011. He will be at both Sunday Services – 10:45am and 5:30 pm. There will be a Fellowship Time following the Evening Service. We urge you to bring the family and invite your friends.

YOUTH CORNER

THE KEY TO THE GRAVEYARD! I have read of a certain church which is said to be a curiosity for tourists. The graveyard of the church is always kept locked, but on the gate is the following note: “The key to the graveyard is to be found in the tavern next door.” That is true in more than one way, a host of men and women daily find out that the tavern, booze, is the key that opens the door to the graveyard!

DO YOU ATTEND SUNDAY SCHOOL?

S is for Sunday – a new week begins
U are expected to gather with your friends
Not just for laughs, amusements or fun, but
Down to earth lessons, no matter how young.
And no matter how old you are or may feel,
Your place is in Sunday School for a spiritual meal.

Sure, there may be excuses and stuff
Considered by some to be important enough
Health is essential and sleep is a must, but
On the Lord's day let “First things be first.”
Oh, my friend may God's Spirit speak to your soul,
Let it never be said that you missed Sunday School.

ONE SMALL WORD TEENS (AND OTHERS)

NEED TO USE! Want to be a faithful Christian? Do you want to avoid a great deal of misery and heartache? Would you like to have victory over sin? Do you really want to live for God? Then, you must learn to say NO! A little but most necessary word. Over 100 years ago Charles Haddon Spurgeon said, “Learn to say NO! It will be of more value to you than to learn Latin.” And that was a day when Latin was far more useful than our day. Christian, you need to say NO to worldly friends, to such things as alcohol, smoking, carnal pleasures, television and whatever is contrary to good Christian conduct. Young ladies, say NO to advances that will ruin your womanhood! It is a very short word. It is a good word. It is a most needed word. It is easy to pronounce. It needs no explanation. Ask God for the courage to say NO and mean it. You cannot please Christ without saying NO to some things. Just learn to say NO when you are tempted to sin. There are some who will not like to hear it, but one thing is certain; they will surely understand it! Just learn to say NO!

TRUTH ABOUT BIBLE VERSIONS

All Bibles are not the inspired Word of God! Pastor Starr's book :*“Is Your Bible Really The Word Of God?”* will help you understand the truth. \$3.00 each plus 1.50 postage. Three for \$9.00 pp. (U.S. \$)

NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

MOST EVANGELICALS BELIEVE GOOD PEOPLE GO TO HEAVEN.

The majority of Protestants and Evangelicals believe that good people and people of other religions go to Heaven according to author David Campbell. Campbell...contends that the survey of 3,000 Americans shows that... good people despite their religious affiliation can go to Heaven. Among the faiths, 83 percent of evangelical Protestants agreed that good people of other faiths can go to Heaven. When prodded further, more than half – 54% of evangelical Protestants said, yes, people of other religions can go to Heaven... -ChristianPost.com.

Ed. This is just another confirmation of how far the Evangelicals have departed from the true Faith of the Gospel. Of course, this goes along with all the “self esteem” gospels, etc. that are being promoted these days. Then, too it ought not be too surprising since Billy Graham and the former Pope (the present one no doubt also) have basically said the same thing.

ORTHODOX LEADER CHIDES FAITHFUL OVER SLOPPY DRESS.

A top official of the Russian Orthodox Church has called for an official dress code to encourage propriety after suggesting that provocatively dressed women provoke immorality and violence. “Vulgar external appearance and vulgar behavior is a straight path to misery,” Archpriest Vsevolod Chaplin said in an open letter, [Religion News Service](#) reports. “To empty ‘one-night stands.’ To short marriages followed by rat-like divorces. To children with broken fates. To loneliness and madness. To catastrophes in life.” Chaplin, a top aide to Patriarch Kirill, proposed a “Russia-wide dress code,” saying it should apply to men as well. Critics accused Chaplin of “replacing public discourse on the problem of violence against women with discussion of their external appearance.”-*Religion News Service* (1/21/11). Ed. We have lost more people over a dress code than any other reason. Yet here is a Russian Orthodox statement about the need for a dress code. I have personally seen dress codes posted in restaurants and in prisons. One prison dress code states in so many words that sensual dress causes problems Indeed it does! God has said that women are to dress “modestly” that is, *appropriately*. While it is not mentioned, God surely expects men to dress modestly also. The Word also says, **“Let all things be done decently and in order.”** ~1 *Corinthians 14:40* However, knowing human nature, the greatest problem is with women who, as one preacher stated, “show too much flesh.” Christian, God does care how you dress. God says, **“Be not conformed to this world but be ye transformed...”**

TRINITY SPEAKER PASSIONATE ABOUT CHRISTIAN ROCK

Trinity Baptist College’s annual Church Life Student Conference is featuring a speaker who is passionate about Christian rock. On his web site, Tony Nolan says he is “an outspoken advocate of Contemporary Christian Music” and “partners regularly in concert and conferences with rockers such as Third Day, Reliant K, SuperTones, Pillar, Skillet, Delirious, and Toby Mac. Nolan also has a great admiration for Billy Graham, the grand master of spiritual compromise and ecumenical evangelism. In his blog for October 8, 2010, Nolan described a recent visit with Graham and George Beverly Shea. Trinity Baptist of Jacksonville, Florida, was once a conservative school that practiced separation from the world, but under the direction of Tom Messer this has changed dramatically. It is well down the emerging path. -*FBIS* (2/4/11). Ed. It is sad to see once Fundamental Baptist churches succumbing to the pressure to conform to this world. As we have said before, the path of compromise is a slippery slope and it is either repent or continue the downward course. Few repent! In fact, we don’t know of any who have repented.

OHIO UNIV. OFFERS GENDER-NEUTRAL DORMS.

Ohio University will allow male, female, gay and straight students to cohabitate in the same room during a one-year trial of gender-neutral dorms. Starting in the fall, the state university will become the 56th university in America to offer the chance to live in gender-neutral housing. Other schools such as Princeton University, Columbia University and George Washington University also have gender-neutral living quarters. This means that students can live in the same room with any student regardless of sex, gender, gender identity/expression, or sexual orientation, the university website states. -*Christian Post*. Ed. This tells you a whole lot about where America is going. However, it is only one of many on-going practices that is absolutely degrading. One wonders when the Lord is going to judge this land.

THE DESTRUCTION OF MARRIAGE IN U.S.

According to a study by The Future of Children, the number of children born to unmarried parents in the U.S. grew from about 4 percent in 1940 to almost 40 percent in 2007 (“Living in sin stigma fades,” Napa Valley Register, Jan. 30, 2011). A Pew Research poll found that nearly 40 percent of people surveyed said marriage was obsolete. The “do your own thing” pop culture and “you’re an advanced ape” Darwinian evolution have revolutionized Western society. Raised on such a philosophical diet, it is no wonder that people have no fear of God and live like animals. -*FBIS* (2/11/11)

DISOBEDIENCE LED TO SHIPWRECK

Back in November of 1898 the steamship Portland left Boston Harbor in the midst of a severe storm. Though all the signals for danger were flying the ship left port, even though the government agent at the signal office had strongly advised the outgoing vessel to remain in port. She left in spite of the fact that the ship's owners had commanded her to remain in the dock. Why she left, no one has ever been able to discover. Her captain must have been apprehensive, for he sent a message to the lighthouse keeper saying, "Keep your light burning for we may come back." The vessel no sooner got outside the harbor when the fierce storm caught her in its embrace and tore her to pieces. No one on board ever again saw home or friends. How many lives have been shipwrecked for disobeying the commands of God! God has a plan for every life; for your life. But that plan involves obedience to His Word. God says, "But this thing commanded I them, saying, **'Obey my voice and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people, and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.'**" ~*Jeremiah 7:23*. If you want it to be well with you, you must walk in God's ways! The captain of that ship no doubt had some reason to venture out into that storm, some personal reason for leaving, but he was wrong. It was no doubt a matter of self will. That is the greatest enemy of every child of God! The old nature will lead to shipwreck. We must learn to reject the old nature and yield to God. The hymnwriter wrote: "*Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.*"

Cornerstone Baptist Church
54 Brighton Street
P.O. Box 438
Belmont, MA 02478
www.cornerstonebaptistmetrobooston.org

WHAT IS WORTH KNOWING?

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne...He that hath an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit sayeth unto the churches." ~*Revelation 3:21-22*. The kind of Christianity that relies upon the influence of its own human and earthly power makes God sick, for the Church of Jesus Christ is a heavenly institution. For myself, if I could not have the Divine power of God, I would quit the whole religious business. The Church that wants God's power will have to offer something besides social clubs, knitting societies and all the other side issues. If any Church is to be the Church of Christ, the living organic member of that redeemed Body of which Christ is the Head, then its teachers and members must strive earnestly and sacrificially with the constant prayer to do a number of things. We must strive to make our beliefs and practices New Testament in their content. We must teach and believe New Testament truths, with nothing dragged in from the outside. We must keep our little field of God's planting healthy, and there is only one way to do that; keep true to the roots and get the Word into the Church. We must live to gear ourselves into things eternal and to live the life of Heaven here upon the earth, empowered by the Spirit of God with the same power that came on the earliest believers. We must put loyalty to Christ first at any cost. Anything less than that is really not a Christian Church. – A.W. Tozer

PS. I really don't see how it is possible to put Christ first without putting His Body, the local Church first! Remember, **"Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for it."** ~*Ephesians 5:25*