



GMSBC Winter 2010 Newsletter

God's Vision For Our Church

“Becoming A Full-Time Caring Church That Searches For The Lost”

Dr. John Maxwell, who once pastored Skyline Wesleyan Church in Lemon Grove, California, gave his account of assuming the reigns of a church before he went to Skyline. The story goes like this:

Dr. Maxwell had a preacher friend with whom he played golf every Monday. During the course of the games, the friend was always complaining about the Chief Steward of the church he pastored, complaining that the Chief Steward fought everything that promised to produce growth and change. Dr. Maxwell said, “Man, why don’t you stop complaining and pray.” But his friend retorted, “John I’ve done that, but this guy gets worse, and I’ve made up my mind that I’m going to leave.” Of course, Dr. Maxwell tried to talk him out of it, but his friend’s mind was made up.

As poetic justice would have it, two months later, the vacant church called Dr. Maxwell to be their pastor. Of course, the first thing that came to Dr. Maxwell’s mind was the stubborn Chief Steward. He decided, however, that since all that he had heard about the Chief Steward had been hearsay, he would approach the situation from a positive point of view.

The week prior to Dr. Maxwell assuming the reigns of the church, the Chief Steward called a church meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to decide whether the church would build an education building after the new preacher (Dr. Maxwell) took over. Dr. Maxwell lived in the town and heard about the meeting, but he was not invited to attend.

The meeting was set for 7:00pm. At 7:20pm the meeting was in full session. Dr. Maxwell came in the front door and went to the dark balcony where no one was sitting. No one knew he was there.

True to form, the Chief Steward was busy persuading people to reject the plans to build an education facility. The congregation became divided and some stated that they were leaving the church. The meeting ended without the issue being decided, but the Chief Steward had put a wedge in the congregation that appeared irreparable. Dr. Maxwell eased out before the meeting dismissed. At that moment, he knew that his work was cut out for him. He prayed that night and many nights thereafter.

Six months into Dr. Maxwell’s pastorate, the Chief Steward was still wielding his deadly sword, his tongue of negativism. In the seventh month, Dr. Maxwell set up an appointment for the Chief Steward to meet with him. On the day of the meeting, Dr. Maxwell shared with the Chief Steward his vision of *“Reaching the Lost for Christ.”* The Chief Steward sat calmly, throwing every negative dart in his arsenal. Dr. Maxwell says it was amazing to see, in action, how negativism begot negativism.

Finally, Dr. Maxwell asked, “Frank, how old are you?” Frank replied, “Sixty, why?” Dr. Maxwell said, “Let’s say that the Lord called you home ten years from now. You appear before His judgments seat, and He said “Frank tell me about your Chief Steward’s position the past ten years.”

Dr. Maxwell said, “Frank, as I see it you could say, ‘Lord you sent us a young pastor who you gave a dynamic vision. He organized our church and had us knocking on doors and witnessing in the two mile radius around the church. The church filled up and we had to have two morning services. We built an education building, brought more land, and added more ministries at home and abroad. And when You called me home to be with You, I was getting ready to start up a Substance Abuse Ministry. Lord we’ve grown in the last ten years by leaps and bounds.’ ”

Dr. Maxwell continued: “Or Frank, you could say, ‘That young preacher you sent us came in with all of those grandiose ideas about *Reaching the Lost for Christ*; about knocking on doors and witnessing in the job market; about expanding the services; about building an education facility; about buying land, expanding ministries and caring for drug addicts. Lord, I spent the last ten years fighting to make sure he didn’t lead us in the wrong direction. And when you called me home I was gearing up to block that tithing program he was getting ready to implement.’ Now Frank, which one do you want to tell the Lord?”

According to Dr. Maxwell, Frank immediately got up out of the chair and didn’t say a word. Frank walked out of his office without opening his mouth. Dr. Maxwell followed him to the door of his study and said, “Frank, thanks for coming by.” But Frank said nothing. Frank leaned forward at the water fountain outside of the study door with his back to Dr. Maxwell.

Dr. Maxwell noticed that Frank pretended to be drinking water, for his hand was not on the lever and the water was not running. Frank held that position for about sixty seconds. Dr. Maxwell inquired, “Frank, are you alright?” Frank stood upright and turned to face Dr. Maxwell with tears streaming down his face. Frank said, “Pastor, forgive me for being so deliberately stubborn. I promise you my full support.” He then outstretched his arms to hug his pastor, with tears still streaming down his face.

We all have the same options that Frank had. We can work for the vision, or we can work against it. **The question is which one have you chosen?** Maybe you haven’t chosen either, but rather, you’ve chosen to do nothing for the next ten years. If so, consider which of these you would rather recite to the Lord: “Lord, I’ve done nothing the past ten years but mark time,” or “Lord, I’ve been working in a *Full-Time Caring Church That Is Searching For The Lost.*” Which will it be?

PASTOR COOK

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Happy New Year

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Lord, Not My Will but Yours Be Done

by Fenny West



Lord, Not My Will but Yours Be Done.
 I trust in You, Your word, Your Son.
 From the start You see the end.
 I can depend on You, my Friend.

Lord, not my will but Yours be done.
 As this Race of Grace I patiently run,
 I look at the cloud of witnesses ahead.
 I will keep my focus and forge ahead.



Lord, not my will but Yours be done.
 I will wait for Your Kingdom to come.
 You're a God Who speaks and performs.
 To You and Your word alone will I conform



Are You Praying or Playing?

by [Tolulope Oluokun](#)

Prayer time is business time. It is the greatest privilege any man can have; to commune and talk with the greatest and the only God. It is imperative that prayer time be taken seriously and not casually and not viewed as an ordinary religious exercise. The attitude we have during prayer determines the result we get from such prayers, as God cannot be mocked (Galatians 6:7). We have to be focused and have our minds on God. We should not allow anything to distract us during our prayer times (e.g. our phones, friends etc). We should make sure our hearts are connected towards heaven as "prayer requires more of the heart than of the tongue."

Let's check our prayer lives (personal and corporate) and examine ourselves. Let us be sure that every time we pray we are doing what we propose to do and get the best out of our prayer time. Prayer is for profiting, it is the key we have to heaven, it is our source of power, it is our weapon against Satan etc. Let us maximize our praying time.

Food Groups Word Search

Find and circle all of the Food Group items that are hidden in the grid. The words may be hidden in any direction.

A	F	B	R	E	V	B	N	M	A	F	U	L
P	U	S	N	P	E	S	T	V	S	E	S	L
E	C	I	R	A	G	G	B	R	E	A	D	S
S	R	R	N	S	E	R	S	R	E	R	M	E
E	L	S	A	T	T	L	N	P	I	A	I	E
E	E	I	M	A	A	I	O	U	L	F	L	S
V	C	E	O	E	B	U	U	R	T	S	K	E
G	A	H	R	L	L	G	T	R	E	S	R	S
H	T	E	E	T	E	M	R	U	F	Y	T	S
S	C	T	R	E	S	T	U	H	I	A	M	S
I	E	Y	T	E	S	E	G	I	F	E	U	E
F	T	E	G	G	S	E	O	E	A	T	F	S
S	T	E	E	W	S	A	Y	T	L	F	I	R

- BREADS, CEREAL, RICE, PASTA
- VEGETABLES
- FRUITS
- MILK, YOGURT, CHEESE
- MEAT, POULTRY, FISH, BEANS, EGGS, NUTS
- FATS, OILS, SWEETS

Family Life Enrichment Center

Completion Status

- Work is 98% complete.
 - Started on Retaining Wall.
 - Touch-up of Floors and Walls.
- Scheduled Completion Date:
 - Estimated to be January 2010.
 - 6 months ahead of schedule!!!
- Setup Order for Furniture:
 - Ordered chairs, tables, and furnishings for both lobby areas.

Next Steps

- Improve communication.
- Reduce expenses and Increase sacrificial giving.
- Pray



WENDIE NORTON SCHOLARSHIP FUND



The Wendie A. Norton Memorial Scholarship Fund recently awarded two scholarships to students attending Winston Salem State University. This year's recipients are Cornell Jones, a senior from Manassas, Virginia and Katrina Wade a junior from Charlotte, North Carolina. Both students are Mass Communications majors at the university.

The Wendie Norton Scholarship Fund was established in memory of Wendie Amelia Norton, a 1999 graduate of Winston Salem State University and a Mass Communications major. Wendie passed away in 2002 after a brief illness. She was the daughter of Wyndom and Susie Norton of Charlotte. Mr. Norton is a member of the Board of Directors. Wendie's mother and president of the Scholarship Fund, Susie Norton, stated that the fund serves two purposes. "First, it is a reminder to Wendie's family and to all her friends how much we love her and miss her; and secondly, it allows us to give back to Winston Salem State University, which she dearly loved." Mrs. Norton noted "she was a wonderful person who really enjoyed helping others."

Samuel Tillman of Atlanta, Georgia serves as Chairman of the Board. He stated "We believe that this is a great way for us to allow the memory of Wendie to live on for generations to come."

For information regarding this fund contact Susie Norton at 704-537-7096 or Samuel E. Tillman at 678-467-1394.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS?

What do you think would happen if we did like God's people of many years ago?

In the book of Nehemiah 10th chapter, the people made a binding agreement in writing not to neglect God's house. Each group of families agreed to be responsible for needed items in God's house. What do you think would happen if we would make a binding agreement that we would not neglect God's House?



What do you think would happen if all of us made a sincere effort to talk to new members of our church family to see if we could, together, discover our Spiritual Gifts and where we could use them within our church family? Our gifts are listed in I Corinthians 12:4-11. What do you think would happen?

What do you think would happen if we treated God like He was truly our Father? In your home the father was the head of the family. He and your mother may have gotten together and agreed on how the house would be maintained.

Mom was most likely the cook; Father worked. Someone helped clean the house, someone helped with laundry. Each family member did what they were good at. The reward was joy in a job well done and nobody was neglected and the house was kept in order.

For our "Stewardship" of our "Gifts" our Father has promised us some things. If we don't neglect His House and do what we are good at doing and worship Him, He has promised us Exodus 23:25-26, Acts 4:23-35, and Malachi 3:6-12—just to name a few. The greatest promise of all of course is John 3:16.

What do you think would happen?

Submitted by: The Liaison Committee

GMSBC to Host Room-In-The-Inn

RITI accepts people into the program on the following priority basis: Women or men with children, women, senior men (age 60+) or men with a disability, and men.

Since 1996, GMSBC has partnered with the Urban Ministries, colleges, and congregations of many faiths to open their facilities to provide shelter and food for homeless people during the winter months. GMSBC offers a warm, safe place to sleep, serve two meals (dinner, breakfast) and then return our guests to uptown Charlotte the following morning.

The program is a unique way for people of faith to become directly involved with people who are homeless. The simple goal is to keep homeless people from freezing on cold winter nights. A greater goal is to provide a more personal relationship to homeless people, at least for a night, and a deeper understanding of the depth and complexity of the issue.

This year we will start hosting on Saturday, January 16, 2010 at 5:00 pm. If your group would like to host January 30th, February 13th, March 6th, or March 20, 2010 please call the church office and leave your contact information. For more information, please contact Sis. Pearlie Winchester.



GREATER MT. SINAI BAPTIST CHURCH

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*“Becoming A Full-Time Caring Church
That Searches For The Lost”*

**Website: gmsbc.org
Currently Under Construction**

About Greater Mt. Sinai Baptist Church

Worship Services: 8:00am and 11:00am
Youth Church Service - Every 3rd Sunday - 11:00am
Sunday School: 9:30am – 10:30am
Youth Meeting – Monday – 7:00pm
Weekly Prayer Meeting – Wednesday – 7:45pm
Weekly Bible Study – Thursday – 7:00pm

Rev. George Cook, Jr., Pastor

STANDING FOR THE READING OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE



Standing for the reading of God’s Word is a “long-standing” Biblical principle. Standing is a part of worship and promotes the acknowledgment that we recognize His reverence. The book of Nehemiah records:

“All the people assembled as one man in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra, the scribe, to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded for Israel. So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra, the priest, brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. Ezra the scribe stood on a high wooden platform built for the occasion. Beside him on his right stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah and Maaseiah; and on his left were Pedaiah, Mishael, Malkijah, Hashum, Hashbad-danah, Zechariah and Meshullam.

Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them: and as he opened it, the people all stood up. Ezra praised the Lord, the great God: and all the people lifted their hands and responded, “Amen! Amen!” Then they bowed down and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground.”



The Storehouse Ministry

The Storehouse Ministry is beginning to develop a brochure with a "short" list of Social Service Agencies that can assist the Members/General Public with a range of needs. This handout should be available during the 1st Quarter of 2010. Stay Tune.....



“News From The Mount” Press Deadline

Let us know what is going on with your ministry and we will share it with our church family. The deadline for articles, events, photos for the next “News From The Mount” is Friday, February 12, 2010. Please include your name and phone number on your submissions in case there are questions. “News From The Mount” editors reserve the right to edit all submissions to the newsletter for brevity, grammar, clarity and consistency as space will allow. The preferred submission method is by email to: gmsbc.newsletter@gmail.com.