

The Calvary Connection

Fall 2005
Vol.3, No.2

Published by Calvary Baptist Church

In This Issue

- Ministry Spotlight: Cancer Support
- Youth: Bridging The Gap
- Member Profile

2005 CHURCH PICNIC



Pastor's Pen

REFLECTIONS ON KATRINA

I was blessed to be able to witness a part of a service of remembrance on television broadcast live from the National Cathedral in Washington D.C. The service was intended to be a time of remembrance, healing and strength for this nation, and especially for those who were directly impacted by the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Watching this service caused me to think about how we should feel as the people of God about this catastrophe and its unimaginable destruction.

There are some who have raised the issue of God's judgment. They contend that the hurricane was an act of God meant to bring judgment upon New Orleans and its "glorification of immorality". Although the righteousness and holiness of God does manifest itself as judgment at times, I would be very careful associating hurricane Katrina with the wrath of God. First of all, there is more than to New Orleans than vices and

immoral behavior. Second, there were many "innocent" people who lost their lives, and families who lost everything. Third, our knowledge of God and the ways of God is too limited and finite to make such a claim too quickly and easily. Of course, there are some positive consequences which can emerge out of the rubble of the disaster which can be used for God's purposes.

This hurricane, for one, does remind us of how fragile life is and how we should prioritize our commitments. As 9/11 did for this nation, the hurricane literally shares the same foundations of our dependencies. We are forced to see that we cannot trust too much in the natural and material. Prayerfully such a cosmic tragedy will rekindle a genuine fire for God. I do not speak of a surface "flag-waving, America the Beautiful", kind of religion. I mean an authentic turning to the One who makes life meaningful.

Then, strangely enough, this hurricane has exposed

a real problem in this nation, and that is the problem of poverty. To many of us it is invisible. We do not see it. The poor are isolated. They become like Ralph Ellison's main character in his book *The Invisible Man*. This hurricane showed us people who could not afford to evacuate. These people had no where to go. The media exposed large pockets of African Americans who were stuck and stranded at the Superdome and at the Convention Center in New Orleans. This nation needs to quickly and seriously think about and change institutionalized systems of racism and discrimination which have given birth to people who do not have the basic means necessary to survive and thrive.

The hurricane has also forced the citizens of this county to come together and help each other out. Tragedy has a way of eradicating differences which typically punctuate social existence in this country. But we have seen and con-



tinue to see people who would not ordinarily even speak to each other, giving to one another and moving cooperatively to make a difference. I am not sure how long it will last, but it is refreshing to see communities, organizations, celebrities, and elected officials who are more interested in giving than getting.

I can not confidently say that God "caused" this hurricane, and that its intention was to bring judgment upon New Orleans. But I can confidently say that God's purposes can be realized as a result of this "natural" disaster.

— Rev. Jerry M. Carter, Jr.

• Christian Counsel •

Need Christian advice? We can help. Place your anonymous question in the *Calvary Connection* mailbox.

Q: What are spiritual gifts and how can I identify them?

A: One of the best places to seek some insight for this question is found in Romans 12:6-8, and I Corinthians 12:1-12, 28. In both pericope, Paul names some spiritual gifts specifically, but not exhaustively.

He highlights some gifts to examine the identity of them, but by no means does he list all the gifts given by God. Spiritual gifts are the tools within you, given by God, with the intent to glorify Him. Sometimes, we confuse natural abilities or talents with spiritual gifts. Although, God truly is the creator of all good things, spiritual gifts have a deeper meaning

and greater purpose than just talents. And that purpose is to increase His kingdom by using the gifts given.

Some may think that they don't have a gift. But all believers of Christ have one or more gifts. So how can we identify it or them? Well, there's no easy answer. But just as it is the

Continued onto next page

Lord, only, who can reveal Himself to us, it is also only God who can reveal our gifts to us. Don't misinterpret that to mean we need to stay cooped up in our secret closets until He says what it is. It's kind of like the unemployed person, wanting to work, but not looking for a job. Similarly, the "unemployed" Christian, not yet sure of their place in the church or within God's plan, can first of all just "Go..." (Matt. 28:19). Sometimes, we have to try out different ministries and see if the Lord will tug at our heart strings a certain way, or concretely advise us

to move on. Patience comes in handy here, especially for newer members of the church and even veterans who may be uncertain as to their gifts.

See, there's no time limit or deadline when it comes to figuring it out. When it's time, the Lord will reveal. And no one will have to confirm it, nor testify to it because the Father, Son and Holy Spirit can do that all with no help from us. It's when you just know. Better yet, you know, that you know, that you know, but you can't explain exactly how you know, and yet you still know. (Somebody

knows what all that means.) I guess one simple way to summarize is to say that a talent is something you have, but a gift is a present you have to give to someone else. And God is the giver of the gift, as well as the One who helps us to unwrap it. And let us always remember that our gifts, whatsoever they may be, are to fit into the body of Christ, not contradicting God's Word, nor competing with God's people, but ultimately complimenting God's plan for salvation, as purposed through our lives.

— *Min. Monica Hooks*

• **Calvary Grapevine** •

Have a question? We'll get the answer.
Place your anonymous question in the
Calvary Connection mailbox.

Q: What is this new Church Handbook I've been hearing about?

A: The vision for a Church Handbook, a central and common resource for members, leaders, and administrators came from our own church office. It is the aim of the church handbook to ensure that the blessings and benefits of the ministries and services of our growing church are accessible and transparent to the membership.

The Church Handbook is a tool for all members, seasoned, new, and candidates for membership to have a common point of reference to find consistent and accurate information regarding the inner workings of the church. This innovative wellspring of information will at the same time take on the role of the church office as a middle-person for scheduled meetings and events, staff, ministerial, trustees,' diaconal, and ministry head contact information, and other day-to-day operations.

In January 2006, the Calvary Baptist Church Handbook will replace the New Members' Orientation Booklet and will be distributed to the entire membership. The church handbook will be updated and distributed annually in January.

All of the church leaders have been given a copy of the working draft of the handbook for revision over the next three months. They have also been asked to modify their major event planning, policy implementing and updating, and leadership turnover schedules to allow the information printed in the handbook to be accurate for the entire calendar year.

We encourage your input! If you would like to preview this innovative wellspring of information though, you must see an Associate Minister, Deacon, Deaconess, Trustee, or Ministry Head.

— *Min. Anthony L. Riley*

"MY GOD"

By *Anthony Greene Jr.*

My God is not an intangible that cannot be seen. It is the rhythm of the Universe, the foundation and essence in the flow of order. It is the purity of the Earth and is crystal clear as a glass of water. It is the sound of pain when flesh is being torn. It is the greatest miracle in the Universe, especially, when a parent's child is being born.

Yes! My God can be seen, but you have to know what you are looking for. It is the children that play in harmony on the other side of your front door. It is the small things in life my grandfather used to say: "Grandson, take care of the small things and in your life this will pay." But the small things are not that small if one dares to look. There is enough enlightened knowledge that an individual can write a book.

My God is the change of seasons that have been changing throughout time. It is the rhythm that flows through this poetry that makes this poem rhyme. It is the stars, the trees or the glow of the moon. It is the Universal Spirit that exist throughout this room .

Yes, My God can be seen, but you have to be looking for Truth. Just examine nature and that would be all you need to do to have proof.

This is My God

THE CANCER SUPPORT MINISTRY

CANCER!!! A scary word to most people. Especially when you get the news that you or a loved one has cancer. It is enough to send the bravest and toughest of us into seclusion, into a cocoon, into a hiding place. Shhhh!!! Can't tell anyone. Can't talk to anyone. The embarrassment of saying "I have cancer" is sometimes so overwhelming that it can keep one from getting all of the information they need to give them the upper hand in their battle against cancer. Yes, the battle. That is exactly what must happen when one learns that they or someone they know has cancer. It is time to put on your armor and go to war — war against that cancer. And the best way to fight the battle is with information and knowledge — knowledge about the disease, knowledge about available treatments and knowledge about what you can do to improve your chances of survival. More importantly, you need to know that there are others who have gone through this before you who are willing to help you through your battle. But now let's keep it real — only God can determine our ultimate fate, but God has also made available ways to increase our chances of survival through doctors, organizations, literature, new medicines, diet, support groups and the like.

The Cancer Support Ministry at Calvary was started back in 2000 after one of our dearest members, Ruth Russell, found out that she had breast cancer. Supported by Leon and Janice Thomas, the ministry was formed and was primarily used as a forum to share experiences and talk openly about cancer. When Janice, former Ministry Leader, and Leon decided to move to Oklahoma in 2002, there was a moment when we thought that the ministry would dissolve. However, a new member at the time, Susan JnBaptiste, stepped up to the plate and agreed to lead the ministry. Since then, we have grown in membership and expanded our activities to include yearly fund-raisers like Bowling for a Cure and Relay for Life, educational seminars specifically designed for men, women and our youth, and the 5-A-Day Health Program which we do in conjunction with the Nurses Ministry. We are still a growing ministry and we are not without our challenges, however, we know that God has already worked through us to help several people and we know God has work for us to do and we are prepared to be faithful servants.

Our membership consists of many cancer survivors but we also have many members who have not had cancer but who have been touched in one way or another by either family members or close friends. Now a 5-year survivor, Ruth is one of our most supportive members, always ensuring that there is an upbeat atmosphere that keeps everyone happy.

We asked our members "Why did you join the Cancer Support Ministry and how has it helped you personally and spiritually?"

LM – When I was going through my cancer, I had no one to talk to about it. It was taboo. This ministry provides an atmosphere where I can talk freely about how I feel without being judged. I can laugh, cry or just say nothing and it is ok. I now have new found strength and I can help others in similar situations. Being in the ministry has given me inner peace. Even though it has been 5 years, I know I am always at risk, but knowing God, praying and knowing that I am not alone helps a lot.

RR – Personally, if I get down emotionally prior to a doctor's visit or if a problem arises, I can call a support member and we have a nice chat. It always helps. In this ministry, I can speak freely about my experiences with cancer with open arms and from my heart.

KJ – As I was battling my cancer, the ministry provided a support system that fed my mind, body and soul. The love and support that was given let me know that I was not alone and anything is possible with the power of prayer and the support of God's disciples. It helped me understand many aspects of cancer and the effect on those fighting as well as on family members and friends. It has strengthened my faith so that now I can be used as a tool to help others in any crisis but especially those who are dealing with cancer.

SR – I was looking for support after losing my mother to Cancer. She was a member of this ministry also. I have been allowed to share my feelings and to cry when I needed to cry. It has also helped me with my guilty feelings of questioning God concerning the death of my mom.

RW – My best friend who is a survivor is a member and I have two siblings, a



Cancer Support Relay For Life 2005

sister-in-law and another friend who lost their battle with cancer. I wanted to do something – even if it was talking and encouraging others, raising funds or just being there for someone. Being in the ministry has helped me because no one knows what will happen tomorrow. If something happens to me, I want to have the courage to fight. When I help others, I help myself and I learn and do all I can to prevent it if I can.

WC – I joined the ministry because of my personal experience with my mother dying with cancer. It has helped me by helping other people.

JP – I joined the ministry because I feel I can help educate cancer patients about eating properly which will contribute toward living longer, healthier lives. I also had a loved one who died from cancer so I give my support and contribute whenever I can. It has helped me to be more patient, understanding, kind, sincere, helpful and supportive towards those who are suffering and in need.

RL – I joined because my mother was affected by this disease. I needed support and wanted to give support. It has helped me by talking to people who have experienced the disease personally. It helped me understand what they have to go through physically and emotionally. We share thoughts on how, as family members, we struggle with a loved one's illness. It is helping me work through my feeling of confusion and guilt in relation to my mother's death and with God.

HC – I joined because I am a survivor and my husband died from cancer. The ministry has been a blessing to me. It has helped me to learn to lean on God and

Continued onto Page 7

CALVARY YOUTH MINISTRY BRIDGING THE GAP

*"If you don't stand for something,
you will fall for anything."*

Shouldn't we remember the time-tested wisdom of this adage as we chart the future direction of our Youth Ministry in this New Millennium? If we do not prepare our youth to stand on the solid rock of the Gospel message, then they will certainly fall into the sinking sand that the world offers.

There is an exponentially greater probability that in this present age our youth will "fall for anything" compared to previous generations. Our youth are children within a world that promotes and represents an unprecedented level of freedom. Consequently, the extremely liberal expression of thoughts and ideas, particularly through the visual media, produces more things that tempt our children into ultimate consumption.

We can no longer employ traditional methods of communicating Christian principles with the hope that such methods will limit their consumption of what the world offers. They are children of a culture that entertains the beliefs of a variety of religions. The restrictions that our traditional teaching and preaching impose are, at the very least, muffled by a chorus of beliefs and, at the very most, disregarded by beliefs that will accommodate a fallen situation.

How will our youth understand the truth of Christ's instruction so that they may serve as a light in the darkness that peer pressure presents? How will they experience Christ's love so that when they fall to worldly temptation they can confidently rely on their faith in Christ to rescue them from the fall? How will we train them to live offensively with God's powerful presence rather than defensively in a world that challenges our Christian beliefs?

The Calvary Youth Ministry invites the entire church to join the ministry's adult leaders in an effort to effectively plant the seed of the Gospel message in the lives of our youth. We ask the church to abandon the traditional mind set that youth are kids who need to be baby-sat when, in all actuality, their exposure to worldly influences bear little difference to what adults are exposed. Additionally, the notion that we are preparing our youth for adulthood bears little contemporary relevance. Instead, we need to train our children to exercise Christian maturity today. This can only happen when adults and parents partner with our youth to vulnerably share their experience in

overcoming worldly temptations that all groups confront.

Frankly, our persistent use of traditional methods in relating to our youth has forged a communication gap. The first step in bridging this gap is the realization that adults and youth are of two different cultures. Both may share a common ancestry, but their world view and resulting lifestyles are totally different.

The youth culture may be characterized as a lifestyle that is more acquainted with living in freedom than living with restrictions. In fact, many of them were born after the historical fights for freedom that many adults personally remember. For example, they don't recall the Civil Rights Movement, the Cold War tension between the east and the west and the Chinese student protest in Tiananmen Square. Finally, the Vietnam War is as ancient to them as World War I, World War II, or even the Civil War.

Adults, on the other hand, view the world predominantly from a perspective of limited movement because of a life of limits imposed by self and others. Typically, this perspective translates into a mental picture of a path marked by real or imagined restrictions.

Our young people with their culture of free movement view the world not as a path, but as an open field. It is difficult for anyone faced with an open field to walk along a path that they cannot envision. More importantly, it is difficult for anyone, lost in an open field, to believe the compassion of one directing from a distance.

For these reasons, the Calvary Youth Ministry will attempt to make a shift in how adult leaders and parents communicate with our youth. This new method involves a pastoral care approach. To effectively communicate what we have experienced about the Gospel, we will cross the divide and walk with our youth through the open field the world offers.

Our goal is to make every effort to understand our youth and build a trust with them so that our words of guidance will fall on good soil. We use as our example Jesus Christ when He crossed the divide of heaven and earth to walk with humankind. And, because of His sacrifice, we can stand on the rock of our salvation.

— Rev. Timothy M. Brown, Youth Pastor

Biblical Perspective

A Practical Engagement

By Minister David A. Hollowell

“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” 2 Cor 3:17-18

As Christians, we believe that the Holy Spirit indwells us when we become saved. If the Spirit of the Lord abides within, how do we connect with or engage this Spirit as an expression of our faith? The scripture above states that we have liberty, but what is entailed in actualizing or bringing to fruition this notion of liberty? What are we free to do, and what are we free not to do?

On a practical level, we have both privileges and responsibilities as believers. We know in our teaching and preaching over the course of this year about our church theme, “Engaging Life in the Spirit,” that the Holy Spirit plays a vital role in every aspect of our lives. From a practical perspective, we can expect several things through an active engagement of the Holy Spirit:

- Empowerment:

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8).

- Abundant Life:

“...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10).

- Fruitfulness:

“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. (John 15:5). This fruitfulness will be

manifested in specific ways: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law”

(Gal 5:22-23).

Is it expected that all believers will experience this engagement once we have become indwelt by the Holy Spirit? Regardless of the level of our spiritual maturity, we all will come to realize that we need a continual filling of the Holy Spirit to maintain our positive engagement. When we place our trust completely in the Lord in every detail of our lives, we can achieve this connection by:

- Sincerely desiring to be directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

(Matthew 5:6, John 7:37-39)

- Confessing our sins and thanking God for his forgiveness (Colossians 2:

13-15, 1 John 2:1-3, Hebrews 10:1-17)

- Sacrificially presenting every area of our lives to God (Romans 12:1-2)

- Following God’s command to position ourselves for filling:

“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

(Eph 5:18-20)

- Relying upon God’s promises:

“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.”

(1 John 5:14-15)

• The Amen Corner •

By David A. Hollowell



Continued from Page 4

know that He is always there through the good and the bad.

SH – I joined because it helped me to accept cancer, speak openly about it and share my feelings. It has given me a better outlook and my faith has become stronger.

JE – I joined because of the influence of others in the group, and so I could use my spiritual gifts to help and support others.

We are truly a family and we welcome anyone to come and join us as a member or just for support. We meet on the 4th

Monday of each month at 6:45 p.m. in the Matthew Room (or somewhere close by). Our fundamental message to everyone who has cancer, who had cancer or who knows someone who has or had cancer is that YOU ARE NOT ALONE. You may contact any of us at any time via the Church Web site or office. We are: Susan JnBaptiste, Ruth Russell, Harriet Coarse, Dorothy Hollowell, Linda McNeill, Sheila Hamilton, Kimberly Jamison, Sharon Turley, Ruby Winston, Selina Raines, Robin Lewis, Janet Parchment, Wanda Castillo, and Joylyn Espeut.

— Submitted by Susan JnBaptiste

UP CLOSE WITH CANCER SURVIVOR SHARON TURLEY

BY MICHELE HOWE



As a cancer survivor, Sharon Turley talked about her illness and why it's so important to be a comfort to others. She felt the need to reach out and help. Whether it's an encouraging phone call or driving someone to a medical appointment, this busy wife and mother of two sons does whatever she can to ease someone else's burden.

"I started visiting the church in 1992 when I moved here with AT&T, and became a member in 1995," the Rockaway resident said. In 1998, she left the telecommunications company and began contemplating her next career move. Not wanting to work for a large corporation, Turley said "I was floundering and decided in 1999, to go back to school and enrolled at the College of Saint Elizabeth (Convent Station)."

With her life on the upswing, she studied in preparation for a new career. Then, her life took a turn for the worse. "It was just before spring break that I began to feel

ill. I remember, I was in Sociology trying to finish a mid-term exam and just couldn't focus," she said. After spring break, when it was time to return to school, Turley still felt ill, complaining of lethargy. "I had no energy or motivation. It felt like cold and flu symptoms and I couldn't digest food well. After going to the doctor for tests, I was eventually told my liver was not functioning properly and I should not return to school until a definitive diagnosis was made," she said. Her health in steady decline, Turley continued to seek the advice of doctors. Her diligence led to a physician who diagnosed her condition as pancreatic cancer. "The survival rate for pancreatic cancer is less than three percent. They (doctors), give you stages of the illness (depending on the severity of the disease). I was diagnosed as being at stage three, with stage four being terminal," she said. "When I heard the news, I just realized then there wasn't a whole lot I could do so I gave it over to God. I guess I was so calm that the doctors began to worry. In fact, one sat down with me questioning whether I understood the gravity of my diagnosis. "I told her I clearly understood but I wasn't in control. I had already decided to pray and let it go," she added.

After undergoing a nine to 10 hour invasive surgical procedure, Turley began a very aggressive radiation and chemotherapy protocol designed by Dr. Robert Fine, Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York, and her primary oncologist, Dr. Stephen Schreiber in Morristown, NJ.

"The treatments ravage your body but I had the support of family and friends: My husband (Conley Whitfield); my sons (Todd and Sean); my Mom and sisters (who came from Kentucky to spend time with me); several of the nuns (Sisters of Charity) from the college; and a social worker who told me to think of the radiation treatments as God's rays moving through and washing out my body," she said. In addition to family, Turley had the support of the Calvary Cancer

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Visit The Breast Cancer Site at <http://www.thebreastcancersite.com/home> every day and click on the pink "Fund Free Mammograms" button to help fund free mammograms for homeless, low-income women.

It costs you nothing to help make early detection and survival possible to women in need. You can click once per day. Pass it along as a way to fight breast cancer all year long!

What Cancer Can Not Do

Cancer is so limited...
It can't cripple Love
It can't shatter Hope
It can't corrode Faith
It can't destroy Peace
It can't kill Friendship
It can't suppress Memories
It can't silence Courage
It can't invade the Soul
It can't steal eternal Life
It can't conquer the Spirit

— Author unknown

Support Ministry, and members of the Calvary family – "especially Deacon (Ivory) Herbert, and Sis. Ruth Leach who stood by me," Turley said. "Sometimes, members of the church don't realize how important it is – how affirming – to have people visit or call when you're ill. It can make all the difference to someone's spirit and to the healing process," she added.

After treatment, Turley was convinced that there was something God wanted her to do. Having felt inspired by the counseling sessions of the social worker at the Morristown Memorial Cancer Center, she transferred from the College of Saint Elizabeth to Kean University (Union) where she earned a Bachelors degree (with honors) in Social Work, and, on May 10th of this year, stepped forward to receive her Masters in Social Work. "The thing I want to stress in the Cancer Support Ministry is that a diagnosis of cancer doesn't always have to be a death sentence. You can survive; God is still on the throne! Through sharing personal stories and giving testimony, you can learn that it's okay to change doctors, medication, and even treatments, etc. if you're not satisfied. And, most importantly, you can come to us for support," Turley said.

"My doctor at Columbia Presbyterian (New York) calls me a miracle baby. I like to think of it as God's miracle," she added.

The Calvary Connection (C²)
is published quarterly.
Submit your ideas and writings to
cbcnewsletter@aol.com or put them
on a disk and drop it in the C² mailbox.

(Submissions may be edited)

Calvary Baptist Church
Making disciples of Christ through
Worship, Word, Witness



Reverend Jerry M. Carter, Jr., Sr. Pastor
10 Martin Luther King Avenue
Morristown, NJ 07960
973-267-9079
www.calvary-baptistchurch.org
cbc10mlk@aol.com

Sunday Morning

Service - 7:45 a.m.

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.

Service - 10:45 a.m.

Weekly Bible Study

Tuesdays - 7:00 p.m.

(Food and Fellowship - 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.)

SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

Olympic Day at Caldwell Playground



**The students take a break for lunch
at the Liberty Science Center**

CALVARY CONNECTION (C²) TEAM

Peter Ambush: Design and Production • Min. David Hollowell: Biblical Perspective, Photography
Michele Howe: Reporter, Writer • Marsha Webster: Editor, Writer, Layouts, Graphics