

The Calvary Connection

SUMMER 2004
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Couples 4 Christ Family ☆ Olympics Day



Pastor's Pen

Marriage According To The Model

Our world, and particularly American society, is faced with many social, economic, political and moral conflicts, maladies, and controversies. The abuse of Iraqi prisoners of war is a great concern for the American government. There is the so-called "war on terrorism" which has been occupying the mind of this nation for some years now. Of course there are always issues of racism abroad in the land. Corruption, amongst some large corporations, seems to be an ever-present reality. But nothing is staring this country in the face like the controversy concerning "same sex marriages".

I do not mean to imply that this is the primary problem confronting us, as do some right-wing politicians and clergy. Nevertheless, this is a situation to which the church must respond. We cannot remain silent.

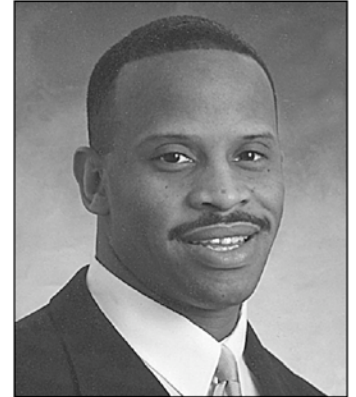
What shall we say then about this controversy? In order to respond to the same sex marriage dilemma, we have to go back to "the model" as it is declared in Genesis. Some time ago, I was putting together a desk for my daughter. As I struggled to put it together, I kept looking at the manufacturer's picture of the desk on the box. If the desk was going to be what it should be, it ought to look like the model created by the one who designed it.

By "model", I do not mean that the Adam and Eve narrative provides an exact pattern for marriage which should be superimposed on every marriage. However, this original relationship provides some insight into the covenantal relationship, which has come to be called "marriage". The Adam and Eve relationship is one of equal partnership. This relationship is also characterized by a real sense of Unity. Adam says, "*This is now, bone*

of my bones, and flesh of my flesh" (Genesis 2:23). Beyond that, marriage is characterized by Honest Vulnerability. "*And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed*" (Genesis 2:25).

What is most fundamental about this relationship is that it is between a man and a woman. This is almost too obvious to mention, but this truth cannot be ignored nor overstated. God brings together two opposites in order to form a Human Union. The two are meant to compliment each other emotionally, spiritually, psychologically, and even physically. This account reports that the creator took a rib out of the man to make woman. Thus there is a sense of incompleteness until these two come together. God did not make man and woman alike because then they would not compliment each other.

The fact that Massachusetts



etts has legalized marriages for gays and lesbians is a major problem. It is a problem because it contradicts the original model. Same sex marriages are a blatant rebellion against the original designer. And whenever humanity rebels against God, as revealed by this same "model" couple, there is always a "fall downward".

The church of Christ must speak the truth in love concerning same sex marriages. Our role is to discover and declare the mind of God concerning the issues of our world, and this is one which is staring us in the face.

— Rev. Jerry M. Carter, Jr.

• Christian Counsel •

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

Q: How Do I Encourage My Child To Pray?

A: As Christian parents it's our obligation and responsibility to nurture our children in the Lord. "*Train a child in the way that they should go and when they are old they shall not depart from it.*" (Proverbs 22:6). We are given a divine challenge through God's Holy Word to equip the children that He

has given us temporary stewardship over. A huge portion of this charge is encouraging and teaching our young people to pray. Having the confidence to know you can go to God with concerns and problems is of vital importance in this unstable time we live in. With prayer taken out of schools and many of our public arenas, we can no longer afford to assume that our children will learn to pray from outside

entities. So it is very important to understand how valuable it is for our children to be exposed to a meaningful prayer life in the home.

A daily family devotion should be the foundation of all Christian discipleship. Sharing of stories and exploring the marvelous principles about prayer in the Bible during family devotion will create wonderful opportunities for the church to add to the spiritual

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• Calvary Grapevine •

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Q: What is the role of the Director of Church Operations and why does the Church have one?

"Let all things be done decently and in order."

(1 Corinthians 14:40)

"Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord."

(Romans 12:11)

A: Picture a symphony orchestra giving a perfect performance. What the audience is aware of is the melodic sounds emanating from the instruments in complete harmony; the precise movement of the various instrumental sections; the impeccable appearance of the orchestra members; and of course, the highly skilled, accomplished conductor. This is the description of Calvary Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Jerry M. Carter, Jr.

What it takes to present this picture Sunday after Sunday, is a group of dedicated believers, energetic, fervent in spirit and serving the Lord while doing things decently and in order — working behind the scenes every day.

Under Pastor Carter's leadership, Calvary has grown by leaps and bounds and it became increasingly evident that we needed a position that would relieve the Pastor of the administrative duties and to focus on the day-to-day nuts and bolts of the church. Being the visionary that he is, Pastor Carter

worked with the Leadership Team to create the position of Director of Church Operations.

The general responsibilities of this position are day-to-day church management and operations; assisting the senior pastor as needed with the ministry of the church; and building a sense of community within the church through reaching out to minister to the special needs of church members. Some of the duties are highlighted below:

- Manage church and the accountability, development, and evaluation of church staff.
- Ensure implementation of church policies and procedures.
- Participate in staff meetings and leadership training sessions.
- Develop and recommend strategies for growth and program improvement.
- Further develop the Wellspring Ministry to provide counseling and support for clinical and life services through offerings at the church and/or through liaisons with local community and state social service agencies. Also, to seek not-for-profit status for this ministry.

This position was implemented in January 2004. We have been blessed by a spirit of total cooperation and commitment among the Calvary leadership to utilize the resources God has given us to glorify His name.

— *Director of Church Operations,*
Samaria Tillman

I LIVE FOR JESUS TODAY

I LIVE FOR JESUS TODAY
I LIVE FOR HIM IN EVERY WAY,
MAY HE SEND HIS ANGELS
TO PROTECT ME
MAY HE MOVE HIS SPIRIT
AROUND ME.
IN HIS WORD HE LEADS ME TO SEE
HIS AWESOME GLORY,
HIS MIGHTY POWER,
AND I KNOW THAT THIS DAY
IS THE HOUR,
THAT HE GUIDES ME
AND MOLDS ME;
HIS GRACE IT FOREVER
STRENGTHENS ME.

I LIVE FOR JESUS TODAY
AND I KNOW
THAT HIS TRUTH AND LIGHT IN ME
THEY GROW,
IN MY SPIRIT IS HIS BEING
HIS WORD AND HIS MEANING,
FOR HIS WORDS LEAD ME TO SEE
ALL THE LOVE HE HAS FOR ME.
OH WHAT A JOY TO LIVE
FOR JESUS TODAY,
TO LIVE FOR HIM IN EVERY WAY.
MAY HIS ANGELS PROTECT ME,
HIS PRECIOUS BLOOD
FOREVER COVERS ME.
IN HIM I ABIDE,
I LAY DOWN MY PRIDE,
TO CALL UPON HIS NAME.
I CHOOSE
TO LIVE FOR JESUS TODAY.

Written by a Calvary member

• **Webwatch** •
www.tanbible.com

The true stories behind
the writing of our most
inspirational hymns

Ministry Spotlight

The Little Lambs Children's Church

By Renita Bourgeois

It is 10:45 a.m. Sunday morning. Parents are gathering outside the Little Lambs Room waiting to sign in children, get name tags, share a bit of important information with a coordinator, and in some cases handing over a diaper bag, then off to service they go. Some children are willing and of course others are not, but our volunteers are standing by with a smile and open arms for parents and children in an effort to ease the strain of a two-hour separation. If this sounds like a day care center you couldn't be farther from the truth.

It's our own Children's Church and Nursery Ministry where its aim is to plant the seeds of faith and help nurture the spiritual development of children in a child-friendly environment. February 2004, the ministry celebrated their 13th year in service for the Lord. The ministry began under the spiritual direction and vision of Pastor Carter and the late Sister Maria Shipp. This led to the formation of a ministry designed to focus on the spiritual development of children ages six and under during the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service.

The Children's Church and Nursery Ministry is available every Sunday, but children must be registered and picked up by a parent or guardian. Little Lambs Sunday School, an extension of Children's Church for ages two and under, is also available at 9:30 every week in the Little Lambs Rooms. Registration at the beginning of the Worship Service is encouraged, as it allows the children to participate in the entire program. This also allows for adequate planning and scheduling of materials and volunteers. The children are separated into two groups. Children three years and under remain in the Little Lamb's Rooms (in the Mahalia Jackson Hall) while children, ages four to six, participate in part of the Worship Service in the Sanctuary. Then they attend a mini-worship service in the Chapel with a special message prepared for them by Minister John Bowden or a member of the ministerial staff. This component was added in 1994 to help give the children a better understanding and aid in the development of a more meaningful worship experience. Over the years there has been growth in both age groups; the numbers often reflect the composition of families with young children in the congregation. "One of the many challenges the ministry has is to dispel the myth that we're a baby-sitting service," says Renita Bourgeois, ministry chairperson. "In fact, the ministry's main goal is to nurture the spiritual development of these young children as one arm of the many Christian education ministries here at Calvary." The ministry is structured to serve up to 16 children ages three and under and up to 12 children ages four to six.

Volunteerism in the ministry is open to and consists of adults and teens, males and females. Church membership is required for those who teach ages four to six. While parents are a significant part of the membership, there are many members who are not parents of children presently participating, or are parents whose children at one time did participate. We



have been blessed with the continued and faithful service of all our members. Teen members have also consistently been a vital part of the ministry. Many of our former children who were once in the ministry are now serving as teen assistants. What a blessing to witness their spiritual growth! Quite a few of our members have served from the beginning of the ministry. We take time to salute them, thank God for them and pray for the Lord's continued blessings on them.

An additional opportunity for service called the "Helping Hands" was established for anyone who does not wish to commit to regular membership, but is willing to serve as an extra pair of hands any fourth Sunday of their choice. The ministry leadership is comprised of a chairperson, co-chairperson and secretary. A coordinator and assistant coordinator is designated for each Sunday. The coordinating team is responsible for the organization and delivery of the lesson materials as well as scheduling adequate coverage. Each volunteer is offered the opportunity for training and receives a Ministry Handbook upon completion. General ministry meetings and workshops are scheduled three times yearly. These meetings provide additional teacher training, ministry news, updates, and a forum for sharing ideas and fellowship. The leadership team meets monthly (every third Friday evening) and is open to any member or interested party.

One recent highlight of the ministry is the Noah's Ark Mural painted last December. It was drawn by one of our ministry volunteers, Lonni Alston. We encourage the congregation to visit the Little Lambs Room to see how God has blessed this ministry. Another highlight is the Salt and Light Award presented to volunteers who are committed and faithful to the ministry. The Coordinators select the recipients every quarter.

Like all ministries we are not without our challenges. It is our unbroken prayer that God will provide for our needs with faithful volunteers who have a willingness to follow Jesus' example by taking time to touch the lives of children. Mark 10: 16 says *"And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them."*

Looking to the future, we pray for the children's continuous excitement in learning about the Lord while displaying evidence of spiritual growth in all that they do.

Kids Quotes

In celebration of Mother's and Father's Day, we asked the ninth and tenth grade Sunday School class the following question...

What do my parents mean to me?

"My parents are great because they feed me. Trust me, it is hard to feed me because I eat like a hog."

Marquis Glover, 15

"My parents mean the world to me because without them I wouldn't have the qualities I have today and I wouldn't be who I am now."

Matha Figaro, 14

"My mom means everything to me. I thank her for having such a lovely heart."

Marc Thurman, 15

"My parents are special to me. I enjoy the times we spend together, especially when my parents take the whole family out."

Emanuel Brice, 14

"My parents mean everything to me."

William Fowler, 15

"I appreciate my parents because they give me more yeses than nos."

Danielle Dumas, 15

"I love my parents with all my heart. They mean everything to me. They give me motivation, courage, guidance and relief in my hard, productive life. I appreciate everything they do for me - the meals they cook; the love they give; the rules they enforce; and the example they set in modeling me to be the great, responsible son they created in me."

Dawan Buie, 16

"I appreciate my mother and father because they discipline me. No matter how much it hurts, I know they do it out of love."

Courtney Tatum, 15

"I appreciate my parents because they support me in everything I pursue."

Phillip Artis, 15

"My parents are the world to me because without them I would have nothing, and they keep me in line to get better and better every day."

Tory Thompson, 15

"I am grateful for my parents because they give me my good qualities and attributes, and they encourage me to come to church."

Bretanee Washington, 15

• Youth Council • By Courtney Tatum

Putting On An Act

In this article, I would like to address my peers (parents should show this to their kids).

Why is it so important for kids to impress other people? Why must we strive for acceptance? Why do we obligate our parents to buy hundreds of dollars worth of clothing? WHAT'S THE POINT?

If you come home and change your clothes right after school because they are uncomfortable, then you never really wanted to wear them in the first place. The only reason you wore those clothes that day was because you wanted to please some one else. If you are comfortable in sweatpants and a T-shirt at home, then that is what you should wear to school.

Boys, it is so much easier to put on a belt to keep your pants up, than it is to struggle trying to keep them on because you want to look cool sagging them. Also, wearing long T-shirts is not appealing. As a young woman, I can tell you (young men) that wearing T-shirts at your knees is not cute. In addition, because the trend is wearing long T-shirts, everyone is wearing the same thing because there is not a wide selection of size 5X shirts to choose from. Everywhere I go, more than 75% of the boys are wearing T-shirts. If I saw a boy with some khakis

and a polo shirt and a boy with saggy jeans and a one of those long T-shirts, and they both looked the same, I would be more attracted to the boy with a polo shirt on. There are a lot of other ladies who feel the same as I so keep that in mind boys.

Now that I am done roasting the male trends, it is time to move on to the ladies. First and foremost, I am a 15 year old teen who is in on the latest fashions and trends. However, my parents can tell you, I wear sweatpants and T-shirts just about everyday. I have given up on impressing other people. School is for learning, and nothing else. Of course, I do dress up when I go out, but there is a time and a place for everything. Ladies, you know that the only reason we wear tight pants is to show off. But what is it all for? To get some one to like you? I do not think that looking cute is a good reason to subject yourselves to discomfort (and you know tight pants are not that comfortable). Let's be real; are the boys we meet that talk to us because we have nice bodies the ones we really want to stay with?

These are some questions that you should ask yourselves. Are these things really important to you, or are you just "putting on an act?" Are you doing things you would not normally do just to fit in? Are we thugs and video girls, or future leaders of America? Whatever it is you want to be, start acting like it.

Biblical Perspective

Breaking The Cycle - Overcoming Obstacles

By Minister David A. Hollowell

Mark Twain quipped in one of his writings that there are only two things certain in this life: death and taxes. I beg to differ, and could come up with a whole laundry list of things that are certain. One of those things for the Christians is obstacles that we face in day-to-day living. Our Lord said as much when He spoke in John 16:33, "...In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

Just before His Crucifixion, Jesus called His disciples aside privately and began to teach them. Among the many things that He taught them was how to find peace of mind and spirit, even in the face of tribulation and persecution. Jesus told His disciples that He was teaching these things to them so they could find peace and well-being in an evil world that would reject them, and throw every conceivable obstacle in their paths as they sought to do the work of the Kingdom. He told them in this world there would be many pressures of life but that they did not have to become discouraged. Christ went on to teach them that He had overcome all the pressures of life and that through Him they could do likewise. His words of encouragement to them were, "Be of good cheer for I have overcome the world."

The words of Jesus ring as true today as they ever did in presenting

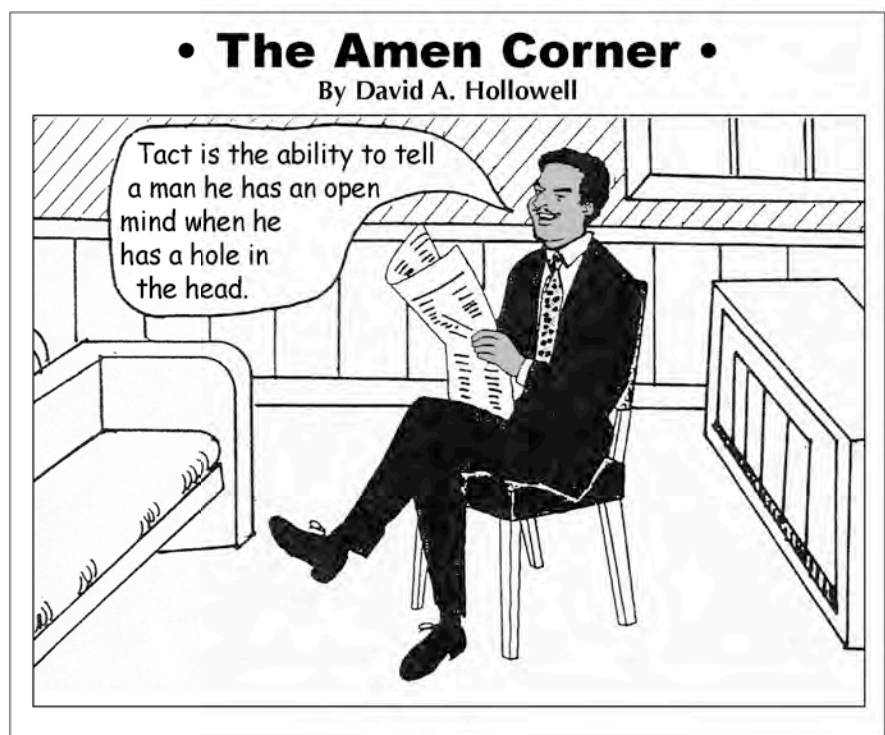
to us the realities of the Christian walk. Every one of us will have to face the pressures of this life; there is no escape! We will have to face our enemies, our financial problems, our sorrows, our worries, our disappointments, and our loss of loved ones. But there is something else that we can count on as well, and that is, we don't have to face these pressures all by ourselves. As Christians, we can rejoice in knowing that Jesus is always with us and will lead us through the trials and tribulations that life will bring our way. Remember, Jesus has already overcome this world, and will compassionately and faithfully help us to overcome it as well.

There is a way we can make the daily pressures of this life seem easier to us. By focusing on Jesus'

track record in dealing with us through the ups and downs of life, we can internalize the confidence that He imparts as He speaks to our hearts. When obstacles arise and the pressures increase, we can call on one of the old hymns of the faith to soothe our souls:

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
look full in his wonderful face,
and the things of earth
will grow strangely dim,
in the light of His glory
and grace.*

Focus your eyes upon Jesus, and the obstacles of this life will grow amazingly small in the light of our Lord's majesty and power.



THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

IS READY TO KICKOFF ANOTHER EXCITING SUMMER OF FUN!

We've been going strong since 1985 and we're ready to kickoff another exciting summer of fun! We are inviting all of our youth from Calvary and the community (ages 5 - 16) to be a part of this great ministry!

About 50% of the youth who participate in the SYP are not members of Calvary. As a matter of fact, many youth that have experienced SYP have come to Christ and are active in other Calvary youth ministries. Calvary believes we must invest in the youth of today to yield high returns for the church of the future.



Our program will be held at the Church and will run from July 19 thru August 6. The hours are from 9:00 AM until 2:30 PM.

Some of the program activities include; Christian education, African American history, reading time, arts a crafts, recreation activities, field trips, guest speakers, lunch, and more !!!

We are asking for a \$50.00 donation for each child to help offset some of the costs of the program. However, if it is not possible for you to give this donation, please be assured that no child will be excluded from the program for monetary reasons.

Finally, we would like to invite and encourage all adults that enjoy working with children to volunteer some time towards this vital ministry. If you cannot volunteer for all 3 weeks, we would certainly appreciate whatever amount of time you can give! Proverbs 22:6 says, *"Train up a child in the way that they should go, and when they are old, they will not depart from it."* We hope that you will join us as we continue to train our children.

If you would like to find out more about the S. Y. P., please plan on attending our volunteers meeting on Wednesday, July 7. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Pauline Room located on the 3rd floor. If for some reason you are



unable to attend this meeting or you just have some additional questions, please contact Deacon Ricky Osborne, program director, at (973) 267-1341.

Registration forms are located at the front and side-door entrances. The forms and the \$50.00 donation should be returned to Deacon Osborne or the Church Office.

SYP PAST FIELD TRIPS INCLUDE

amusement parks
 rollerskating
 N.Y. City
 Jersey shore
 local parks

Clear Your Calendars For The 2004 Summer Bible Institute!

You don't want to miss this exciting educational experience. SBI is Calvary's unique version of Vacation Bible School (VBS) — with classes for all age groups, ranging from Nursery to Adults. This year marks the 12th anniversary of SBI and it will be held on July 12th through July 16th. The vision for this event came from Pastor Carter, who 12 years ago decided that the five days generally devoted to VBS could be a great opportunity for adult classes as well.

In this "Seminary for a Week," attendees will be able to select a topic of their choice, and be led in examining the subject in a focused way —

unlike any other study forum that we offer at Calvary. On Monday night, a worship service is scheduled to kick off the week, and will feature a guest preacher and psalmist. On Tuesday through Friday, the teaching session will run from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., except for the last night. On Friday class will have a half session, to allow for a Fellowship Hour with all participants.

The topics this year are sure to be as stimulating and informative as they have been in the past, and will in various ways reflect our church theme, "Breaking the Cycles." Keep your eyes and ears open for the announcements that

will be coming out soon about this year's registration. You will need to sign up as soon as possible because the popular classes fill up quickly.

A list of proposed classes will give you an indication of the variety and interest level of the curriculum:

- Study of the Book of Ephesians: Understanding Your Spiritual Purpose,
- Stages of Singleness: Sex, Spirituality, and Stereotypes,
- Remaking the Bedroom, Restoring the Marriage Covenant,
- 3/5 of a Man: Breaking the Cycle of Social Injustice,
- It's 2:00 A.M. — Do You

Know Where Your Children Are?: Breaking the Cycle of Failed Parent/Child Relationships,

- Pain & Suffering from Eden to Iraq: Breaking the Cycle of Man's Inhumanity to Man, and
- From Debt to Blessing: Breaking the Cycle of Financial Bondage.

For the first time this year, a small registration fee will be charged to offset costs towards a stipend for our discussion leaders. Invite your friends and neighbors and come out for a great time and a rich educational experience. We look forward to seeing you there!

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.

The next submission deadline is Sunday, August 1
(Submissions may be edited)

Calvary Baptist Church

Making disciples of Christ through
Worship, Word, Witness,
and Community (Fellowship)



Reverend Jerry M. Carter, Jr., Pastor
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Sunday Morning

Service - 7:45 a.m.
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Service - 11:00 a.m.

Weekly Bible Study

Tuesday - 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday - noon
Fridays - 6:00 p.m.

CALVARY CONNECTION (C²) TEAM

Evelyn Aiken Writer	Marsha Webster Editor, writer, layouts, graphics
Peter Ambush Design and production	Angela Zanders Writer
Shenequa Douglas Photography	
Min. David Hollowell Biblical Perspective, photography	



Some of our young ones performing in this year's Easter Program.



A few young men from the Morehouse Glee Club performance at Calvary.



These Mother's Day Brunch attendees were all smiles.



Pastor Carter at this year's Hope Chest Basketball Tournament and our first-place trophy.