

**Pastor's PEN – January 21, 2012**

**Dear Precious Saints and Friends of Crosspointe Baptist Church,**

**WELCOME HOME YEITER FAMILY** – We are thankful that the Lord brought **Matt & Susan** safely home from Africa this past week. Sunday morning Brother Matt gave us a brief update on the work in Cameroon, and asked us to pray for the Sinclair's as they return to work in a few days, and to pray for them as they seek His will for their family. If you were in our evening service your heart was blessed as **Mariah, Autumn, DJ & Trinity** was used to prepare our hearts for the Word of God as they sang, and *"Jesus Loves the Little Children"*!



**LOOKING AHEAD** – We are in the planning stages of our **Building a Heart of Faith** weekend March 30-April 1. Please mark these dates:

**March 30 ~ Praise Banquet** – This year our banquet will be held on Friday night at 6:00 PM in our Dafoe Family Life Center Gym. My sisters are coming from Macon to cater a "Southern Supper" for us!

**April 1 ~ Sacrifice Sunday** – We will use the **Jehoiada Chest** like we did three years ago to put our offering in, and to renew our **BAHOF** commitments for the year.

**TESTIMONIES SUNDAY NIGHT** – Someone may ask, **1)** "A Teen Purity Conference... is that necessary in the culture we live in today?" **2)** "Do we as parents teach our kids what is important by the choices we make for them... or, allow them to make for themselves?" **3)** "Can a conference like this take priority over weekly ballgames, or other events that may not be wrong for parents to enjoy with the kids?" **4)** Could it be that 'event driven decisions' can become a 'family opportunity' that trumps the needed ministries of a good family oriented church? **5)** Does attending events like this make us spiritual and/or guarantee purity? We know that the answers to these questions are, **1) YES. 2) YES. 3) YES. 4) YES. 5) NO!**



**Colonial Hills Baptist Church** hosted the **"ONE, ONE, ONE PURITY CONFERENCE"** (One Man, One Woman, for One Lifetime!) Several of our sister churches across the state attended and over a 1,000 young people heard messages and on the importance of purity of mind, heart and body, and the permanency of marriage.

It was **LIFE CHANGING** for our teens, parents and sponsors who attended! The testimonies by **Taylor Cochran, Jonathan Nicholson, Jadan Kashi, Rikki Hoaks, Ken & Bev Piper and Rudy Beeman** spoke of the impact that the conference had on their lives. Was not our hearts stirred as we listened to our teens talk about truth they learned and re-learned, and decisions they made at the meeting! Be assured that Satan hates these kinds of decisions – Oh, how we need to pray for our parents and our teens!

Two testimonies (that deserve a read) came by email from two of our mothers. **Tina Folson**, a new member, writes from her heart, "I was angry when I got home because I was wondering why the church I grew up in did not talk about purity. We never talked about sexual immorality. **I believe that if I had gotten the information our teens received yesterday at 14, I would not be a single unmarried mother today.** I have learned so much since being under the teaching at Crosspointe. It's unbelievable how deceived I feel when I think about my "Christian" upbringing. It wasn't all bad, but the word going forth I feel now was tainted. So I'm having to learn all over again. What I thought was right is not right. It has taken some getting used to. I've been asking GOD since being at Crosspointe "what happened"? I'm still not understanding why the teaching of the WORD is so different when we all have the same tools to study with. It pays to study, not just read God's Word. I thank GOD for the family series in *Sunday School*. When I do get married I will be better equipped because of the teaching. I'm learning right along with the teens; and with my teenage son, Chris".

One of our deacon's wives, **Leslie Kashi**, writes, "For months, I have been praying about the Purity Conference. It was a day that I will never forget. The entire day was a huge blessing. God allowed me the privilege of seeing the hearts of many teens, something I will never forget! **There is something inside a momma when she sees teen boys and girls stand in front of their peers making decisions about deferring dating until after high school, getting on their knees to commit to the permanency of marriage, and raising their hands to commit to their roles as males and females. This showed me just how POWERFUL my God is!** I can't change their hearts, but HE CAN!!! Praise the Lord! As if that wasn't enough... here are some points that God worked in my own heart:

1. **God is jealous FOR ME!** He wants all of my heart. When I allow things into my life that take his place, it breaks His heart because He wants all of me. My relationship with Him must be my number one priority!
2. **Satan hates me and he hates God.** My everyday choices must reflect that I hate sin and love God. Satan is my enemy and wants to destroy me. He will even use "good" things to distract me from my number one priority, which is my relationship with Christ. Satan is not afraid of me, but he is afraid of the Word, so I must KNOW it and USE it.
3. **"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life"** Prov. 4:23. My heart is the REAL me! I might be able to fool others, but I can't fool God. Guard your heart!
4. **"You are not what you think you are... you are what you think."** So THINK on RIGHT THINGS! Discipline your mind – "Memorize, Mediate, and Master!" God HATES a filthy thought life. **If my thought life is right, all the other areas in my life will be right!**

And lastly, I thank God for the sweet time our family had on Saturday evening sharing notes and testimonies. It was a HUGE blessing to see the hearts of our boys! Only God could have changed their hearts and their daddy and mommas hearts too! Praise God for the day!" ***"Blessed are the Pure in heart, for they shall see God..." – Matt 5:8***

We rejoice in every decision that was made, and we need to pray for all our parents and teens! Satan would love to devour all of us. God uses His Word to break the power of sin! We do not have to think that because of our past choices that our children are predestined to follow that same path! Christ gives victory, making the difference – Romans 8:29 & 37!

Love and prayers,

*Pastor Arrowood*