

THE FLORIDA *Reporter*

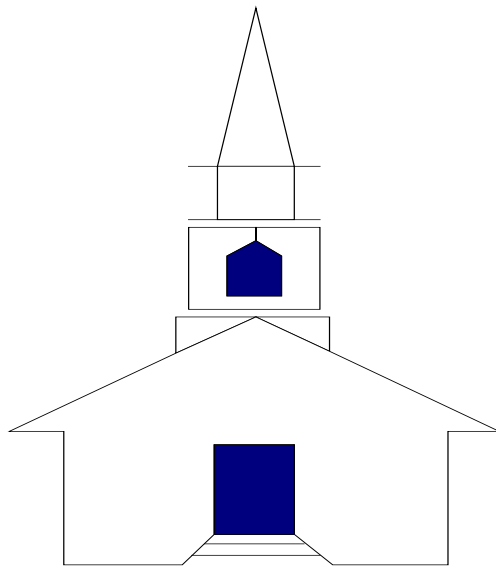
"Earnestly contending for the faith once delivered to the Saints"

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*"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering;
(for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love
and to good works: Not forsaking the assembly of ourselves together,"
Heb 10: 23-25a*

CHURCH NEWS

Bethel Primitive Baptist Church Jennings, Florida

Greetings and God's blessings to our sister churches of Florida. We at Bethel continue to rejoice that God is so good. We have been blest to have suffered very little sickness from the cold winter temperatures. God's grace and mercy are so enduring.

We do ask that our sister churches remember us in your prayers, especially those of our number who have been hospitalized at times, e.i. Vickie Hill, Madeline Nunn, Lois Cunningham, and Marshall Thomas.

We continue our monthly ministry to Hidden Oaks Alf, and the monthly fellowship dinners are always welcomed and highly enjoyed. Our February fellowship will, of course, focus on Valentines. Be sure to remember yours this year, all year.

April will include our Spring Homecoming Meeting with Elder Mike Newman doing the preaching. The date for our meeting is April 14-17 (Thursday through Sunday, with Sunday being observed as Homecoming). We pray that as many of our brethren as can visit with us during this time.

We are also looking forward to the community Sunrise service on Easter morning. The service rotates among the community churches as does the speaking. Since God has chosen to bless our land and our people, we, above all men, should be so very thankful.

We invite anyone who can be with us for our worship each Sunday morning except for Fifth Sundays (no service). We meet for Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. and Singing and Preaching at 11:00. Please continue to include us in your prayers as we do each of you.

Elder Don Gilbert, reporter

Broward-Miami Primitive Baptist Church Cooper City, Fl

The Miami Primitive Baptist Church continues to be blessed under the leadership of our pastor, Elder Jim Young. We had our Thanksgiving Service and lunch on the Sunday after Thanksgivings, due to our membership being "scattered". We observed our Christmas lunch and "Grab Bag" on the third Saturday of Dec., and a good time was reported by all.

We have several members that need prayer, Sister Jewell Shepard is still having trouble with her feet and legs, Sister Fay Caves has problems with her throat and they are running tests. Sister June Zeisig has recently been ill, but we can report that she is much better now. Brother Jim Young had a bad fall last week, and has a slight concussion. His ear and neck are black & blue. But, he has not missed a service

We pray for all our Churches, and hope all is well.
Pray for us when you are at the Throne of Grace.

Humble submitted, Ellen Young, Church Clerk

GREETINGS FROM PALMA CEIA PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH, Tampa, FL

A THOUGHT TO PONDER

*“ When the heart can sincerely call Jehovah “my God,”
The understanding is ready to learn from him, the will is prepared to obey him,
The whole man is eager to please him.”*

The Lord has granted each of us another start to a New Year. May we use it to Honor and Glorify Him each and every day.

Praying you all are safe and warm this season and looking forward to Spring. We have a few upcoming events;

Feb. 6 Monthly Women’s Bible Study Group
Mar. 13 Homecoming - dinner following services
Apr. 5-7 Spring Meeting Elder Kurt Bacon
May 21 “A Day at Camp” Camp Sonlight

Please, if you are in the area, come and join us. Even if you aren’t in the area and would like to make a special trip come on down, or up, would love to fellowship with you.

The Women’s Bible Study Group will be something new, we will be doing a Beth Moore study, Please be in prayer for this study.

We are currently watching the “American Heritage Series” presented by David Barton, in Wednesday evening prayer group. This is such an informative study of the Christian American Heritage in the formation of our Constitution and Laws. All, which heavily, depend on God’s Word (Bible) and the Supreme directive. Hope and pray you may have the opportunity to partake of this information.

Elder Richard Williams and Sister Wanda were blessed with a healthy and beautiful grandson. Please be in prayer for their daughter Keturah. Please be in prayer for the family of Madge Dennis (in her passing). Also Barbara Stroud, still waiting for the operation to remove spur from her heel.

Stay in God’s Word and LOOKING for His coming. God Keep you in His Care.

Chris Nicholson, Reporter

RIVERSIDE CHURCH, Jacksonville, FL

It's the beginning of a new year. We have started 2011. What's gone is gone! Our Pastor, Elder Mike Newman opened the New Year preaching on "New Year's According To Proverbs 3:1-32". We now have a fresh slate in front of us, with 10 principles to live by in the coming year. Notify our tape ministry for a CD. They will be glad to send one off to you.

We have had several of members in the hospital this past year and have returned home and recovering. Please continue to pray for our shut-ins and a special prayer for Sis. Doris Ingram, Bro. Buck Weaver, and all those that are homebound and in nursing homes.

The Christmas carolers scheduled 2 days to visit in member's homes and the nursing homes. It was a joy for all that participated. We also enjoyed dinner at Bro. Donnie & Sis. Dee Dee Phillips home on the last scheduled sing. What great food and fellowship.

Come join us for our Spring Meeting March 2-6th with Elder Ed McIntyre from the Frank Church in Fitzgerald, GA.

Submitted by:
Sis. Debbie Ash

Prayer List

Jewell Shepard
Faye Caves
Elder Jim Young
Vickie Hill
Madeline Nunn
Lois Cunningham
Marshall Thomas
Barbara Stroud
Keturah Williams
Sandy Straubel
Doris Ingram
Buck Weaver

Meetings and Special Events:

**Florida Primitive Baptist Deacon Association Annual Meeting
Camp Sonlight February 5th 2011**

**Riverside Church Spring Meeting
March 2-6th
Elder Edward McIntyre**

**Palma Ceia Church Home Coming
March 13th**

**Palma Ceia Spring Meeting
April 5-7
Elder Kurt Bacon**

**Bethel Church Spring Homecoming Meeting
April 14-17
Elder Mike Newman**

**Camp Sonlight
“A Day at Camp”
May 20-21**

CAMP SONLIGHT, Summerfield, Fl.

The winter months are the slow time at the camp. Most of the rentals groups are for the weekends. We are thankful for those groups that utilize Camp Sonlight during the off season they are blessed and we are blessed for them to rent.

The board of trustees has contacted the Kings Construction Crew to help us with some maintenance projects that need to be completed. The plans are that they will come the starting March 14th. Camp Sonlight will lodge and feed the crew for the time that they are at the camp. We will need some volunteers to come and help as needed. Please contact Brother David Ash if you are able to help. Some of the projects that we hope to complete are 1. Replace a section of the main water line. 2. Extend the entrances to the staff house. 3. Repair the shower stalls in the boy's dorm. 4. Repair the water cut off to the pool building.

The board of trustees will be sponsoring “A Day at Camp” on May 21st. This is in the planning stages and more information will be coming. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

Remember Camp Sonlight in your prayers as you would any ministry. We are challenged by several issues and depend on the Lord to direct us in the right way.

Elder Richard Williams, Chairmen Board of Trustees

God Laughs

Elder Richard Williams

Psalms 2:4 says “He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh:” It is evident that the one that sitteth in the heavens is God and it is He that, “shall laugh.” When we think of laughter we usually think of a good feeling such as humor or joy. Read Psalms 2, it is clear that God’s laughing is not at humor or for joy. In mediating on this statement made by David I hope to develop three points; 1. To whom is the laugh directed to and the nature of the laugh 2. Is it proper to ascribe a human characteristic to God? 3. We are blessed to know that God is in control.

In the sinful world we live, there is and will continue to be (until the Lord returns) an element that has and continues to band together in rebellion against God and his anointed. They are they that in their vanity call out in verse 3 “Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.” The bands and cords are those of God and His anointed. Of course we know God’s anointed is the Lord Jesus Christ. It seems that in our time these groups have become bolder and bolder in their efforts to make their position toward God known. The idea that there is a higher authority which man has to answer to is intolerable to them. Their world revolves around man and what he can do, instead of God and what he has done and has promised to do. Humanist thought that puts man at the center of things is embedded into every corner of our modern culture. For this God’s laugh is a scornful laugh. God laughs to scorn at the vanity of those that rebel against Him. The laugh is God’s supreme contempt, as it continues in verse 4 “the Lord shall have them in derision.” Being in derision certainly is not a good feeling. I believe Proverbs describes God’s contempt in better words “1:25 But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: 26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; 27 When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. 28 Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me :29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: 30 They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. 31 Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.” We should always be careful that we give the glory to God and be thankful for his bands and cords. It is God’s bands and cords that sustain us in the storms of life. In the message of Gospel of Jesus Christ we behold the greatest of God’s bands of love. For as the child of God we look not for the laugh of God but the blessing of God, as Moses was told to bless Israel in Number 6: 24 The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: 25 The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: 26 The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

David, as well in other places in scripture ascribes characteristics of men to God. We see this in Genesis 6:6 ¶ And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. Repenting and grieving are characteristics of men that are here ascribe to God. When this is done under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, as it is in scripture, it is proper. We are given a better understanding of what the writer is teaching. However I believe that we must be careful and confine this to where it is done in scripture. When we are being taught in scripture a command that the Lord has given us to follow, it is a **command** and the Lord is **directing** us and **teaching** us for our good. I here more and more the idea that the Lord’s commandments or his teaching are wants of the Lord. That is the Lord wants us to do this or that. I understand the idea that I as a man, I have wants. However I do not recall any of the writers of scripture ascribing **the**

idea that God is in want of any thing. This may be an insignificant point to some but I have trouble ascribing wants to a sovereign God.

In conclusion, I believe that for the child of God it is a comfort to know that God is in control of every situation that could cause us concern. Does it concern you when your Lord's name is used in vain? Does it concern you when men talk about God as if he is not concerned about you and what is going on in your life? We could go on and on about the deceitful things and ideas about God that come off the lips of men. Sometimes it is in ignorance other times in complete rebellion. In Acts the fourth chapter Peter and John were threatened and commanded by the Jewish leaders not to teach any more in the name of Jesus. In sharing their experience at the hand of the Jew the church found comfort with in Psalms 2. Acts 4:23 ¶ And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them. 24 And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is: 25 Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? 26 The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. 27 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, 28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done. Under persecution the early church found great comfort in the fact that God was in control, For the scripture teach, "he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?" Dan 4:35 We are blessed when we find comfort in knowing that God is in control.

As to our profession of faith in the Lord, may our answer be as Peter and John, "Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. 20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" Acts 4: 19b-20." Under the leadership of the Holy Spirit and by their what they had see and heard, their testimony was, that Jesus is Lord.

CAMP SONLIGHT

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The Florida Reporter will be posted to the web site: www.CampSonlight.org, quarterly for your reading. If you wish to receive the Florida Reporter via e-mail you can notify by e-mail rffw1@Juno.com.

The articles in the Florida Reporter do not necessarily reflect the position of the editor. We try to edit articles to be sure they express the truth as it is set forth in scripture, differences in interpretation and personal understanding may occur.