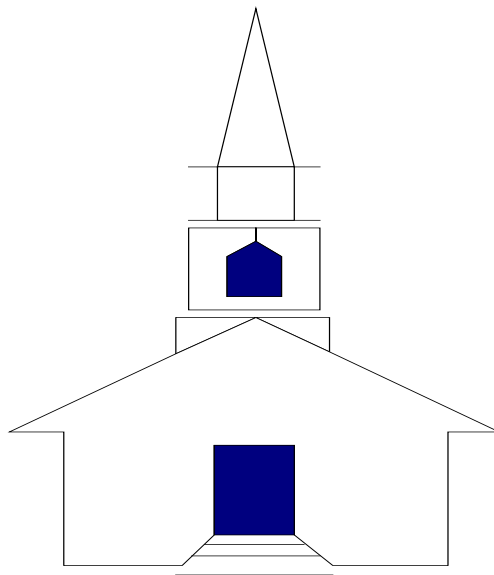


THE FLORIDA  
**Reporter**  
*"Earnestly contending for the faith once delivered to the Saints"*

Published By:  
**Florida Primitive Baptist Deacons' Association**

**JULY 2010**

Available at: [www.Campsonlight.org](http://www.Campsonlight.org)  
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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*



## **GREETINGS FROM PALMA CEIA PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH, Tampa, Fl**

### **A THOUGHT TO PONDER**

“He who is self-existent is infinitely above all creatures; all the earth is but his footstool.”

Summer is here. We would like to thank all those who worked so hard to make this year’s Camp Sonlight program so successful. Those younger and older seemed to have gained a new knowledge of the subject matter “**SIN**”.

We here at Palma Ceia are going and coming from vacations. We keep in prayer those who are away at various times and look forward to the church coming together when all Gods children get back to their respected homes.

There are still those who are continuing to upgrade the church. New surround speakers have been installed in the ceiling of the annex. I must say it sounds good ,even to my limited hearing.

Brother Justin Allen will be ordained Deacon, Friday, the 6<sup>th</sup> of August 7:00p.m. Dinner will be at 6:00p.m.

Please be in prayer for Elder Brad Faircloth and his family as they endeavor to make their move to Tampa. We have been in prayer and trusting the Lord to answer our prayers. There are a few more hurdles to jump but God is moving and so are Elder Brad, Sister Lisa and Mathew and Zackery.

God Bless you all and looking forward to fellowshiping with all our brothers and sisters should God bring us together. Happy Summer and stay cool!!!

Chris Nicholson, Reporter

## **Miami-Broward Primitive Baptist Church Cooper City, Fl**

The Lord continues to bless the Miami Primitive Baptist Church under the leadership of our Pastor, Elder Jim Young. We have a good deal of sickness in our church family, but we are still able to have regular services.

We have been blessed especially by the attendance of a young couple, who are very faithful.

Elder & Mrs. Young's daughter, Christine, recently graduated from Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts Miami. She is now employed at Smith & Wolensky in South Beach as their Pastry Chef.

We had two members and our Pastor who attended the Bible Conference. All reports were great, and, they are already looking forward to next year.

We pray that the Lord will bless you all. Pray for us as we pray for you.

Ellen Young, Church Clerk

## **Bethel Church – Jennings, Fl**

Greetings to all from the Bethel Church. The Lord has bless us in the past months and we are looking forward to the months to come. The Lord continues to bless us in our monthly ministry to the Hidden Oaks ALF. The residents there are as much joy to us as we are to them. Each month brings a birthday celebration for each resident who has a birthday during that month. We gift them with a bag of goodies, cake and ice cream, and they gift us with smiles, songs, and a time of fellowship together.

Sister Sherralynn Gilbert continues to do well after her Christmas / New Year's heart problems. Sister Vicky Hill is continuing to mend after her surgery in February. And others of our congregation are doing well after some serious health episodes. Please continue to pray for each of us, that the Lord would watch over and care for the needs of His children.

Our Ladies Circle meets each month and continues to add their touch of beauty to our worship services with beautiful floral arrangements, and their guidance with fellowship meetings and refreshments for us all. We thank the Lord for the sisters of the church.

As for future plans, by the Lord's will, we look forward to the Ochlochnee Association scheduled for October 23 and meeting with the Thomasville Church in Thomasville, Georgia. Our Fall Meeting is scheduled for November 9-11, 2010. Services will be each night at 7:30. If possible, please plan to be with us to hear Elder Jim Bowen from Loves Chapel Church as he preaches the gospel of Christ and Him crucified. Please be instant in prayer for Brother Jim and Bethel Church that the Lord would bless.

May God's richest blessings be upon each of you is our prayer for the church of the Living God.

Elder Don Gilbert reporting.

## **RIVERSIDE CHURCH, Jacksonville, FL**

The “Good News” is our Lord is awesome. We hope you have enjoyed your Spring and Summer season thus far. Sharing how good the Lord is to us makes it all the better.

The church is keeping busy. We have our calendars full. Twice a year we put on a “Senior Celebration” for our young retirees in the church. It was held on May 5, 2010. We had close to 40 to attend the luncheon. We had several to sing and play instruments. It has always been a success and everyone looks forward to attending the next one. The 2010 graduation party for Annie Phillips from Fleming Island High School was attended by the members and friends of the church. She will be off to college. May the Lord bless her. Thirty one traveled to Camp Sonlight in Ocala, to attend a week of camp. What a blessing we all received. Everyone enjoyed all the activities and we had a safe week of camp. Eleven of us were off to the Southern States Bible Conference in St. Simons, GA, and also we had several to attend the Music Workshop at Camp Hillview.

Put it on your “to do list” for 2011, that you make an effort to attend at least one of the activities that our denomination sponsors. It may be camp, bible conference, or music workshop. This is an opportunity to be with like-minded believers and you will get a blessing.

The church was blessed to have Sis Liz Evans come forward asking to be restored to membership this past Sunday. She had been away for awhile. What a blessing she has always been in the Church for many years and now it feels like she had never gone.

Several of our members need your prayers. They are: Sis Doris Ingram, Sis Dorothea Weaver, and Bro. Vernon Simms.

If you’re ever in our part of the country, come by and see us. We are located in NE Florida at the corner of Interstate 10 & Interstate 95 at 702 Dellwood Ave.

Submitted by: Sis. Debbie Ash

## **Meetings and Special Events:**

**Deacon Ordination Service for Justin Allen  
Palma Ceia Church August 6<sup>th</sup> 2010 at 7:00 PM  
Dinner at 6:00 PM**

**Ochlochnee Association October 23  
Thomasville Church in Thomasville, Georgia.**

**Bethel Fall Meeting November 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> 2010  
Elder Jim Bowen, guest minister**

**Camp Sonlight Trustee’s Meeting  
September 18<sup>th</sup> 2010**

# CAMP SONLIGHT 2010

June 21<sup>st</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>



**Theme: Sin Theme scripture: Psalms 51:10**

**Bible Lesson Teachers: Elder Mike Newman, Elder Richard Williams, Lic. Peer Millar and Danny Cason.**

## **Lessons:**

1. What is sin?
  - a. Define sin. (Adultery, witchcraft, Idol worship, gossip, stealing, lying ect.)
  - b. Is disobedience to God's word sin?
  - c. Do I Sin?
  - d. Do I only see the sins of others?
  - e. Why do I not take responsibility for my sins?
2. The consequences of sin
  - a. Loss of joy and peace in the soul (David/Bathsheba Ps 51 Restore unto me thy joy)
  - b. Separation from Christian friends
  - c. Reproach upon the name of the Lord, the church and your family
  - d. Does my sins affect others or just me only?
3. Repent of your Sins.
  - a. God's Word commands us to repent.
  - b. Take responsibility for your sins
  - c. Examples of those who failed to repent (Ananias and Sapphari)
  - d. Examples of those who repented (David - Peter)
  - e. How to repent.
4. God's Forgiveness of our sins
  - a. God promises forgiveness - It is an age old promise
  - b. The results of experiencing God's forgiveness
  - c. Sharing the message of sin and forgiveness

## **CAMP SONLIGHT, Summerfield, Fl.**

The summer rental season is winding down at Camp Sonlight. Our own week of camp was a blessing to all in attendance. We are thankful to the Sister Sharon Pierce, director, Sister Barbara Stroud assistant director, Sister Linda Sanborn with her kitchen staff, Ministers and Councilors that provided leadership during the week of camp. We were blessed with a safety week and good fellowship, around studying the scriptures in our theme "Sin". Be in prayer for the Campers that will be visiting Camp Sonlight during the rest of the summer that they will be safe and blessed of the Lord.

The summer started off with a mixture of blessings. First, a group from Bible Presbyterian Church of Brooksville, held a work retreat at the camp the last weekend in April. They were very busy:

1. Making a number of benches that were placed around the camp.
2. Pressure washed tables, chairs and basketball court.
3. Repaired the soffit at the pool building.
4. Window cleaning and many other chores

Bible Presbyterian has been coming to Camp Sonlight with their youth for several years and we are thankful for their labor of love.

There were a couple of storms that brought some trees down and caused some damage. Sister Nancy with the help of her family and friends were blessed to remove the trees and get the damage repaired before the summer season got under way. The storms help prune our trees by blowing down loose branches.

The pizza ovens in the kitchen need to be replaced. We are thankful to the many that made this happen, especially Brothers David Pinkstaff, Ray Holt, David Ash and Wayne Pierce. We now have brand new ovens.

Continue to be in prayer for Sister Nancy and her mother Beverly Pratt. Nancy's mother continues to suffer from the spread of the cancer.

Camp Sonlight is always in need of your support in attendance, work days, contributions and prayers.

Brother Richard, Chairman, Board of Trustees

## **God Created**

By Elder Richard Williams

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

The scriptures teach that God, "has created all things, and for His pleasure they are and were created" Rev 4:11. Genesis chapter one is not a story of creation; it is God's historical record of creation. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2Timothy 3:16). God as Creator is a central truth of the Bible. An undisputed truth among all that contend for the faith of Christ Jesus.

Though out the Bible, it is the witness of God's inspired writers, that God is Creator. Jonah when questioned by his fellow shipmates said, "I am an Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land". The testimony of the early church is "Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:" (Acts 4:24b). God the Father; God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, all three are mention in the work of creation. Jesus addresses his Father as; "O Father Lord of heaven and earth" (Matthew 11:25). John declared of Jesus; "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made" (John 1:3). Moses wrote; "And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters" (Genesis 1:2b). We must be thoroughly grounded in this truth in the way we address our thrice holy God.

The truth that God created the heaven and the earth is under attack today, more than ever. In our culture we are indoctrinated everywhere, by teachings that deny the existence of the God of the Bible. Secular scientists say that, in the beginning there was an explosion, they call it "The Big Bang". This lie is what is taught in our public schools and most universities. It is taught as if it is a proven fact or as the best explanation of the earth's existence. These are the fallible beliefs of men. Who are we to put our trust in? We are warned by David; "It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man" (Psalms 118:8). Beware of the world's belief systems, for as Paul wrote; "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (1Corinthians 2:14). The aim of the teaching of "The Big Bang" and "Evolution" is to deny or cause to doubt, the existence of God. It is sad that some Christians accept these worldly beliefs and attempt to fit what they teach, into God's word. Those that believe that God used other means than Himself in creation, such as evolution, compromise the word of God. We and our children should not be tempted with such ideas, but need to be properly grounded in the truth of God's word.

"In the beginning God" tells it all, God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) was only present when the heaven and earth were created. To understand creation one must know who God is. Scripture is the basis of our belief, it describes who God is. Moses said unto God; "Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you"(Exodus 3:13-14). God revealed himself as always existing. He revealed himself the same way to Isaiah, when he said to him; "Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:" (Isaiah 46:9-10). The name that God took for himself of the children of Israel was Jehovah (LORD) "the existing One". God reveals himself to us in creation as Paul wrote; "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: (Romans 1:20). The fact of God's existence and His mighty power are clearly seen by us, in the creation of heaven and earth and all that is contained in them.

In considering Genesis 1:1, I wish to briefly look at the first acts of God, on day one of creation. God created time; space and matter simultaneously and instantaneously, out of nothing. "In the beginning" tells us that God created time. God existed before time was, as the Lord said; "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty" (Revelations 1:8). God is eternal, He has no beginning or

ending. God existed before time and is not subject to it as we are. God's creating heaven and earth teaches us that He created space and matter. Jeremiah trusted in God's work as he said; "He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion" (Jeremiah 10:12). There are numerous scriptures that describe the work of God in creation. This description of God's power in stretching out the heaven, alone is testified of seventeen times in scripture. The psalmist also trusted in God as creator, as it is written; "By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth" (Psalms 33:6). The heaven in Genesis 1:1 is the space that surrounded the earth. God would later create the firmament or atmosphere and the habitation of the sun, moon and stars in this space and they would then be called the heavens (plural), when referred to as God's creation. The Bible teaches that God is, was and always will be the only power and means of creation. He is, was and will always be self sufficient. God needed no other means in creation. Certainly he did not need man to counsel him. God asked, Job; "Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding" (Job 38:4). No man was present when God laid the foundations of the earth. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit were only present. God in His Word has given us the history of His work of creation. Job describes God's work; "He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing" (Job 26:7). Without a doubt creation is the supernatural work of the power of God. Such are God's ways as he says; "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9). How awesome is God's power that He spoke by the power of His Word and all things were created.

Our understanding of the Biblical account of creation is important to the foundation of our faith. Jesus asked Nicodemus; "If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?" (John 3:12). If one believes not the Biblical account of creation, how can they believe the Gospel of Christ? Through out the Bible we are instructed in God's work of creation. If the first verse of the Bible is not believed, how can the rest of God's word be believed? We can stand on the truth of God's word, for it is the infallible history of the world and creation. Solomon exhorts us; "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth" (Ecclesiastes 12:1a). Solomon knew that the fear of Lord is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom. Our faith must be established in the knowledge of God as our creator. This is especially true in the formative years of our youth. Being taught of God the Bible's account of creation, as Gods' children, it is our utmost responsibility that we teach and demonstrate this to our children and grand children. Isaiah asks us; "Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding" (Isaiah 40:28). Isaiah does not only acknowledge God as creator but teaches us of that with God's inexhaustible power and great wisdom continues to watch over His creation to the end.

As believers in God's word we have a calling to know what we believe and that we are able to defend it with scripture. Peter emphasized this when he wrote; "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asked you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:" (1Peter 3:15). Part of being the salt of the earth is defending God's word, when it is denied. We have been taught by God that he created heaven and earth. Do not give His glory to another. The evidence of God power and wisdom is all around us; let us be found daily praising Him for his mighty works of creation.

# CAMP SONLIGHT

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### Contributions:

**For Camp Sonlight** can be sent to the Camp Sonlight Treasurer.

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%Brother Mike Catchings  
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**For Send a Child to Camp** can be sent to or Camp Director.

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(Make checks out to Camp Sonlight)

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