

Gassville Baptist Church
PO Box 158, 508 E Main
Gassville, AR 72635
870-435-6007

gvbapt@gassville.net
www.gassvillebaptist.com

The Beacon



January 2010



We need rectangle shaped laundry baskets to separate the clothes in the benevolence room. You can bring the baskets to the office or put them in the benevolence room next to the Kindergarten class.



We need more volunteers for the Nursery, Sound Booth and Greeters. If you can help, please sign up on the sheets on the bulletin board.

Join us for our spring play preview on Wednesday, January 20 at 5:45 pm in the downstairs choir room. Choir practice is every Wednesday at 5:45 pm. This new play is going to be so much fun with lots of singing solos and acting parts. Parts are limited so be sure to come to the preview to claim your character before its gone!



God's Plan of Salvation



OUR RECORDS



	<u>December 6</u>	<u>December 13</u>	<u>December 20</u>	<u>December 27</u>
Sunday School:	127	111	131	93
9:00 am Worship:	47	70	98	52
11:00 am Worship:	134	87	130	92
Evening Worship:	42	48	168	27
Offering:	\$4,535.99	\$2,831.00	\$4,084.90	\$3,890.63



"And He said to them, follow me and I will make you fishers of men."

Matthew 4:19 (NKJV)

"Then He said to them all, if anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me."

Luke 9:23 (NKJV)

"Follow me". That was Jesus' call and command to His disciples when He walked this earth. It is still His call and command to His disciples today. As we begin 2010 as a church body we need to make sure we are following Jesus. Following Jesus involves many things in our spiritual walk. But from these two scriptures passages we learn that following Jesus means a couple of specific things.

First of all, following Jesus means spending time with Him so He can make us "fishers of men". Jesus loves lost people. In Luke 19:10 He specifically said the very reason or purpose for His coming was "to seek and to save that which was lost." We really can't spend a lot of time with Jesus and not learn to love lost people. The "lost" are those who do not have a saving relationship with Jesus. If we follow Jesus, we will become "fishers of men". That means no more excuses for not witnessing. It means we take seriously the command of Christ to be going and making disciples. It means we re-order our priorities, our money and our time to reach the lost for Christ. For some it will mean witnessing to neighbors, co-workers and family members. For others it will involve mission trips, ministries and projects designed solely for the purpose of reaching lost people. If we follow Jesus He will make us fishers of men! Are you ready to go fishing with Jesus?

The next thing it means to follow Jesus, is denial. Jesus said we must deny ourselves, take up our cross daily and follow Him. The way of the cross is sacrificial. It means our desires, our petty schemes for life, are crucified daily for the cause of Christ. If we don't take up our cross daily the world exerts too much influence upon us. We tend to get our priorities mixed up on what is really important. Denial and sacrifice for Christ leads us to eternal realities and eternal blessings (see Luke 9:24-26). In other words, life is really worth living because we face upon that which is truly important.

Let's focus on following Christ faithfully in 2010 more than ever before in our lives. Let's answer the call and the command to become "fishers of men". Let's strive to "take up our cross daily and follow Him".

Following Jesus with you,

Bro. Gary



NEW BEGINNINGS

We have just crossed and passed the time of year when many people make resolutions to live better, for themselves and for others. This time of year was always important to me because it marked a new beginning. Every year thousands of people say that they are going to start working out and eating right for their resolutions, and as we all know the chances of these sticking are slim to none. The reason is simple; it takes 6 weeks to form a habit and 2 days to break it. We are constantly trying to better our physical body, when the truth is our physical body is nothing compared to the “workout” our spiritual body needs.

Let this year be a year of renewal. What I mean by that is, let it be a year that is solely and fully sold out for God. Christ himself spent 3 ½ years with His disciples and when he was taken, what happened? They fled, they freaked, and they went back to work. You see when things in our lives change drastically we often just drop what we were doing and go back to what we know and what we are comfortable with. Our resolutions hold for as long as our will to keep them holds. This past year I had made a resolution that worked, it stuck, I completed it and finished. What was the resolution you ask? I gave up drinking cokes (soda, pop, a carbonated beverage) it was something so simple and yet at times so hard. So many times I just wanted to break down and drink a Sunkist or Coke, but I knew that I wanted to achieve this goal that I had set. This resolution, even though small, was something that I had to work at every day.

I propose a new kind of resolution, one that can be held and achieved everyday if you are willing to work for it, and even die for it. You see while it is all well and good to want to get in shape and have the best looking body in the church, it is not as important as getting our spiritual body into shape. This body is one that lasts so much more than our earthly host, so we need to do everything in our power to make sure that the spiritual body that we have is worthy of the one who created it. Living for God is a daily battle not just one that can be picked up on Wednesday and Sundays, it is one that must be dealt with every moment of every day. So for this New Year, make a resolution that counts, one that gives you eternal rewards rather than earthly rewards. Yes, it is good to stay in shape and to eat healthy, you should do those things, but more importantly you need to make sure your spiritual body stays in shape so that you may live a life more full and abundant of the grace of God.

Bro. Hunter