



## “How Do You Know That God Exists”

By Rev. Dr. Marshal L. Ausberry Sr.

There are people in the world who question the very existence of God!

Through our study of the letter from the Apostle Paul to the believers in Rome we find answers for those who question the existence of God. We can be certain of the very existence of God because God reveals Himself to us. Romans 1 and 2 remind us that God reveals Himself to us through His “Righteousness” (1:14-17); through His “Wrath” (1:18, 21-27); through His “Attributes” (1:19-20); and through His “Expectations” (2:1-16).

We see that the righteousness of God revealed through the Gospel. In the gospel is the power of God that saves everyone who believes. When we place our faith in Christ Jesus we are declared righteous by God, because of the great work of Jesus Christ.

We see the wrath of God is directed toward unrighteousness and wickedness throughout the world. The wrath of God is consistent with God’s holiness. God’s holiness requires propitiation (satisfaction) for sin. Jesus Christ is our propitiation. For those who reject Jesus Christ,

they themselves are left without recourse to be right with God. We are only right with God through Jesus Christ.

We see the attributes of God revealed in creation. Psalm 19:1 (NIV) “*The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.*” Creation speaks of an intelligent Designer: God. We are not called to worship creation, but the Creator.

We see the expectations that God has revealed. God expects us to live Holy lives because He is Holy. We are not to measure our righteousness compared to our neighbor. Instead, we are to look to God, who is the standard for our righteousness. We can always find someone that we think we are more righteous than. But that is futile, because that person is not the measuring stick for righteousness. My friends, God is the measuring stick when it comes to righteousness. When we believe in Jesus Christ we are made righteous with God by God. Otherwise we will always come up woefully short!

*Continued on the back*

## Knowing Your Purpose Is Better than A Dream - A Celebration

By Shanda Ivory

In a soaring message that transported the congregation to the steps of the Lincoln Memorial where Dr. Martin Luther King delivered his famous “I Have a Dream” speech, Rev. Jeffery Johnson, pastor of the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, challenged the Antioch and Mt. Calvary congregations not only to dream but to dream with a purpose.

At the service celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. King, Rev. Johnson, who previously served as an associate minister at Antioch, told the audience, “If you want to have a dream in life,

you must first find your purpose. Dr. King was well within his purpose,” he said, noting that Dr. King left high school at age 15 to enter Morehouse College, earned his doctorate degree by age 26 and became pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, AL. “He did more in 13 years than some people could accomplish in 50 years because he was within his purpose. That night before he died, he said ‘we have some difficult days ahead but it really doesn’t matter now because I’ve been to the mountaintop...but it really doesn’t

matter because I just want to do God’s will.”

Christians today often put themselves above their duty to Christ, Rev. Johnson said, but to have a powerful dream that will last for generations like our ancestors, we must first have a relationship with the Lord “because your purpose in Christ is more powerful than your own ambitions.”



Did You Know...

Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson has been called the father of Black History Month, and was the founder of Associated Publishers, founding editor of the Negro History Bulletin, and the author of more than thirty books. In his best known book, “The Mis-Education of the Negro,” originally published in 1933, but still relevant today, Dr. Woodson stated that:

*“When you control a man’s thinking you do not have to worry about his actions. You do not have to tell him no to stand here or go yonder. He will find his ‘proper place’ and will stay in it. You do not need to send him to the back door. He will go without being told. In fact, if there is no back door, he will cut one for his special benefit. His education makes it necessary.”*

In 1926 Dr. Woodson initiated the annual February observance of Negro History Week. He chose February for the observance because February twelfth was Abraham Lincoln’s birthday, and February fourteenth was the accepted birthday of Frederick Douglass. By the 1970s, Negro History Week had expanded to become Black History Month.

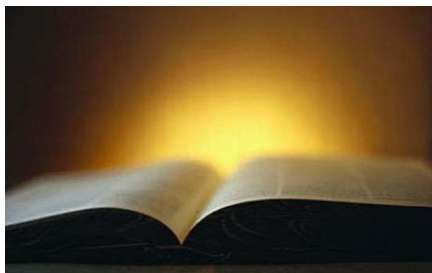
By Frank Austin

## "How Do You Know That God Exists"

Continued

I want to encourage you to live life in such a way that meets God's holy expectation of your life in your thoughts, words, and deeds. **1 Peter 1:16 (NIV) for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."**

When you have a choice between right and wrong, because of God's righteousness choose to do right!



## Youth Lock-In

By Austin Hall

From 7:00 at night on January 25, to 7:00 in the morning on January 26, youth from Antioch who attended the 2008 youth Lock-In were having a blast! In a spiritually empowering day, youth from thirteen to eighteen discussed real life applications of Christ and fellowshiped with fellow Christians in the process. As night turned to day, hordes of delighted youth had wholesome fun swimming, playing basketball, and chatting amongst themselves. The day demonstrated how easy it is to truly have fun in the name of Jesus.

## Growing the Kingdom

By James F. McCall

On occasion during the first phases of the Growing the Kingdom campaign, I have heard the comment that if the "church" is really the people why are we so concerned with building a new edifice. The response comes along several perspectives.

The first perspective is our need to worship. Worshippers for centuries have shown reverence by building a temple. This began in the Old Testament, when the Israelites melted

down the gold and silver and gave their tithes and offerings so that a temple could be raised in adoration to the most high God.

The second perspective is responding to the great commission. We are called to spread the gospel to Judea, Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth. We must provide an equipping station which will permit us to share knowledge and be better prepared to evangelize in Fairfax County, the USA and around the world.

Finally, we must grow the kingdom within each of us. Through sacrifice of something precious, we begin to understand the rewards of sacrifice. Nothing is more precious at this time in our lives than our time, talents and money, however, by laying both on the altar we learn to appreciate, in the words of Bob Sinclair, the response of "a faithful God to a faithful Church."

On behalf of the Growing the Kingdom team, I thank you for your financial support, encouragement, and prayers.



## Congratulations to

## Tanya Simpson

For being selected as the winner for naming the newsletter.

The scripture that supports the new title, **The Proclaimer**, comes from **Psalm 118:17**.

**"I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done."**

## Upcoming Events

### February

**16th ~ Father/Daughter Dance**

**22nd & 23rd ~ Marriage Retreat (Sold Out)**

### March

**7th & 8th ~ Parenting Conference**

**14th & 16th ~ Women's Small Group Fellowship**

**17th-21st ~ Children's Easter Camp**

**21st ~ Good Friday Service**

**23rd ~ Easter Service**

**29th ~ Men's Forum**

### April

**5th ~ Marriage Ministry, Spirit of Washington Cruise**

**11th & 12th ~ True Love Waits**

**18th & 19th ~ Men's Retreat**

**25th ~ Friday Fun Night & Marriage Enrichment**

**26th ~ Minister's Retreat**

### May

**2nd-3rd ~ Women's Spring Conference**

**10th ~ Mother/Daughter Tea**

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