

The Identity of the church of the Lord Nehemiah 8-9:1-5

The captivity of God's people in Babylon was an experience full of sadness, despair, and contemplation. On returning to Jerusalem, the walls around the city were rebuilt and the people celebrated. Now the Temple of the Lord was complete and Haggai and Zechariah proclaimed the glories of it all. It is in Nehemiah that the true source of celebration is proclaimed.

The word of God, specifically the "book of the law" is brought forth and read aloud. Ezra gave the meaning of the writings along with the Levites (teachers). When the meaning of the words was clear, the people rejoiced and cried, "Amen, Amen!"

Nehemiah and Ezra told the people to celebrate. "Don't weep or mourn," they told their brethren. It is a time of celebration. They were told to go and find branches and wood with which to build "booths" on top of their houses. They stayed in the booths and remembered the days of Joshua.

Then after seven days the people were gathered and a fourth of the day was spent in listening to the Book of the Law and the people confessed their sins and worshiped the Lord their God for another fourth of the day.

Here is what I glean from the text beginning in chapter 9 as to the things that identified the people of God and should be our identity:

- Verse 5: "Stand up and bless the Lord your God from everlasting to everlasting!" Here is worship—pure and plain, standing and praising the eternal God. Here are some 42,000 people standing and worshipping Jehovah God.
- Verse 6: "And Ezra said: 'Thou art the Lord, thou alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and thou preservest all of them; and the host of heaven worships thee.'" Here, church is the confession that separates us from all unbelievers with whom we should never join ourselves permanently. It is no less than the confession of all that we are and believe about God.
- Verse 7: "Thou art the Lord, the God who didst choose Abram and bring him forth out of Ur of the Chaldeans and give him the name Abraham." Here is the proclamation of grace. It has always been the pivotal monogram of the church and shall always be our motivation for whatever we do in God's name upon the earth. (See also vss. 26-27)
- Verse 33: "Yet thou has been just in all that has come upon us, for thou hast dealt faithfully and we have acted wickedly." Here is the Justice of God. He will discipline his people but will never give up on us. God is a just God. His judgment will be just and we shall be satisfied with his judgments. FOR OUR GOD IS A SOVEREIGN GOD AND A FAITHFUL GOD. (RSV translation) yc

PRAYER LIST

- ♥ Beverly Huffstetler, Jennie Miller's mother, has pneumonia complicated by COPD.
- ♥ Linda Anderson, Monte Young's aunt, has benign tumors near or on her spine causing breathing problems.
- ♥ Lois Gabbert, Arlice Bridges' sister, is in rehab regaining strength.
- ♥ Gil Rhodes, Barry Rhodes brother, is having tests run. Pray for good test results.
- ♥ James Adams, Ryan Hamrick's neighbor, is in severe hip pain.
- ♥ Velma Tadlock, Skyla Nelson's aunt, having complications following surgery to remove a benign mass.
- ♥ Raymond Gardner, a friend of Joey Sanderford, had brain surgery.
- ♥ Genie Rogers father, Gene, is recovering from by-pass surgery.
- ♥ Allen McDaniel is still recovering.
- ♥ Web and Polly Shivers, friends of the Kipatrick's, are in poor health.
- ♥ Rudy Staggs, Ashley Nowlen's father, diagnosed with lung cancer.
- ♥ Lynn Snellgrove, a friend of Barry Rhodes, has Sceroderma.
- ♥ David Lynn Taylor, Lena Price's brother, needs prayer to find peace.
- ♥ Joe Saia, Cindy Saia's husband, radiation treatments.

CONTINUE TO REMEMBER

Betsy Canfield, Tony Dority, Howard Farrar, Mary Louise Gipson, Beverly Graham, Charlotte Hunter, Larry Mittlestat, Mart Salley and Joey Sanderford

FREE INDEED

Free Indeed will be with us **August 11-12**. They will perform in concert Saturday evening and will lead us in Worship Sunday morning.

GRAD SUNDAY

Grad Sunday will be May 6. Start inviting your friends and relatives for this day of celebration.

PANTRY

Please take a minute to peek in and see what is needed.

LADIES NIGHT OUT

Ladies Night Out is March 29 at 7:00 p.m. Guest speaker, Rebecca Long from Meadowbrook, will speak on "Becoming a Woman of Courage and Encouragement in Christ." Bring your friends.

SILVER HATTERS FELLOWSHIP

A new ministry is being established to bring together our Senior Citizens, those 55 and older. There will be a kick-off potluck lunch on March 24 at 11:30 a.m. in the Women's Ministry Room. See Kim McDaniel for more details.

VBS

VBS will be the June 18-22. Help is needed with set-up, decorating, advertising, teaching, etc. See Genie if you want to help.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

We will be hosting Easter Sunrise Service in the Pearl Park on April 8. We will need help with set-up and "breakfast." See Yale if you can help.

HEALTH FAIR

We will host a Health Fair May 19 from 9am-4pm. If you have suggestions for exhibitors see Jennie Miller. Volunteers **are** needed.

SUPPER CLUB

Here are the dates for the next few Supper Clubs. **March 23, April 20, and May 18**. All of these will be held at Allen and Genie Rogers' home. Watch each month for menu suggestion.

GUEST SPEAKER

April 29 will be a special Sunday for us. Jason McLeod from the movie *Facing the Giants* will be with us to share some experiences the movie has brought to his life and his church.

LIFE GROUPS

Don't forget that on April 1 we will bring all the Life Groups together at the building at 6:00. The Sweeney group will facilitate.

SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS

Contact Tim Nelson if unable to serve at 601-853-3704.

3/25/07

Greeters Blevins Life Group
Song Leader Tim Farrar
Call to Worship Allen McDaniel
Prayer LaRan Kilpatrick
Presiding Dusty Reynolds
Closing Prayer Bobby Stewart

Serving

Lamar Kilpatrick	Todd Lott
Keaton Sweeney	Tony Dority
Doug Hester	Dan Ellis

Evening Worship Life Groups
Nursery Becky Turner
Children's Worship..... Kim McDaniel

4/1/07

Greeters Sweeney Life Group
Song Leader Tim Farrar
Call to Worship Allen Rogers
Prayer Wayne Bridges
Presiding Alvin McMillen
Closing Prayer George Miller

Serving

Dusty Reynolds	Ryan Hamrick
Justin McCoy	Terry Hester
Scottie Stanford	Dan Ellis

Evening Worship Life Groups
Nursery Lisa McCoy
Children's Worship..... Jenny Farrar

THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Mar. 25—Josh. 14-15; Luke 4:33-44
Mar. 26—Josh. 16-18; Luke 5:1-16
Mar. 27— Josh. 19-20; Luke 5:17-39
Mar. 28— Josh. 21-22; Luke 6:1-26
Mar. 29— Josh. 23-24; Luke 6:27-49
Mar. 30— Judges 1-2; Luke 7:1-30
Mar. 31—Judges 3-5; Luke 7:31-50

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 23 – Supper Club
March 24 – Silver Hatters Lunch
March 29 – Ladies Night Out
April 8 – Easter Sunrise Service
April 15 – Nursing Home Devotional
April 20 – Supper Club
May 6 – Grad Sunday
May 18 – Supper Club
May 19 – Health Fair
June 18-22 - VBS

LIFE GROUPS		
Area	Location	Leaders
South Brandon	Rotated	Paul McManaway
		Glynn McMillen
Pearl	Building	David Blevins
		Lonnie Livingston
Florence/Star	Rotated	Yale Canfield
		Allen McDaniel
Brandon	Sweeney Home	Jeff Sweeney
		Tim Farrar
Reservoir	Rogers Home	Jim Head
		Allen Rogers
Teens	Varies	Ken Salley

Mission Statement for Heart Matters
 To enhance the mission of the Skyway Hills church of Christ and to build a sense of community among the members of the body of Christ through an accurate and quality communication of 1) ministries and activities of the church 2) the opportunities for each member to find fulfillment as disciples of Jesus and 3) the scriptural application of God's Word to life relevant issues today.

YOUTH

Devotional on March 25 will be at Ken and Linda Salley's home at 6:00.

Someone will be at the building at 5:30 to pick up those who may need a ride to their home.

Contact Ken or Linda for more information.

Heart Matters

Skyway Hills Church of Christ
 Highway 80 East
 P.O. Box 5600
 Pearl, MS 39288

Address services requested

Schedule of Service
 Sunday Bible Class.....9:00 am
 Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 am
 Sunday Evening Worship.....6:00 pm
 Wednesday..... 7:00 pm

NON-PROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 JACKSON, MS
 PERMIT No. 301

YAKS

VBS

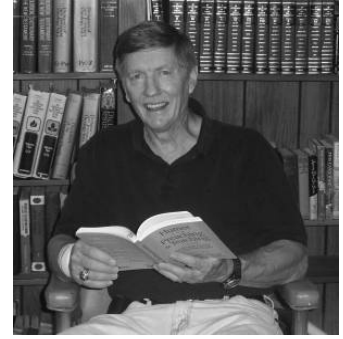
June 18-22

Plan now to attend.

"Since then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above."
 Colossians 3:1

Skyway Hills Church of Christ
 Phone: 601-939-5473 • Fax: 601-939-5447
 Web: www.skywayhills.com • E-mail: skywayhillchurch@bellsouth.net
 Elders - Lonnie Livingston • Al Garner
 Minister – Yale Canfield
 Email: yalec@bellsouth.net
 Youth Minister – Ken Salley

March 25, 2007



Heartbeat

Great Sunday church. Hearts were touched and God was glorified by our worship and praise. Thank you for your reaching out to our visitors.

As we begin to reach out into our communities, God will send good hearts into our lives. What a privilege it is to work in our communities for the high purpose of calling souls to Christ. We are finally understanding that it is outside the building that we REALLY bring glory to God (Not that we don't within as well).

Jennie Miller and I need your help. The FIRST ANNUAL HEALTH FAIR IS SATURDAY, MAY 19 FROM 9-4. This may prove to be the greatest outreach we do this year. We need a ton of help.

- Pray for the event.
- Sign up for an area of needed assistance.
- Contact prospective health care providers.
- Let us know your suggestions as to how to make it better.
- Plan to give blood on the 19th. Sign up for a time. It will be on the board Sunday. (We need 25 people in order to be covered by Blood Services).

The Community Christian church in Brandon will unite with us in our SONSHINE Easter Praise and Worship service in the Pearl Park on April 8, at 7:00 A.M. For those who can, please be at the church building at 6:00 to help transport chairs and the Praise Team's equipment down to the Park. We will need a lot of help in this.

I hope you are finding areas of work to do for the Lord. Your gifts and talents are needed to bring glory to God.

I want to personally thank Mike and Sarajeon for donating their computer to me. It is just such a great gift. Mike is also working hard on our cross in the back of the baptistry.

Please take advantage of our Bible classes on Sunday Morning at 9:00. See you there.

- Deacons**
- David Blevins, Education
 - Tony Dority, Building
 - Tim Nelson, Calls/Visitor/Greeters
 - Jim Head, Life Groups
 - George Miller
 - Allen Rogers, YAKS