

STGMA "news you can use"

GOSPEL NOTES

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Serve God? But I'm not perfect!

Good news! God does not expect you to be perfect. Where does the thought that we have to be perfect to serve God come from? Well, we are commanded to be like Jesus. So, the thought then comes to mind that we have to be perfect since he was perfect. That is not true. Being like Christ involves walking with God, praying and doing all the things we are asked to do that honors God. Saying we cannot serve God because we are not perfect is the enemy's tool to keep us from our rightful place—serving and worshipping God! We all have problems. We all face tasks that we don't have the ability to perform. We all feel unworthy to serve God since we have nothing to offer Him. Friends, it's not about what we have to offer God but what He did for us in giving His only Son to die in our place.

We all have times of feeling inadequate but did you know...

Moses stuttered.
David's armor didn't fit.
John Mark deserted Paul.
Timothy had ulcers.
Jacob was a liar.
David had an affair.
Solomon was too rich.
Abraham was too old.
David was too young.
Peter was afraid of death.
Hosea's wife (Gomer)
was a prostitute.

Lazarus died.
John was self-righteous.
Naomi was a widow.
Paul persecuted the church.
Moses was a murderer.
Jonah ran from God's will.
Miriam was a gossip.
Gideon and Thomas doubted.
Martha was a worry-wart.
Noah got drunk.
Jeremiah was depressed
and suicidal.

BUT GOD... forgives when we ask. He created us so He knows everything about us and He does not require us to submit a resume of our experiences or endure a job interview in order to love us or extend salvation. He extends to us His grace. He is our Heavenly Father and He loves us unconditionally. He doesn't look at financial gain or loss. He is not prejudiced or partial. He does not hold a grudge. He is not condemning. He is not deaf to our cries nor blind to our need! He knows exactly who we are and what we are and loves us in spite of ourselves.

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STGMA FOUNDED 1999



From the President's Desk

Greetings,

Galatians 3:24-25 says "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster." The law was hard to keep. Because of the flesh, we had no defense. We were constantly getting into trouble and no way to get out. I've often reminded our church family that they know just enough about the bible to get into trouble and not enough to get out. The following message allows us to see just how much God loves us. This is a story of a class of students that no teacher had been able to handle. Several teachers had been run off from this school in one year by the unruly students. A young man, just out of college, heard about the class and applied to the school. The principal asked the young man, "Do you know what you're asking for? No one else has been able to handle these students. You're just asking for a terrible beating." After a few moments of silent prayer, the young man looked at the principal and said, "Sir, with your consent I accept the challenge. Just give me a chance. The next morning the young man stood before the class and said, "Young people, I came here today to conduct school but I realize I can't do it by myself. I must have your help." One boy they called Big Tom sitting in the back of the room whispered to his buddies, "I won't need any help. I can lick that little bird all by myself." The young teacher told the class there needed to be some rules. He said he would allow the students to make up the rules and he would list them on the blackboard. This was certainly different, the students thought! One young man suggested "NO STEALING." Another one shouted "BE ON TIME FOR CLASS." Pretty soon they had 10 rules listed on the board. The teacher then asked the class what the punishment should be for breaking these rules. "The rules are no good unless they are enforced", he said. Someone suggested that if the rules were broken, they should receive 10 licks with a rod across their back with their coat off. The teacher thought this was pretty harsh so he asked the class if they would stand by this punishment. The class agreed. Everything went along pretty good for two or three days. Then Big Tom came in one day very upset. He declared that someone had stolen his lunch. After talking with the students, they came to the conclusion that little Timmy had stolen Big Tom's lunch. Someone had seen little Timmy with Big Tom's lunch! The teacher called little Timmy up to the front of the classroom. Little Timmy admitted he had done it. So the teacher asked him, "Do you know the punishment?" Little Timmy nodded that he did. "You must remove your coat," the teacher instructed. The little fellow had come with a great big coat on. Little Timmy said to the teacher, "I'm guilty and I'm willing to take my punishment, but please don't make me take off my coat?" The teacher reminded Timmy of the rules and punishments and again told him he must remove his coat and take his punishment like a man. The little fellow started to unbutton that old coat. As he did so, the teacher saw he did not have a shirt on under the coat. Even worse, he saw a frail and bony frame hidden beneath that coat. The teacher asked Timmy why he had come to school without a shirt on? Little Timmy replied, "My daddy's dead and my mother is very poor. I only have one shirt and my mother is washing it today. I wore my big brother's coat so I could keep warm." That young teacher stood and looked at the frail back with the spine protruding against the skin and ribs sticking out. He wondered how he could lay a rod on that little bare back. Still, he knew he must enforce the punishment or the children would not obey the rules. So he drew back to strike little Timmy. Just then Big Tom stood up and came down the aisle. He asked, "Is there anything that says that I can't take little Timmy's whipping for him? The teacher thought about it and agreed it was okay. With that, Big Tom ripped his coat off and crouched over little Timmy at the teacher's desk. Hesitatingly the teacher began to lay the rod on that big back but for some strange reason after only five licks that old rod just broke in half. The young teacher buried his face in his hands and began to sob. He heard a commotion and looked up to find not even one dry eye in the classroom. Little Timmy had turned and grabbed Big Tom around the neck apologizing to him for stealing his lunch. Little Timmy begged Big Tom to forgive him. He told Big Tom that he would love him until the day he died for taking his whipping for him. Aren't you glad that Jesus took our whipping for us? That He shed His precious blood on Calvary so that you and I can have eternal life in Glory with Him. We are unworthy of the price He paid for us, but aren't you glad He loves us that much? Until next time...

Floyd

Ministry Moments...

by: Larry Green

Glory to God in the highest! What an awesome year this has been for MercySong Revival. I must tell you that there for a season, I was wondering if MercySong's season had passed. However, it is still true that what the enemy had meant for total destruction, the Almighty decided that our finest hour had not been achieved as yet. Our year started in March with our 7th year Anniversary concert. Only it wasn't a concert, but it turned out to be "CHURCH" in its finest hour. Every concert this year, God has shown himself to be ALIVE!

This year will see MercySong Revival travel thousands of miles, going into places, churches and states that the group has never been to. In August, we went into the studio again to put out a tribute CD to the Happy Goodman Family, but it will also include some new songs as well. I can't tell you how real that the Lord has anointed this ministry.

I challenge each of you to lay aside the age old question of "is it ministry vs. is it entertainment". To paraphrase a recent song release... Just sing Jesus until Jesus comes again! God is not ever impressed with your talent. Where do you suppose it came from? What rings God's bell is when you take that God-given talent and soak it in the Holy Spirit's anointing. Then and only then will you witness the favor of God.

See you on the road...
Larry Green - MercySong Revival
Dallas, Texas



Let us hear from you...email your **brief**
"Ministry Moment" to Christine.

Hi, friends!

I've had the privilege of helping several folks with their ministry website this month while I was recovering from surgery and it has truly been a blessing. Floyd and I cannot plant financial seeds into every ministry that we know and love but I've always felt helping people with their websites was my way to do just that. If you're not utilizing your website to its full potential and need some assistance, let me know and I'll see what I can do to help. Facebook is a great tool but your message can so easily get "lost" in a newsfeed...never to be seen! Keep in mind, the cost of a website is so small but offers so much! It's a window into your ministry purpose and helps folks get to know you. It can help open a door when a cold call or other method doesn't work. So take the time to keep your website up-to-date, easy to read and be sure to offer new things for your visitor to read, hear and learn about you and your ministry. What has God brought you through? We all know that "You can't have a testimony without a test"! Share it! Your experience could be useful to someone else in their journey through this life. You may never know how what you share will touch the heart of someone going through the same thing or something similar. When you have a calling on your life to share the gospel, it means more than holding a microphone or instrument. It means saying and doing those things that speak from your heart to someone else's heart...that they may come to a saving knowledge of Christ Jesus.

Blessings...

Christine Scott - webmaster@stgma.org

**Web-
master's
Corner**

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STGMA

South Texas Gospel Music Association

presents

An Evening of Gospel Music

Saturday, September 24 • 6 pm

Cibolo Valley Baptist Church

5500 FM 1103 Schertz, TX 78108



APPOINTED BY GRACE

Free Admission - Love Offering
For more information,
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WE WERE BORN TO BE REAL, **NOT** TO BE PERFECT.

(continued from page 1)

Satan says: "You're not worthy!"
Jesus says: "So what. I am."

Satan looks back and sees our mistakes.
God looks back and sees the cross.

God does not have a giant scoreboard keeping track of your failures nor does He direct you in a way that leads to failure. He is a loving God and longs to spend every waking moment with you. We probably give God plenty of reasons why we think He could choose someone else BUT... if we are in love with Him and if we hunger for Him, He'll use us in spite of who we are, where we've been, what we have done or the fact that we are not perfect! Christ living and dwelling in us produces perfection in God's eyes. If anyone looks at you, let them see Jesus...that will please the Father and you will be immensely blessed. When we recognize our weakness and need for God, His strength is perfect!! Run into His arms of love and find perfect rest!



ATTENTION
STGMA MEMBERS...

HOW WOULD
YOU
LIKE TO SING...
ON A CRUISE?

YOU CAN!

STGMA would like to sponsor a cruise to Cozumel,
Mexico leaving out of Galveston
on the Carnival Liberty!

Remember the President's speech at the 2016
Convention? All Member and Associate dues
will now be paid in January of each year.
So, to kick off the new schedule, all active STGMA
Members who have paid their 2017 dues as of
January 31st AND sell 2 cabins (4 people) will be
eligible to sing while we are at sea!

You can invite your friends, family and fans to join
YOU on a Carnival cruise for fun, food, fellowship
and good gospel music!

If you would be interested, let the Board know by
emailing Christine: webmaster@stgma.org or
visit our website (www.stgma.org)
and click the "I WANNA GO" button!

*If we have enough folks interested, we'll start
registering \$250/pp deposits in September!*



CARNIVAL LIBERTY

Interior Cabin
\$519/per person

Oceanview Cabin
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include excursions,
sodas, alcoholic
beverages or any
gratuities.



Here are a few pictures from the Convention and our next few issues will feature more!

Don't miss seeing your friends (and fans) in the coming months!



Group - His Call



Group - Pacesetters Quartet



Group - MercySong Revival

WELCOME

New Member...

Matt Jones Group

Members: Matt Jones, Lisa Michelle Dye and Mark Sargent



Group - The Bethels



DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Grandparents as Prayer Warriors

I am a grandparent. I read an article written by Kevin Smith. I would like to pass some of it on to you in a series in the newsletter. The Word of God says nothing about the role of grandparents, but it boldly declares the power of their influence. For better or worse, grandparents leave a legacy. For some, it is a legacy of righteousness and blessings. For others, wickedness and brokenness. The respective legacies extend into eternity - eternal life or death. Godly men and women leave a legacy of blessings for generations to come.



What makes the difference? If you are a grandparent, how can you bring blessing upon your descendants? Some grandparents see their grandchildren regularly. Some may even be surrogate parents. Others may be far-away strangers. Obviously all grandparents cannot be expected to play similar roles in their grandchildren's lives. There is no such thing as a biblical role of grandparents. The Word of God lays down roles for the husband-wife and parent-child, but not for grandparent-grandchild. Nevertheless, there are some general rules grandparents can play to ensure they leave a legacy in their descendants' lives. Chief among them is prayer warriors. Call their names before the Lord everyday. Whether you live near or far, you can shape your grandchildren's destinies through the power of prayer.

To be continued...

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Congratulations
Mr. & Mrs. Logan Pettis
August 20, 2016

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We are on the web...
www.stgma.org