

July, 2010



# The Encourager

See our website [www.ozarkprairieba.com](http://www.ozarkprairieba.com) for all the information you may need; office times, church info, events, schedules, etc.



## *From the DOM's Heart*

In his book *Experiencing God*, Henry Blackaby tells us in the first reality of knowing and doing the will of God, that "God is at work all around us". It is easy for us to forget that basic truth. I have recently been reminded of why so many believers do not experience God all around them. It has to do with one of the most important gifts that God has given to each and every believer. The gift I am speaking of is the gift of prayer. Prayer is that opportunity to be able to speak to God anywhere, any time, for any reason. Of all of the gifts that God has given us prayer may be the most neglected.

The reasons I believe that prayer is so often neglected are twofold. First, I have noticed throughout my ministry that there is very little conversation among Christians about what the Lord is doing in their lives. Whoever my best friend is, I have a habit of talking about him or her with my other friends. Many of you who know me know that I talk about my wife, Maggie, because she is my best friend on earth. You also know that the Lord is my best friend spiritually. I talk constantly to different people about what I have discovered about my Lord's will through my prayer times with Him. So if believers are not talking about the Lord in their everyday conversation, they are probably not speaking with Him very much in prayer. I am not talking about prayers before meals and prayers during our times of extreme need, I am speaking of quality time with the Lord each day in private devotion.

John Franklin, in his book, *And the Place Was Shaken: How to Lead a Powerful Prayer Meeting*, points out that God did not complete any of his work in the Bible without doing it through prayer. Whenever God was about to move in a certain direction, He first raised up a person of prayer to do it through, for example Moses, David, Daniel, Jesus, Paul, etc. The only thing ever recorded that the disciples asked Jesus to teach them was to ! pray. They did not ask for teaching, preaching, or working of miracles, but prayer. They knew the source of Jesus' power resulted from His relationship with God through prayer. Jesus is our standard. He modeled the necessity of prayer. Prayer is the means that God has ordained by which he will work on earth and meet the needs of his people. If you do not pray, you will not see the hand of God.

Allow me to give you an example of what I'm trying to say. As I write this article to you, I am in the middle of my vacation in Arizona. During our travels to Arizona to visit with Maggie's parents, we spent one night in Gallup New Mexico. Each morning before beginning our travels Maggie and I would spend time in prayer. One of our requests of the Lord each day was that He would keep our vehicle safe and in proper working order. As we were preparing to leave Gallup for the next leg of our trip, we stopped at a gas station. Usually I stop at a convenience store that sells gasoline. But on this one occasion I noticed that this service station had what I thought was the best price for gasoline in town. While filling up the tank of my vehicle, the lone attendant was filling the windshield washer fluid at each pump. He noticed that I had a nail in my tire; a nail I would never have looked for had I been at a convenience store. That nail had not only punctured the tire, but it had also split the rubber making the tire unsafe to drive on especially at 75 miles per hour on the interstate. One might say that it was merely a coincidence that I pulled into that station and that the attendant just happen to look at my tire. No, it had God's hand all over it. The attendant was a Southern Baptist, whose father had been a Baptist pastor. He didn't have the tires I needed, but closed his station to find and retrieve the right tires. God answered our prayers. He protected us from harm, and kept

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the vehicle safe. Yes, we saw the hand of God at work around us. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

The second reason that I know that the gift of prayer is neglected is that I have noticed throughout my ministry that there is an absence of a vast majority of believers each Wednesday evening who do not see the importance of church wide prayer meetings. This is sad because Jesus taught us the importance of praying with others. John Franklin again points out the importance of praying with other believers. He says that nearly 90% of the time that Jesus commanded us to pray or gave a condition for God to answer; he did it in the plural. Two good examples are found in Matthew 7:7 and 18:19. After the confession of Peter, almost all of his prayer times involved the disciples. In Acts 6:1-4, the apostles listed preaching the word and leading the people of God to pray as their two most important ministries. Before the resurrection the majority of God's mighty acts followed the prayer life of an individual. After the cross the majority follow the prayer life of two or more. God's modern working around the world today reveals the greatest move of God ever. Christianity is advancing all over the world - China, India, Africa, Central and South America. One of the common denominators in all of these locations is that the people of God prayed together. In general there are only a few places in the world where the gospel is declining or not advancing-Australia, Japan, Western Europe, and North America. This tells me that the sincere, heart-felt corporate prayers of our churches are not reaching our Lord because we are not meeting together to pray to Him.

In these days of economic uncertainty, an oil spill that is seemingly insurmountable to conquer, a government that is difficult to trust, and a catastrophic level of immorality throughout this country, one would think that we would turn to the God who is the only one able to correct this plight on America and our world! With the number of lost people in America and throughout this world that continue! to out number those who are saved, one would think that our pews and our altars would be to tear stained from the prayers of concerned and burdened Christians! Praying for the sick is great, but what about their spiritual condition? Should we not be praying for their salvation, spiritual uncertainties or their backslidden condition?

Brothers and sisters, let us take time each day to pray individually to our heavenly father, and let us make it a priority to return to our churches each and every Wednesday evening for prayer meeting. Without prayer we will never see the hand of God at work all around us. Oh how we need God's intervention today!

Bro. Jim



## **OPBA Children's and Middle School Camp**

Friday, July 16 through Monday, July 19

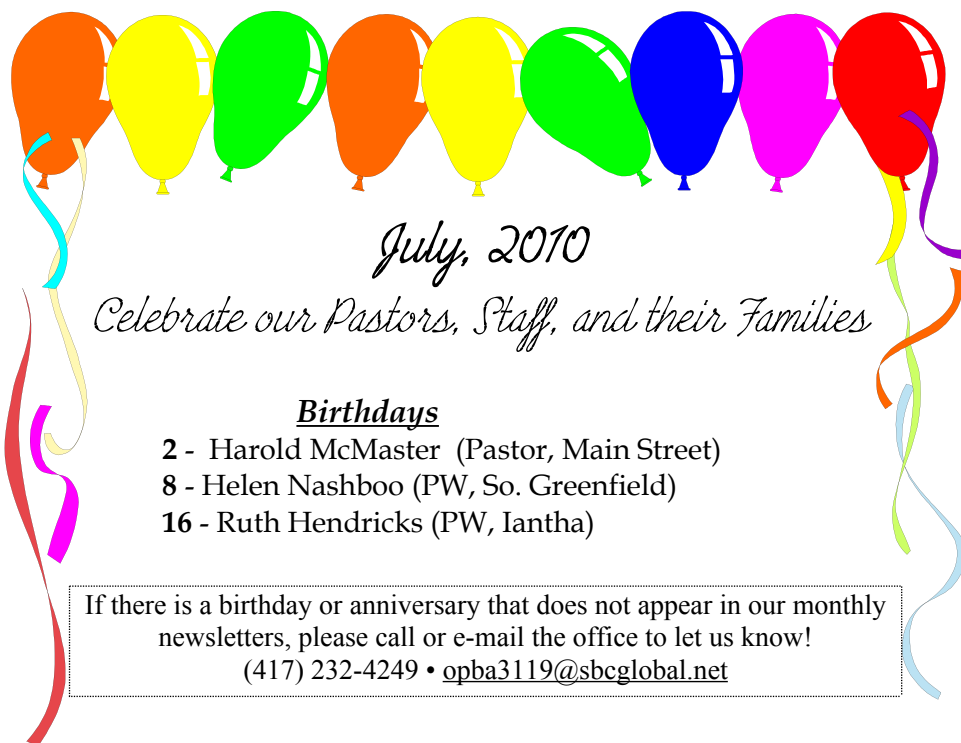
Registration is 8:30 - 9:30 am on Friday July 16 at Baptist Hill

**ABSOLUTE LAST ACCEPTANCE DATE FOR CAMPER REGISTRATION FORMS IS JUNE 28, 2010. No registrations will be accepted the day of camp this year. If you don't have it to the association office by now, it's too late for this year.**

**Camp Staff & CGL's: Don't forget Camp staff BBQ Tuesday, July 13, 6:30 pm, at FBC Lockwood. All staff must make every effort to attend!**

**It's almost here, please pray for God's will to be done and pray for the campers and those working the camp weekend. Pray for the Camp Directors, Matt & Kerri, too!!**

If you have any questions or for more information please call the association office 417-232-4249 or send an e-mail to [opba3119@sbcglobal.net](mailto:opba3119@sbcglobal.net).



*July, 2010*

*Celebrate our Pastors, Staff, and their Families*

**Birthdays**

- 2 - Harold McMaster (Pastor, Main Street)
- 8 - Helen Nashboo (PW, So. Greenfield)
- 16 - Ruth Hendricks (PW, Iantha)

If there is a birthday or anniversary that does not appear in our monthly newsletters, please call or e-mail the office to let us know!  
 (417) 232-4249 • [opba3119@sbcglobal.net](mailto:opba3119@sbcglobal.net)

**No Church News  
 was submitted  
 for this issue!**

**VBS Dates**

Some of the churches in our association are having a VBS this year again during the following dates:

*FBC DADEVILLE*

July 26-30      6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

*FBC LAMAR*

July 25-29      5:45 pm - 8:45 pm

*GOLDEN CITY*

July 12 - 16      6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

*LIBERTY*

Aug 2 - Aug 6    6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

*MT. NEBO*

July 26 - 30      6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

**El Salvador  
 Mission Trip**

NEWS! NEWS! NEWS! NEWS! NEWS!

The trip previously scheduled for July 30 thru August 7, 2010 has been canceled at this time. Plans will be made at a later date to take a trip in Winter, 2011.

We have mailed \$1000 to the Tacuba church for Sunday school materials and furnishings that the church has requested.

Thanks to Ruby Taylor for desiring to go.  
 Pray for more volunteers in winter 2011.

**WMU Meetings**

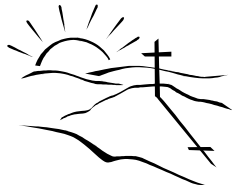
**DADE:** Aug 12 at Liberty Baptist Church, 6:30 pm  
 Scott & Susan Vandegrift & family will be going to Guatemala and they will have a presentation for the entire family.

**BARTON:** July 8 at Cornerstone Baptist Church, 6:30 pm with a meal  
 Mission Adventures presentation

**Come and bring the family!**

**Financial Report for OPBA for Fiscal Year  
 2009 - 2010 Period 9 - June, 2010**

<b>Income</b> needed per Annual Budget for the month of <b>June</b>	\$ 6,696.77
Actual <b>Income</b> received for <b>June</b> :	<u>\$ 5,336.75</u>
Income <b>under</b> budget for <b>June</b> by:	(\$1,360.02)
Actual <b>Expenses</b> for <b>June</b> :	\$ 3,960.99
Undesignated money at end of <b>June</b> :	\$11,956.13
(For the use of non restricted budgeted items)	
<b>Designated</b> money at the end of <b>June</b> :	\$11,135.78
(This includes designated monies for: Baptist Hill, Camp, El Salvador, and Associational Missions)	



# OPBA

## Ozark Prairie Baptist Association

PO Box S  
503 W 4th Street  
Lockwood, MO 65682

NON-PROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 14  
Lockwood, MO

### Temp. Return Service Requested

#### Office Schedule for OPBA

	<u>DOM</u>	<u>Secretary</u>
Monday.....	9:00 - 4:00	
Tuesday.....	9:00 - 4:00	
Wednesday.....	9:00 - 4:00	8:30 - 3:00
Thursday.....	9:00 - 4:00	
Friday.....	9:00 - 12 noon	

(To reach Aurelia please call 417-461-1019.)

OPBA Office: 417-232-4249  
FAX: 417-232-4410  
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Web: www.ozarkprairieba.com  
Parsonage: 417-232-4214

Do you know anyone not receiving the Encourager newsletter? Call the OPBA office or send an e-mail with the name and address to receive the newsletter and we'll put it on the list.

*Remember, if you have news, announcements, birthdays, or events you want published in the newsletter, please get those to me by the 21st of each month!*

## JULY

- 4 **Independence Day**
- 8 **Barton WMU Meeting**  
Cornerstone, 6:30 pm
- 13 **Camp workers orientation BBQ**  
FBC, Lockwood 6:30 pm
- 16-19 **Children's & Middle School Camps**  
Baptist Hill, Registration begins at 8:30am!
- 20 **Nominating Committee Meeting,**  
7pm OPBA office

## AUGUST

- 12 **Dade WMU Mtg.**  
Liberty Baptist Church, 6:30 pm
- 17 **OPBA Calendar Planning Mtg.**  
Association office, 7:00 pm
- 24 **OPBA Finance/Budget Comm. Mtg.**  
Association Office, 7:00 pm
- 28 **Ladies Retreat**  
Liberty Baptist Church, 8:00 am

#### **OPBA OFFICE CLOSED:**

July 5 (Independence Day)

**September is MMO month!! Get ready!**