

SALEM

SPEAKS

SPRING NEWSLETTER

May 1988



THE PASTOR'S PEN POINTS

Enlarging The Tent

by: Rev. Claude E. Shelby, Sr.

"Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitation: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; for thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited" (Isaiah 54:2-3).

God wrote these words to Israel as she was about to emerge from the darkness of despair. The City of Zion was told to build, to grow, to expand, and to conquer. God wanted to bless her as she stepped out in faith to do the will of God.

My friends, I believe this is what God wants for Salem. He has given us a vision of what He wants to do in the through us. He wants us to step out in faith. He wants all of us involved in this endeavor. He wants us to BUILD, GROW, EXPAND, AND CONQUER. Allow me to share with you what I feel God is doing and will be doing through us.

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Jeanette Goines Osler, Editor
Claude E. Shelby, Sr., Pastor

SPECIAL TRIBUTE



"Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business...." (Acts 6:3)

Deacon Theotto Bowles is one person who dearly loves Salem Baptist Church. He has been a member of Salem for nearly 60 years (1930-present), and has served well in many capacities: chairman of the Board of Trustees, deacon, Sunday School worker, a member of the Gospel Chorus, attended the Wednesday evening prayer service regularly until a few years ago (he now attends the Thursday noon day prayer services), and has held many offices in the Laymen's Department.

Brother Bowles has often visited the sick and shut-in members of Salem, to offer words of encouragement. In addition, any member who misses a few Sunday morning worship services might expect a visit from Deacon Bowles; and before he leaves, he always has their tithes and offering.

Many of us are aware of how hard Brother Bowles has worked to keep the laymen active; and how he always looks forward to the Brotherhood Banquets that are held the first Friday in February. Some of the members would jokingly say "the Brotherhood Banquet was so successful because Brother Bowles cried up a success."

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PASTOR'S PEN POINTS CONTINUED

First of all, we seek to win the lost to faith in Jesus Christ. We seek to lead the backslidden Christians once again into the center of the will of God. We seek to enable all Christians of our fellowship to become all that God wants them to be. And we shall build a place of worship that will honor God and help facilitate those areas into which God is leading us.

The Lord has helped us greatly. Let us put forth the effort that is needed for us to accomplish the task that is before us. The Lord will not do for us what we can do for ourselves. You remember reading of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. That was beyond human power. Before Jesus performed this great miracle we hear Him say, "Take ye away the stone."

"When we have done all that we can do, and have gone as far as we can go, we can cry, 'Father I stretch my hands to Thee. No other help I know....'"

Editor's Note: We recently enjoyed our Annual Spring Revival Services with guest Evangelist Donald Hunter of New Sunnymount Baptist Church, St. Louis, Missouri. It is amazing how his messages throughout the week seemed to be so closely related to Pastor Shelby's story which was given to me at the beginning of the week. This is another example of the Lord speaking very clearly to the Salem family.

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CHANGES



OF ADDRESS

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If you have a change of address, please inform Jeanette Goines Osler, so that we can correct our mailing list. The newsletter CANNOT be forwarded. Also,

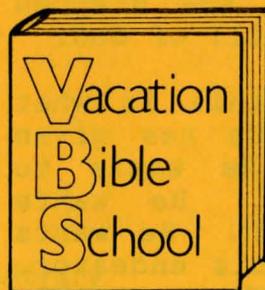
This newsletter is sent to members, former members and friends of Salem Baptist Church. If you would like to be on our mailing, write to us at 500 E. Park, Champaign, IL 61820.

Sunday School

During March and April, Salem's Sunday School celebrated "Bring A Friend Month". We were pleased to go over 100 in attendance. The entire month of June will be "Children and Youth Month", and will include our Vacation Bible School (see story below).

The Sunday School is the teaching department of our church and we sincerely encourage each of you to become more involved. Of course, we are always looking for well-prepared, spirit-filled teachers, but it is even more important to become a studier of God's Word. Classes are offered for all ages, including adult; so plan to attend Sunday School in the near future, 9:30 a.m.

TEACHERS DON'T FORGET: Staff meetings are being held on the second Sunday of each month at 8:00 a.m. In June we will have two meetings: June 12th and June 26th. Please plan to attend.



June 13-17, 1988
6:30-8:30 p.m.

The week of June 13-17 has been set for our Vacation Bible School. The sessions will be conducted during the evening from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Teachers are needed for all classes, as well as in crafts, music, etc. Please contact our General Superintendent, Jolynda Pittman, if you can serve in any capacity. Thanks!

SPECIAL TRIBUTE CONTINUED

Brother Bowles has such enthusiasm for whatever program Salem attempts; and in January 1988, he was named Senior Deacon. Although there are a few deacons who have served longer in terms of years, he has always been a strong supporter of the deacons during his many years at Salem.

Brother Bowles recently had a few health problems that slowed him down a little, but he does not know what the word "quit" means. We dedicate this poem to Deacon Theotto Bowles:

**On God for all events depend;
You cannot want when God's your friend.
Weigh well your part and do your best;
Leave to your Maker all the rest.**

-- Cotton --

WOMEN'S DAY 1988

The women of Salem celebrated their 45th Annual Women's Day on Sunday, March 27th with a very special theme: **The Role of Christian Women in Search of God's Work.**

Two dynamic speakers were available for this year's celebration. Salem's own firstlady, Montrula Shelby, spoke for the 11 a.m. worship service, and encouraged the women to find God's purpose for their lives. Ann Perry, Grove Street Church of God in Christ, joined us for our afternoon service, along with the Women's Ensemble. Sister Perry uplifted our hearts again with a well-delivered message about Christian women involved in God's work. She finished by singing a spirit-filled solo which warmed the hearts of many.

The day ended with a beautiful reception and fellowship among the attendees. Special thanks go to the women who worked so diligently to make the program possible: Mary Alexander and Mary Blackstone. You did a marvelous job.

A VISIT TO ISRAEL by: Timothy Jones

Israel is spiritual. You can look down the rocky mountainsides of Jerusalem on a misty morning and breathe it in. It fills you up and you don't want to breathe out or let go. The whole time you say to yourself, "this is an experience." And, Jerusalem isn't all there is to Israel -- Galilee, the Dead Sea, the Jordan River everything is rich with history.

Thank God for the loving people of this world. I was able to travel to Israel on a youth exchange for a one-month all expenses paid experience that I will never forget. The program was sponsored by the America-Israel Friendship League which has its headquarters in New York. This year, around 80 students were sent from various cities around the U.S. after hosting a batch of kids from different cities in Israel. This had a tremendous impact on the students from both countries.

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A NEW MINISTER AT SALEM

Several members and friends joined Minister Michael Carter, as he preached his trial sermon at Salem on April 24th. Michael received official licensing from Salem, along with words of encouragement and support from Pastor Shelby and Pastor Emeritus W.H. Donaldson. Several other ministers offered positive comments about the message, including the fact that "Michael sounds like he's been doing this all along."

Michael was admonished to continue studying and to diligently prepare for the work he has been called into. We will look forward to hearing more from our new minister.

Pastor Emeritus Donaldson also informed us that he preached his own trial sermon on the fourth Sunday in April, 1931; and he retired in April 1981, after 50 years in the ministry. We thank God for His new ministers and for His not so new ministers.



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-- Youth Day is being planned for June 19, 1988. The theme is "Youth Striving To Do God's Will", Matthew 6:10

-- Floral Arrangements for the Sanctuary: if you are interested in donating flowers for the month of June, contact Louise Tanner, 352-8850.

-- Scholarships are available: for more information, contact committee members, Lizette Smith, Melissa Bolden, or Willie Dozier. The deadline is May 29th.

-- "A May Breakfast" is being sponsored by the Mildred Webb Circle, Saturday, May 28th at 8:30 a.m.. All missionary circles and members of the church are urged to attend. Our guest will be Sister Olivia Neal of Morningstar Freewill Baptist Church.

-- Annual Memorial Day Service will be held Sunday, May 29, 4:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

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A VISIT TO ISRAEL CONTINUED

Salem, I am telling you, there is nothing like being in the cave (yes, cave) where Jesus was born or like hiking in Galilee where Jesus travelled. For a Christian, Israel means a chance to see where that infamous King Herod lived or the well in Nazareth where Mary used to draw water from every day. You won't be just sight-seeing, you'll be thinking and feeling and wondering. For me, it made me want to walk with Jesus more and talk with Him, to get to know Him. But I also realized that you need not travel to the Middle East to feel the spirit of Jerusalem or Nazareth. It's in Salem. It's in our hearts. Since we are the salt of the earth, let's spread his word in our continent, in our cities, and in our homes.

Much Love, Timothy.

Please submit your favorite Bible verses, poems, quotes, or writings of your own to Jeanette Goines Osler, editor, throughout the year. These items will be printed as space permits. Thank you.

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