

From the Moderator

Have you ever heard someone say, "It was the Christian thing to do"? I have it a few times growing up almost always in relation to acts of kindness. For instance I remember my mother once making a carrot cake (my favorite) and taking it to a neighbor who'd lost his job. I thought it was a bit much to give the best cake in the world to someone we hardly knew, but she said, "It's the Christian thing to do."

I'm sure you too have heard this term used before. If you have I'd bet it was in reference to an act of kindness or love. Why, because Jesus said "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:35) It is the mark of a disciple of Jesus Christ to love. Christ modeled love and he commanded love.

When asked about which commandment was the greatest Jesus answered "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mar 12:30-31)

It is sad for me that I rarely hear anyone say, it's the Christian thing to do, any more. It seems like most people today, including those in the church are much more interested in serving self. The instant response to offense is to offend right back. The response to another's suffering is too often to distance ourselves from it. When it seems to us someone deserves wrath we tend to be quick to deliver.

In both conversation and deeds we must always be looking to make our mark as a Christian on this world. We ought to be going out of our ways to express love to those who are suffering, forgiveness to those who offend us, and grace to those who deserve to suffer our wrath. This is the biblical idea of charity.

Charity does not excuse sin or invite unrighteous acts. Instead charity calls to the unrighteous to repent and believe in a loving God. I recently read the follow story. I share it with you to illustrate the point.

The regular monthly meeting of a well-known infidel club was scheduled to be held in London a couple of generations ago. A noted lecturer had been engaged to deliver a scathing attack on Christianity. In introducing the speaker, the chairman dared anyone to answer him at the conclusion of his message, and he assured the visitor that they were all of one mind on the matter of atheism.

As the applause died down at the conclusion of the address, a humble laborer arose and said:

I have been a member of this club for five years. You all know me. Some of you have been in my home. Six months ago I lost my work, and I was ill, too. Not one of you came near me, though my illness was known here. But someone came, and that man and his wife nursed us and provided for us; otherwise my wife and I would not be alive today. That man was a city missionary whom I had driven from my home with threats. When I was well enough to think, I asked myself why he had been so kind to me, and I could not tell. So I asked him, and he told me he had done it for the love of Christ.

Now that is my answer to the speaker. I say that a religion which will bring a man to the bedside of one who has hated and cursed him, and returns good for evil, love for hate, is a good thing for this troubled life, and I have taken it for myself. I have seen it in operation, and I know it is good." (R. L. Middleton, Take Time! [Nashville: Abingdon, 1949], 69 – 70)

In the current environment of the western church and Baptists in particular, it seems that the doctrine of charity is a lost doctrine. We tend to be quick to judge one another and even quicker to punish. We need to hear the Apostle John when he wrote, "If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother. (1Jn 4:20-21)
Bro. Jeff

Mission Trips

Kingsley Lake Baptist Church—There will be a trip to Brazil Amazon on July 24th thru Aug. 2nd.

Trinity Baptist Church—Mission trip to Cuba on October 4th.

1st Baptist Church of Keystone—Mission trip to Haiti from July 28th thru August 3rd.

New River Baptist Church—Mission trip to Panama with Terry Blakeslee o Sept. 17-21st.

Annual Concert "Jesus Never Fails"

Presented by the Combined Choir and Orchestra of New River Baptist Association Churches.

Friday, August 24, 2012 @ 7PM
Madison Street Baptist Church
Starke, Florida

Saturday, August 25, 2012 @ 7PM
Trinity Baptist Church
Keystone Heights, Florida

If you would like to be a part of this great event, please come to the rehearsals as listed below:

August 7, 2012 Choir rehearsal Orchestra rehearsal	7:00 PM Combined @ Trinity
August 21, 2012 Choir rehearsal Orchestra Rehearsal	7:00 PM Combined @ Madison
August 24, 2012 Performance	7:00 PM Madison Street
August 25, 2012 Rehearsal Performance	4:30 PM Trinity 7:00 PM

FREE PIANO!

Is your Church in need of a great piano? Guy & Darlene Padgett have a Kimball in excellent shape that has been used very little. They would like to donate it to a church that could put it to good use.

For more information please call the Padgett's at
964-8343

You Are The Association

With the principle of unity at its foundation, our area churches become an association by acting in cooperation with each other. Within our churches are individuals with unique gifts and resources which God bestowed to fulfill the Great Commission. The gathering together of these resources creates greater potential for more effective ministry. People expressing their oneness in Christ by sharing their talents and gifts is how the church should be defined and the association is the channel to assist that.

As you pray for your church, pray that the spirit of cooperation and unity will sweep through the Association to advance the Kingdom as never before. Also pray for the DOM Search Committee that God's will be utmost in their minds!

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Starke, FL 32091

July 2012 Treasurer's Report

Churches	Budget	* Other	Y-T-D
Air Park	\$70.00		\$350.00
Bayless Highway	\$0.00		\$2,360.00
Bethel	\$180.00		\$2,156.00
Beulah	\$245.97		\$2,704.55
Brooker	\$419.19		\$3,315.71
Dedan	\$0.00		\$0.00
Evergreen	\$609.40		\$2,342.86
Fellowship	\$150.00		\$1,500.00
Gadara	\$0.00		\$1,372.59
Grace	\$0.00		\$724.50
Heilbronn	\$75.00		\$675.00
Hope	\$750.60		\$6,199.91
Keystone First	\$291.67		\$2,408.37
Kingsley Lake	\$1,263.86		\$5,136.37
Lake Hill	\$300.00		\$1,200.00
Madison Street	\$833.34		\$7,708.38
Morgan Road	\$0.00		\$2,035.00
New Covenant	\$0.00		\$0.00
New River	\$0.00		\$225.00
Northside	\$133.68		\$1,694.99
Raiford	\$0.00		\$4,515.40
Sampson City	\$0.00		\$41.69
Starke First	\$941.38		\$7,453.10
Trinity	\$300.00		\$3,041.85
Victory	\$0.00		\$491.60
FBC	\$0.00		\$412.62
Misc. Income		\$0.11	\$6,872.95
Total Income	\$6,564.09	\$0.11	\$66,938.44
Total Expenses	\$1,608.59	\$2,000.00	\$55,826.44
Net Income	\$4,955.50	-\$1,999.89	\$11,112.00
Bank Balance			\$17,497.44
Florida Baptist Credit Union Balance			\$5,232.94
Other = Interest & Disaster Relief			

New River Baptist Association
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Return Service Requested

New River Baptist Association

"Gathering Churches Together"

Disaster Relief

We have the new Disaster Relief trailer but it's not quite ready to go. We are still in need of many items to give us the tools to reach out to the needs of our community as well as the FBC Disaster Relief program throughout the state and the southeast. Some of the items still needed are: A



Stiel Chain saw, First Aid kit, a 16' articulating ladder (Little Giant types are more versatile), Cordless drill, Circular saw, Two brooms (one sweep and one push, Hard hats, Tool set with basic tools,

Shovels, Nail guns. Optional but recommended—5000 watt generator and a gas powered blower.

If you would like to donate any of these items or provide funds to purchase them, contact the association or make checks payable to NRBA, Disaster Relief.

Our Disaster Relief team has already been hard at work helping with the recent flooding.. We cleaned out 4 homes and helped others clean out an additional 5 more. We also helped with putting a blue tarp on a roof to temporarily stop roof leaking on one more home. GREAT JOB NRBA DISASTER RELIEF WORKERS!!!

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