

A Fresh Word

10-STEP PROGRAM TO GETTING...

Closer to Christ

Dear Friends,

As you start this year, my prayer is that your focus is the same as it was last year – to be more intimate with our personal savior, Jesus Christ.

I believe by following the simple 10-step program outlined below each morning, you will achieve that goal.

- 1** First, thank God for the new day. Remember, this is a day that the Lord has made, and you really should rejoice and be glad for it.
- 2** Second, pray for His guidance during the day and for the protection that only He can provide.
- 3** Third, seek to learn more about God by devoting at least 10 minutes to reading His Word, the Holy Bible. (At least 30 minutes if you include study time and not just reading).
- 4** Fourth, say "I will separate myself from the crowd today." One simple way is to be kind and smile in every interaction with another person (regardless of their attitude).
- 5** Fifth, say and mean "I will keep hope alive today." Why? Because God has promised to never leave or forsake you.
- 6** Sixth, say and mean "I will follow through on the little things today."



- 7** Seventh, say and mean "I will not hide behind busy work today."
- 8** Eighth, say and mean "I will go the extra mile today."
- 9** Ninth, say and mean "I will not allow anyone to push my buttons today."
- 10** Tenth, say and mean "I will live today for today."

Finally, thanks for all your support and prayers in the past. I look forward to a great year and meeting all those new friends you invite to worship with us.

Rev. James L. Henley, Jr., Pastor



ABOUT 'A FRESH WORD'

We hope the first edition of *A Fresh Word* encourages you. During 2007, the newsletter will be published quarterly (January, April, July and October). Inside each issue, you will find a thought-provoking message from Pastor James L. Henley, Jr. You also will see features titled *Financial Tips*, *Family Focus* and *Ministries in Action*. In this edition, you will see photos from baptisms, the church's second anniversary service and the first Christmas dinner. As the newsletter develops, you will see even more photos and features. We welcome your input. Talk to Bro. Denny Teague and Sis. Riva Brown between services, or e-mail us at rivab@bellsouth.net. We want to hear from you!

BEING A BLESSING

Fresh Start Christian Church has been reaching out to the community by serving Jackson Public Schools.

The church has supplied uniforms, book bags, pencils and tablets to Rowan Middle School.

It also has given school supplies to Brown Elementary School, and pencils, pens and folders to North Jackson Elementary School.

At nearby Chastain Middle School, the church recently supported the Reading Fair.

"Our judges and others enjoyed the pastries, coffee, juice and water you supplied, and the students were rewarded certificates, cash donations and the pizza party you provided," reads a November 6, 2006 thank-you letter from Valerie Richardson, Library Media Specialist at Chastain. "Your service was greatly appreciated."

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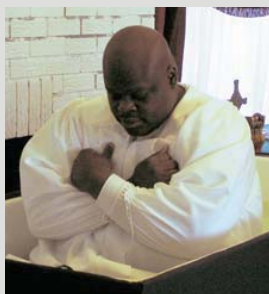
Sis. Brianna Henderson was baptized on September 13, 2006 at the Henleys' home.



Sis. Robbirdia Forbes-Triplett was baptized on September 13, 2006 at the Henleys'.



Sis. Monica Williams was baptized on October 15, 2006 at the Henley residence.



Bro. Jonathan "Scoop" Thompson was baptized on December 31, 2006 at church.

NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

Giving Thanks

Fresh Start Christian Church ended 2006 with a service filled with praise and thanksgiving.

During testimonies, members and friends shared how God has blessed them and spoke about what He has brought them through.

Pastor James L. Henley, Jr. talked about Fresh Start's beginnings in November 2004 in the den of his home. He remembers wanting the church to start in downtown Flora — until the Board of Aldermen refused to approve the location. "I cried like a baby in my car," Pastor Henley says. "God said, 'I didn't want you to come here. I have a place for you in Jackson.'"

In December 2004, the church held its first service in an office complex at 5258 Cedar Park Drive. On Christmas 2005, Fresh Start began worshipping at its present site at 5240 Manhattan Road.

Pastor Henley says the for-sale sign at the current location hadn't even been up 20 minutes before he called about purchasing it. "No one else had even bid on the building."

The church continues to prosper. In 2007, Fresh Start will add a parking lot in the front and will begin constructing a multi-purpose building in the back.

Fresh Start is special to **Bro. Pat and Sis. Pam Kessee**. Pastor Henley married them there on January 1, 2006. They are the first couple to wed at the church.



Bro. Pat and Sis. Pam Kessee

During Watch Night Service, they offered songs of praise — and began celebrating their wedding anniversary. "We wanted a fresh start, and that's exactly what we got," Pam says.



Sis. Mattee Wheaton, Pastor Henley and Sis. Aisha McKnight

Sis. Aisha McKnight also got a fresh start. Aisha, baptized in July of 2005, was the first Fresh Start member Pastor Henley baptized. Aisha's daughter, **Sis. Brianna Henderson**, was baptized in September of 2006.

"No matter what you're going through, no matter how long you think it's going to take to get through stay strong," says Aisha, who helped form the Women's Support Group (see *back page*).

The Women's Support Group helped lead **Sis. Mattee Wheaton** to Fresh Start after an unexpected stop by the church one Tuesday night.

Pastor Henley and **Evangelist Andrea Jackson** prayed with and ministered to her after she talked about her difficult transition to Jackson from Hattiesburg.

Now, the former University of Southern Mississippi student says she is feeling so much better and is enjoying her fresh start at Jackson State University.

"The sign that says 'Fresh Start' — that kind of spoke to me," Mattee says. "That was what I was looking for in my life."

Financial Tips

PASTOR HENLEY

- Don't get a refund anticipation loan.
- Fast credit cards for a month.
- Try 30 days without fast food.
- If you get a big refund, adjust your W-4 upward.
- No checking account — open a savings account at a credit union. Then, quit using the check-cashing outfits.

Family Focus



Bro. Leslie E. Florence, Jr., Sis. Jaedyn Anaya Florence and Sis. Charlinda M. Florence

THE FLORENCES

Leslie, a sales rep at Bell-South, is a native of Terry, Miss. **Charlinda**, an attorney, is a native of Meridian, Miss. They live in Jackson, Miss.

They became the proud parents of **Jaedyn Anaya** on October 27, 2006, 18 days after their second wedding anniversary.

They are members of the Praise Team and volunteer for Third Friday. Leslie also gives greetings/announcements every Sunday and participates in M.A.D.E. Men. They enjoy reading, writing and poetry.

WHY THEY JOINED FRESH START:
Pastor and Mrs. Henley go above and beyond the call of duty Pastor Henley leads by example ... He teaches rather than preaches He's just straight ... We look at him not only as a pastor but as a motivator.

FAVORITE SCRIPTURE: HOSEA 4:6 (NIV)
My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.

THE HOOKERS

Robert, Sr., a narcotics agent with the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, is from Jackson, Miss. He is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Sherree, an exceptional education teacher at Forest Hill High School, is from Gary, Ind.

They are the parents of **Robbie**, a ninth-grader at Forest Hill, and **Robert, Jr.**, a third-grader at Gary Road Intermediate. Robbie is active in cheerleading, choir and band.

The Hooker family lives in the city of Jackson.

WHY THEY JOINED FRESH START:
We really enjoy the family-oriented environment.

FAVORITE SCRIPTURE: JOHN 3:16 (NIV)
For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.



Bro. Robert V. Hooker, Sr. and Sis. Sherree Hooker (back row)
Sis Robbie S. Hooker and Bro. Robert V. Hooker, Jr. (front row)



Sis. Toni McDonald and Sis. Dorothy Baskin sport their matching Fresh Start T-shirts at the church's second anniversary service on November 5, 2006.



Sis. Jelesa Williams and Bro. Josiah Williams enjoy snacks at the church's first Christmas dinner on December 20, 2006.



Bro. Keonte Barnes, Sis. Senta Barnes and Sis. Kiarria Barnes enjoy a delectable Christmas dinner.



Bro. Ronnie "Shawn" Webster prepares deep-fried turkey for Christmas dinner.

Fresh Start Christian Church

Pastor
Rev. James L. Henley, Jr.

First Lady/Church Administrator
Sis. Vivian Henley

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Directions
From North State Street
Turn at the light by the Grove Apartments
(Woodway Drive) and take Woodway to
Manhattan Road.
From Northside Drive
Turn onto Manhattan in the direction of
Chastain Middle School. Drive past the
YMCA. Fresh Start is on the right.

Worship Services
Sundays, 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Hour of Power
Mondays, 5-6 p.m. (homework help)

Women's Support Group
2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Bible Study
Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m.

Praise Team Practice
Thursdays, 6-7 p.m.

Third Friday/Parent's Night Out
6-8:30 p.m.

M.A.D.E. Men
(Making A Difference Everyday)
3rd Saturdays, 7 a.m.

Making the Invisible Christ Visible

That if you confess with your
mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe
in your heart that God raised him
from the dead, you will be saved.
— Romans 10: 9 (NIV)

Making the Invisible Christ Visible

Ministries in Action

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

SIS. DIANE JOHNSTON

Diane Johnston, a children's evangelist and teacher trainer with Child Evangelism Fellowship since 2004, began teaching the children of Fresh Start in January of 2006.

She teaches all the kids from about age 4 to 13, but older youth have been known to sit in on, and enjoy, her classes.

She teaches at both services each Sunday morning except first Sunday, as well as the last Wednesday evening of each month.

Diane takes an all-inclusive approach to ministry, realizing that while many of the children in her classes have been born again, many have not.

Each week, whether she is teaching a Bible lesson or a doctrinal concept, she always makes relevant applications to the lives of both the Christian and pre-Christian children.



Bro. Ladarion Grant, Bro. Robert V. Hooker, Jr., Evangelist Diane Johnston, Sis. Brianna Henderson, Sis. Monica Williams and Bro. Joel Henley

This approach has resulted in a few professions of faith in Christ, and Pastor Henley has had the blessing of baptizing some of these precious new children of God.

During this year, among other things, the children have

studied the life of Christ, how to share the Gospel with their friends, missions and the attributes of God (His sovereignty, omnipresence, omniscience, omnipotence, holiness and truth). They currently are studying the ministry of Joshua.

WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP

SIS. AISHA MCKNIGHT



Sis. Kenoha Williams, Evangelist Andrea Jackson, Sis. Aisha McKnight, Sis. Letha Hassen (center), Sis. Valerie Richardson, Sis. Alana Jackson and Sis. Vivian Henley

The Women's Support Group was established in September of 2006. We were looking for a way for women to come together and feel at peace. Our goal is to enrich the lives of women.

We meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Presently, we have close to 10 women who attend, and we are staying faithful that this number will grow.

We've had wonderful speakers come to discuss various topics, from relations to health and finances.

The meetings are centered around the Word of God, We want to touch the lives of women and to help them overcome personal issues.

We are one another's advisors, supporters and shoulders to lean on.