

A Fresh Word

PASTOR'S CORNER



Dear Friends:

Why do we do the things we do? Why do we go to clubs, bars, etc.? In all honesty, what purpose do they serve in our lives? What is our return on the investment of time and money spent in those venues? Why is it that we can't resist the urge to be in an atmosphere of smoking, drinking, foul language, bad jokes and unusual dress styles?

I mean, despite the fact that we'll smell like smoke, waste money on overpriced drinks and lose sleep, we can't resist the urge to be there. After the recent death of a young mother of a two-year-old – she was shot in her car after an altercation outside the club involving passengers in her car – I began to ponder this issue.

Return on investment is a very basic investment analysis tool in the business world.

See **INVESTMENT** on Page 2

Inside this issue:

The Awesomeness of God	2
Financial Tips	2
Family Focus: The Hookers	3
Amazing Growth	3
Angel Food Ministries	4

'HELPING TO FEED THEM SPIRITUALLY'

Spirit-filled Summer

A group of children are spending eight weeks this summer learning God's word and making new friends in a safe, spirit-filled environment.

Nearly 30 children ages 6 to 12 have been attending Fresh Start Christian Church's Summer Break program since June 5. It is being held from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

They spend their mornings learning what the Bible says about issues such as faith, trust, forgiveness and prayer.

After lunch, they watch movies, shoot hoops, and play board, computer and video games.

"I worked with other summer camps before ... but this is different because I'm helping to lead them spiritually," says **Sis. Aftan Henley**.

Henley, **Bro. Christopher Bell** and **Bro. Craig Bilbrew** are running the program. Henley works with the 10- to 12-year-old group, and Bell works with ages 8-9. Bilbrew works with ages 6-7, also known as the AMEN group.

Bilbrew also is teaching the children numbers, colors, greetings and Christian words – in Spanish.

"It's been very fulfilling," he says. "Children are a gift from God, so let the church say AMEN!"

When Summer Break began in June 2005, it was held only on Wednesdays for about a dozen participants, including the Henleys' three youngest children.

"We wanted an alternative for children who didn't have anything else to do but be at home all day watching TV," says **Sis. Vivian Henley**, church administrator.

"We couldn't keep them from being at home by themselves all the



Children participating in the Summer Break program at Fresh Start Christian Church study Bible lessons on June 26, 2007.

time, but we could give them one day to get out of the house."

Last summer, a handful of teenagers pitched in to help when the program expanded to two days and at least 20 children.

Now in its third year, the program has become so popular that the church ran out of slots to accommodate everyone.

Bell says he's glad to be a part of the summer program.

"It's a great opportunity for children to learn more about our Lord and about Christianity itself," he says.

"I also like the fact that children have a place to be themselves and have fun in a safe environment.

"The children are really enjoying the program, and hopefully take something positive from it."



Bro. Christopher Bell, Sis. Aftan Henley and Bro. Craig Bilbrew oversee the Summer Break program.



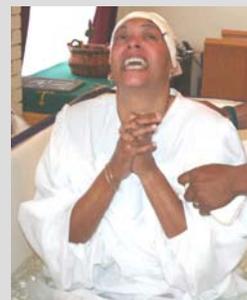
Sis. Jaedyn Anaya Florence, daughter of Bro. Leslie and Sis. Charlinda Florence, was christened on April 22, 2007. Her godparents are Rev. James L. Henley, Jr., Sis. Vivian Henley and Sis. Karen Young.



Sis. Zion Hooker, daughter of Bro. Robert Jamal Hooker and Sis. Lakiesha Torrey, was christened on April 22, 2007. Her godparents are Bro. Sherman and Sis. Sylvia Robinson.



Sis. Raven Hooker was baptized on April 22, 2007.



Sis. Barbara Ware was baptized on May 27, 2007.

INVESTMENT: Continued from Page 1

One method of evaluation is the loss opportunity cost. Quite simply, the loss opportunity model requires me to look at what I could have done versus what I did with my investment. For example, instead of spending \$25 on drinks – which can lead to headaches, tickets, attorney costs, liver problems, etc. – I could have invested the same \$25 into a \$50 savings bond.

I suppose the same argument could be made for going out to restaurants, movies, etc. However, the difference is that chances are, I probably won't hear music degrading females or suggesting premarital sex in those locations. Chances are, I won't be urged to stay out all night at that location (Why? Because at the restaurant they need to turn the tables to generate a profit).

When you think about it, clubs by nature seek to attract our fleshly desires. They feed off our loneliness and provide a place for us to temporarily forget everything else and just let go. Take a drink, loosen up, go for it. Live just for this moment. Forget about work, home, children, bills and the stress they put on you. After a week of crap, it sounds too good to the flesh to pass up.

Times like those truly make me appreciate Him, the Holy Spirit. I appreciate that He

took the wanting of those things out of my life. I appreciate that He strengthens me when I am weak and ready to fall. I appreciate the fact that He instructs me in the love of God and what that love requires of me. I appreciate the fact that He illustrates to me that the optimal return on my investment comes from living in the love of God.

When I love God first and foremost, it takes away my desire to conform to the standards of this world. God's love has transformed me and continues to transform me on a daily basis.

At first, it was hard not to yield and go flesh; however, I found out that each time I trusted Him, I found a way to live in the Spirit. Where are you?

Are you living in His Spirit? Are you finding peace in just being alone with God? Do you get joy out of just being in His presence all by yourself? In the midst of a crazy day at work or at the end of a crazy week, can you feel Him near you? Can you feel His presence?

If not, I suggest you get to know Him better. Start reading His letters (the Holy Bible) daily. Start talking (praying) with him all day long. Call him up right before you yell or go off on someone for advice on the situation. Finally, listen to what He tells you. I promise you – He'll always be there for you.

Rev. James L. Henley, Jr., Pastor

THE AWESOMENESS OF GOD

In chemistry, He turned water to wine.

In biology, He was born without the normal conception.

In physics, He disproved the law of gravity when he ascended into heaven.

In economics, He disproved the law of diminishing return by feeding 5,000 men with two fish and five loaves of bread.

In medicine, He cured the sick and the blind without administering a single dose of drugs.

In history, He is the beginning and the end.

In government, He said that He shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace.

In religion, He said no one comes to the Father except through Him.

So.....

Who is He?

HE IS JESUS!

Financial Tips

COPING WITH A FINANCIAL CRISIS

SIS. ANNIE WILLIAMS

- Try to pay yourself first
- Don't wait until it's too late to seek help
- Call the lender/creditor before they call you
- Be prepared to work with the lender/creditor
- Don't make promises that you can't keep
- Be honest and don't give up
- Talk to a local nonprofit credit counseling agency instead of paying for the same service (i.e. www.ccsinc.org)

Family Focus



Robert L. Hooker, III, Raven Hooker, Peggy A. Hooker and Robert L. Hooker, Jr.

THE HOOKERS

Robert, Jr. works for FedEx Freight.

Peggy is an exceptional education teacher at Lanier High School in Jackson.

The family lives in Clinton.

Robert, III, a recent Clinton High School graduate, was active on the bowling and basketball teams.

He will be attending Jackson State University.

Raven is a sixth-grader at Mt. Salus Christian School.

The Hookers enjoy traveling and watching movies.

WHY THEY JOINED FRESH START:

The teaching and family atmosphere.

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.

AMAZING GROWTH

SIS. CARLENA TEAGUE



Fresh Start Christian Church continues to build God's kingdom — one day at a time, one person at a time.

The church began at Rev. James L. Henley, Jr.'s home in November 2004 and moved to 5258 Cedar Park Drive in December 2004.

Within a year, Fresh Start purchased its recent facility at 5240 Manhattan Road and held its first service on Christmas 2005. The church added a second service in June 2006.

In addition to serving more people through an additional worship service, Fresh Start has been serving more youth on Third Friday.



The monthly program, also known as Parents' Night Out, grew from two kids in January 2005 to 92 by June 2007.

Fresh Start recently spent \$29,850 to build a new parking lot with 27 spaces in the front. Eight extra spaces also were added to the side of the church.

The church also invested \$4,750 to buy a 2001 21-passenger Ford Aerostar bus from Central Parking Systems.

This new bus uses diesel fuel, which saves money with gas prices being extremely high.

Fresh Start is indeed experiencing amazing growth over a short period of time.



Class of 2007 graduates honored on May 27, 2007 include Bro. Robert L. Hooker, III, Clinton High School, attending Jackson State University; Sis. Ivy Kennedy, Murrah High School, attending Jackson State University; Sis. Carlena Teague, Jim Hill High School, attending Mississippi Delta Community College; and Bro. Willie Thompson, Tougaloo College, cum laude. Other graduates not pictured include Sis. Crystal Murray, Jackson State University; Sis. Catoria Parker, Bowdoin College; Sis. Alana Jackson, Jackson State University; Sis. Angela Drake, Murrah High School; and Sis. Jasmine Campbell, Washington University-St. Louis.



Bro. Cameron Watson and Sis. Kathryn Williams deliver Easter Expressions during Fresh Start Christian Church's first Easter program on April 8, 2007.



Sis. Brianna Henderson and Bro. Joel Henley deliver Easter Expressions on April 8, 2007.



Fresh Start Christian Church held its second yard sale on June 2, 2007.

Fresh Start Christian Church

Pastor
Rev. James L. Henley, Jr.

First Lady/Church Administrator
Sis. Vivian Henley

Physical Address
5240 Manhattan Road
Jackson, MS 39206

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 31473
Jackson, MS 39286

Phone
(601) 362-1818

E-mail
freshstartchristian@jam.rr.com

On the Web
www.freshstartchristian.org

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

Children's Church
2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays (under age 13)

Hour of Power
Mondays, 4:30-6 p.m. (homework help
during school year)

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, 6:15-7:15 p.m.

Parents' Night Out/Third Friday
6-8:30 p.m. (ages 2-18)

G.L.O.R.Y./Fourth Friday
(God's Legion Of Righteous Youth)
6-8:30 p.m. (ages 13 and up)

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

A Fresh Word
Published quarterly
(January, April, July and October)

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

ANGEL FOOD MINISTRIES



Sis. Annie Williams and Sis. Vivian Henley unload food from Angel Food Ministries on June 16, 2007. The ministry's motto is, "A Food Ministry with a Servant's Heart." Williams, who works for Consumer Credit Counseling Service, introduced the ministry during a Women's Support Group workshop on budgeting.

Angel Food Ministries is a nonprofit, non-denominational organization dedicated to providing quality groceries at a reduced cost to participants in 32 states.

Thanks to the efforts of **Sis. Annie Williams** and **Sis. Valerie Richardson**, Fresh Start Christian Church began participating in the ministry in May 2007.

Angel Food's groceries cost \$27 but have a retail value ranging from \$42-\$78. Generally, one regular box of food can feed a family of four for about a week.

Menus change each month but normally consist of fresh and frozen items, as well as boxed and canned goods.

Specialty boxes with meats such as steaks, chicken and pork can be purchased for \$18 to

\$20 after buying a regular box.

There is no limit to the number of boxes that can be purchased.

The July 2007 menu includes chicken thighs, steak portions, pizza, smoked sausage, steamed and seasoned vegetables and a dozen of eggs. Specials include steak combo, grill, hamburger or stuffed chicken breast boxes.

Williams and Richardson collect orders and payments. Cash and food stamps are accepted. Later, the orders are brought from a host site to Fresh Start, where they can be picked up on a designated Saturday morning each month.

For more information, contact Williams, Richardson or the Henleys; log on to www.angelfoodministries.com; or call 1-877-FOOD-MINISTRY.