

# A Fresh Word

## PASTOR'S CORNER



Dear Friends:

The enemy's constant offer to you is, "I will give you a few moments of physical, emotional and mental pleasure at any time. I'll make sin both easy and accessible."

Why? Because he understands our flesh's yearnings, and he seeks to use those appetites to interrupt our fellowship with God. He seeks to kill, steal and destroy everything that God has planned for your life.

The next time you're tempted, remember it is not God tempting you. Ask yourself, "Do I really want to ruin what God has in store for me by yielding to the enemy's ploy?"

Jesus shed His blood on the cross at Calvary to set you free. You can, and must, start saying NO. Remember – you are a new creation. Live a life that reflects your gratitude for the grace obtained via Calvary.

*Pastor Henley*

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## 'THE LIFE-CHANGING MESSAGE OF SALVATION'

# Wordless Book Tent



Sis. Diane Johnston (left), ministers to youth in the Wordless Book Tent at a recent Mississippi State Fair. Johnston, an employee of Child Evangelism Fellowship, also teaches children ages 13 and under at Fresh Start Christian Church.

If you are passionate about the Gospel, you have an opportunity to share the life-changing message of salvation with hundreds of people by volunteering for the Wordless Book Tent.

Every October, Child Evangelism Fellowship, the mission agency **Sis. Diane Johnston** works for, sets up the Wordless Book Tent at the Mississippi State Fair.

Children and adults are invited to "come hear a free story and get a free gift."

The book we share with them has no words, but each page has a color — gold, black, red, white and green — that holds eternal truths for those who will listen and consider.

**GOLD** God lives in Heaven, where a street is made of gold. He made us, and loves us.

**BLACK** We are all born with the

**WORDLESS BOOK TENT**  
**Mississippi State Fair**  
**October 1-12**  
*Located east of the giant ferris wheel inside the main gate at Jefferson and Amite streets downtown*

darkness of sin, which separates us from God and must be punished.

**RED** God sent His son, Jesus, to come to earth and take the punishment we deserve. His blood was shed on the cross, and He arose from His grave three days after His burial.

**WHITE** Our hearts can be made clean if we do not know Jesus. Listeners are led to pray and ask Him into their hearts and lives.

**GREEN** Listeners are encouraged to "grow" to know Christ better to become more like Him by attending church, praying and reading the Bible every day.

The free gift is a choice of a bracelet or necklace on a royal purple rope, with beads of gold, black, red, white and green. Listeners are encouraged to use it to share the Gospel with others.

If they are willing, they also will be given a tract that will teach them how to tell the Wordless Book story.

Between 40 and 60 people are needed to work in the tent each year. If you would like to volunteer, you are asked to call in advance and commit to at least one four-hour shift. Two free training sessions will be held before the fair, and on-the-job training is available. For details, call (601) 572-8454.

## Fresh Start Christian Church

**Pastor**  
Rev. James L. Henley, Jr.

**First Lady/Church Administrator**  
Sis. Vivian Henley

**Elders**  
Sis. Annie Williams (601-506-5494)  
Bro. Ronnie Webster (601-966-0180)  
Bro. Denny Teague (601-918-8645)

**Worship Center and Annex**  
5210 Manhattan Road, former Northside YMCA

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

**Phone/E-mail/On the Web**  
601-362-1818  
requests@freshstartchristian.org  
www.freshstartchristian.org

**Worship Services/Children's Church**  
Sundays, 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.  
2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays (under age 13)

**Prayer Services**  
1st Mondays, 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

**Aerobics**  
Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m. (7-8 p.m. 2nd Tuesdays)

**LIGHTS (Ladies Illustrating Grace,  
Hope, Truth & Strength)**  
2nd Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m.

**Bible Study**  
Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m.

**Praise Team Practice**  
Thursdays, 6:15-7:15 p.m.

**Third Friday/Teen Friday**  
Third Fridays, 6-8:30 p.m. (ages 4-18)  
4th Fridays, 6-8:30 p.m. (ages 13 and up)

**Children's Choir Practice**  
Saturdays, 10 a.m.

**Dance Ministry Practice/Aerobics**  
Saturdays, 11 a.m.

**M.A.D.E. Men**  
(Making A Difference Everyday)  
1st Saturdays, 7 a.m.

**Angel Food Ministries**  
(Call church to order and for pickup info)

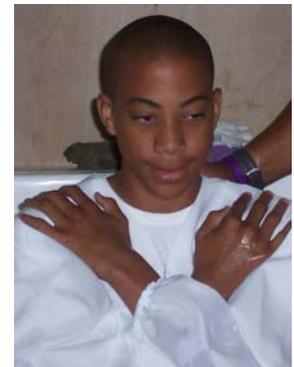
**Couples Ministry/Singles Ministry**  
(Meeting dates and times vary)

**A Fresh Word**  
Published quarterly (dennyandriva@yahoo.com)  
March, June, September, December

## BAPTISMS



Five youth were baptized at Fresh Start Christian Church on July 27, 2008.  
They are (top row from left):  
Sis. Tyneca Cork, 6;  
Bro. Octavian Cork, 7;  
Bro. Jalen Houseworth, 7;  
(left) Bro. Quadree Cork, 10;  
and (right) Bro. Isiah Murray.



## STEWARDSHIP TIPS

PASTOR HENLEY

*With the price of fuel still high (can you imagine being excited about \$3.50 for a gallon of gas when it was \$2.50 a year ago?), here are some stewardship tips.*

**1** Quit going to the ATM machine so often. Those \$20 withdrawals add up and when you run out before you planned, you have to make another trip. Be realistic about the amount you need to spend each month and stick with it. Use a check or debit card to pay for those last-minute items you normally go the ATM for — it'll give you better control.

**2** Eliminate late payment fees and telephone payments. Pay the bill on time and save those fees for these types of last-minute payments. They add up to more than you realized. For example, \$25 per month in these fees adds up to \$300 per year. (Just think, you could have given that money to the church, used it to pay down some loan or purchased savings bonds.)

**3** Find a bank that gives you free checking with either a low minimum balance or no balance. Also, quit relying on overdraft protection to cover the last-minute checks. Just think, they get you twice on these — first, a fee for the overdraft transaction and secondly on the interest on the new loan you took out to cover the overdrawn check (probably at 21 percent or higher).

**4** Re-evaluate subscriptions. Magazines are nice to look at, but do you really need them if your money is tight? The same thing applies to specialty cable/satellite dish channels.

**5** Quit eating out so much. Not only will you save money, you'll also improve your temple (body).

**6** Adjust that thermostat. Every degree you adjust saves money on the bill.

**7** Pray for inner strength from God's Holy Spirit to put into action good stewardship practices.

# Family Focus



## THE FUNCHES FAMILY

**Sis. Gaarmel Funches** (right) is a community education and outreach director at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. **Bro. Andre Funches, Sr.** is a grants manager for the Mississippi Development Authority. **Sis Kayla Funches**, 20, is heading to the U.S. Navy. **Bro. Andre Funches, Jr.** (left), 14, is a ninth-grader at Lanier High School. **Sis. Amber Funches** (center), 11, is a sixth-grader at Chastain Middle School.

### WHY THEY JOINED FRESH START:

The Funches family has been attending Fresh Start since May 2008. They learned about the church when Pastor Henley gave them a newsletter at a Chastain soccer game.

**Gaarmel:** "I like the intimate, family environment and the closeness of the church."

**Andre, Jr.:** "I learn, I like how the people are genuine, you don't have to dress up and the time (church starts on time and lasts one hour)."

**Amber:** "I like the people and the pastor. The pastor comes out and talks to us inside and outside of church. I like how the church has different activities and the whole church gathers and talks to their friends."

**AMBER'S FAVORITE SCRIPTURE: PSALM 23:1 (NIV)**

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want."

## BRO. ANDERSON 'AJ' KELLY, JR.



**Bro. Anderson Kelly, Jr.** is a Brookhaven, Miss., native who has lived in Jackson, Miss., for the past 11 years. The retired U.S. Army sergeant is an armed forces emergency services and disaster relief volunteer for the American Red Cross.

### WHY HE JOINED FRESH START:

He began attending Fresh Start about six months ago. "I like the nice, cordial atmosphere of the members and the teaching of Rev. Henley," he said.

### FAVORITE SCRIPTURES:

"I like the whole book of Psalms. They are my inspiration."



## THE HURT FAMILY

**Sis. Lizette Hurt** is a homemaker, while **Bro. Albert Hurt** is a local truck driver with Total Transportation of Mississippi. The foster parents live in Pearl, Miss.

### WHY THEY JOINED FRESH START:

The Hurts began attending Fresh Start in spring 2008 after Sis. Mary Milton, director of the Children's Choir, told them about the church.

They love the friendly people and the family-oriented environment. They especially love Pastor Henley.

"He gets out on the battlefield and gets in place to be effective," Bro. Hurt said. "He really cares about people."

"He's not so high that he can't relate to the people."

# The Gift

SIS. VIVIAN HENLEY

**A**t the end of our May meeting, our women's ministry, LIGHTS, surprised me by naming me "Queen for a Day." Along with a beautiful cake, tiara, sash and pillow, I was given a gift card for a day at the spa. What a wonderful gift!

I awakened the next day with no evidence of royalty about me. My wonderful gift presented a dilemma. "When?" When would I have time to take advantage of my gift?

I did not want my massage ruined by thoughts of unfinished work or to feel pressured by time constraints. I wanted a ME day with no problems whatsoever – a perfect day. I decided I would have to wait until the school year ended.

The perfect day didn't materialize when the school year ended. Summer camp began and there was absolutely no time for a day off. As soon as camp ended, preparations for the start of school began. Jordan would soon head off to her freshman year of college. Sydney would begin her freshman year of high school, and Joel was also starting a new school. There was still no time. However, the card's expiration date was getting nearer.

I scheduled my day at the spa for the Friday after school started. Though hardly the perfect time, I had a great day at the spa. Much to my surprise, the time I spent doing nothing was relaxing and helpful. The peace and quiet of the spa was a perfect atmosphere for meditation and prayer. As I left the spa, I felt foolish for waiting so long to take advantage of my gift.

My spa experience is no different than that of most Christians with the gift card God gives us. We know the benefits of the gift card are available but insist on waiting for just the right time to accept them.

There will never be a perfect time because our lives will never be free of the distractions that tend to keep us from attaining the abundant life God intends for us.



First Lady Vivian Henley was crowned "Queen for a Day" on May 13, 2008, at the LIGHTS (Ladies Illustrating Grace, Hope, Truth & Strength) meeting.

We so easily forget that God's gift card has no limit and covers us even in the worst of times.

So whatever you are allowing to stand between you either accepting or using God's gift of salvation, there will never be a time any better than now. Unlike my gift card to the spa, you do not know when God's gift card will expire. Use it today.

## HEAD OF TAKIN' IT TO THE STREETS TO SPEAK AT FRESH START

**B**ro. Al Terhune, an acquaintance of Sis. Diane Johnston, will be coming from New Jersey not only to minister at the Wordless Book Tent, but also to minister during Bible study at Fresh Start Christian Church. Terhune, head of an evangelistic ministry called Takin' It to the Streets ([www.TakinIt.org](http://www.TakinIt.org)), will speak at the church at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2008. He makes mission trips to countries such as Uganda (where Sis. Diane met him in 2004), Sudan, Guatemala and Scotland. He also goes around the country teaching churches how to do evangelism and hold crusades. His exciting message at Fresh Start will be both fun and informative. The children are invited.



## HEALTH FAIR, FAMILY & FRIENDS NIGHT 4TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

**F**resh Start Christian Church is planning an array of exciting activities to celebrate its fourth anniversary.

On Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008, the church will host its first health fair from 8 a.m. to noon.

Using the theme "Fit, Faithful & Fulfilled," the fair will include free health screenings, children's activities and guest speakers on topics such as family counseling, adolescent/teen mental health, obesity and heart disease.

Also on Nov. 1, Fresh Start will host its second annual Family & Friends Night at 6 p.m. Participants are asked to present a talent such as singing, dancing, poetry reading, acting, etc.

On Sunday, Nov. 2, 2008, the church will celebrate its fourth anniversary at 9:30 a.m. Only one worship service will be held that day. Refreshments will be served.



### Making 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)