

A Fresh Word

PASTOR'S CORNER



Dear Friends:

Each day we are faced with decisions. In fact, as soon as you wake up, you have to make the decision of how you will start your day.

Will you be grateful and thank God for another day? Will you ignore God and start your day without acknowledging his part in your opening your eyes? Will you have a mindset of Christ as you arise and involve that mindset in each decision you make throughout the day? Will you have a flesh mindset?

Will you smile when you get to work or school? Will you frown and complain as you arise or arrive at work or school?

Will I go back to school? Will I get counseling? Will I continue to rent? Will I finally start my path to home ownership? Will I continue to overeat? Will I finally begin watching what I eat in order to get rid of the extra weight?

Will I study? Will I spend the next two hours watching television or talking on the phone? Will I give to God as cheerfully as I give to the mail, cable company, cell phone company, fraternity, sorority, Nike, etc.?

Will I continue to watch shows I wouldn't watch in the presence

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LADIES ILLUSTRATING GRACE, HOPE, TRUTH & STRENGTH

Bright LIGHTS



(Front row from left) Sis. Kenosha Williams, Sis. Vivian Henley, Sis. Mary Milton, Sis. LaShunda Brown, (back row from left) Sis. Bessie Wilson, Sis. Fay Brown, Sis. Shameka Johnson and Sis. Annie Williams display their special LIGHES kits at the kickoff meeting on March 11, 2008. The kits were filled with items including a flashlight as a reminder to let others see the light of Christ that shines within you (Matthew 5:16).

Lights were shining March 11, 2008, for the kickoff of the revitalized women's ministry at Fresh Start Christian Church.

LIGHES — Ladies Illustrating Grace, Hope, Truth & Strength — was formerly known as the Women's Support Group.

"The change occurred to try and broaden the group of women who participate," said Pastor James L. Henley, Jr. "The group is not just for women with issues but for the enhancement of all Christian women in the church."

The group began in September 2006 as a result of a 24-hour vigil by Rev. Henley, starting at 6 a.m. one Saturday morning until 6 a.m. Sunday morning.

LIGHES meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Babysitting is available, and door prizes will be awarded.

During that period, he talked with various individuals who came to the church for prayer, encouragement, visitation, etc.

After praying about it, God put the Women's Support Group in his mind, and the rest is history.

Sis. Kenosha Williams, who frequently attended Women's Support Group meetings, came to the first LIGHES meeting.

Williams said the fellowship with other Christian women keeps her coming back.

"Because I'm the youngest woman there, someone may talk about something that can help me, and some are mothers who can give me advice about kids," said Williams, a mother of three.

Sis Fay Brown also attended the first LIGHES meeting.

Brown said other women should attend for friendship, support, to have someone to communicate with, and to meet new people.

"All of us have something special to offer," said Brown, whose daughter, Sis. LaShunda Brown, also attended the meeting.

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

5210 Manhattan Road, former Northside YMCA

Administrative Building

5240 Manhattan Road, Jackson, MS 39206

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

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

Children's Church

2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays (under age 13)

Prayer Services

1st Mondays, 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Homework Help

Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:45-5:45 p.m.

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.

Parents' Night Out/Third Friday

6-8:30 p.m. (ages 4-18)

Teen Friday

4th Fridays, 6-8:30 p.m. (ages 13 and up)

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

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of Jesus Christ? Will I acknowledge the presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit everywhere that I am? Will I reject the truth of the Word of God when it conflicts with what I want to believe?

Will I forgive him? Will I forgive her? Will I forgive me? Will I quit procrastinating? Will I budget my money? Will I say I'm sorry? Will I admit I don't know everything?

Will I admit I need Jesus in every facet of my life? Will I acknowledge what Jesus went through on Calvary was for me? Will I love Jesus enough to live a life worthy of the calling? Will I submit to the Holy Spirit and follow His lead in each decision? Will I truly love God with all my heart, soul and mind?

Decisions, decisions, decisions. Will I go to church and find out what LIA and LIB mean?

Rev. James L. Henley, Jr., Pastor

BAPTISMS



Bro. Arnett Lewis, 12, and Bro. James Sutton, 15, were baptized at Fresh Start Christian Church on December 23, 2007. Sis. Chilah Smart, 8, and Bro. Chikeim Smart, 5, were baptized on Easter Sunday, March 23, 2008.

DO YOU HAVE A WILL?

Hosea 4:6 - My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. (NIV)

WHAT IS A WILL?

In an effort to increase knowledge, here's some information on wills.

A will is a written testament (like the Old and New) controlling the disposition of property at death. The laws of each state set the formal requirements for a legal will. In Mississippi, you, the maker of the will (called the testator), must be at least 18 years old; of sound and disposing mind at the time you sign your will; intend the document to be your will; and have the written will executed properly.

1. It is necessary to follow exactly the formalities required for the execution of a will.
2. To be effective, your will must be proved in and allowed by the Chancery/probate court. No will becomes final until the death of the testator, and it may be changed or added to by the testator by drawing a new will or by a "codicil," which is simply an addition or amendment executed with the same formalities of a will. A will's terms cannot be changed by writing something in or crossing something out after the will is executed. In fact, writing on the will after its execution may invalidate part of the will or all of it.

WHAT IF I DIE WITHOUT A WILL?

Mississippi law, not YOU, directs the division of your estate. Your blood relatives are placed in four prioritized groups:

1. Your surviving spouse, your children (adopted count) and the descendants of your children who died before you.

2. Your mother, father, brothers, sisters and the descendants of your brothers and sisters who died before you.
3. Your grandparents, uncles and aunts.
4. Any other blood relative that can be found.

The first group with a relative in it wins. (It might not be who you wanted). If you are living in adultery (LIA) – the survivor doesn't qualify for anything.

WHAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED BY A WILL?

1. You decide who gets your property (who my heirs are) instead of the law making the choice.
2. You may name the personal representative (executor) of your will as you choose.
3. You may make gifts, effective at or after your death, to charity.

HOW LONG IS A WILL GOOD AND CAN I CHANGE IT?

It is "good" until it is changed or revoked in the manner required by law. Your will may be changed as often as you desire while you are of sound mind and not under undue influence, duress, or fraud. Changes after the execution of the will, such as tax law amendments, deaths, marriage, divorce, birth of children, or even a substantial change in the nature or amount of your estate, may raise questions as to the adequacy of your will.

The material in this article represents general legal advice from Pastor Henley, a licensed attorney and CPA (Certified Public Accountant). Because the law is continually changing, it is always best to consult an attorney about your legal rights and responsibilities.

Family Focus



VALORRI JONES

Valorri, who was born in Oxford, Miss., is an assistant district attorney for Hinds County. She lives in Jackson.

WHY SHE JOINED FRESH START:

"God spoke to my heart and instructed me that it was time to find a church home. I knew from my first visit that Fresh Start Christian Church was the place for me," said Valorri, who joined on December 23, 2007. "Over the years, I have learned what it truly

means to maintain a personal relationship with God. Through systematic study of the Word and continuous prayer, God has never steered me wrong. I know the same is true in my decision to join Fresh Start!"



ANTONIO GLENN

Antonio, a native of Cleveland, Miss., is a network engineer for National Cash Register. He lives in Madison.

WHY HE JOINED FRESH START:

"I joined to get a fresh start," said Antonio, who united with the church on December 31, 2007.

"Sis. Dorothy Thompson invited me over and I enjoyed the services. It definitely seems like a church I can grow in and grow with," adds Antonio, who also is a member of the Praise Team. "When the spirit moves on me, I can picture myself moving forward in my walk with God."

THE HOUSEWORTHS

Lisa, a stay-at-home mother, and her husband, Joseph, live in Jackson with their two sons.

Kai is 4 years old, and 7-year-old Jalen is a second-grader at McWillie Elementary School. The boys enjoy Children's Church and Third Friday. Lisa volunteers on Third Friday and assists in the baby room.

WHY THEY JOINED FRESH START:

"I had been visiting other churches, but one day I was driving through the neighborhood and stopped by. The kids kept asking when we were going back. We've been hooked ever since," said Lisa, who has been attending since September 2007. "It's been a blessing all the way around. Fresh Start is pretty much everything I like in a church home."



THE PORTERS

Craig and Monica live in Clinton with their two sons, Cameron and Colby. The Porters have been attending Fresh Start Christian Church for about a year and a half.

Craig is an insurance adjuster for Farmers Insurance. Monica, who holds a master's degree in social work, is a stay-at-home mother.

Cameron, 6, is a kindergartner at Clinton Park Elementary School, while Colby, 5, attends Potter's House Day Care.

The Porters are sports fans; the boys enjoy playing baseball, basketball and soccer.

WHY THEY JOINED FRESH START:

"I love the attention given to the kids. They take time to explain the Bible to them," Monica said. "And Rev. Henley's teaching method is just absolutely wonderful."

Craig, a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., noted that Rev. Henley is his fraternity brother and Bro. Robert Hooker, also an Omega, told him he had joined Fresh Start.

"We were searching for a church home, and we had attended big churches," Craig said of his family. "I wanted to go somewhere where someone would know my name."

Resurrection Sunday

Several youth of Fresh Start Christian Church delivered Easter speeches on March 23, 2008.



Bro. Kai Houseworth



Bro. Colby Porter



Bro. Cameron Porter



Bro. Jalen Houseworth



Sis. Adrianna Spann



Sis. Monica Williams



Sis. Alexandria Spann



Bro. LaDarrion Grant



Sis. Javone Starks



Sis. Sydney Henley



Sis. Kathryn Williams

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS



The Beta Alpha Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity donated prizes and candy for the Easter egg hunt held during Third Friday/Parents' Night Out on March 21, 2008. Also, the Jackson Association of Realtors recently donated 12 computer desks, one regular desk and a love seat to Fresh Start Christian Church. The computer desks were used for the first time this past Third Friday. The love seat is used in Rev. Henley's office.

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)