

May 05, 2010

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Three Rivers Baptist Association

“... to assist each member church in fulfilling its God-given purpose.”



**Prayer Summit at 3 Rivers
Saturday, May 8
9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**

Open to All

A time of prayer for:
Our association,
Our churches,
Our people,
Our nation.

Outreach? VBS? Celebration?

Reserve the TRBA bounce house, tent or party trailer to make your event even more special!



For All Attendees of the Spring Banquet:

Bring your donations for the Migrant Worker Health Kits (see attachment)

Diapers and baby bottle donations accepted, also.



Disaster Relief Training

**May 14
May 15
at Streator Camp**

**Call
217.391.3137**


Top 100 IL Churches in Cooperative Program, 1st Quarter 2010

#36 Friendship
#69 FBC Manteno
#91 Bethel

Per Capita Dollars
El Camino al Cielo
Friendship
Crosswinds
FBC Manteno
Calvary, Morris
FBC Manhattan
Lynwood

**Executive Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 11
6:30 p.m.
at Friendship B.C.**

Open Meeting



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When Life Gets You Down, Say “No” to Worry (article in The Patriot newspaper, New Lenox)

Roy Worley, Faith Fellowship

Corresponding message at www.myffc.org

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Phil 4:6ff

When I was a kid in school, sometimes I would wake up in the morning with butterflies in my stomach. You know, that really uneasy feeling you get when you know there is going to be a test or it's maybe because you didn't do all your homework. I have often wondered how that particular expression came about because my uneasiness always seemed to be on a more sinister level than the beautiful picture of gossamer wings fluttering gently against my sympathetic nervous system.

From a child's perspective, it seemed that all of my teachers were blood relatives of the boogey man and the monster that hid in my closet and all of them were poised to pounce without warning with a voracious appetite for children. Yikes! I felt helpless, and hopeless.

Fast forward a couple of decades. Adulthood finally found me. All of those dreams of a teacher free, monster free, fear free life came true and I never felt anxious again. Ahhhh. Wait a minute! Wake up doofus! That is not reality is it? Not at all!

The reality is that there is a recession, I have too much month left at the end of my money, the kids just won't stop eating and growing and the monster moved from my closet to a collection agency that intentionally hires their collectors directly from Dante's seventh hell. Worry and Anxiety are the names of my new best friends. We go everywhere together and are simply inseparable. And if this is the American Dream, I really, really would like to wake up.

Yeah, that may sound extreme to some of you, but I minister to people whose lives are just that edgy. They have many questions. They wonder if God cares, if He cares about them. Maybe you are wearing your own itchy coat of anxiety and you would really like to get it off and burn it. Hopefully the following will help.

One of God's kids, a guy named Saul, aka Paul, had gone through a few tough times of his own. Now he did not suffer from debt, a mean boss, or a troubled marriage, but he did have more than a few enemies who wanted him dead. He was beaten, stoned (really, with rocks), dragged out for dead, thrown into jail and ironically, all because he brought people the good news of Jesus, his death on the cross for the sins of the world and a get out of the worry jail free card. So when a guy with that on his resume writes, "don't be anxious about anything", I am going to listen in order to find out if he is a nut job or maybe he is the real deal.

I operate from a very simple presupposition that God had Paul write those words for the very simple reason that He loves us. His word is the remedy for every malady. Nevertheless, we can't just stop with the first part of the verse. Telling a worried person not to worry is like telling a hungry person not to be hungry. There has to be a bona fide solution. There is. The rest of the verse says that we are to pray. Prayer is more than just asking God for stuff. At its deepest level, it is showing that we depend upon God, that we recognize Him as the solution to our problems. Why does God allow tough times anyway? Because He knows that we as human beings have an innate tendency to want to run our lives ourselves so he gives us the opportunity. Many times, things go bad and a person will turn to God. Good, that is how He designed us. We are made to have a relationship with Him. When we have one, then He minimizes the worry factor to the degree to which we trust Him. The end of the verse tells us how: "and the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Peace is found in the Prince of Peace who paid the ultimate debt so you could be debt free before God. He proved it by rising again. Since he beat death, do you think he can beat any problem we may have?



Planet blue goes round and round
It's people scurry fast
Trying hard to make things last
Pressure grinds them and while being ground
They hardly look up
Because they prefer to look down.
Down to their own hands and abilities
Shouting, "If it's going to be it's up to me"
But instead of joy there comes the frown.

A marriage is leaking
(That ship is sinking)
A teen rebels
A shadow on an xray!

Still they scream, "I want my way"
And a tear rolls down the Fathers face
His heart is bruised and bleeding
For in His hands is what they are needing
He gives it freely and calls it grace.