



THE VISION

July 2017

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them and...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...”
Amen. Matthew 28:19-20

Beloved, God has not been removed from America! I trust you will enjoy our history lesson for this upcoming 4th of July. I came across this article in my studying...

On the aluminum cap atop the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C. are two words: “Laus Deo.” No one can see these words. In fact, most visitors to the monument have no idea they are even there!

The letters are, 5.125 inches high, perched atop the monument to the father of our nation. The Washington Monument is 55 feet wide at the base and 555 feet tall, overlooking the 69 square miles which comprise the District of Columbia, capital of the United States of America. It is made of 36,000 stones of marble (from Maryland) and granite (from Maine) and weighs 90,000 tons. The monument sees about 800,000 visitors a year!

“Laus Deo,” are two seemingly insignificant, unnoticed words, out of sight and, one might think, out of mind. However, they are located at a very meaningful place and at the highest point over what is the most powerful city in the world. What might those two words...composed of seven letters, mean? Very simply...“Praise be to God!”

Though construction of this giant obelisk began in 1848 when James Polk was President of the United States, it was not until 1888 that the monument was inaugurated and opened to the public. It took twenty-five years to finally cap the memorial with the tribute “Laus Deo...Praise be to God!”

From atop this magnificent granite and marble structure, a visitor can take in the beautiful panoramic view of the city with its division into four major segments. From that vantage point we can easily see the original plan of the designer, Pierre Charles L’Enfant...a perfect cross imposed upon the landscape...with the White House to the North, the Jefferson Memorial to the South, the Capitol to the East, and the Lincoln Memorial to the West. A cross, “Praise be to God!”

One interesting feature is the interior iron stairway with 50 landings and 897 stone steps. These donated stones come from every state in the Union, as well as Native American nations and foreign countries. While the stairwell has been closed since the 1970s, visitors can gain access to the top observation area via elevator.

The memorial stones share a message. On

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PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 804-642-2555 IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES OR BY EMAIL: secretary@gltpbaptist.org

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Have a Safe and Happy July 4th





Deacon's Devotional

My Deacon's Devotional was due, I had just finished my children's sermon, and I felt like my brain cells were empty. I sat trying to focus and find direction. Nothing was happening! So, I simply opened my Bible and looked at the page and this verse jumped out at me.

PSALM 34:18 The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

WOW! That was like a slap of cold air! Yes, I have been brokenhearted. My sweet brother, Steve, had passed away July 4, 2016, and I have been missing him with every breath! I have procrastinated visiting family in NC because I couldn't face NOT seeing Stevie.

While attending the C.A.R.E. ministry on Sunday afternoons, we learn that so many of our church family has suffered loss of family members and friends recently; as well as facing major health issues, upcoming surgery, and life altering decisions. Each of these can test our faith and courage.

Being a Christian does not save us from events or moments that break our hearts or cause us unbearable pain. We often feel surprised and wonder why God would let something bad happen to us. It's a fair question and one that many have asked at some point in life. I think it helps if we understand two things. God does not see suffering as we do and He is not afraid to allow us to experience difficult things.

Jesus understands your suffering, He knows pain and sadness. When he lost his friend Lazarus, he stood at the graveside and wept (John 11:35). When he faced death on the cross, he was anxious and overwhelmed. He has experienced deep grief and deep pain. The Bible says that He stands next to the Father in Heaven (Acts 7:55) and I believe Jesus is speaking about us and calling attention to our suffering.

No matter the pain you are experiencing today, God is close to you. He sees you and He is working to save you. The Bible tells us that God is the one who allows deep pain to happen (John 16:33), but He is also the one who will heal your pain by His love and mercy.

We all need to turn to God in our pain and let Him love us and rescue us.

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go. **Joshua 1:9**

—Sonya Anthony

Deacon of the Week

7/2—Al West
7/9—Ted Fisher
7/16—Jimmy Diggs
7/23—Buddy Hogge
7/30—Gary Mangrum

Nursery Workers

7/2—Beverly West
7/9—Pauline Littell
7/16—Tracy Williams
7/23—Devon Willard
7/30—OPEN

July Ushers

Jimmy Diggs
Gus Saunders
Dale Jacobson
Amy Jacobson

July Tellers

Amy Jacobson
Tommy Ashe

Sun. Sch. Nursery
Sharon/Howard Warren



CHURCH WORKERS

Older Children's Church

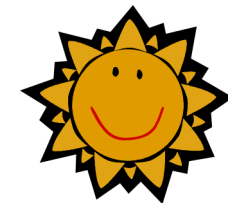
7/2—Sarah Saunders
7/9—Jennifer/Derick Hall
7/16—Madison/Seth Gandee
7/23—Charlene/John West
7/30—Seth Gandee

Younger Children's Church

7/2—Tracy Williams
7/9—Sonya Anthony
7/16—Denise Gandee/Mallory Wagner
7/23—Laraine Sentz/Rachel Wells
7/30—Tammy Greggs

Church Secretary Summer Office Hours

Please note that during the summer months, the church secretary's office hours are 9:00am—12:00pm.



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the 12th landing is a prayer offered by the City of Baltimore...on the 20th is a memorial presented by some Chinese Christians...on the 24th a presentation made by Sunday School children from New York and Philadelphia quoting Proverbs 10:7, Luke 18:16, and Proverbs 22:6..."Praise be to God!"

When the cornerstone of the Washington Monument was laid on July 4th, 1848, deposited within it were many items including the Holy Bible presented by the Bible Society. Such was the discipline, the moral direction, the spiritual mood given by the founder and first President of our unique democracy..."one nation, under God."

Please reflect over Washington's prayer for America: "Almighty God; We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large. And finally, that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

When we stop to observe the inscriptions found in public places all over our nation's capital...we will easily find the signature of God. We are, "one nation under God...Laus Deo...Praise be to God!"

—Pastor Bud Goude



F Freedom came with a price, the price of Christ blood shed on the Cross.

O Our Lord and Savior saved us all from our sins.

U Unrighteous we may be, but the grace us God set us free.

R Rely on God, He will show our paths.

T The truth is in God's Word, the Bible, His Holy Book.

H Helping one another along the way.

O Obedient to what God wants us to do.

F Father, Creator, God is He.

J Jesus died for our sins.

U United one day, we believers will be in Heaven.

L Love one another as Christ loved us.

Y You are a special creation made from God, our Heavenly Father.

Written by Steve Patterson on June 16, 2012.
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