



THE VISION

March 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

I enjoy reading Chuck Swindoll’s devotional thoughts. His writings cause me to grow by faith practices. Swindoll reminds us that when life becomes over-whelming, just reflect on: “How big Is Your God?” Please read **Job 38:1-41** during the month of March.

Swindoll remarks, “When God finally does speak, He answers Job out of a whirlwind. Suddenly, there He is! Wouldn’t it have been great for us to have been there? Whoosh! Lightening, loud thunder, mighty winds blowing dark clouds across the heavens, and out of nowhere, God bursts on the scene. It must have taken Job’s breath away when the Lord ‘answered Job out of the whirlwind’ (Job 38:1).”

Swindoll shares this personal illustration to aid us in understanding “How Big Is your God?”

“Many years ago, (I was no more than ten years old) on a still and silent morning, long before dawn, I was fishing with my father. Our little fourteen-foot fishing boat was sitting on a slick, in a small body of water just this side of Matagorda bay. We both had our lines in the water and neither of us was saying a word. My dad was at the stern by the old twenty-five-horsepower Evinrude, and I was up near the

bow of the boat. It was one of those mornings you could flip a penny onto the surface of the water and then count the ripples. It was silent as a tomb—almost eerie.”

“Suddenly, from the depths of the bay near the hull of our boat comes this huge tarpon in full strength, bursting out of the water. He does a big-time flip in the air then plunges with an enormous crash back into the bay. I must have jumped a foot off my wooden seat, shaking with fear. My dad didn’t even turn around. Still watching his line, he said quietly, I told you the big ones were down there.”

“That’s Elihu’s message. He is here, Job! Our awesome God—all glorious above. ‘Job, listen. He’s here. He isn’t always silent. When He speaks, there is no voice like His.’ Job’s view of God may have been enlarged, thanks to his friend’s final remarks.”

Beloved, when we must be in control of our lives; *then know this:* our God will be too small, our problems will be too big and we will retreat in fear and insecurity! However, when we allow God to be in control of our lives; *then know this:* our God is GREAT, our problems shrink into

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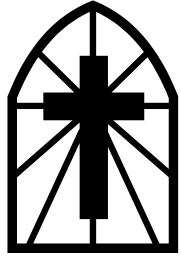
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MARCH



Deacon's Devotional

Sowing to the Spirit

You've heard it said, "You are what you eat," and, "You reap what you sow". Both of these sayings have definite spiritual implications.

As touching the first quote, Jesus compared our physical need for bread with our spiritual need for God's Word (**Matthew 4:4**). Most people don't go a whole day without eating physical food. It would be reasonable to conclude from the Master that we should partake of God's Word each day. The more we prayerfully read the Bible, the more we learn about God and His ways. We are transformed by the power of God's Word into the likeness and character of Christ as the Holy Spirit guides us in all truth (**John 16:13**).

With respect to the second quote referring to sowing and reaping, **Galatians 6:8** speaks of sowing to the Spirit, as opposed to sowing to the flesh (sinful nature). Of course, regular reading of God's Word is one way to sow to the Spirit. Other ways to do so include: walking closely with the Lord through prayer each day; consistently meeting with other believers for worship, teaching, works of service; reaching out to others with the love of God in actions and words. On the flip side of **Galatians 6:8**, we are told the consequence of sowing to the flesh. It therefore behooves us as believers to deliberately starve the sinful nature by careful avoidance of fleshly, worldly influences.

As Christians, let us cooperate with God by sowing to the Spirit each day. As we do, we will avail ourselves of God's mighty power so that we can be all He wants us to be and effectively grow His glorious Kingdom in our sphere of influence. At the same time, we will reap the joy of the Lord and a full and meaningful life!

—David Crummett

Deacon of the Week

3/5—Ted Fisher
3/12—Jimmy Diggs
3/19—Buddy Hogge
3/26—Gary Mangrum



Nursery Workers

3/5—Beverly West
3/12—Pauline Littell
3/19—Tracy Williams
3/26—Devon Willard

CHURCH WORKERS

March Ushers

Sonya Anthony
Stan Gandee
Seth Gandee
Jamie Moore

March Tellers

Buddy Hogge
Ted Fisher

Sun. Sch. Nursery
Sharon/Howard Warren

Older Children's Church

3/5—Sarah Saunders
3/12—Jennifer/Derick Hall
3/19—Madison/Seth Gandee
3/26—Charlene/John West

Younger Children's Church

3/5—Tracy Williams
3/12—Sonya Anthony
3/19—Denise Gandee/Mallory Wagner
3/26—Laraine Sentz/Rachel Wells

Ladies, please note:

March 4th, the women of the church and in our community are invited to make spring wreaths from 10:00—12:00.

WMU Craft Day will be held in Richmond on March 25th. Sign up in the Narthex and contact Jeannie or Laraine if interested.



**Week of Prayer for North American Missions
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
March 5-12**

Our theme this year is **“Together For His Kingdom”**.

The early church worked together effectively for the kingdom of God. In Acts 8, Philip preached Jesus to the lost people of Samaria, a place full of evil. The Holy Spirit broke through the darkness, freeing people from illness. Evil spirits and disease fled at the name of Jesus Christ, the resurrected King.

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering changes lives forever by empowering North American missionaries to bring the gospel to the lost. With over 269 million lost people, North America and its major cities are some of the most spiritually dark places in the world.

Every year we honor the life and missions impact of Annie Walker Armstrong (1850-1938) when we give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American missions. As a tireless servant of God and a contagious advocate of missions efforts throughout the world, Annie Armstrong united women in missions endeavors, ultimately leading to the formation of the Woman’s Missionary Union (WMU).

As a result of her persistence, Annie rallied churches to give more, pray more and do more to reach people for Christ. As modern-day missions advocates unite to continue that work today, we can be encouraged and empowered by following her legacy.

Join us as we work together on the mission to equip every missionary and reach every lost person in the United States and Canada.

Every dollar given to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goes directly to support missionaries and their missions work throughout North America.

Our goal this year is \$2,000.

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insignificance and we stand in awe as we worship the ONLY King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

Swindoll summarizes his thoughts with these questions: “How big is your God? Big enough to intervene? Big enough to be trusted? Big enough to be held in awe and ultimate respect? Big enough to erase your worries and replace them with peace?”

Let us claim “Victory in Jesus” because: the more we know God, the bigger He becomes!

Pastor Bud Goude

Gloucester United Emergency Shelter Team
(G.U.E.S.T.)

Gloucester Point Baptist Church served as an overnight shelter last month, where a warm and safe place for the homeless was provided.

We can show Jesus we love him by loving one another and loving our neighbor as ourselves. GPBC members definitely showed their Love for Jesus helping out with the G.U.E.S.T. ministry. Thank You:

- For working a shift and to some for working several shifts.
- For bringing in food or preparing meals.
- For leading a devotional.
- For providing technical support so our guests were able to watch the Super Bowl.
- For the help in moving tables and setup/cleanup.

We are so very grateful to all the volunteers for the giving of their time to care for others in need. A special Thank You to Groves Presbyterian Church, Severn Church, and the Girl Scout Troops for providing dinners.

Providence Baptist Church will host in March for the first time this year. Please show your support.

Please call Pauline Littell at 815-8030 if any questions.