



Pastor's Perspective – The “I Have a Dream” Speech at 50

By Dr. Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

I am too young to remember the speech that Dr. King gave on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 1963. I was barely five years old. But I did grow up in the racially charged South in New Orleans, in the mid-1960s and early-1970s—and I do have vivid memories of what those days were like as the prevailing culture was being forced to change.

I remember when the first black teacher came to my elementary school and what it was like to be a member of her class. I remember how uneasy a lot of people were when the first black family moved into our neighborhood. I remember my black eighth grade Louisiana history teacher trying to explain to our largely white class what it was like to be black in America, and especially what it was like to grow up black in New Orleans. I remember having black classmates and teammates, but not having any black friends. I remember race riots in school and frequent threats of racially motivated violence in that setting. I remember the Black Panthers going into many of the leading white churches of our city on Sunday mornings and machine gunning the auditoriums, and wondering if my church was next. I remember the liberal use of the “N” word and the vitriol that accompanied it. I remember the city pools being closed for years, and drained, because whites wouldn’t conscience swimming with blacks. I remember having to ride under the seats on the team bus in order to avoid being hit by thrown rocks and the weapons that might be fired, and then playing our games in empty gyms. I remember the abuse that Neita experienced as the token white girl in a black

school and how that animosity was only exacerbated when she was elected school “Sweetheart” by a faculty-student panel. I’ve recently learned about the extreme hostility (even death threats) that my father-in-law experienced from whites when he integrated the ministry of the mission center that he served as director in the Irish Channel of New Orleans—one of the many neighborhoods in that city which was in transition from majority white to predominantly black.

From one man [God] made every nation of men...

Acts 17:26

The things that were common in those days, and that prompted Dr. King’s speech, are almost unheard of today—and I view that as indication of progress. But there are things said and done that cause me to question how

far we’ve actually come. I have pastor-friends who wept when President Obama was first elected, and eagerly anticipated the promise of a “post-racial” America, only to be disappointed by his comments on race and the pronouncements and activities of his administration, which have not by-in-large served to heal but inflame. This morning, I took the time to read the text of Dr. King’s speech in its entirety. If you’ve never done that, or haven’t done that recently, I would recommend it to you. From my perspective, it cannot rightfully be denied that we’ve come a long way as a nation toward the fulfillment of his dream, though there is work left to be done. But my sense is that further progress will not be realized until “the politics of race” is abandoned for the unity of the human race in Adam (see Acts 17:26). If that can be our starting point, then there is the hope we’ll learn to value each other as brothers, and perhaps even see the dream realized in our lifetime.

Missions Conference - September 6 – 8

This year’s conference theme, “The Lord’s Patience Means Salvation,” will be developed over the course of our conference weekend by the able team of missionaries pictured below. The conference features a program designed for the entire family, with the provision of nursery care and special features for the separate instruction of children age 3 to grade 3, in all of the conference sessions. Look for a full description of the conference agenda in Sunday’s bulletin.



Larry & Sallie Fogle
Equipping National Pastors
Baptist Mid-Missions



Jim & Jan Ruff
Missionary Training
Association of Baptists
for World Evangelism



John Wilburn
Church Planting
Baptist Mid-Missions

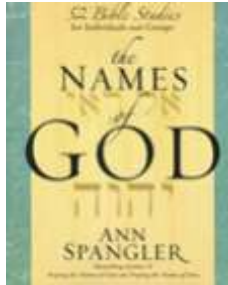
Missions Cupboard Shower and Ice Cream Social



Spotlight on Women's Ministries

Women's Bible Study

Bible Study resumes on Tuesday mornings in the Brick Room from 9:30 - 10:30, beginning September 11. The study book *The Names of God: 52 Bible Studies for Individuals and Groups* by Ann Spangler will serve as the text. Gina Irving will be leading the study. Please see her or call her (703-239-2161) with questions or for ordering information.



Women's Retreat

This year's retreat will be in Stafford, Virginia on September 13 - 14. Missionary Sallie Fogle will be the speaker. The cost is \$25.00. Registration and payment are due by September 8. Please contact Gina Irving with questions or for further details.



Awana resumes on Sunday evenings at 5:30, beginning September 15. Please pray for this ministry to touch the lives of many children and their families, and invite kids you know to join us.

Christmas in September



During the month of September, Women's Ministries will collect items for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. There is a list of suggested items on the Information Table in the foyer, but anything that would fit in a shoebox and bring joy to the heart of a child this Christmas is appreciated. There will be a designated collection box in the foyer for these items—start your Christmas shopping early! Women's Ministries will be hosting a "shoebox party" later this fall to sort items and fill the shoeboxes. Please see Jill Porter or give her a call (703-537-0408) for more information.

Money Matters

August Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$4,094
2013 Budgeted Needs Per Week	\$5,229
2013 Budgeted Receipts to Date	\$164,733
2013 Budgeted Needs to Date	\$177,787

September 2013 Bible Memory Challenge



*[This is what the LORD says—]
"I, even I, am He who blots out
your transgressions,
for My own sake, and
remembers your sins no more."*

Isaiah 43:25



Men's Retreat
December 13-14, 2013
"Pressure Points"
Save the date.
Plan to be there.
Bring a friend.

Calendar



Sep. 5	ESL Classes Resume (7:00 PM)
Sep. 6-8	Missions Conference
Sep. 10	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Sep. 11	Women's Bible Study Resumes (9:30 AM)
Sep. 13-14	Women's Retreat
Sep. 15	Awana Resumes (5:30 PM)
Sep. 21	Church Picnic (Noon—3:00 PM)
Sep. 23	Youth Bowling (7:00 PM)

Fellowship Baptist Church

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