



The SaltShaker

January, 2007

Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt has lost its savour, Wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Matthew 5:13

FREE Grief Recovery Seminar
Thursday, January 18, 2007
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Florence Baptist Association Office
Registration preferred (not required) –
662.5921

EVERYONE grieves! How do YOU deal with your grief? How do YOU help a friend, child, or family member deal with their grief? Have YOU ever felt helpless when faced with grief?

God has brought us a unique opportunity to have an impact on our community by helping people through life's changes. This seminar is an introduction to how we can be involved in establishing 12 week grief recovery ministries that can serve as an outreach to our community.

Simply defined, grief is the normal and natural reaction to significant emotional loss of any kind. Another definition for grief is "the conflicting feelings caused by a change or an end in a familiar pattern of behavior."

There are 42 different causes of grief - death of a love one, divorce or the end of a relationship, death of a pet, loss of health, major financial changes, job loss or change, retirement, moving, etc. Grief is individual and unique. As every relationship is unique, so are the feeling and thoughts each person will have about the relationship that has been altered.

While grief is normal and natural, most of the information is not normal, natural or helpful. Grief is the emotional response to loss, but most of the information we have learned about dealing with loss is intellectual. The majority of incorrect ideas about dealing with loss can be summed up in 6 myths which are so common that nearly everyone recognizes them.

Most people never questioned whether or not they were valid.

The six myths about grief are:

- Time heals all wounds
- Grieve alone
- Be strong
- Don't feel bad
- Replace the loss
- Keep busy

The seminar will be lead by Elaine Henderson, one of the world's leading experts on Grief Recovery. She is a trainer for the Grief Recovery Institute and the Founder of the Grief Recovery Center of Ohio. Her vision of emotional care in a community is unrivaled. A terrific story-teller, Elaine will keep your attention and challenge you to do for yourself and your community what she is doing – make a difference! For more information check out this web site - www.griefrecoverycenter.org.

Who should attend the Grief Recovery Seminar? Therapists, ministers, bereavement coordinators, doctors, nurses, social workers, school guidance counselors, hospice workers, funeral directors - any grieving person or anyone interested in learning how to help people that are grieving.

Child Evangelism Fellowship
Teacher Enrichment Seminar
Saturday, January 20, 2007
8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Grace Baptist Church
2400 W. Third Loop Road Florence, SC 29501
Cost: \$15 before event (lunch included)
\$20 at the door
To register call: Terri @ 669.8829 or
Louanne @ 662.5921

The Greater Florence Chapter of Child Evangelism Fellowship has now been formed and a board has been seated. Grace Baptist Church is beginning an after school "Good News Club" at Del Mae Elementary in February. This seminar will be for anyone interested in working with a "Good News Club" now or in the fall. The goal is to get one club started this spring and then workers that have some experience can start other clubs at other schools in the fall. The school district has opened their doors to us – now let's work together and make a difference for the Kingdom of God!!

Summer Ministry Opportunity with

The *Salt Shaker* is a bi-monthly publication produced by the Florence Baptist Association to promote missions and ministry networking among churches.

Florence School District One Summer School

When school concludes in May, over 15,000 students just from Florence District One are released into our community. Most of these students have nothing to do so many of them get in trouble. It's a known fact that gangs use the summer months to recruit new members.

We can make a difference in the lives of some of these students. The faith community here in Florence has been invited to make a difference for Jesus in the lives of some of our summer school students this summer. WOW – what an opportunity.

This is still in the planning phase where we're trying to "get a handle" on how this will work. This all came out of the Tony Evans prayer breakfast last spring. The superintendent has asked the faith community to provide some type of faith based curriculum in the mornings for 8 weeks Monday – Thursday for North Vista Elementary students (4th–6th) and Williams Middle School students (7th–8th). This could involve 400+ students that have their parents' permission to participate in the class. The district has asked for volunteers from all over the faith based community to join hands and work together to help this happen.

I know that many churches plan WAY AHEAD for mission and ministry activities for the summer. Please consider helping with this ministry for just 4 days this summer. You could use your VBS curriculum (if it hasn't already been done) or we can provide you with the lessons. You would plan one lesson per day and would do it probably 4 times each morning (8am - 12 noon).

The details are still being worked out. PLEASE make this a matter of prayer to see how your church can be involved is this AWESOME opportunity! Go God!

Samaritan's Purse

Operation Christmas Child Update

College Park collected 16,373 boxes and had 68 different volunteers to help at this collection center. Thanks to all of you who participated in this ministry and a HUGE THANKS to College Park for serving as a collection center for our area again this year.

Hebron Baptist Ministry Report

Sgt. Andrew Merritt presented Hebron with a photo plaque of appreciation for the care packages that were mailed to them last spring and over the summer months. The appreciation plaque was given by Andy and his unit and will be displayed in the church. The Youth in Action group hosted these care packages and the entire church participated. Sgt. Andy shared much love and tears from the unit, and appreciates the many prayers and all of the LOVE that was shown. Sgt. Andy is the son of Wendell and Peggy Merritt of Friendfield and was home for a visit in October.

LifeChangers 2007

June 24-29

Calvary Baptist Church

Cost: \$75

This will be our 5th year for LifeChangers! We're so excited about what God is going to do this summer through LifeChangers. Our theme this year will be – "Give it Away."

LifeChangers is for students who have completed 7th grade – up. It is a ministry week to work on homes of lower income or "fixed income" residents that own their home. Only outside construction is done and could include painting, replacing rotten wood, window replacement, roofing, etc. If you know of someone who would benefit from LifeChangers, please let me know.

Registration information will be going out to all churches in early January. Watch your mailbox!

Prison Packet Update

Our association collected a total of 674 prisoner packets (our goal was 700 packets) with 28 churches participating. We also had a financial donation that enabled us to provide 100 additional packets giving us a grand total of 774. Thank you for your support of this ministry that our state has done over the years. Sometimes when a ministry has been done for a while, people lose interest in helping. For MANY of the prisoners in SC, YOUR prison packet may be the only gift they receive this Christmas! Thank you for being faithful to our Lord!!