



The SaltShaker

November, 2008

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

THANK YOU: Shocked, Surprised, Overwhelmed – WOW - are just some of the emotions that Eddie and I felt when Debbie Dockery presented the basket to us at the worship service after the Missions Fair. Words can't express our gratitude. We are overwhelmed by your generosity and God's blessings! Thank you so much for each and every item that was included in our gift basket. Eddie, Jessie, and I had so much fun going through it when we got home that Sunday night. It was like Christmas in October! Our God is full of surprises and it is an honor to be on this "adventure with God" working with the people in our association.
Eddie and Louanne Stewart

The White Envelope Project: Christmas is coming and we all have those people on our list that are hard to shop for because they have everything they need or want. So what do you do? If you want to give them something that has meaning, you might want to consider this idea. Give a gift "in honor" of that person to a charity. Think of the person you are honoring – of their interests, hobbies, passions – and give a monetary gift to that type of ministry. Look around your community and see what local ministries might work. See if your church, association or state convention has a mission or ministry project that would be appropriate.

The White Envelope Project started over ten years ago when a wife surprised her husband with a small, white envelope among the branches of the Christmas tree. Inside was a note saying that she had anonymously given some sports equipment to an inner city church wrestling team and that this was her

gift to him that Christmas. From this experience, the White Envelope Project was started. This can also be done in memory of a friend or loved one.

If you are looking for unique ways to impact people in third world countries, look at www.samaritanspurse.com or www.heifer.com. For more information on the white envelope project go to www.whiteenvelopeproject.org.

Reminder: We're Here For You SC

Ministry Day: Our annual "We're Here For You SC" ministry day is Saturday, November 8th. This is a great time to get your church involved in your community. Projects can be planned for all ages, from mission friends and youth groups to senior adults. Look around your neighborhood and see where you can minister. Remember, these projects should benefit people that are NOT church members. Please let me know what you are planning to do so I can report it to the SCBC.

Prisoner Packet Collection: As many of you know Dawsey Methodist Church is using our back room for worship while their building is being rebuilt from the fire in July. Because of this, we don't have room to store the prisoner packets. **IF AT ALL POSSIBLE**, please bring your packets to the office **on** Monday, December 1st. We realize that some churches must bring them early to get them here and that is fine. **IF** you can wait and bring them to us on December 1, that will help out tremendously.

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

Christian Learning Center Update: WOW – God is truly blessing the ministry of the Christian Learning Center of Florence County! This year we have 12 Christian Learning Center classes with students from 4 middle schools – Southside, Sneed, Williams, and Hannah-Pamplico. We are using a team teaching approach where the teacher and the assistant teacher are both paid positions. Because of this, the CLC budget has increased significantly. The administrative board stepped out on faith knowing that God will provide financially for the needs of this ministry. Our CLC released time ministry is one of the few in the state that meet daily. Most other released time programs meet once or twice a week.

If you have never visited one of the CLC classrooms you need to go and see for yourself what God is doing in this ministry. Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday would be the best days to visit. Southside classes meet at Abundant Life Church's youth building which is right across the street from the Career Center. They have class from 8:45 am until 11 am each day. Sneed classes meet at Ebenezer Baptist Church in a classroom in the family life center from 9:35 am until about 1:15 pm. Williams Middle classes meet at Progressive Church of Jesus Christ which is right behind Williams. Their classes are from 12:55 pm until 3:30 pm. Hannah Pamplico classes meet at Mt. Zion Baptist from 8:50 am – 11:50 am each day.

We need more churches to include CLC in their budgets. This is a great ministry & it is reaching young people that might never be reached with the message of Jesus. If you as an individual would like to make a financial contribution, checks can be mailed to: Christian Learning Center, PO Box 13071, Florence SC 29504

Operation Christmas Child: The collection week for shoeboxes is November 17-24 at College Park Baptist Church. Collection hours are Monday-Friday: 10 am – 6 pm; Saturday 10 am – 2 pm; Sunday 1 pm – 6 pm.

Servant Warfare: All warfare is contingent on the climate, geography, and environmental conditions of the battlefield. This is equally true for spiritual warfare or what some today call "servant warfare." The concept of servant warfare is that the most effective weapon for overcoming spiritual darkness is God's kindness. We are all aware of the chaotic situations we are facing as Americans. The church is the best remedy for this. Christ

followers across the country need to respond like Army medics and go out into the streets searching for the wounded from this recent financial bombardment we have been under. Even in our gospel-hardened times people are desperate to hear good news. We have the GOOD NEWS of Jesus to share by loving them and helping in many different ways.

This is not the time to "retreat" to the safety of our churches and "guard" our money. This is the time to focus on our "battle field" – our mission field, where we live, work, etc.

What needs are there that we as a church can meet? What needs arise that you as an individual can resolve? This is a prime time to show the love of Jesus to hurting individuals. Plan a church-wide outreach that will make people stop and ask, "Why are you doing this?"

A small church in Beckley, West Virginia decided to forget about saving money and to become more outward focused. During the Chili-Fest they rented a vendor booth and gave away cold bottles of water and nachos. They bought cases of bottled water, bulk bags of nacho chips and made their own special cheese sauce in crock pots. About one third of the church members came to help manage the booth. They gave away 1,500 bottles of water and hundreds of plates of nachos and cheese. They also had a "FREE RAFFLE" and gave away four \$25 gift cards to Wal Mart. They had great conversations with people and they saw God at work while using them. (Source: SERVE! www.serve-others.com)

Door-to-Door Giveaways: Pick a lower income neighborhood and go out in teams of 3 or more. Have several teams go to the same neighborhood. You can give away anything of your choosing – groceries, light bulbs, toilet paper, paper towels, batteries, etc. Be sure to include a tract and contact information for your church. If you give away light bulbs, offer to replace the bulb for senior adults who might have difficulty with this.

Socks for the homeless: Homeless people wear out socks more quickly than most people. Collect thick tube-style socks or walking socks with extra heel and toe support. Give them to a homeless shelter or the Salvation Army for distribution. Include a tract with each pair. (*101 Ways to Help People in Need* – Sjogren)

Luke 19:10 Ministries is located in Greenville SC and their focus is to collect used Bibles, SS material, VBS materials and other Christian supplies that are shipped to third world countries.

We have had some interest among our churches to collect things, but so far no one has volunteered to take a load to Greenville so please make this a matter of prayer.

Periodically I receive emails from them telling of needs that they have. At the present time they are collecting school supplies to be sent to orphans in Nigeria. They are collecting notebook paper, pencils, ballpoint pens, notebook binders, rulers, pencil sharpeners, compasses, protractors and solar powered calculators.

Another email I received requested cassette tape duplicating equipment, extra cassette tapes, boxes, and labels. Many churches have switched over to CD recording and duplication so they have these supplies just sitting around their church. All the duplicating material that is received will be sent to Rev. Evbota Godstime in Benin City, Nigeria. In Nigeria the tapes of evangelistic and Bible study material will be duplicated and distributed free to people who need the Gospel. They need thousands more cassette tapes, boxes, labels, etc. and more duplicators. They also need some ordinary cassette tape recorders to give to the individual villages so the tapes can be played. (Look in your closets at home – you probably have one that you THOUGHT you might need one day! Ha! Ha!)

If ANYONE is interested in taking a load of supplies to Luke 19:10 Ministries in Greenville, PLEASE get in touch with Louanne ASAP. I know that we could get a load of materials to go – we just need the volunteers to take them. Please pray about this ministry opportunity.

VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) is a program where agencies can partner with the IRS to assist America's taxpayers in understanding and meeting their tax responsibilities. The City of Florence and the

United Way in Florence are partnering with the IRS to help provide free tax preparation assistance to low-to-moderate income earners. The idea is to help educate and communicate to the client the information about tax credits. Most of the lower income people cannot afford to have their taxes done by a professional CPA so they do them their selves and miss out on tax credits that they should have.

Volunteers are needed to help at several of the VITA sites that are being established in the Florence area. The sites will receive the free software, "Tax Wise" which is very user friendly. Volunteers will receive training from an IRS representative in how to use the software in completing simple tax returns. The training will be four classes each lasting 2-3 hours. As a VITA volunteer YOU PICK your hours and what days you want to work. No one tells you when you have to work – it works around your schedule.

The Boys and Girls Club of the Pee Dee is going to be a potential VITA site. They are willing to use their facility but they need help securing volunteers. If you have some spare time and like working with numbers, this may be a ministry opportunity for you. If you are interested, please contact Louanne at 662-5921 for more information about the training.

Adopt a School – Florence School District One is encouraging churches to "adopt-a-school" in their community and focus on meeting the needs in that school. Call and make an appointment with the principal to discuss ways that your church can be involved with the school. Some ideas might include collecting school supplies for students that can't afford them. (Supplies are cheap right now.) School supply lists can be obtained from the school. Consider providing the teachers snacks for the teacher's lounge. Ask permission to "prayer walk" around the campus or inside the building when classes are in session. The "sky is the limit" when it comes to making a difference in the school atmosphere. If you "adopt a school" please let Louanne know.