

HIGH TIMES

A Ministry of The Highview Park Christian Assembly
A Bi-Monthly Publication

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1st Lady Laura Bush Hosts “First Ladies” From Across the Country



Pastor Phil Thomas

There are but a very few things in life that are guaranteed. As much as we like to think we can depend on people and things, the truth of the matter is that the stuff in life that we grow to depend on often and eminently falls short of our expectations. But out of all the plans that we make or the people that we try to depend on and the things that we believe we can count on, the only thing that we can really count on is this very moment. Anything past this moment is an act of faith and not a guarantee. I don't care what you plan to eat for dinner today or where you plan to eat it, truth is that you may never get to that moment in time because though it may seem to be the next move on your agenda, it is still future. Though it is short-term future, there is still no guarantee that you'll see it! That's why James would say in 4:13-16, "come now, you who say, today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit. Yet you don't

MAXIMIZE THE MOMENT

“God is the only one who can speak in all three tenses...past, present and future...!”

know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, if the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.”

I know we think we got it going on, so did all the people who invested in the dot.com stock market boom! You know the story. But let me remind you that the future still belongs exclusively to God and God alone! And the only thing that you can do is rely on the fact that God is a God of mercy and that He **MIGHT** not be ready for you to come home yet, **IF** you are about His will! Know that everything that He calls and ordains has purpose and is productive. That's why it becomes an effort of futility to spend time worrying about events in time of which you have nothing to do with! You have nothing to do with the things that are not yet an issue, and are not even promised...like tomorrow and next week, or next pay day, or next summer, or next anything! Because understand that **next** belongs to God! God is the only one that can speak in all three tenses; past, present

and future!

However what you do today will impact tomorrow, only if you live to see it! But what you need to concern yourself with is today! I've discovered that some folk can't praise God today because of excessive preoccupation with tomorrow! Some folk can't bloom where they're planted today, because they are so consumed by their impending tomorrow! Some folk can't commit their whole heart to the Lord today, because of what they're afraid to miss out on tomorrow! Can't tithe today because of stuff they want to buy tomorrow! Worried and consumed by things that may not even happen! But the truth of the matter is that the only thing that is for sure is the here and now! And the only thing that matters here and now is that you are in the will of God and that you are doing the things that matter to Him more than anything or anybody else. It's only what you do for Christ will last! And the things that you are going to do for the Lord require a “right now” decision. Procrastination is not only a thief of time, but it is also a thief of opportunity!

(Continued on page 4)

The First Ladies Summit

Excerpt from May/Apr 2004 edition of Gospel Today (pages 13-14)

The 2004 celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's birthday is always filled with special commemorations. However, this one was especially unique for a group of approximately 50 pastor's wives from across the country. They were the guests of First Lady Laura Bush.

The First Lady's Summit is the brainchild of White House Liaison, Shelley Henderson. Henderson organized the summit and presented the ladies an unforgettable experience, including presentations from Mrs. Colin Powell, Rod Paige, Kay Coles James and Condoleezza Rice. The purpose of the summit was to foster a closer relationship between the White House and the community of faith.

DO WE REALLY CARE?

By Tina Matthews

The Spirit of God shared with me that we grieve Him so much more than we bless Him. God's grief is recorded throughout the Scriptures and is further provoked by the fact that the Body of Christ doesn't seem to really care about what God thinks, what God wants, or how God feels. Do we care?

Do we care about the backslidden saint? Do we care about the deceived youth? Do we care about the lonely elderly? Do we care about the unsaved? **Do we really even care?**

Does the condition of the world, of the church break our heart or is the depth of our emotion limited to preconceived judgments or partialities?

Do we care that we kill each other with our mouths? Do we care that our actions are stumbling blocks for new saints? Do we care that we discourage struggling saints with our coldness? Do we care that we justify sins that are an abomination to the Lord? Do we care that we glorify more in "keeping it real" than "keeping it holy"? Do we care that we either do not or do not want to, do what God requires of us? **Do we really, really care?**

Do we really even care that we WILL stand before the Living God? Do we care that we will be accountable for EVERY word we speak; EVERY motive of our heart and EVERY, EVERY deed?

Trust me, I haven't written this because I'm super spiritual or because I've arrived anywhere. I struggle every day to line up with the Word of God. I've written this because I, you, we break God's heart and don't give Him even half of what He deserves. I've written this because God has been better than good to us and the very least we can do is totally submit to His will. Let us make 2004 a year of self-examination and repentance. Let us strive with everything we are and everything we have to glorify God. Let us be among those to whom God will say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant".

Why Did Boaz Choose Ruth?

By Lacette Cross

The book of Ruth gives hope to many single women who are waiting on their Boaz. The book also gives many pointers on how single women should wait for their Boaz. Though I have never experienced losing a husband, I have experienced loss. It is not easy being involved with someone for most of your life and then losing them or leaving them because you know that God is leading you to do it. Becoming single, in the sense of being without companionship again, opens up areas that were either suppressed or uncharted. Reading Ruth can help you understand that God will divinely place you where you need to be when you are working in the ministry while dealing with your pain.

As the story goes, Ruth implores her mother-in-law, Naomi, to go with her back to Bethlehem after Naomi decides to leave Moab since her husband and sons have died. Ruth's loyalty and service to her mother-in-law is first exemplified in her decision to leave her land and family and cleave to Naomi. Looking closely at the text, you see that when a woman loses her husband, companion, friend, lover, she is distraught. But add to that the loss of children. This can send even the strongest woman over the edge and that is where Naomi was. Ruth had to have understood this dynamic when choosing to go with Naomi back to Bethlehem. Ruth realized that she would not only be dealing with her own grief but also the grief of her mother-in-law. Instead of heading back to the familiar, Ruth pressed forward choosing to love Naomi instead of abandoning her during this trying time.

Once in Bethlehem Ruth immediately goes out to glean, realizing and understanding that Naomi was not in any state to support the two of them. She goes to the field to glean since it so happened to be harvest time and according to law of the land owners were required to allow the widows, fatherless, and poor glean from the field. Isn't it awesome how God places us in what may seem like a hard place but at the right time!!

So Ruth goes to glean and is noticed by Boaz. When I first read the text I thought, why did Boaz notice Ruth? Surely she wasn't the only one gleaning in the field. Was it her beauty? Was she so new to the area that she stood out? Or was it simply that God pointed her out to him? When Boaz asks about her, he hears nothing but a good report. He then observes her behavior in the field and notices that she is a hard worker. Surely he was aware of the state of affairs with Naomi because he was related to Elimelech. It's possible he showed favor to Ruth because of that. I would offer that he recognized a woman who was selfless, hard working, loving and loyal and was attracted to Ruth because she was a woman of character. But alas, he thought himself too old for such a young lady as Ruth who had come to a new country and he assumed she would surely be looking for a young man.

When Ruth tells Naomi of the favor showed to her by Boaz, Naomi, out of her love for Ruth, helps her to present herself to Boaz. Naomi gives Ruth distinct instructions to go and lay at Boaz's feet after the festival. Ruth does this and again finds favor from Boaz who pledges to redeem her through the kinsman redeemer law of that day. He even goes to the extent of tricking his relative knowing that the relative would not want to be responsible for both Naomi and Ruth. In the end they lived happily ever after and helped to fulfill the prophecy of Jesus coming through the line of David.

Here is another example of God being Jehovah Jireh. Throughout the story we see how God provided for Naomi's emotional needs through Ruth's faithfulness. How he provided for both Ruth and Naomi's physical need through Ruth's willingness and obedience to glean in the field for their food. And finally we see the blessing of how God provided for Ruth's emotional, physical and material needs by causing all things – enduring her husband's death, supporting her mother-in-law and gleaning in the field – to work together for her good. Look at God!

Highview Teen in the News – Dyre “Red” Ross

(except from “Boys Varsity Starting to Find Their Rhythm”) highlandsports.org

After dismantling the Quantico High School team on Wednesday with a solid defensive performance, the Hawks welcomed much-improved Word of Life Academy to Highland on Saturday evening...two players stepped up to show the way for Highland...However, clearly the highlight of the game for Highland was the play of senior **Dyre “Red” Ross**, whose energy off the bench paced the Hawks' transition game (24 points), their rebounding effort (18 rebounds), and defensive energy (4 blocks) in the second half in which the Hawks held WOLA to only 15 points. Even the referee remarked how much progress Red has made in just his short time at Highland.

MARK OF EXCELLENCE

LIFE SKILLS SUPPORT AND COUNSELLING – CAROLYN JUNE, PROGRAM MANAGER

VOLUNTEER COUNSELOR NEEDED

Are you interested in joining the Mark of Excellence Community Outreach Team?

The purpose of the **"Clean Slate" Substance Abuse Counseling** program is to provide a confidential and non-threatening environment whereby adult men and women can receive counseling and assistance in overcoming their addictions.

The Mark of Excellence Community Outreach Center (MoX) is a non-profit, faith-based 501(c)(3) community-based organization located in Arlington, Virginia.

Our Mission is to enhance the quality of life through education for the citizens of Northern Virginia.

Team Leader Role: Substance Abuse Counselor

Time Commitment: Six months to 1 year.

Description: Provide orientation and facilitate a 12-step program for those who are struggling with or recovering from substance abuse.

Responsibility: Conduct group sessions with those who struggle with addiction and those in recovery based upon a 12-step and faith-based program.

Requirements:

Certified Substance Abuse Counselor who possesses patience, compassion, and a keen desire to help others who are in crisis.

Frequency: Group meetings to be held at least 1 to 1½ hours a week in the evenings.

Where: Arlington County, VA

If interested in finding out additional information, please contact Carolyn June, Program Manager, Life Skills Counseling and Support at 703-527-8003 or email mox_life_skills@mail.com.

CAREER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT – NANCY BAILEY, PROGRAM MANAGER

RECENT JOB PLACEMENTS - CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Quincy Williams ~ Pulte Homes **Myron Day** ~ Pulte Homes **Kathryn Smoot** ~ American Research Institute

Beth Nicholson ~ Gannett Corporation **PJ Thomas** ~ Mitre Corporation

Upcoming Events

- March**
- 6 – Teen Counselor Training, 10:00am
 - 7 – Communion Service, Lacette Cross Initial Sermon 4:00pm
 - 13 – Leadership Training, 9:00am
 - 14 – Pastor Thomas, Guest Speaker at New Mt. Hebron Baptist Church in Balt, MD, 4:00pm
 - 20 – Missionary Visit to Nursing Home
 - 21 – Pastor Thomas and Congregation for Communion Service at Shiloh Baptist Church, Edgemere, MD, 4:00pm
 - 28 – Pastor's Aide Service

- April**
- 17-19 – PCIF Teen Conference
 - 3 – Staff Meeting, 9:00am
 - 4 – Palm Sunday/Communion Service, Pastor Claveron Burston, Mt Hattin Baptist Church, Guest Speaker 4:00pm
 - 6 – 8 – Annual Spring Revival, 7:30pm
 - 9 – Good Friday Service 7:30pm
 - 11 - HAPPY EASTER**
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 - 11 – Drama/Music Ministry & Youth Easter Presentation, 4:00pm
 - 17 – Missionary Visit to Nursing Home
 - 25 – Host Pastor Bratton and First Baptist Pearisburg 11:30am and 3:00pm

Weekly/Monthly Schedule

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| <p>Sunday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday School 9:30am 1st Sunday – Communion 4:00pm Morning Service 11:30am Children's Church 11:30am 4th Sunday – Sunday School Breakfast 8:30am <p>Monday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2nd Monday – Deacon's Meeting 7:30pm <p>Tuesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2nd Tuesday – Overcomer's Ministry 7:00pm <p>Wednesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evangelism/Outreach Class 6:30 – 7:30 Prayer & Bible Study 7:30pm Youth Bible Study 7:30pm <p>Thursday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister's Development Institute 7:00pm | <p>Friday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st Friday – Men's Ministry Fellowship 7:30pm 3rd Friday – Women's Ministry Fellowship 7:30pm 4th Friday – SOULO (Singles) Fellowship 7:30pm <p>Saturday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st Saturday – CMMC (Couples Ministry) 2:00pm 1st & 3rd Saturday Praise Team Rehearsal 12:00pm 2nd Saturday – Mass Choir Rehearsal 12pm 4th Saturday – Youth Mass Choir Rehearsal 12:00pm 4th Saturday – BASIC (Teen Choir) Rehearsal 2:00pm |
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Highview Park
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“Where Everybody Is
Somebody Special”

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.highviewpark.org

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED MY FAMILY DURING THE LOSS OF MY BROTHER, ALFRED HOSTON. WE APPRECIATE ALL THE PRAYERS, CARDS, GIFTS AND WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT WE RECEIVED FROM OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY AND ESPECIALLY OUR CHURCH FAMILY. WE LOVE YOU AND MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU.

Submit articles to: Cindy Thomas, Editor, High Times cinthialyn@aol.com

“Maximize the Moment” (Continued from page 1)

Because some of the stuff that we spend the most time doing, **when we decide to do something**, has no lasting value nor does it honor God! And yet we expect God to bless us indeed! But God would say it ain't that kind of party. I'm only blessing that which has my Glory stamped on it! I'm not in the mess-blessing business! But if you want my favor, make every moment count for me while you have your being! Put my agenda and me on the front burner of your life! Give me the first fruit of all your produce! Make me the love of your life! Love me like you love your job! Love me like you love your family! Make me shine like that new car that I blessed you with! Show me off like you show off that house I opened a door for you to purchase! Invest in me, like you invested in the plans that went awry! Trust me like you trust that payroll department that could be out of money to pay you and not even inform you until you go to the bank to cash your check! Give me more than leftovers and a cheap one-night stand! Prove me this day and see if I won't open the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that you won't have room to receive! God says I'll blow your mind if you set aside your agenda, pick up mine and maximize the moment! Redeeming the time for the days are evil (Eph. 5:16).

I close with this Word from the Lord Himself:

Matthew 6:31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

32: (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

33: But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

34: Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Just a thought! Be encouraged!

Welcome all new members who joined us in January and February!

**HIGHVIEW PARK
CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY**
1845 N. Columbus St.
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