



How much knowledge did you acquire this year?

Now that summer is coming and that your term at school is coming to an end you should be asking yourself: what did I learn during this whole year? What knowledge did I acquire? Well, I am sure that you know now much more of math, science, grammar, history and other subjects than you knew last year (at least, I hope you do!). There is yet another kind of knowledge that should have increased in your mind and heart this year, and that is the knowledge of your triune God. Did you learn more about Him this year?

Let me remind you that Christians should always be interested in learning about God, His will and His directions for our lives while we wait for the return of our savior Jesus. The best proof of this is that He has given you a complete library so that you would meditate upon it day and night: the Holy Bible. And that is not all! Among the 66 books of the Bible, your God gave you one which specific purpose is to give you wisdom, the book of Proverbs.

How do I know this book was written especially for you, my young brother and sister? Because it is written in the very first chapter! In verse 4 we read: *“to give prudence to the naive, to the youth knowledge and discretion.”* Therefore, young brethren, this book is of great importance for you. Yes, the Lord wants you to grow your wisdom in many different subjects but most of all, He wants you to be instructed in “righteousness, justice and equity.” You don’t learn that in your school (private, public or home). You need to come and learn from Him.

Now, why should you come and learn from God all these marvelous things? Because in doing so, you are being wise and not foolish. The book of Proverbs invites the wise to increase his learning by listening to its words of wisdom (Proverbs 1:5). It promises that through the understanding of its content the reader will receive guidance. On the other hand, the one who rejects its wise teachings and instructions is nothing but a fool (Proverbs 1:7). You don’t want to be a fool, do you?

Now, in order to understand and profit from the wisdom of the book of Proverbs, what should be your starting point? The book itself responds to you saying: *“the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”* When you approach your God seeking for guidance, do so in holy fear. Does this mean that you should be afraid of God? Absolutely not! The fear of the Lord is that profound respect, awe and recognition that you must demonstrate when you approach your creator, recognizing your infinite need of His instruction, guidance, love and mercy.

Let us, then, return to the initial question: how much did you increase your knowledge about God this year? Do you wish to be wise? Do you understand the Lord alone is your true source of wisdom? Seek this knowledge, young brethren. Do not be a fool!

~Breno



by Carolyn Root

Presbyterian Mission in Haiti (PMH) is looking for people interested in a short-term missionary opportunity to Haiti in October. A Reformed Presbyterian ministry, PMH is located in Messailler, a village neighboring the town of Cabaret, which is about one hour’s drive from Port-au-Prince along the northern side of the harbor coastline. It was founded by Rev. Charles Amicy in 1997 during his summer break from Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. After receiving his M.Div., Rev. Amicy was ordained as an evangelist by Calvary Presbytery to plant churches in Haiti. During the last 13 years, he has planted six churches, established five schools, and founded an orphanage.

PMH has been hosting short-term teams on its secure, four-acre campus for thirteen years. PMH is blessed with the means to accommodate large groups—an experienced staff, reliable transportation to and from the Port-au-Prince airport, and comfortable dormitories for men and women.

Mission Trip Details:

- **Location:** Presbyterian Mission in Haiti, Messailler-Cabaret, HAITI
- **Dates:** October 16-23 (Saturday to Saturday)
- **Team leaders:** Rev. Scotty Anderson and Scott Clark @ WRPC
- **Team members:** up to 40 persons from Calvary Presbytery churches
- **Multipurpose Objectives:**
 - ◆ Medical / Dental clinic
 - ◆ Vacation Bible School
 - ◆ Construction project(s)
 - ◆ Bible teaching for adults
 - ◆ Food distribution and evangelism to the community
- **Cost:** approximately \$2,000 (includes airfare, lodging at the PMH campus, breakfast and dinner each day, construction supplies, and half-day at the beach)

Contact Scott Clark at tscottclark2000@yahoo.com or 864-335-9640 (home) **immediately**, if you are interested in ministering in Haiti, to request an application for joining Calvary Presbytery’s Short-Term Team to Haiti. **Please note: you will need a current passport and shots.**

For more information see www.presbyterianmissioninhaiti.org or contact Woodruff Road Presbyterian Church (864-297-5257)

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FELLOWSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1105 OLD SPARTANBURG ROAD
GREEK, SOUTH CAROLINA 29650

MAY 2010 NEWSLETTER

Fellowship Presbyterian Church

1105 Old Spartanburg Road ~ Greer, SC 29650

Rev. Martin H. Martin, Pastor

Phone: (864) 877-3267 Fax: (864) 877-0564

Email: office@fellowshippres.org

Website: www.fellowshippres.org

“Learning Lessons”

by Martin H. Martin

Have you every thought to yourself, “I wonder if God is trying to teach me something?” Without knowing any of the particulars, I am actually quite confident that the reason is “Yes!” God is always teaching us about who He is, showing us the sin we did not realize was there and making us more like our Savior. He does that through Scripture and the counsel of faithful friends, He does it through the pleasant things He gives us, and He also does it when He subjects us to hard things.

On a recent Sunday morning in April, we looked at the beginning of the account of Gideon in Judges 6. You might remember that Israel was suffering the greatest oppression they had known up to that time. It was so severe that they were forced to cower in caves and ravines like animals. As in the past, they eventually cried out to the Lord for deliverance, and He ultimately brought it through Gideon; but not before He first did something else.

First God sent them a prophet. But the prophet was not sent to say, “Help is on the way!” Instead, in response to the cries of God’s people, the prophet says:

“Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I led you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of bondage. And I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land. And I said to you, ‘I am the LORD your God; you shall not fear the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell.’ But you have not obeyed my voice.” (Judges 6:8-10)

What God is saying is something to the effect of, “It’s your own fault! You have no one to blame but yourself!” Why would God send such a message? Why pour salt in the wounds? The answer is this – **God’s people need to learn the lessons He is teaching them through these circumstances just as much as they need to be delivered from these circumstances.** It would do no good to deliver

them only to leave them in the same life of idolatry. They need to see their sin so that they might be brought to repentance. **They need to be delivered from sin’s bondage just as much as they need relief from sin’s consequences.**

Let me make one brief caveat – I am not saying that all suffering in our lives is because we are guilty of some corresponding sin. Job is an example. His friends thought he must be guilty, but the reader sees behind the scenes – Job is afflicted because he is exceptionally righteous! Sometime we suffer simply because it is a fallen world. Sometimes it is because of somebody else’s sin. Sometimes it is to prepare us for greater usefulness in the future. We should never think there is a one-to-one correspondence between difficult things and personal sin.

On the other hand, God often uses trials to show us “blind spots” of cherished idols we didn’t realize were there, to show us His power and sufficiency, and to work in us greater spiritual maturity. The “furnace of affliction” melts us down and bubbles to the surface the impurities that were deep beneath the surface. It hurts and we don’t like to see what oozes out, but it is necessary to face it in order to repent of it.

So what might God be teaching you through your circumstances? Are the heavy demands on your time frustrating because you really think it is *your* time and you want the freedom to use it to indulge in what *you* want? Is the tight economy causing you anxiety because what you really trust is your own material resources and you aspire to always have more each year than the one before. Is the lack of recognition causing resentment because in your pride you feel you deserve to be given credit and exalted in the eyes of others?

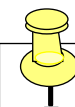
We can certainly err by overanalyzing or thinking that every hard thing means we are guilty of something; but we can also make the mistake of not seeing how the hard things reveal the ways in which we still need to be conformed to the image of Christ. So how is God working to show you where you still need to “improve your game” as His way of conforming you more and more into the image of Christ?

~Pastor Marty

**Mark your calendars: Sunday Evening, June 13th
Farewell Event for Paulo & Eudalia Brazil Sousa**

SERVING IN MAY:

Elder of the Month: Larry Poole Deacon of the Month: Sam Stubbs
Greeters of the Month: The Martin family
Ushers: Troy High, Ron Reinink & Bill Wilder
Nursery Coordinator: Melissa DeJong



CHURCH NOTES:

The sacrament of the **Lord’s Supper** will be celebrated (and a special **Mercy Offering** received) on **Sunday, May 2nd**, during evening worship.

Wednesday Supper & Activities:

5:30 PM: Supper (catered meal; cost: \$3.50/adult, \$2.50/child, \$10 max/family)



May 05: Fried chicken, maca & cheese, broccoli casserole, rolls, tea & strawberry shortcake.

May 12: Lasagna, salad bar, French bread, tea & cheesecake with cherries.

May 19: Ham, mac & cheese, green beans, rolls, tea & strawberry shortcake.

May 26: Grilled chicken, baked potatoes, salad bar, rolls, tea & pies.

6:30 PM: Devotional & Prayer Time (adults); Catechism (children)

**There is a Session Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 11th,
7:00 PM, at the church.**



Saturday, May 8th, 9:00 AM:

Work Day & Cookout

(ages Jr. High and above; no childcare available!)

**Lunch will be supplied;
you work, you eat!**

Sign-up sheet is in the narthex.



The Ladies’ Morning Precepts Bible Study (an inductive study of the gospel of John) meets Tuesdays, 9:30—11:30 A.M., at the church; nursery is available. please contact Wendy Richards (877-3267 or 399-9276) for more information.

JUNE-JULY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS MONDAY, MAY 10th.



Men’s Fellowship & Prayer Breakfast (Pancakes!):

Saturday May 1st, 7:00—9:00 AM.

*The May edition of **TABLETALK** is available (free of charge) to all members and visitors; pick up your copy today!*

The church office will be closed Monday, May 31st for Memorial Day.