

address changes to The Highland Evangel, 3400 27th Street, Meridian, MS 39305 as 243900) is published weekly except for the week of the Fourth of July, as by the HIGHLAND BAPTIST CHURCH 3400 27th Street, phone—601.482.0191 www.highlandbaptist.net Meridian, MS. Telephone-Thanksgiving and Christi Meridian MS 39305. Tele Periodical postage paid at POSTMASTER: send ad

Pality<br/>February 15<br/>BIBLEFebruary 13<br/>John 16:1-16<br/>February 15<br/>John 16:1-24<br/>February 16<br/>John 17:1-26<br/>February 19<br/>February 19<br/>Colossians 1:15-23<br/>Golossians 1:15-24<br/>February 19<br/>February 19<br/>February 19<br/>February 10MRSERY VOLWNTEERS<br/>February 13

Lara Collum, Lisa jenkins

Todd and LeAnn Vick



Building Relationships with Christ, One Another, and the World

Volume 63

February 13, 2022

Number 7



# FROM OUR CHIEF OF STAFF... A Tale of Two Pastors

I would like to tell you about two pastors I have met in my travels through life. The first is a pastor who lives in Cuba, and the second is the pastor of an African American congregation in Montgomery, Alabama. The two men are very much different if you compare them using the criteria of the world, but identical twins if you use the Bible as the standard for comparison.

#### CUBA

I met this pastor at the home of Quinn and Mary Carlisle after a performance of the Patriotic Program at Highland Baptist Church. The people at this meal were Quinn, Mary, Martha (Mary's twin sister), Martha's husband, Mary's mother & her friend, and man and wife who did not speak English. The man asked Martha (in Spanish) if anyone present knew anything about Apple computers; and friends, at that time the party was over, and the game was on. I helped the pastor with his MacBook and downloaded many programs and files to the MacBook. He also invited me to his country.

I was blessed to be able to visit Cuba twice on mission trips where we attended small group meetings in members' homes, assisted them in setting up an audio mixing board, updated their projection computer and visited the unsaved in their homes. I am most definitely an introvert and addressing a group of strangers who did not speak English was as far outside of my comfort zone as I ever want to be.

What impressed me the most about this pastor is that he kept the main thing, the main thing. He remains focused on the Gospel and ministers as Jesus did. As a result, the Holy Spirit is at work in Cuba and the Church grows in a Godless, Communist country where it has been illegal to build a new church building since the Cuban revolution.

# MONTGOMERY

I met this pastor at the Church Revitalization Conference held at HBC (an event I originally was not very excited about), and it was outstanding despite my original misgivings. This man did not even hear about the Gospel until the age of 26, and he heard it at a worship service he attended for the sole purpose of impressing his boss and getting a promotion. He can tell you not only the date he heard and responded, but he knows the date, hour, and minute when his life was changed. He grew up in a single parent home and spent much of his early years, shoplifting, selling drugs and profitably breaking the law at every opportunity.

The Lord moved this man into the business world (before he had even heard of the Gospel), and he was quite successful and "moving up the ladder". He started his career cleaning the floors and ended up in the executive office. He is now the pastor of Flatline Church in Montgomery, and he is very much like my Cuban pastor friend in that he too keeps the main thing, the main thing and ministers as Jesus did. As a result, the Holy Spirit is at work in Montgomery and the Church grows in areas where the Gospel has not been heard.

# So, What Can We Learn?

I believe that our pastor is very much like the two pastors I have discussed, and we need to follow his leadership by remaining focused on the Gospel and keeping the main thing the main thing by ministering as Jesus did. The Holy Spirit is at work in our Church, and we need to continue to follow and to keep focused on the Gospel.



sign-in and give online. If you do not have an online give the app provides the option to create one.

TEXT GIVING. The number for text giving is 601-340-9409.

**ANNIVERSARY** This month Rick Snowden begins his 5th year as our Chief of Staff.



#### STEWARDSHIP REPORT JANUARY 30, 2022

Budget	23,587.38	CDC Req. to date	150,654.00
Child Development Center	.00	(6@25.109.00))	
Designated Total	2,100.30 25,687.68	CDC Receipts to date	103,260.50
Budget Req. to date (6@ 23,996		SUNDAY SCHOOL	229
Budget Receipts to date		MORNING WORSHIP	264