

"How unto Him who is able to do far exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think. To Him be glory and honor." Eph.3:20

This April newsletter is dedicated to my precious wife, Nancy, who has been faithful be my side 50 years since July 27^{th} , 1973 through thick and thin, better or worst, sickness or in good health, to this very day. Our celebration was on memory lane for Founder's Day alumni celebration. Only 3 of us showed for it! Pat Moody, Don Harp, and Nancy and I. It was a "flashback comeback" to be where we met each other on the first day of registration at Palm Beach Atlantic College in West Palm Beach, Florida.

In the mid 60's, God had stirred the heart of Dr. Jess Moody (pastor of FBC of West Palm Beach, FL.) to birth a brand new Christian college in the midst of shear turmoil across the nation's college campuses. It was truly an "Impossible Dream" that faced <u>untold roadblocks.</u>

Only until last week 50 years later did Nancy and I read the "whole story" book given to us "Miracles and Wonders written by Dr. Donald Warren, chairman on the board of trustees. I can honestly say with highest respect I have never seen a more godly business man (cardiologist) voluntarily pour his life into PBAU. It was countless hours in the most difficult financial pressures assisting Dr. Jess Moody's dream to raise millions of dollars over time from nothing with no accreditation at that time in 1968. Now it has become a growing university downtown impacting all of Palm Beach, West Palm Beach, and across the United States.

We were utterly flabbergasted at the amount of patience, prayer, and perseverance of multiple trustee members endured over all these years. Only with God's divine providence did they rise up to a school of godly integrity focusing every academic studies from a Biblical perspective

and our American Free Enterprise.

1969, my only 18 year mindset was where is a college for me? God placed <u>Don Harp</u> (picture above recruiter for PBAC) invited me to PBAC. In God's divine plan, Nancy in Dekalb College in Georgia after losing her best friend, Claire, in high school by death, later visited her parents in Jupiter, Florida. Through them her connection with college friends in Lake Park Church excitedly persuaded her for PBAC. We both met the first day of registration. 4 years of schooling and graduation in 73' I proposed to her on that <u>lonely sea wall</u> at PBAC. Two months later we were married! The sea wall now houses a 25 story condominium facing FBC WPB and PBAU!

Setting our feet on the soil now at PBAU 50 years later was a massive return **comeback flashback** that we truly can appreciate through "older eyes".

So ironically, Nancy and I also took that same path PBAC endured from 1973 graduation. Two months later in marriage, and two more years at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary from 1977-1979. That was only the beginning as we faced unexpected challenges in closed doors only to pruned us for more prayer with preparation, redirections, and studying. It even stirred me to wonder where was God leading us. Yet unknowingly it was preparing us for the court hall ministry chaplaincy at our courthouse. We realized no one had ever heard this branch of chaplaincy including NAMB until 2003 when we began Bridge The Gap Ministries, Inc.

All our challenges, disappointments, despondencies helped me to truly "empathize" better how to mentor families from the jail, our courthouse, and extended stay motels who are at the depth of despair. Over the years are reserved stacks of letter testimonies we treasure how only God could rescue each of these families from one simple Gospel contact.

Incomprehensible!

THE CHURCH IS THE BEACON OF LIGHT TO REDUCE OF CRIME AND BLOOD SHED

God said to Cain, "Listen! Your brother's blood cries (ambulance sirens) out to me from the ground. Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground." Genesis 4:10-11

Official Georgia records - 2021

Murders -745 Robberies - 4,103 Rapes – 3,076 Aggravate assaults –26,113

Burglaries – 19,385

Larceny thefts – 115,023

Vehicle theft – 18,680 Arsons – 662

Commercial sex acts – 159 Involuntary servitudes – 31

Metro Atlanta records - 2021

Fulton Co. pop. - 1,091,856 Murder - 204 Rape - 28

Murder - 204 Rape - 284 Robbery - 1,021

Gwinnett - pop. - 955,490

Murder - 3 Rape - 96 Robbery - 64

Cobb Co. pop. - 769,269

Murder - 35 Rape - 212 Robbery - 278

Dekalb co. pop. - 767,898

Murder - 151 Rape - 325 Robbery - 1,021

Clayton Co. pop.- 295,596

Murder - 33 Rape - 112 Robbery - 263

Cherokee Co. pop. - 270,375

Murder - 12 Rape - 48 Robbery - 10

Forsyth Co. pop. - 259,307

Murder - 1 Rape - 29 Robbery - 7

Prayer has always been the **SPOTLIGHT** that demolishes darkness instantly. We are praying for God's righteous fire of revival will reign in all of Gwinnett Co. and all metro Atlanta churches, schools, and businesses. But it has become very evident by these above statistics that Fulton, Cobb, and Dekalb counties have seriously declined in safety and protection except for Gwinnett Co.

Through perseverance in prayer, God is raising up leadership among the Fulton churches who have been negligent to shine the Gospel in their respective neighborhoods for years.

Under the National Trainer leadership of <u>Pastor Richard Dalton through Joshua Transformation Project</u>, First Iconium Baptist Church has held a training on <u>"How to Help Neighborhoods Create a "United Front" Against Gun Violence"</u>.

Please pray for these above counties struggling under the curse of violent crimes. 2 Chronicles 7:14 is God instructions to bond all the pastors and their congregation together in prayer to ignite action in practical community outreach projects.

DESPERATE FOR A REVIVAL OF THE RIGHTEOUS Principles of Fighting Spiritual Warfare

We all were born in sin with a sin nature from the fall of Adam and Eve and spiritually weak in our own choices. Satan, in his jealousy against God, has access to us to our carnal/fleshly mind to yield to it.

<u>DIVINE BLOOD OF CHIRST & HIS HOLY SPIRIT</u>—is God's only remedy for defense and offense against spiritual warfare.

DECEPTIVE spirit - an unbeliever is generally unaware of deception. Satan speaks into their mind words of lies that sprouts to schemes of manipulation. Without the Rule of Laws and consequences his fallen nature yields prey to a reprobate mind and actions. But one born again of the Spirit has a shield of faith against deception, yet must be on guard to Satan's daily schemes.

The thoughts in their mind is the depository of information they have chosen. Resources are their friends in gossip, husband or wife, coworkers, computers, books, magazines, TV or phones, <u>minus the BIBLE</u>. These create their behavior igniting drama if not put under control.

DOUBTING spirit – yields to hidden fears that God does not care about my needs or wishes.

<u>DISTRACTING spirit</u> - turning ones back against God to focus all attention to things and dependence on man's abilities for all answers.

DISGRUNTLED spirit - searching for hope in an empty well expecting answers for an empty heart.

DOMINATING spirit – surrenders to demands to control anyone in their way with cravings for lies, cheats, censoring, and manipulations.

DESTRUCTIVE/DEMONIC spirit – complete determination to destroy anything or anyone in their path that prevents them from having what they cannot get or revenge against anyone who stands in their way.

Whatever county or state you are in, the need for intercession on the premises of your courthouse for all our judges, commissioners and school board is so needed. Gwinnett County prayer team meets in our courthouse auditorium each Friday at 12 noon to intercede for all metro Atlanta county judicial governments.