God's Grace

A Testimony: He mended my family

By Tracy Hodge

Excellence runs in my family. So does addiction.

My father was a Morehouse graduate and extremely gifted artist, poet and jazz musician. He suffered from cirrhosis of the liver and ultimately drank himself into an alcoholic coma and died a few years ago.

People used to tell me I was just like him and, in many ways, I was.

I was considered a "gifted" student from elementary through high school. I played piano and clarinet, composed music, sang opera and wrote poetry and plays. In 1988, I graduated from Spelman College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in drama.

For the longest time, I thought that being crazy went with being an artist like with John Coltrane and Billie Holiday but I would soon learn that there is nothing glamorous about tragedy and misery.

No matter how much I excelled and was applauded, I felt insecure and empty. Growing up in church and knowing right from wrong didn't stop me from giving in to negative peer pressure. I wanted to fit in.

I was in high school when I started smoking marijuana and drinking alcohol. I was



Sis. Tracy Hodge and Family

at Spelman when a group of friends introduced me to cocaine.

That year, 1985, I began a downward spiral that would last for more than 20 years. At first I was a recreational user who snorted at parties but before I knew what was happening, I was using every day. I lost my children, my home, and my husband, who was also an addict.

One day last June, I finally heeded the voice in my head and asked for help. I knew if I surrendered God would fix me.

That's when I was referred to Antioch's Ruth Place and within six months, God had flipped the script. He healed my relationship with my husband, my children and extended family.

In His time, God answered my prayer, bound up that broken place in my heart and gave me joy and peace.

How do I love you? Let me count the ways

"I love you."

Those three little words hold a lot of meaning, but there's more than one way to say them. You might cook a loved one dinner or write him or her a letter or rub their feet to express your love. Children can show love toward their parents by being obedient or giving them gifts of chocolates. Here are 10 other ways, according to scripture, you might express love on Valentine's Day and every day:

- 1. Bless those who curse you
- 2. Do good to those who hate you
- 3. Pray for those who mistreat you
- 4. Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also
- 5. Whoever takes away your coat, give him your shirt, too
- 6. Give to everyone who asks of you
- 7. Whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back
- 8. Treat others the same way you want to be treated
- 9. Forgive a wrong done toward you
- 10. Be merciful, just as our Father is merciful





The Church at Antioch

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February 2009

Antioch Youth Academy set to open

The Antioch students prepare for end of course and other scheduled exams.

Administrators, teachers, counselors, media specialist, and counselors - present and retired - are needed to help, said Sis. Barbara Barnes.

"We are in an historical moment of change," said Barnes.
"Our children need our help.
The schools cannot do it alone. Parents cannot do it alone. Our congregation must help our youth to fast forward to success."

Public and private school students in 1st through 12th grades are encouraged to participate. The program will help all students, whether they are making good grades or not.

Barnes cautioned parents not to assume that "straight A" or "A-B" students don't

 $Continued\ on\ page\ 2$



There's a seat for you in Sunday School.

Study to show yourself approved

Sunday School has always been deeply rooted in the fabric of the African-American family and the overall Sunday worship experience.

Parents and children from generations past actively participated in this religious ritual in order to have a better understanding of God's word and to study with other Christian believers.

But attendance was more than just a ritual. It was in keeping with 2 Timothy 2:15 that calls believers to "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be

ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

This time-honored practice helped to biblically ground the believer and serve as a present help in the time of trouble.

Times were very tough in the "old days" as the believer typically sought refuge from the church, said Nevin Harton, one of four superintendents.

Harton said that Sunday School's role was to arm the believer with the Word of God through the Sunday School lesson, relate the lesson to pres-

Continued on page 11

Milestones in black history

Volume 2, Issue 2

Black History Month began as "Negro History Week," which was created in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, a noted African-American historian and educator. It became a month-long celebration in 1976.

*Thurgood Marshall was the first African-American ever appointed to the United States Supreme Court. He served from 1967 to 1991.

* In 1940, Hattie McDaniel was the first African-American performer to win an Academy Award for her portrayal of a loyal slave governess in Gone With the Wind.

* On Nov. 20, 2009, Barack Hussein Obama became the first African-American sworn in as president of the United States.

*The Rev. Cameron Madison Alexander, pastor of Antioch Baptist Church North, was inducted into the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame on Jan. 24, 2009.

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Antioch Baptist Church North • Rev. C. M. Alexander, Pastor The Church At Antioch

Continued from cover: Academy set to open

need help.

"Many straight A or A-B students do not pass the test the first time," she said. "They do not know test taking strategies."

The academy, which will hold classes on Tuesdays. Thursdays and Saturdays, will target skills needed to pass each exam.

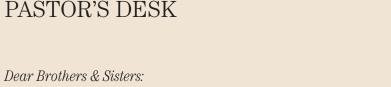
Parents and volunteers are encouraged to sign up after each service.

"Youth are our investment," said Barnes. "Who knows? Some senators or even the president of the United States may be in this congregation. The question is are you willing to lend them a helping hand?"

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



January 2009 was an awesome month. We started the month with the 1st Seven Words of Christ, spiritually uplifting sermons on the ministry of Christ Jesus presented by the ministers of Antioch. The Leadership Conference provided information and training for new leaders while the Installation Service introduced the membership to the Auxiliary/Minister Leaders for 2009. We thank our new and incumbent leaders for the acceptance of their charge. Dr. Louis Patterson, who was our guest preacher for our Stewardship Conference, provided us with an inspiring message. God will never multiply a blessing that he has given you. You must do that, A simple but thoughtprovoking message that empowers the blessed to be a blessing to others and to multiply the resources that God has given us. The Women's Division presented the "Women's Wellness Symposium" with Dr. Margaret Weaver who addressed the biblical basis for good health. Our Dreaming Out Loud Ministry celebrated the birthday of Dr. King in creative style and fashion with Bro. Aaron Jacobs and Bro. Devon Hunter portraying Dr. King and President Obama, respectively. We closed out our January fellowship with an Inaugural Prayer Service as we gathered in fellowship hall to watch the inauguration of President Obama.

We have just witnessed an emotionally overwhelming historical event – the inauguration of the first African-American president of the United States – President Barack Obama. As I watched the swearing in ceremony, I could not help but be reminded of the milestones in African American history that have led to this moment. I felt the spirit of our ancestors embrace this moment and rejoice in the knowledge that their sacrifices were not in vain. This is an historic and glorious moment! I am blessed to be a witness.

We will be celebrating Black History Month during February. We hope to continue the celebration of our history through the Connecting the dots series and the Civil Rights Lecture Series among many other events that are being planned. We invite you to join us in this celebration as we move forward in remembrance of the saints who have gone before, to encourage the respect and admiration for their sacrifice, and to inspire our children to follow their dreams and make them realities – because they can - as did President Obama. We need to encourage them to stay the course of righteousness to be prepared when pressed into service for the King – as did President Obama.

I must remind you that the struggle is not over. We must continue to work towards the attainment of a united America that respects the differences and embraces the similarities in all of God's children. Therefore, as Christians, and like those who have gone before, let us put on the full armor of God, pick up the banner of righteousness, and march onward. We shall overcome.

Now, let us prepare to celebrate our legacy.

Peace and blessings to all and may the Lord keep you forever in His care.

In God's service,

Rev. C. M. Alexander

Glencamp leads Lady Bulldogs in scoring

Antioch's own Autumn Glencamp recently led the South Carolina State women's bowling team to a strong finish in their final regular season competition.

The Lady Bulldogs finished strong winning 7 of 10 matches. The team fell short against in the first with North Carolina A & T 901-834 but then straight matches with Glencamp scoring a 245 in match two to help the lady bulldogs defeat Winston-Salem State 827-819. In the third match Glencamp bowled a 223 as the Bulldogs defeated Florida A&M 916 to 840.

She then continued her hot streak scoring a 266 against

Bethune-Cookman and a 216 team effort if against Norfolk State to give SC State a 953-797 victory over Bethune-Cookman, but would eventually fall short to Norfolk State 996-884.

At the end of the first-round competition Glencamp posted a 266 game high, a 1,134 high series and an average 226.

The Lady Bulldogs will go powered back to win three into this year's Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Bowling Championships as the number four seed in the South. The team has played extremely well down the stretch and will need to continue to play as consistent if they are to advance in the championships.

we are to do well in the Bailey.

this year."

"It's going to have to be a tioch Baptist Church, is the Rena Glencamp.

matches," said first year head coach Lorra "Evervone on the team is doing their part, but Autumn Glencamp has really shined as of late as she has recorded the second highest score (266) in the

Glencamp, a member of An-

conference Sis. Autumn Glencamp

daughter of Aubrey and Alison

Continued from cover: Sunday School

adequately prepare effective witnesses for the spread of the Rev. Cameron Alexander has gospel.

Sunday School also helped to define, shape, and mold the moral compass of its children, adults, and the overall Christian community, which helped to make for a better society. It which started a renewed interalso helped us to understand est in Sunday School. what was right and wrong through countless examples given in the Bible and explored during Sunday School.

"We all need a healthy diet of

In an effort to promote Sunday School attendance, the allowed the ministry to conduct quarterly joint Sunday School sessions in the church sanctuary to kickoff a new quarter's lesson topic. He taught the first joint session on Dec. 7, 2008,

the stage for this renewal is Pastor Alexander's active steps to conclude the 8 a.m. (now 7:45 a.m.) worship service by 9:30 a.m., allowing sufficient intermission time before Sunday School starts at 10 a.m.

This single change by Pastor Alexander has allowed a full hour to cover the Sunday School lesson and engage in active class participation, said Harton. He has also brought

back the tradition of the Sunday School superintendent reading the title for the day's lesson, the lesson scripture, and the lesson's key verse at the end of the 8 a.m. worship service to officially begin Sunday School.

"All of this is helping to set the stage for an increase in Sunday School attendance for 2009," said Harton.

He said that the first two Sundays in January have already shown an increase of more than 60 percent in Sunday School attendance over attendance in

"We need to continue this trend; not for numbers sake but in order to biblically equip as many church members for Christian service and witnessing so that we can help fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20)," said Harton.

Classes, listed below, begin each Sunday at 10am. Classes for every age group as listed helow:

Men Chapel

Women

Music Room

Married Couples

Sanctuary (Lower Center Pews)

Singles Room 2

Willing Workers

Burden's Rest

College Students Library

Seniors (Ages 15-18)

Room 3 Intermediates (Ages 12-14)

Room 9 Juniors (Ages 9-11)

Room 8

Primary (Ages 6-8) Room 7

Kindergarten (Ages 3-5)

11

Nursery

ent-day circumstances, and

The need and purpose for Sunday School is as compelling today as it was in years past, he said.

the Word of God and therefore should make regular Sunday School attendance apart of our church-going experience," said Harton.

Another change that has set

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C. Eric Alexander

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ADDED **MEMBERS**

Antioch added 16 members to the family, including 5, who were Baptized. The members, listed with their birth month, are:

> Andre White, February Tammie King, March Nikki Teasley, March Kai Hubbard, March Alyus Watson, September

The following persons received the Right Hand of Fellowship under Christian Experience

Vanessa Richardson, December Lauren Hill, May Natalie Sampson, February Jenan T. McNealey, December Yolanda L. Blackwell, July Lachieka Thompson, February Terrell Grayson, November Nia Lancelin, December Seleta Jones Crawford, May Cheryl Watson, November Marion Watson, November

Meet Deacon Vernon Woods...

Deacon Vernon Woods

Deacon Vernon Woods moves about quietly serving as president of Antioch's School of the Bible, assisting with accurately counting and accounting for the finances of

the church, and trying to keep up with his charmingly active son, Cameron. Here's what he had to say about his ministry when we caught up with him:

Q: What do you most like about serving in the Deacon's Ministry, and what excites you about being a member of Antioch?

A: I enjoy being a servant for the Lord. I particularly enjoy the fellowship at Antioch and, also, the ability to increase my knowledge of the Word of God.

Q: What is your favorite?

A: My favorite hymn is "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" because I need God to lead me in all my endeavors and guide my every footstep.

Q: What is your favorite scripture, and what advice do you have for maturing as a Christian?

A: My favorite scripture is Proverbs 3:5-6. We need to trust God in everything we do.

Q: What is your wife's name, and what advice do you have for sustaining a good marriage?

A: My wife's name is Laura. To maintain a strong marriage, one must pray

constantly and communicate with each other.

Q: What are your profession, your hobbies and your gifts?

A: Professionally, I am a Small Business Administration Specialist. My gifts include teaching and working with finances, and I try to dedicate them and ev-

erything I do to the Lord's service. My hobbies include reading and bowling.

Q: Do you have words of wisdom that you have lived by that may help someone else?

A: One must believe anything and everything is possible if you trust the Lord, and understand that we will never know everything. If you truly believe in something, you must pursue your goal even if you must go alone. I also believe that one should never say that he/she would not do something because we don't know what we will do in certain circumstances. Remember, to always trust God.

Youth attend GMBC 2008 convention

tist Convention's 2008 Youth Convention proved to be a time for growth and renewal, those in attendance said.

The four-day convention, held at the Georgia Baptist Conference Center in Norman Park in December, drew hundreds of youth from all over the region, including nearly a dozen from Antioch.

They included Alexia

The General Missionary Bap- Doward. Eric Branch. Roy Quinn, Andrea Trimble, Richard Corbett, Joncel Stephens, Amira Davis, Willie Rockward, Ja'Necia Wilson and Julian

> The theme for the convention was "Stay Connected". The scripture reference was Romans 8: 38-39 - "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor

things present, nor things to come ... shall be able to separate us from the love of God."

Seminars addressed everything from peer pressure to hip-hop and stressed the importance of church and praising God

Although peer pressure is often considered negative, they learned that peer pressure could also be positive. For instance, encouraging friends to

attend church or college and abstaining from pre-martial sex are all examples of positive peer pressure.

Despite Satan's efforts to destroy their future, they said they learned that God has the master mixing spoon for their lives and He allows trouble to enter to make them better and not bitter.

10 3

Spotlight on Maestro Zebulon Ellis

Zebulon Ellis was a junior and accountability. at Tri-Cities High School when he first expressed an interest in working with the Antioch at his father's church, Browns Music Ministry.

he got the chance to showcase his talent.

Cameron Alexander, asked Ellis to render a solo.

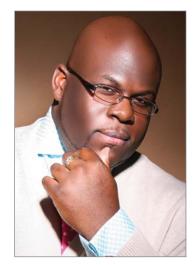
night, singing "My Soul's Been Anchored in The Lord."

playing the piano at Antioch group, Romans 8. ever since, sharpening his ministry and musical skills.

The Rev. Alexander, he said, had much more in made. He his work at Antioch came to a wanted to teach Ellis not only halt. He was relieved from his about ministry but manhood duties to take time to regroup

Since the age of 10, Ellis had been the director of the choir Mill Park Baptist Church. At It was during a concert that Antioch, he directed as well as gave his time and talent to the Junior Youth Choir, Adult To his surprise, the Rev. Choir and Male Chorus, all the while trying to finish his last semester at Morehouse He wooed the crowd that College and traveling with such recording artists as P.J. Morton and Ruben Studdard, Ellis has been singing and and his newly formed singing

He soon became overwhelmed and after graduating from Morehouse in 2006,



Bro. Zebulon Ellis

and grow.

Ellis has been honored to sing and/or play for dignitaries, award ceremonies, weddings, and home going services all over the country. He has

recorded music with the Pace Sisters for the motion picture "The Fighting Temptations," and was in the choir for the motion picture "The Gospel." In addition he was selected to be one of the house singers for the first season of Bobby Jones' Next Generation; appeared on Oprah; and out of 5,300 people who auditioned was recently named one of six people to compete as BET's Sunday Best.

A year and three months after leaving Antioch, Ellis's ministry has started anew.

Nothing gives him greater pleasure, he said, than rendering service unto his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

DSZROBBERHIREDHANDS EZHXUHVEPVMEZIJVWRH RPXORNGOSVUNAMEGZEC DQABUNSHIYRIDIAKZHR NOECALAAKCLNGTSYUPA USORKZDWWCEYEDTTLEE HUTDCDHENAKTLHOMEHS ESCPORSERIYELFLOWSY ZZCHLWVVTSINEKTZNDD THIEFAOPKFKIALLACOL TSOLEKLRBZDNDCJVTOO GEOHNFRIENDSPRVQCGF RLNTOYZQSRUOBHGIENP ECIOJERMXTJFYRQIYDE NMLRPMHABJEOODOORNE NVPEPNGMZXJNZLCNRIH IVELBNAMHCTAWRLXAFS SHHTUOOGDNANIEMOCKW SFSHAPPYTNEPERRXWFD

BIBLE QUIZ

Find the hidden words from two parables that Jesus told about sheep - The Good Shepherd and The Lost Sheep.

CALL	NAME
CARRY	NEIGHBOURS
COME IN AND GO OUT	NINETY-NINE
DOOR	ONE
FIELDS	ONE FLOCK
FIND	REJOICE
FOLLOW	REPENT
FRIENDS	ROBBER
GATE	RUNS AWAY
GOOD SHEPHERD	SEARCH
HAPPY	SHEEP
HEAVEN	SHEEPFOLD
HIRED HAND	SHOULDERS
HOME	SINNER
HUNDRED	STRANGER
JOY	THIEF
LEAD	VOICE
LISTEN	WATCHMAN
LOST	WOLF

Spikes soaring upward

Jeremy Vinson Spikes, a completing all requirements High School, is soaring to new heights.

DeKalb County recently awarded Jeremy, a freshman studying aviation at Middle Georgia College, a \$500 scholarship.

The scholarship recognizes student's academic track record. Spikes, who recently received his private pilot's license, has maintained a 3.6 grade-point average and completed 25 hours flying.

In addition, Spikes has been a member of the Boy Scouts of America since the age of 11. country flight requirement.

2008 graduate of Cedar Grove for the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest level of scouting. Since age 7, he has been a The 100 Black Men of member of Warren-Holyfield Boys and Girls Club of America, where he is now a lifeguard. He received a nomination from Congressman David Scott for 2007-08 U.S. Service academic.

> Jeremy is an active member here at Antioch where is involved in many youth programs.

> He is one of the 15 African-American in the Middle Georgia aviation program and is now preparing for his cross-

Can I be a Christian in the **Hip-Hop generation?**

An essay by Willie Rockward

For years that question has been asked. It was asked about jazz and soul, Rock n' Roll and even R&B.

The answer may lie in I Corinthians 9:19-23.

What the Apostle Paul is saying is sometimes we have to meet people where they are in order to win them to Christ.

Verse 19 says: "For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain more."

Sometimes, you have to meet people where they are to get them where they need to be.

When I was younger, my Dad had an old Honda Accord. In the summer, the air conditioner didn't work and in the winter you had to throw hot water on the hood for the engine to warm up. But he kept that car because it met him where he was and got him where he needed to be.

Jesus did this numerous times. Remember the lady at the well? She came for water but he knew she needed to be saved. He offered her "living" water.

Even in the midst of this hip-hop generation, that, too, should be our goal.

Can you be a Christian in the Hip-Hop or any generation? Sure, just be sure you're representing lesus.



Rev. Louis Patterson The Five Principals of Stewardship

2 Corinthians 9:10

- 1. Purpose: God sends a seed to fulfill our need. Use it first to perform a deed of righteousness.
- 2. Process: Blessings don't all come by Friday. Joseph came out of the pit, ends up in prison all to fulfill a purpose – help those in a famine.
- 3. **Power:** It is God that gives us the power to get wealth. The secret is in the seed. If I don't that seed in the soil, I'll never reap the harvest.
- 4. Planting: Activation takes place when the seed is planted in the good cause God ordained.
- 5. **Prosperity:** From every seed God designed prosperity. We must Love God with our whole spirit, mind and body. God responds to us the way we respond to him.

Antioch Baptist Church North • Rev. C. M. Alexander, Pastor The Church At Antioch

Three Miracles

On the Sunday before Martin Luther sustain the plane on the Hudson, He was King Day, before the inauguration of our nation's first African-American president, the Rev. Cameron Madison Alexander reminded Antioch Baptist Church North that God is still able to perform miracles.

On this Sunday, the one of witnesses saying "glory, glory," set aside to observe the Lord's Supper, he noted White House, which was three: the miracle on built by slaves. New York's Hudson River, the miracle on Pennsylvania Avenue and miracle of miracles - on Calvary. "God has exposed to us all of his powers," he said. "He has reminded us in these three miracles that he has been, is and always will

be able." Indeed, by the

time you think you've everything, Rev. Alexander said, God comes along and does the super miracu- for our sins, then rose on the third day.

economic crisis, home foreclosures, and record unemployment, God had wrought a miracle on the Hudson.

"I dare not give the credit to man's training," he said. "I do not credit a miracle to someone's science or their intellect or their being able to think fast. I give credit where credit is due. God is able and God is in charge."

He said, "I just got a feeling that God has a way of putting right people in the right place in order to carry out his mir-

Then, turning to the second miracle, he noted that just as God was able to

able to keep African-Americans through slavery and Jim Crow until he could raise up Barack Obama.

Although blacks came here on slave ships and were sold, he said God had kept us and that there was a great cloud

when the Obamas walked into the

Rev. Alexander said that the miracles on Pennsylvania Avenue and the Hud-

son were powerfully

read everything, seen everything, heard awesome but neither could compare to the miracle on Calvary where Jesus died

He said to applause: "I was sinking He noted that even in the midst of an deep in sin, but the master of the seas heard my despairing cry and from the waters lifted me and now I'm safe."

> The Church At Antioch is looking for you! Proud of the job you do or want to nominate your sister or brother in Christ to be featured in an upcoming issue of The Church At Antioch? E-mail your story idea to Sis. Gracie Staples at gstaples@ajc.com.



Come fellowship and enjoy our Youth Basketball Teams

Saturday, February 7, 2009

Antioch's 8 & under vs. Ben Hill-Walkers 11:30am-Ben Hill

Antioch's 12 & under vs. Ben Hill-Keno 3:30pm-Ben Hill

Antioch's 16 & under vs. The Rock Church 12:00pm-West Hunter

Saturday, February 14, 2009

Antioch's 8 & under vs. Bessie Branham 9:30am-Ben Hill Antioch's 12 & under vs. SACA

1:30pm-Ben Hill Antioch's 16 & under vs. West Hunter Saints

12:00pm-West Hunter

Saturday, February 21, 2009

Antioch's 8 & under vs. Adamsville (JP) 8:30am-Ben Hill

Antioch's 12 & under vs. Bessie Branham 2:30am-Ben Hill

Antioch's 16 & under vs. Rock Church 12:00pm-West Hunter

Saturday, February 28, 2009

Antioch's 8 & under vs. South Metro Bulldogs

10:30am-Ben Hill Antioch's 12 & under vs. Lakers 1:30am-Ben Hill Antioch's 16 & under vs. Springfield Baptist 2:00pm-West Hunter

Saturday, March 7, 2009

Antioch's 8 & under vs. Ben Hill-Allen 11:30am-Ben Hill Antioch's 16 & under vs. Calvary Baptist 2:00pm-West Hunter



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Antioch Baptist Church North • Rev. C. M. Alexander, Pastor

The Church At Antioc

The first seven words of Jesus Christ

These were the seven topics covered in the first words spoken by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Seven sons of Antioch delivered powerful accounts of those words in sermons preached on January 7, 2009.



Minister Daniel Shelton

First word: "I must be about my father's business"

Luke 2: 49 "And he said unto them, How is it ye sought me? Wist ye not know I must be about my Father's business."

Message: God's business is not just business as needed. It's a daily priority. It's following him even when you must make sacrifices and knowing who you are in Jesus Christ.



Minister Kelvin Turner

Second word: "Suffer it to be so"

Matthew 3:15 "And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now. For thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered him."

Message: Though he needed no repentance, Jesus came to John insisting he be baptized. Like Christ we must not only do what is necessary but what is of good report.



Minister James Hill

Third word: "Man shall not live by bread alone"

Matthew 4:4 "But he answered and said, it is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedth out of the mouth of God."

Message: If you want to live, if you want to be made whole, you got to have a relationship with the living bread - Jesus Christ. If you want to move beyond existing to living, feast on the word of God. It is infallible. It is eternal.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.

-- John 1: 1-12



Minister Darrell Arnold

Fourth word: "Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."

Matthew 4:7 "Jesus said unto him, it is written again, Thou shall not tempt the Lord they God."

Message: If God can bring a people out of slavery, sustain them in the wilderness, he can sustain and prosper them in the city. God has proven more than enough he loves us. Lord have mercy on us this year. May we pray instead of complain; mediate rather than murmur



Minister Lester Duncan

Fifth word: "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God"

Matthew 4:10 "Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."

Message: When we find our attention drifting to other things and people turn to Jesus. He faced all the temptations we knew and yet he did not sin.



Minister Terry Ladd

Sixth word: "Repent: For the kingdom of heaven is at hand"

Matthew 4:17 "From that time, Jesus began to preach, and to say repent: for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Message: Jesus didn't preach anything new. It was the same message that John the Baptist preached in the wilderness. Repent. It means a change of mine, a change of direction. It's more than turning over a new leaf. It's turning a new life.



Minister Eddie Bright

Seventh word: "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men"

Matthew 4:19 "And he said unto them, follow me and I will make you to become fishers of men."

Message: Jesus comes to the Sea of Galilee, finds two brothers and tells them to drop those nets and follow me. I am the doctor in a sick room. I am the way, the truth and the life. Stop mending your nets and follow me. Follow Jesus when reasoning outweighs your faith. When your sense makes more sense than Jesus' sense.

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