

# The Cross & Steeple

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August 2014

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## From John

I love basketball. Didn't play it much until seventh grade (except in the house with my sisters who were breaking mother's dishes and blaming it on me). But then I started playing.

I played on all kinds of teams – school, church, city, intramural, whatever. Even walked onto my college team for a month until I realized my future wasn't there. No NBA for me.

The basketball games I really enjoyed were all those I played after school with my friends. We would go to Donnie's house and play on his driveway for hours. Or I would go and play in the community centers in Nashville, especially Shelby Park. Walk in with a leather ball under my arm. "I got next". Play until you lose. Same thing in college at the school gyms or courts.

In the summer, I worked several years at Shelby Park. I would volunteer to watch the gym every afternoon. Then play basketball for hours in the not air conditioned gym. Your Nashville tax dollars at work.

And I enjoyed playing in my backyard. My daddy had found two long steel pipes and an old piece of plywood. He added a rim and net, dug the holes and put the basket up right on the edge of our backyard in the only flat spot of any size. If I missed long, the ball would bounce back to me from the back yard of the rental house next to us. I loved going out in the yard and just shooting by myself. Those two spotlights that just barely got any light on the goal. I would shoot right hand layups, then left hand (left hand, left side). Free throws. And play games against myself. Around the World. Horse. 21. Shoot. Get the rebound. Take the short shot. Again. Over and over.

I think that I was playing 21 that afternoon in the spring of my eighth grade year. I made my long shot, got the ball, hit the layup, then stopped. Put the ball under my arm. A teen age girl had run up the steps of the rental house. The new family just moved in. And she waved really big at me and said, "Hi, Chilly." Then she put her hand over her mouth realizing that I was not Chilly. She ran inside very fast, and I did not see her again for a month. I just stood there puzzled at the strange girl who had moved in. The kinda cute girl. After about ten seconds when she did not reappear, I dribbled the ball back out to the free throw line.

And that's the first time I ever saw Gloria. I would love to tell you that it was love at first sight. It was more confusion at first sight for me and embarrassment for her. As I dribbled, I did not understand that my life was changed forever. I did not comprehend that the new girl, the cute girl with the dimples, would be my Lady, my Love. That she would be more important to me than basketball. Or my friends. Or my family. That I would love her so much and she would love me so much that it makes the opening sentence of this story silly. Gloria is what love is.

It would be three years before we had our first date (to a church service). We would date for five years and three months as we finished high school and went away to college. I graduated on a Saturday. We got married on Sunday. And this August 30, we will celebrate our 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Gloria, I love you. Thank you for getting over your embarrassment. And looking beyond a sweaty teenage boy playing basketball to see someone you could love and want to spend your life with. I know that I am very fortunate – that "many men have good wives, but I have the best of all".

Gloria and I would tell you that we both know we are fortunate to have each other all these years. And that the main reason we are so in love is that we both try very hard to love Jesus more than we love each other. Jesus will always have first place in both our lives. And then He shows us how to love each other even more. That's called a Christian marriage. It is God who has made us one. Gloria really does complete me.

We would also tell you that we don't believe in love at first sight. But we do believe in God's grace. And His plan for our lives. He made us for each other. When Gloria waved at me, God smiled. He knew what was coming and it made Him happy for us.

I played basketball at that goal for five more years before my family moved. I don't think that I ever again looked at the goal without seeing the house behind it and thinking about the girl that lived in it. Wondering – is she watching? Does she see me? I love you, Gloria. Happy Anniversary.



August 19th is the official launch date of the new Northeast Alabama Extension of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. For the first time, affordable, accredited, theological education will be available locally to the people of northeast Alabama, southeast Tennessee, and northwest Georgia. This means that now you can continue to serve God where you are and with a short commute to Rainsville, AL, you can receive a certificate in Biblical Teaching, a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry (BACMin), or a Master of Arts (MA) or Master of Divinity (M Div). We are also excited to announce that there is now no "on-campus"

requirement. This means that now students do not have to travel to New Orleans or Atlanta to complete part of their training, but instead 100% of a degree can be completed through the extension center and online classes. If you would like more information, check out the seminary website [www.nobts.edu](http://www.nobts.edu).

If you would like to talk to someone a little closer to home find out what classes are being offered this semester, you can reach the director of the extension center, Zach Richards, at [rainsvillecenter@nobts.edu](mailto:rainsvillecenter@nobts.edu), or (256) 706-2478.

### Upcoming Events

Labor Day – Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>

Childrens' Choirs Resume –  
Tentative date – Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>

See You At The Pole – Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Congratulations to our new deacon, Joey Bobo.**



### Preliminary Shocco Report

We had 2 adults who attended the leadership conference on the weekend. Then we had 28 children/youth to attend the Mix and Remix Music Camp for a week. They were accompanied by two adult counselors (actually three adults split the time during the week). The early reports from the camp have been great.

Pictures and more details coming soon.

Most of the money for this camp came from church sources. Thank you so much for being willing to invest so much into our young people. We are fortunate to have a facility like Shocco. We are much more fortunate to have such wonderful young people.

### **Next year's Shocco Music Camp Dates**

July 13-17, 2015

Put it on your calendars now

"I had fun"... "It was not what I expected"... "We need to 'think outside the box'"... "God doesn't want us to just go through the motions"... "God's Spirit was really there, and we FELT Him"... were some of the descriptions our campers were sharing with us the Sunday following their return from camp. (Thank you to those brave young people who came to the front of the church to help us understand a little of what went on at Mix/Remix Music Camp.) It sounded like God really answered our prayers and poured out blessings on the week. It also seems that God answered our prayers about providing funds to cover the cost of that blessed week. Thank you for partnering in prayer, giving, selling, and helping in so many other ways. However God used you, we thank you.

As our church winds up another year and families wind up another summer, let's pray that we can put into practice lessons we have learned. What is God saying to you? How would He have you stretch outside your comfort zone - your "box" in the new church year? Would you pray that I will hear clearly and follow through, too, as I serve with you?

I thank you, Church Family, for allowing me to be your Minister of Music - and Pastor, I thank you for the allowing me to be your wife. (Happy Anniversary!)  
Because of Jesus, Gloria Morgan



Congratulations to the Collinsville Girls' Softball Ten and Under Team for Winning the Alabama State Tournament


We Are Thankful to Welcome Joey, Terrie, Zack, Rachel and Drew Bobo into the Fellowship of the Church. We Are Glad to Have You Back Home



### **Operation Christmas Child**

August:  
School Supplies

The best prices I have found anywhere are at the Dollar Tree.

~ August 2014 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Praying for Our School Kids Rally</b> August 3 at 5:00 P.M. at the Pavilion by Alabama Walking Track in Fort Payne All Ages Are Invited to Pray for Students and Teachers					<b>1 Birthdays</b> Ryan Beene Tangy Carter	<b>2</b>
<b>3 Birthdays</b> Deb Colbert Lona Perkins	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6 CBC KIDS</b> <b>PRAYER MEETING &amp; BIBLE STUDY</b>	<b>7</b> 	<b>8 Birthdays</b> Lamar Smith	<b>9 Birthdays</b> Ashley Cleland <b>Anniversary</b> Bob & Carolynne Gese
<b>10 Lord's Supper</b> J.R. & Donzella Bobo <b>Birthdays</b> Delilah Jones <b>Anniversary</b> Shane & Christine Barkley	<b>11 Anniversary</b> Lance & Stacy Mackey	<b>12 Birthdays</b> Pam Hall Juanita Rogers	<b>13 Birthdays</b> Mandy Jones Hank Appleton Mark Petty <b>CBC KIDS</b> <b>PRAYER MEETING &amp; BIBLE STUDY</b>	<b>14 Birthdays</b> Sonya Taylor	<b>15</b>	<b>16 Birthdays</b> Sheri Siniard Cecil Sharpe
<b>17 Flowers</b> Symphony Graves <b>Birthdays</b> Vicki Ross Jessa Adams	<b>18 Birthdays</b> Pamela Coker Brett Gifford Brandson Foster	<b>19 Birthdays</b> Rick Carter	<b>20 Birthdays</b> Dustin Carter <b>CBC KIDS</b> <b>PRAYER MEETING &amp; BIBLE STUDY</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24 Flowers</b> Susan Nelson <b>Birthdays</b> Carolyn Samples	<b>25 Birthdays</b> Leah Perkins Dan Tarrant	<b>26 Birthdays</b> Carolynne Gese	<b>27 CBC KIDS</b> <b>PRAYER MEETING &amp; BIBLE STUDY</b>	<b>28 Anniversary</b> Alan & Vicki Chambers	<b>29</b>	<b>30 Anniversary</b> John & Gloria Morgan
<b>31</b>	<b>The New Church Year</b> is Due to Begin Sunday, September 7 <sup>th</sup> . That Means that the Nominating Committee and the Stewardship and Budget Committee Will Be Meeting Soon. Please Pray for Them. This is also when we look at our Literature order Please let us know if we need to change what we are ordering for your class or church group.					

### News from the Ministry Meeting

1. A committee was formed and charged with the responsibility to make a recommendation to the church for a recreation area. The committee is Jon Perkins, Drew Bobo, Joey Bobo, Veda Carter, Allora Perkins, Stan Zulker.
2. A Disaster Response Committee was formed. They will make recommendations to the church for how we should minister in disaster situations. Members are Dee Fortner, Symphony Graves, Shawn Ross, Donnie Myers and Jimmy Carter. They will also work with Dekalb EMA.
3. A motion passed to remove a wall between class rooms to make more room for the 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade group.
4. Joey Bobo will be presented as a candidate for deacon at the next worship service.
5. A monitor for the video system will be placed in the back of the sanctuary where it may be viewed by people in the choir.

### Seeing and being seen: a devotional for a new school year



One of the things that summer does for us in the education profession is to restore our sight. We can easily lose our perspective as we near the end of the year – it is a challenge just staying focused as the tasks mount up. Summer gives us time to reflect – to see into the future, to look back, to see through some past problems/people, to soul search about any “blind spots” and “logs” (see Matthew 7:5) and to “look into” things that help us gain our balance and give us new hopes and dreams.

At the beginning of a new year, I encourage you to think about seeing. Will you take the time to truly see your students, parents, and colleagues and enter into their worlds? Will you recognize Jesus when he shows up in your school? Are you seeing the good or the bad in others? It likely depends on where you are focusing. Are we seeing beauty all around? It is essential that we help students see it, as beauty engages us and entices us to learn more – beauty is critical to the learning process. Will you take the time to see the needs of the world around you and through your keen sight provoke the missional imaginations of your students – to help them truly see as Jesus saw? Do you have a vision for the future impact, the ways God can use, each of those whose hearts and lives you have the opportunity to deeply impact?

At the beginning of the year, I encourage you to think about being seen. Not in the showy, attention-getting way that we first think about when we use the words “being seen.” Let me give you an example of what I mean. In his wonderful book, **Nudge**, Leonard Sweet tells this story.

*Many decades ago some men were panning for gold in the state of Montana. The prospectors organized themselves into an informal cooperative and agreed up front that if they should strike gold they would tell no one about their find.*

*After weeks of hard panning and digging, one of them found an unusual stone. Breaking it open, they were excited to see that it contained gold. Soon the prospectors discovered an abundance of the precious metal. They began shouting “We’ve found it! We’ve found gold! We’ve struck it rich!”*

*They then proceeded to go to a nearby town for additional supplies. Before leaving camp, they reminded each other of the pledge of absolute secrecy. While they were in town, none of them breathed a word about their good fortune. However, when they were getting ready to return to camp, they were horrified to discover several hundred of the local townsmen preparing to follow them. And when they asked who had revealed the secret of their discovery, the answer came: “No one had to. Your faces showed it.”*

How do you wish to be seen this year? What will students, colleagues, and parents see in you?