



# The Cross & Steeple

[www.collinsvillebaptistchurch.com](http://www.collinsvillebaptistchurch.com)  
[www.cbckidsgo.com](http://www.cbckidsgo.com)

May 2014

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## From John:

Graduation. Graduation presents. Graduation envelopes.

When our children got to their senior years in high school, they quickly learned about envelopes. Not the ones with graduation gift cash (boy, did they like those). It was the other kind of envelopes. The ones that did not even have to be open to deliver their message.

All of our boys worked hard in school (most of the time), got pretty good grades (almost all the time) and were busy with school and church activities (as in lots of nights with lost sleep). They also spent a lot of their senior years filling out applications. Applications for colleges and for scholarships.

Gloria and I talked to them about this process. We told them that they had to be prepared for people to say no. Say no a lot. To be told that they were unworthy for a scholarship or for admission to their college. They took their ACTs and SATs and did well (fortunately they never found my grades). And they got to work.

They all four applied to several colleges (I think the least was five and the most was about fifteen). These were all their choices. I gave them a list of scholarships they could apply for, and they went to the guidance counselor to find some more. They each applied for several scholarships (as many as thirty or forty).

We set up an assembly line in the front (guest) room. There were several stacks of papers. Letters of recommendation. Copies of grade transcripts. Essays they had written on four or five topics. Summaries of all their activities and honors.

Each application had its own form to be filled out. Then they would add the appropriate other materials (this one wants an essay about overcoming an obstacle, this one wants an essay about something I do to help others, etc.). Each application had its own deadline. There were many days we got to the post office at 4:28 with an application just beating the 4:30 closing time (a couple of times we called the post office desperately begging for a ten minute grace period). And then watched as the application went into the mail bag. Nothing else you could do at that point.

Except wait. Wait for letters. We quickly learned that there were two kinds of envelopes. Skinny ones and fat ones. The skinny ones always said the same thing – “because the applications were so plentiful this year we had to deny many highly talented people admission/a scholarship. Unfortunately, you are one of those persons. We are sorry to be unable to help someone as gifted as you. Good luck in your future which we are sure will be bright”. Skinny envelopes because they only needed one page to say no.

And the fat envelopes. “We are excited to inform you that you have been admitted to X University. We look forward to seeing you at orientation in a couple of months. Attached are forms you will need to complete and return to us. We know you will bring much to our school during these next four years.” And there were seven or eight pages of forms and info attached. And similar for a scholarship won.

So I would pick up the mail at the post office each day. I would look to see if envelopes were fat or skinny, then look at the return address. And I would know what the answer was from the school/scholarship. I would prepare to congratulate my son (fat envelopes) or console him and build him back up (skinny envelopes).

And we learned there were a few envelopes that were not fat or skinny. Some envelopes were in between with two or three pages. There was a nice letter saying that the school was not offering admission, but they thought enough of you that you were one of a few they were offering to put on the Wait List. No guarantees, but if more sites opened up, you might be offered admission. Send back the form telling us if you want to be on the list. So not yes or no. Maybe. And wait.

Each of our sons had enough fat envelopes to have choices as to which college to attend. And enough fat envelopes to have some scholarship money to help them there. And they each one got enough skinny envelopes to keep them humble. And they all made it through college.

Three kinds of envelope – skinny, fat, in between. Three answers – yes, no, wait.

That sounds an awful lot like the way God answers prayers. We should never make the mistake of saying that God did not answer our prayer. He always answers. Sometimes yes, sometimes no, sometimes wait. We like the yes answer. We hate no or wait answers. But He always answers.

And we need to come to terms with the fact that our prayers are not like putting a dollar in a machine to get what we want (I will say this prayer diligently and sincerely, and God will give me what I want). Our prayers should be about putting ourselves into His best will. I think that I remember someone in the Bible praying for what he wanted, but then saying, “not my will but thine be done”. His will. A fat envelope.



Got a Graduate? If you have a graduate in your family (high school, college, grad school, kindergarten, etc.), please turn in the name, school and, for colleges, majors. Or anything else you want to turn in to the church.

**Did you Know?** The church has purchased a **new van**. It will be going into service as soon as we have all the insurance information submitted. Let us know if you can help driving either van on Wednesday or Sunday. Or volunteer to help at church with the youth groups

## Sponsor a Note

### Help a CBC Youth/Child Go to Camp



Cost to send one child for a week - \$280

You can help by paying for a

Whole Note - \$280

Half Note - \$140

Quarter Note - \$70

See any leader for details

Make checks out to Collinsville Baptist

## Operation Christmas Child



May – Girl's Toys

We are still need Toothbrushes, Toothpaste and Small plush toys, Hats, gloves, scarves and boy's toys.

### **Annie Armstrong Offering.**

Church Goal - \$2,500

Given – \$3,208

Over Goal – \$708

To God Be the Glory!

Thank You for Your Generosity



DeKalb County Emergency Management has asked us to announce that you need to update your contact information for weather alerts. You may do so online at [dekalbcountyga.us](http://dekalbcountyga.us) or by getting a form to mail to the DeKalb EMA Office. The number is 256-845-8569.

June 1 – Welcome to Summer Fellowship June 3 is the date for the Alabama Primary Election.

You will be required to show a picture i.d. before you vote.

If you do not have one (e.g. driver's license, passport), you may get one by going to the Registrar's Office in Fort Payne

June 8 Pentecost

June 8-11 Southern Baptist Convention

June 15 Father's Day

### Vacation Bible School

Sunday, June 22 – Thursday, June 26

Music Camp – July 14-18

Shocco Music Leadership Summit – July 11-12



| ~ May 2014 ~   |  |                                      |  |   |  |   |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| Sun  | Mon                                    | Tue                                  | Wed  | Thu   | Fri  | Sat   |
| <b><u>Thursday May 1 – National Day of Prayer</u></b><br><br><b>One Voice, United in Prayer,</b><br><b>Romans 15:6 “So that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”</b><br><br><b>City Hall - Noon – 12:30</b> |  |                                      |  | <b>1 Birthdays</b><br>Jackie Myers<br>Donna Etheredge                               | <b>2 Birthdays</b><br>JoAnn Smith  | <b>3 CHURCH WORK DAY</b><br>8 – Noon<br>Anyone Who Can Help Is Welcome<br>Do You Have Any Suggestions for Work? |
| <b>4 Birthdays</b><br>Elisa Hernandez  | <b>5</b><br>Cinco de Mayo              | <b>6</b>                             | <b>7 Birthdays</b><br>Chris Hogeland<br><br><b>CBC Kids</b><br><b>CBC Youth</b>                    | <b>8 Birthdays</b><br>April Willingham  | <b>9</b>   | <b>10</b>   |
| <b>11 Lord's Supper</b><br>John & Amelia Dorr<br><br><b>Anniversary</b><br>Davis & Eloise Norris<br><br><b>Mother's Day Decoration Day Service</b><br>Collinsville Cemetery 2:30<br><br><b>No Evening Service</b>  | <b>12</b>                              | <b>13 Birthdays</b><br>Rhea Montpool | <b>14 Birthdays</b><br>Trinity Perez<br><br><b>CBC Kids</b><br><b>CBC Youth</b>                    | <b>15 Birthdays</b><br>Gary Burke<br>Eloise Norris<br><br><br>Hwy U.S. 11 Yard Sale | <b>16 Birthdays</b><br>Casey Mattox<br><br><b>Anniversary</b><br>Carol & Stan Zulker<br><br><br>Hwy U.S. 11 Yard Sale<br><br>Wedding at our church | <b>17 Birthdays</b><br>Emily Roden<br><br><br><br>Hwy U.S. 11 Yard Sale<br><br>Wedding at our church            |
| <b>18 Flowers</b><br>Margaret Myers<br><br>Hwy U.S. 11 Yard Sale<br><br>Baccalaureate<br>*Details below  | <b>19 Birthdays</b><br>Morgan Garoutte | <b>20 Birthdays</b><br>Debra Tarrant | <b>21</b><br><br><b>CBC Kids</b><br><b>CBC Youth</b>   | <b>22 Anniversary</b><br>Bill & Jerry Delk  | <b>23 Birthdays</b><br>Donny "Bear" Jones<br>Meagan O'Shields<br><br>Last day of school for DeKalb County  | <b>24 Birthdays</b><br>JoAnn Myers  |
| <b>25 Flowers</b><br>Sheila Smith<br><br><b>Birthdays</b><br>Elaine Smith<br><br><b>Anniversary</b><br>J.R. & Donzella Bobo<br><br><b>Memorial Day –</b><br>no evening service   | <b>26 Birthdays</b><br>Mamie Moore     | <b>27</b>                            | <b>28 Birthdays</b><br>Zebedee Jones<br>Zachary Wilkins<br><br><b>CBC Kids</b><br><b>CBC Youth</b> | <b>29</b><br>Last day of school for Fort Payne                                      | <b>30</b>  | <b>31</b>   |

\*Collinsville High School Baccalaureate at Collinsville Baptist 6:00 - Speaker – Rev. Steve Spears  
 (We Will Not Be Serving Refreshments at the Request of the School)



## **Memorial Day: Reflections on a Life of Service**

Sarah Jennings – Crosswalk.com

***You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. Galatians 5:13***

This holiday weekend we celebrate something that I think is sometimes hard for many of us to comprehend: the sacrifice of soldiers' lives for the sake of our freedom. In recent years I've heard many conflicted views on this matter. But I think it would be a mistake to see these brave men and women as merely victims. While each fallen soldier has a unique story, each soldier is a hero who willingly laid down his or her life for a greater cause.

I think part of our struggle to understand the fallen soldier comes with our difficulty in accepting sacrifice, especially when a sacrifice seems so final and appears to hold no obvious reward. The idea that anyone could give up everything - for people he doesn't even know - is hard to process. We spend so much of life trying to gain, to acquire, to win. Our country is home to the American Dream, the land of opportunity. So contemplating the fallen soldier can feel uncomfortable, even confusing.

I was pondering this struggle to embrace sacrifice at church. It was the Feast of Corpus Christi and our pastor was reflecting on Christ's willingness to spill His blood for our sake. Our pastor emphasized that the only appropriate response to a sacrifice of this magnitude would be to offer our lives in return. He put it in terms of worship, saying God first bowed down to us by becoming human, and now it is our turn to bow down to Him.

So often I meditate on Christ's sacrificial love, but fail to love Him sacrificially in return. I thank Him with my words, but do little to change my life. Yet this is what God desires of us. We call our soldiers "service men / women" yet that term should describe Christians as well. Just as sacrifice is required to secure our freedom as Americans, freedom does not exist independently of sacrifice in the life of the believer. Yes, the gift of faith brings us freedom - freedom from sin, freedom to be who God made us to be and to know God more deeply. But that freedom came with the price of the Cross and our gift of freedom is to be used for service.

It may seem pointless in some ways to acquire freedom only to turn around and serve. But two thoughts come to mind here. One, is that the free person who chooses to serve knows freedom unlike any other. He has no need of taking from others because his sense of worth comes from a higher source. I've often heard from those with true servant-hearts that it is only when we give ourselves away that we truly find ourselves. The second is a truth I need to constantly remind myself of when life seems hard or unfair: this life is nothing compared to the next. Anything we "lose" here is never truly lost if our lives belong to Christ.

*"So the last will be first, and the first will be last" (Mt 20:16).* A friend and I have a running joke about this scripture verse. We will defer to each other in attempt to win "last place" - to secure our first place prize in heaven, of course. While our motivations here may be a bit off, I've come to think it's not a bad contest. Grow your servant's heart by striving to take last place at least once this week - even if it's as simple as being last in line at the grocery store or serving yourself last at the dinner table.