



The Cross & Steeple

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February 2014

From John.....

It was a pup tent that was like the Taj Mahal. To a ten year old boy.

It was beautiful army green. An inverted V shape. A closed back and an open front (flaps that did not really close – all mosquitoes welcome). Held up by two wooden poles and held down by seven plastic stakes. Head room – almost none. It had a thin bottom that was guaranteed to leak if you tried to camp out in the rain.

Capacity – two ten-year olds or zero adults. Padding on the bottom provided by three old quilts, a hundred comic books, three board games and the remains of whatever non healthy food we managed to sneak out of our houses. Lighting came from our dads' flashlights with rapidly dying batteries and a few candles. Aroma from our tenny shoes made damp by the dew and left just outside the tent.

Doesn't that sound like the Taj Mahal to you? Five star accommodations. With included activities that went beyond Monopoly and reading comic books. Just outside the tent we could play lots of games that became much more dangerous in the dark (and so more fun). So we wandered around the back yard (have you ever played croquet in the dark?).

But mostly we just stayed in the tent. We had been warned by parents that if we wanted to camp out we needed to stay out all night. And not be too noisy (meaning don't keep them awake). And to leave the back lights off (no wasting electricity). They did leave the back door unlocked.

They needn't have worried. We rejoiced at being away from them. Total freedom. Within sight of my back door. We were busy being boys. Boys camping. Really roughing it. We told stories. Giggled. Played games. Giggled (but not so loud that it bothered my parents). If we had realized that there were children around the world who did not get to camp out, we would have felt very sorry for them. If you had told us that many children would not want to camp out, we would not have believed you (except, of course, for the half of the world's children that we had no use for – girls). We felt like we would have nights to camp out forever.

As the night wore on and the batteries got dimmer, we would eventually go to sleep. On the quilts under an old sheet. With Monopoly pieces poking into our backs. We slept the sleep of the innocent (or at least the sleep of the not all that guilty). We did not sleep late. As soon as the sun began to come up, so did we. We played another game or two. And then my friend (usually my neighbor Charles) went home where his parents had left his back door unlocked, and I quietly went into my house. To my room. And my bed.

I loved those camping out in the back yard nights. I do not remember what happened to the tent. I do remember it got worn places on the walls, torn places in the floor, rips near where the poles met the roof. Maybe my mother threw it away. Maybe it just got so worn that it blew away.

I just know there came a day when it was gone. About the time sleeping in the back yard lost a lot of its appeal. Childhood is like that.

And so is life. Did you know that the Bible describes life here as like living in a tent? Temporary. And given to wearing out. It says that our bodies are like tents that will be destroyed. But God has a building waiting on us. An eternal home. One day we will be so worn out we will just leave our tent here on earth and go through the door into heaven. God will leave the door open for us. You know – the door that Jesus unlocked. He'll be the one at the door with his arms open to hug you and will say, "welcome home".

You can read about this in II Corinthians 5:1-10. This passage was on my mind after going to several funerals recently. We bury the old, worn out tent (the body) and move on to a new body and a new home. And then the things of this world will make it seem like we were just camping out.



To the families of:

James Adkins, in the loss of his wife, Mary Nell Adkins.
 Johnny & Dean Patton in the loss of their granddaughter, Alex "Ru Ru" Patton.
 Danny and Jeff Chandler in the loss of their mother, Ola Mae.
 Lue Deen Perkins in the loss of her sister in law, Tommy Lee Franks.
 Ronnie McReynolds in the loss of his father, L.D. McReynolds.
 Carolyn Shankles in the loss of her sister-in-law.
 Linda Meadows, in the loss of her husband, Dan Meadows.

The DeKalb Baptist Association Child Development Center

(Mission Center) is currently seeking a Day Care Director. After 12 years of faithful service, Barbara Bell retired in January.

Please send resumes to Brother Ken at dom@farmerstel.com or take the resume to their office.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering For International Missions

Church Goal - \$3400
 Given to Date - \$3600
 Over Goal - \$200!



Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness. May God bless and use all the Lottie Moon offerings to bring glory to His Son, Jesus Christ.



Alabama Baptist DISASTER RELIEF

February is Alabama Baptist Disaster Preparedness Month

Learn more about what we do and have done as Alabama Baptists to help communities recover from a disaster.

For more information or for any questions, please contact Mondene Coker toll free at 1-800-264-1225, ext. 273, direct at 334-613-2273 or via email at mcoker@alsbom.org.

Sunday Evenings

For the next few weeks, we will meet earlier to make it easier to get to church and back home before dark.

February 2 – No Meeting –Men's Day Breakfast

February 9 – 23 4:00

Regular 5:00 Start Begins on March 2

Operation Christmas Child



103 million shoeboxes have been delivered since 1993. Let's continue to be a part of great mission opportunity.

It's Christmas all year long at Collinsville Baptist Church!

January – Toothbrushes/Toothpaste
 February – Small plush toys

"Thank you doesn't say it all, but at least it starts to let you know how very much your kindness touched our hearts."

The food was delicious, and we really appreciate the lovely flowers. Dad would have really gotten a kick out of them.

The McReynolds Family

The Chili Cook-Off continues, trash talk and all. Chili Queen Jennifer Wilkins graciously accepted the ascent to the throne of new King Shawn Ross. It is rumored that he won by "sympathy vote", since this was his first ever pot of chili. It was also observed that although Marty did not win, he had at least kept his title for more than two months. A motion was made that the challenge continue at every business meeting, but died for lack of a "second". Guess we wait until fall for the next great chili bowl.

~ February 2014 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Birthdays Charlie Godshall Jacob Preston
2 Flowers Lisa Gibbs Mens' Day Super Sunday Breakfast at 9 am Willie Underwood Singers at 11 am	3 Birthdays David Ryan	4	5 Birthdays Colton Pendergrass 6 p.m. Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Childrens' Choir 7 p.m. Adult Choir	6 Birthdays Brooke Jones Sarah Morgan	7 Birthdays Kimberly Brown	8 Birthdays Judy Jones
9 Lord's Supper Clyde & Sandra Killian	10	11	12 Birthdays Josh Alexander 6 p.m. Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Childrens' Choir 7 p.m. Adult Choir	13	14	15 Birthdays Adam McKinney Anniversary Bennie & Carl Clayton
16	17 Birthdays Jo Ann Burton	18 Birthdays Buddy Acker	19 6 p.m. Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Childrens' Choir 7 p.m. Adult Choir	20	21 Birthdays Rebecca Fields Mark Morgan	22
23 Flowers Marilyn Borntrager	24 Birthdays Clay Gifford	25	26 Birthdays Ashley Daniel 6 p.m. Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Childrens' Choir 7 p.m. Adult Choir	27 Birthdays Abigale Garroure Anniversary Phyllis & Mickey Jones	28	Notes:

Collinsville Baptist Church
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Upcoming Events

Cups of Blessings

Spring Retreat

Christian Ladies of Collinsville

Saturday, March 1, 10 – 2

Lunch Served at No Cost to Those
Attending

Worship Leaders – Claire Chandler,
Johnna Traffanstedt
Speaker – Ann Sisco
Please allow time for Trade Day
Traffic when arriving.



Annie Armstrong Offering
for North American Missions
Firmly Planted
Week of Prayer March 2 – 9

March 5 Ash Wednesday, Lent Begins

March 9 First Sunday of Lent

Daylight Savings Begins

March 26 – No Wednesday choirs

April 2 – Last Children's Choirs

Rehearsals

April 6 – Sunday Evening Children's
Choirs Program

April 20 Easter

How Did We Do on Missions Offerings During the Fall?

1. World Hunger Relief - \$475 Since September 1
2. Operation Christmas Child – our church gave 30 boxes that went to children in the Dominican Republic.
3. Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions – Our church goal for 2013 was \$3400. \$3500 was given as of January 11, 2014. We also learned that our church received an award for our giving to Lottie Moon in 2012. The reward goes to about 1/8 of Southern Baptist churches. It is based on the amount of giving per person in the congregation.
4. Typhoon Haiyan – This giving was done on an individual basis by individual members.
5. The Giving Tree – Many of you have faithfully kept the Giving Tree's branches stocked with food. We have been able to provide food to several families through this ministry.

6. Thanksgiving Food Boxes – The Ministerial Association carried about 32 boxes to families in Collinsville. Thank you for your donations.