



The Cross & Steeple

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August 2015

From John:

Son, son, son, son, grandson, grandson. Six straight males. Then Sarah came. A girl. And I discovered that I had a lot to learn. Gloria was fine.

Girls and colors. When we learned that a girl was on the way, Gloria began to wander the aisles of stores all over north Alabama picking out pink things. It was almost as if she had dreamed of having a little girl. I did not know there could be so much pink in the world.

And Sarah confirmed Gloria's choices. Sarah chooses her own clothes to wear each day. Pink and Purple. Or purple and pink. Yesterday, Sarah joined Mark, Elijah, Isaiah and I for a run. It was her first time to do that. In great excitement she ran onto the track. Shorts, T shirt, running shoes. And a purple tutu. "Sarah, you have on a purple tutu." "Yes, it makes me really fast. I always wear a tutu to run." And she did run. Very fast.

She is not afraid of anything. Last month when we were all at the beach, there she was. Five years old and looks like she weighs six pounds. But straight into the ocean she would go. The fact that she cannot yet swim not slowing her down. The last day the waves were big enough to keep most adults out. Not Sarah. Jumping, laughing, getting drenched. Mark and I trying to herd her to a safe place. Not interested. And no, not ready to go in yet. One more wave. Last year Sarah was walking along the edge of a rock wall. About two inches wide. I was afraid for her. Mark looked at me and said, "she won't fall. She never falls." And she didn't.

Sarah is her own person. Very female. Curly hair everywhere. Even when she is down in the floor building with Legos. Hers are pink and purple. They make it easy for her to see if her big brothers are swiping her Legos. But build she does. And woe to the brother that bothers her building.

She often goes to Sarah World. Tunnel vision. She never gets into trouble in church because when my sermon starts she is on the floor playing with toys on the pew. So deep into Sarah World that she can play for an hour without saying or doing anything else. I do wish that I could know what she is thinking and seeing there.

I also had to learn about princesses, especially Disney princesses. Oh, I knew about Snow White and Cinderella (I've even been to her castle). But Disney has figured out that about half of all children are girls. And they have really marketed to those girls. Those toys Sarah and Hannah play with during church – plastic figures of Disney princesses. Ariel, Pocahontas, Belle, Sophia. And Elsa and Anna. (Riding back from Atlanta with them, I mentioned *Frozen*. Elijah and Isaiah immediately said, "No. Not 'Let It Go'". Please don't sing it again.)

Sarah definitely embraces being a princess. Crowns. Scepters. She sometimes bestows her favor with scepters/wands a little too hard. She has broken many. I gave her a homemade one with a large dowel rod for a handle. It didn't break. But it did get confiscated by parental figures for tapping siblings a little too hard.

Not that she cannot be warm and cuddly. Especially when she is cold. And will crawl into my lap and let me hold her tight. I love that. (Can you tell this princess continues to wrap me around her finger? She moves me to tears just thinking about her. As do the five other grandchildren.)

At her brothers' ball games, Sarah will often be Silly Sarah. Laughing and giggling. Tickling me. She will stand on my knees and jump over and over. She will tell me that she is jumping to the moon. And leap mightily. And then do it again. "Can you bring me something from the moon Sarah?" "Yes." Big jump. Back in my lap. "Here Papa John". What does a person bring from the moon for her grandfather? "It's a Moon Pie".

George Bailey in *It's a Wonderful Life* – Do you want the moon? I'll lasso it for you. Sarah Morgan – I jumped to the moon and here's a Moon Pie. Shouldn't I have known that? "What flavor is it Sarah?" "Strawberry, my favorite."

She jumps again and brings me vanilla or chocolate or orange. I take a big imaginary bite of each one. She gets sillier and suddenly has a very mischievous look on her face as she hands me another Moon Pie. I take a big imaginary bite. Oooh. That's awful. What kind is it? "Spiders". Huge laughs. Followed by snake and worm and dirt flavor. She once made us imaginary eye ball soup. Silly Sarah.

And then she will calm down a little. And stand on my leg so she can look out over the top of the fence at the field. And she will smile happily looking all around. Not at her brother playing ball. But at her domain.



Princess Sarah
with One of Her
Favorite
Attending
Ladies

Do you think it's okay to let little girls act like princesses? I read about a private girl's school that had signs around campus saying No Princesses Allowed. I get what they are saying – girls should not spend their lives hunting for a mythical Prince Charming when there are so many princes who are frogs. Or toads. The Disney princesses now are brave and able to fend for themselves.

I also read that the new Common Core wants children to read much more nonfiction and much less fiction. They think that children need to be more grounded in historical facts and social studies. So less fiction.

No. No. No. Children need to read much more fiction. Stories that will help them to dream and imagine. C. S. Lewis said that he thoroughly believed that “sometimes fairy stories say best what needs to be said”

Why do we shove children out of childhood? Steal their precious time when they can dream. Can go to Sarah Land. Or Elijah Land. Or (your name here) Land. Let children be children. What's wrong with make believe? If you do it like a Christian.

And recognize that Christians have a lot in common with Fairy Tales. Don't think so? How about this – when wish upon a star...anything your heart desires will come to you (Jiminy Cricket). Christianity – Before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet ...I know the plans I have for you Jeremiah 1; 29. Acts 2 Your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. God has an amazing plan for our lives. We must imagine and dream until we find his dream for our lives. Never be too old to dream. Learn it early.

Or this – someday your prince will come – Snow White Christianity – Someday Jesus will come for you and you will be part of a wedding feast with him. He will claim you as his bride and you will be him forever. Revelation 19

Or this – the end of every fairy tale – And they all lived happily ever after. Christianity – He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. Revelation 21 How's that for happily ever after. Forever.

Sarah will begin school next week. “Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown.” Shakespeare. She has two ladies-in-waiting to carry on the realm – her sister Hannah and her cousin in Connecticut Gloria. I hope her teacher realizes how fortunate he/she is to have her in her room. And may she, like you and I, continue to become the great person God made us to be.

Upcoming Events

**First Day of School for Students --
Fort Payne and Collinsville**
Thursday, August 6

Thursday, August 27 - High School
Football Starts Football Dinners at
Churches. Let us know if you would
like to help.

See You at the Pole
Wednesday, September 23

Collinsville Quilt Walk
Friday, September 25, 2015
Noon until 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, September 26, 2015
10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Our Church Building Will Be Part of
the Tour, Workshops, Tram Rides,
Over 300 Quilts. Tickets \$10

Operation Christmas Child
School Supplies

News From the Ministry Meeting

1. **Luke Laney was elected Minister of Youth.**
2. **Rules for use of church building are being revised.**
3. **Committee on building changes and additions will be meeting.**



Shocco - 45 youth and children 4 adult counselors + 2 adults
attended leadership conference the weekend before

Adult leaders - Leah Perkins, Rachel Burke, Luke Laney, Belinda
Barksdale

Leadership attenders - Shawn and Debra Ross

~ August 2015 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Church grounds – We are sure that you have noticed all the changes around the Church grounds. You may have also noticed people wandering around the edge of the building most days at dusk (or just after). That is volunteers continuing to give TLC to the new plants with lots of water.						1 Birthdays Ryan Beene Tangy Carter Pati Rivera
2	3 Birthdays Deb Colbert Lona Perkins	4	5	6 Birthdays Alex Avila	7	8 Birthdays Lamar Smith
9 Lord's Supper J.R. & Donzella Bobo Birthdays Ashley Cleland Anniversary Bob & Carolynne Gese	10 Birthdays Delilah Jones Anniversary Shane & Christine Barkley	11 Anniversary Lance & Stacy Mackey	12 Birthdays Pam Hall Juanita Rogers	13 Birthdays Hank Appleton Hannah Bishop Mandy Jones Mark Petty	14 Birthdays Sonya Taylor	15
16 Birthdays Sheri Siniard Cecil Sharpe	17 Birthdays Kim Wilkins Donovan Smith Vicki Ross Jessa Adams	18 Birthdays Pamela Coker Brett Gifford Branson Foster	19 Birthdays Rick Carter	20 Birthdays Dustin (Blu) Carter	21	22 Birthdays Tasha Mancill
23 Flowers Symphony Graves Birthdays Diego Guzman	24 Birthdays Carolyn Samples	25 Birthdays Leah Perkins	26 Birthdays Carolynne Gese	27	28 Anniversary Alan & Vicki Chambers	29
30 Flowers Susan Nelson Anniversary John & Gloria Morgan	31	The newsletter is now available by email. If you would prefer to receive yours electronically, please send an email to mamiemoore@hotmail.com with your name and email address.				

Please remember in prayer

The Nominating Committee
 The Stewardship Committee
 A driver for Wednesday nights.



Can you help? Will you?

Collinsville Baptist Church
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Fort Payne, AL 35967



How will this year be different for you?

By [Edward Sowden](#)

New friends, old friends, nice teachers, scary teachers, a packed lunch, compulsory uniform and a fresh timetable. Going back to school is a day that inevitably comes each year. Some love it, others hate it or perhaps you just go through the motions indifferently. Regardless of how it makes you feel you have to go, so how will you make the most of it? How will you make this year at school worthwhile? It's time for you to step up!

School is an incredible place where you meet hundreds of young people and spend time with them 5 days a week for approximately 40 weeks a year. That presents an amazing opportunity to witness and share the gospel with so many people. In fact the best people to reach out to these students are students. The way you live and talk to your friends can be very powerful.

As a Christian, school ought to be looked at as one of the ultimate mission fields. Here are a few ways you can stand out and step up when you go back to school this year:

- MEET ([Hebrews 10:25](#)): Find out if there is a Christian lunchtime group at your school, and then join it or start one. Then bring your friends.
- TALK ([1 Peter 3:15](#)): When your friends ask what you did on the weekend, tell them about youth group or church and then invite them along. Tell your friends about your faith.
- LIVE ([Matthew 5:16](#)): Live like Jesus. Don't get caught up in gossip, materialism, slander or any ways of this world. But be different and people will notice, then you can point them to Jesus.
- PRAY ([Colossians 4:2](#)): pray for your mates, that they might come to know Jesus because prayer is powerful.

So as another year starts and the weekly cycle begins again, make a difference! Be bold and stand out for Jesus. Don't waste the time you have now and the opportunities that come at school. Whether you are in year 7 or year 12, at a public school, private school, Christian school or secular school, Jesus died for all our sake and he has sent us out to make disciples of all people. So why don't you start now?!