



The Cross & Steeple

www.collinsvillebaptistchurch.com

May 2015

From John

It was 11 at night, and I was walking by myself through Times Square. Or as by myself as a person can be in the middle of thousands of people.

Times Square is never empty, never without life and lights and noise and action. I had come to New York City with Matthew and a friend for a high school graduation trip. They were elsewhere, so I was walking alone in Times Square.

Times Square is formed by Broadway crossing streets and avenues at an angle. As I entered the area, I was looking across the Square at the old Times building. You know the one – the building that we have all watched every year on New Year's Eve. The place where the crystal ball/apple descends.

I was not there on New Year's Eve, but it was still crowded. Everywhere you looked flashing lights (the neon lights on Broadway). And huge signs. Some of them giant video screens. Ads 20 stories high on buildings. A symphony of taxi and car horns and squealing brakes as vehicles leave behind clouds of exhaust fumes.

Everyone in a rush. Street entertainers dancing on the sidewalk ahead of me to music from their boom box. People dressed formally as they returned from a Broadway show. People carrying posters and T shirts from the just ended concert uptown. Police and electrical workers. Delivery people. People running up and down the Subway entries. People like me hunting for a quick late night supper – McDonald's? The new ESPN restaurant? Tourists gawking and holding their purses tight to their bodies. Everyone in a rush.

As I tried to take in as much of it as I could, I noticed a bit of yellow moving in the traffic to my left. It was a school bus. At 11 at night. But what made really unusual to me was the riders on the bus.

The bus was filled with Hasidic Jews (you know – men with beards and side locks and stern black suits with white shirts and black hats). There were only men on the bus. I was walking at about the same pace as the bus moved for about a block. It seemed to glide beside me in the slow, steady flow of traffic. Most of the men were not looking out the windows. None of them were smiling. They seemed totally unaffected by all that was going on in the Square. One of them turned his head just enough to look at me. I smiled. He turned his head back with no change of expression to indicate he had seen me or that I existed.

I wondered where they had been and where they were going. Why were they out at 11 – a wedding? A class? But mostly I thought about how odd they looked in Times Square. How little they seemed to belong there.

And then enough lights changed for the bus to pick up a little speed and glide on past me and out of the Square, looking more like a boat moving through water than a bus moving through traffic. They left Times Square as if they had never been there. And I was the only one that seemed to notice them.

I know what you will say to me. Yes, I know that their dress goes back to at least the 1700's and is an expression of their faith. Yes, I know that Hasidim are known for the joyous expressions of their faith. I have even seen some of them dance and rejoice in worship. And, yes, I know that New York has a huge population of Jews and of Hasidic Jews. I understand that they belonged there more than me. I was the oddity in Times Square. I am sure that locals could pick me out as a hick from the South.

It was just the way the bus went through the area. It looked like a bus full of time travelers moving untouched through the most modern of places, sailing unchanged down Broadway on their way back home.

I think about that bus often. Because I worry that the bus was a lot like we Christians often are. Content and happy to move through the world as long as we can escape touching it or having it touch us. Looking as if we are stuck in the last century if not the eighteenth.

We sometimes struggle to describe the relation between the Church and the World. The best summary is this – the Church is to be in the World, but not of the World. The Church is like a ship moving through a sea of sin. We are in the sea on a ship - not part of the sea. We are not old fashioned. We are going toward a new home – bound for the promised land. And I would add this. We are to be a rescue ship. We must continually call to those in the water to come join us on board the ship of Church. Leave that Sea of Sin behind. We did.

Go and make disciples of all nations...I am with you always to the very end of the age. Matthew 28:19, 20 Or maybe you would be more comfortable not with a rescue ship but a fishing boat – Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men. Mark 1:17

These were just a few thoughts for Pentecost on May 24, the birthday of the church.

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|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| 40 Days of Prayer for Moral and Spiritual Awakening Focusing on Biblical Marriage. Beginning on April 28, as the US Supreme Court Begins Deliberations on Marriage Sponsored by Alabama Baptist Convention Go to http://www.alsbom.org if you want more information | | | | | 1 Birthdays Donna Etheredge Jackie Myers | 2 Birthdays JoAnn Smith |
| 3 Flowers Susan Nelson Birthdays Jarrod Barkley | 4 Birthdays Elisa Hernandez | 5 Birthdays Cadence Amison | 6 | 7 Birthdays Chris Hogeland | 8 Birthdays Samantha Morales April Willingham | 9 |
| 10 Lord's Supper John & Amelia Dorr | 11 Birthdays Lizneidi Guzman Anniversary Davis & Eloise Norris | 12 | 13 Birthdays Rhea Montpool | 14 Birthdays Trinity Perez | 15 Birthdays Gary Burke Eloise Norris | 16 Birthdays Casey Mattox Anniversary Carol & Stan Zulker |
| 17 Birthdays Emily Roden Decoration Service at Cemetery 2:30 No evening service | 18 | 19 Birthdays Morgan Garoutte | 20 Birthdays Debra Tarrant | 21 | 22 Anniversary Bill & Jerry Delk | 23 Birthdays Donny "Bear" Jones Jaden Jones Meagan O'Shields |
| 24 Birthdays JoAnn Myers No evening service |  25 Birthdays Elaine Smith Anniversary J.R. & Donzella Bobo | 26 Birthdays Mamie Moore | 27 | 28 Birthdays Zebedee Jones Zackary Wilkins | 29 | 30 |
| 31 Flowers Carolyn Shankles Birthdays Josh Dutton | Special Speaker – May 31 Rev. Ken Allen Ken is our new DOM (Director of Missions, or Associational Missionary as it used to be called). Ken comes to DeKalb Baptist from the Cullman area. He began serving us in April. We are thankful to have in our association and will welcome him to DeKalb Baptist for the Sunday morning service. | | | | | |

National Day of Prayer
Thursday, May 7

The theme for 2015, the 64th
annual observance is

Lord, Hear Our Cry

The Scripture for this year: *"Hear
the cry and the prayer that your
servant is praying in your presence
this day."* I Kings 8:28

Mother's Day
Sunday, May 10

Decoration Day Service
Collinsville Cemetery at 2:30

**Collinsville High School
Baccalaureate**
At the Harvest Center
Sunday, May 17 at 6:00

**Collinsville High School
Graduation**
Tuesday, May 19

Last Day of School
DeKalb Schools – Friday, May 22
Fort Payne Schools – Thursday,
May 21

Pentecost
Sunday, May 24

Shocco Springs Choir Week
July 13-17

Vacation Bible School
Sunday, June 21 – Thursday, June
25

Father's Day
June 21

Southern Baptist Convention
Columbus, Ohio
June 13-17

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
For North America Missions
Church Goal - \$2600
Given - \$1961
Failed to Meet Goal - \$639



Graduation 2015 Is Coming
Up
Please Turn in Name of Your
Graduates
Call the Church Office
Include Major in Any College Graduate



Smoke on the Mountain
Presented by Theatre of Gadsden
Ritz Theatre
May 8th, 9th, 15th & 16th
\$8 Groups, \$10 Students/Seniors,
\$12 General

Did you know? Even though the choir year has ended, youth and children continue to come to learn and to serve on Wednesday nights. There are about 20 4th-6th graders and 30 youth (seventh grade and up) attending. Come see if you have the energy to be involved with these children, youth and their leaders.



Special thanks to Susan Nelson and her wonderful work crew – Mark Delk, Terrie Bobo and many, many others - for lovingly feeding our children and choir leaders meals each Wednesday night. They were able to feed 60-70 a night meaning hundreds (thousands?) of meals were served since September. Thank you for your witness through your love and service.

And we would be remiss if we did not thank Symphony Graves, Mark Delk, Stan Zulker, Donnie and Margaret Myers and all those who helped with the huge landscaping project on the church grounds. And to the Baptist Men for Sunrise Breakfast. And to Zack Bobo for putting the three crosses on the church lawn for Lent.

Youth Fund Raisers for Shocco

1. Boston Cut \$25
Cooked by Barry's BBQ
To Be Delivered May 9 In Town
Call 256-717-4268 With Questions

2. May 16-17 Doughnut and Other Sale
Antique Alley Yard Sale Weekend



To the family and friends of Bill
Cook, who went home to be with
the Lord Tuesday, April 21st.

Collinsville Baptist Church
P. O. Box 558
Collinsville, AL 35961

Non-profit Permit Imprint
Permit Number 2
Fort Payne, AL 35967

Remember!

By Ann Shorb

Psalms 105:4, 5 and 8

Seek the LORD, and His strength: seek His face evermore. Remember His marvelous works that He hath done; his wonders, and the judgments of His mouth . . .

He hath remembered His covenant for ever, the word which He commanded to a thousand generations.

Memorial Day is set aside to remember those who have fallen in our nation's wars. Sadly, the day will pass and most of us will be so caught up in picnics, family gatherings, or outdoor projects that we won't even give much thought to the real meaning of the day. That's too bad, because remembering does many things. It brings me back to the reality of what actually happened. It also encourages me to see the dedication of those who fought and died. Remembering stirs within me a sense of gratitude and appreciation, and it strengthens my resolve to do my part in serving God, country and others.

Throughout the Bible, God's people are instructed to stop and recall what He did for them. Psalm 105 is a song of remembrance of God's goodness to His beloved ones. It traces His direction, provision and protection through their history and the lives of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses. As believers in the 21st century, we can look back over a much longer history and see how God's plan has and is unfolding, and observe His incredible goodness to us.

Psalm 105:1-5 shows the natural progression of what happens when I pause to remember—I give thanks to Him and continue calling on Him. I sing of Him, and talk with fellow believers of all He has done. Then I must go tell others of His greatness. When I stop to trace the work of God's hand in my life and in the world around me, these things just come naturally.

But the key to being able to rejoice in the past is not found in counting the number of good things that have happened, but in remembering that God remembers! I can rejoice because He never forgets His plan and He never forsakes His promises. Even when life is tough and things don't seem to make sense to me, I can rest assured that He is in control and He is working out His plan. He has my best interest at heart. Knowing this encourages and strengthens me, and pushes me to do my best to live for Him.

A song that was popular when I was younger went something like this:

"When I remember the cross that He bore,
When I remember the thorns that He wore,
My heart cries out, 'Oh Christ divine, I'm thine forever!'
When I remember what He did for me."

I encourage you, my friend, at this Memorial season, take time to remember.

Dear Father, help me daily to look back at Your faithfulness and praise You for being a God who remembers.