



The Cross & Steeple

www.collinsvillebaptistchurch.com

April 2016

Abel Was Able

There was a knock at the back door. There were four Hispanic men standing on our back steps.

At this time, our church had a Spanish language service each Sunday afternoon in our fellowship hall. Gloria and I had gotten to know most of the regular attendees. The men at our back door were from that group.

I speak enough Spanish to amuse people who speak Spanish. I am told that my accent, learned in high school, is Spanish as spoken in Spain, not Latin America. Then there is my very limited vocabulary. Lots of polite and impolite smiles when I speak Spanish for a length of time.

But in this case, I had to try. None of these four spoke much English. We sat down to communicate in smatterings of two languages. Great chances for being misunderstood.

After a few polite buenas tardes and como estas, we got to the purpose of the visit. The one who spoke the best English finally conveyed to me that one of the others needed something. I braced myself. What would he need?

As well as I remember, his name was Abel. Turns out that he was going back home to Guatemala. I told him how much we would miss him in Collinsville. There was a pause. I waited. Abel wanted something more.

He was not going to Guatemala to take care or reunite with family. Not for a job or saving a family business. Finally through the haze of words from uncommon languages, they made me understand that Abel was going to Guatemala to witness. To share the Gospel. To be a home missionary in his home country. And that he needed something from me and/or our church.

My mind worked quickly. He needs money. How much money do we have in the Men's mission account? Could we take up a special offering? Could Gloria and I give some to his mission? What should I do?

I had noticed he had what looked like a boom box with a microphone. A version of Mr. Microphone. Abel showed it to me. He was going to use it to speak in busy places or small villages. I figured that he needed a lot more equipment. Did we have any used audio equipment at church? How long did we have to get money together for him? I presumed we had several weeks.

No. He was leaving that week. He already had his plane ticket.

"How can we help you?" I asked in a smattering of English and Spanish.

Finally, I learned what Abel wanted. He had come to my house to ask me to pray for him. That was all he wanted or asked. I was ashamed of my certainty that he wanted money or assistance. He wanted my prayers.

Abel had decided on his own that God wanted him to go to Guatemala and share the gospel. He went to Trade Day and bought a used Mr. Microphone. Bought a plane ticket. And was leaving in a day or two. All in a week. He was leaving everything here to go there. And the only other prep he needed was prayer. From me. And, boy, he sure got my prayers as we gathered around him in my living room and tried to pray heaven down on him. In two languages.

I think about Abel often. I have no idea how his mission went. Have no idea where he is. I will probably never know more in this world. But he taught me two things.

One was the power of prayer. Abel knew he could face Guatemala jungles, mountains, cities, villages, danger from drug dealers. Because he knew God was sending him. All he needed was God. And Christians to pray for him. I am still humbled by his faith and his desire for my prayers.

Secondly, I am reminded that sometimes we plan and prepare too much. If we had been Abel, we would have packed for three months, gone to training schools, solidified backing from a mission board. We might have gotten to Guatemala in a year. We can't send out a local church group for a week long mission trip without six months of planning.

I know Abel could have used more planning and support. He could learn from us. But I also know that we sometimes will use planning and training as an excuse to avoid witnessing. We can't walk across the street to speak to a neighbor because we need training. No. Just go tell them about Jesus. And what He has done for you. Abel was able. So are you. Quit making excuses. Go. I think I remember that was the last command that Jesus gave us. Go.

March 26 – April 3
Spring Break DeKalb and
Fort Payne Schools

**Ministry Meeting &
Covered Dish Dinner**
Sunday, April 10
Noon

May 8
Mother's Day

July 8-9, 2016
Music Leadership
Children's Choir Summit,
Shocco

July 11-15
Summer Music Camp at
Shocco

Youth Mission Trip
Louisville, KY
Refuge

Free Piano – to anyone
who wants it and will
move it from upstairs
hall.

Free Hammond Organ
Dot and Gary Burke are
donating. You will need
to move it if you take it.
Contact them or a music
council member if
interested.

Congratulations to
Jackie and JoAnn Myers
on the birth of their great-
grandson Hunter Jack
Harbour.
Proud parents are Haley
and Hank Harbour.
Grandmother is Suzanne
Hunt. Hunter is 8
pounds, 10 ounces, and
is 22 inches long. He
was born February 21.
Spring and Easter



Thursday, May 5

Wake Up America
*Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your
voice like a trumpet. Isaiah 58:1*

Sunday, May 15
Collinsville High School Baccalaureate

Legislature Update
Numerous bills have been introduced creating
and expanding gambling.



**Annie Armstrong
Offering for North
American Missions**
Goal - \$2016
Given at press time - \$795

**15th Annual
Martha Willis Missions
Scholarship Golf Tournament**
Lil' Mole Run Golf Course in Mentone, AL
Saturday, April 30, 2016
8:00 a.m. until Noon
Tournament space is limited
Pre-registration is encouraged.

100% of the proceeds go to help people in
The DeKalb Baptist Association
go on Mission Trips.

Thank you to Sandra Killian for decorating our
sanctuary for Spring and Easter.

Thank you to all who helped with the
Youth/Children's Choir Year.

Thanks to all who helped with the spaghetti
dinner after the end of the year Children's
Choir Program. Donations will go to offset
cost of sending Grades 4-6 to Shocco in July.

Thanks to all who helped with the renovations
in the fellowship hall.

Several people gave their time and efforts to
make the changes in our building.

Those working on this project are trying
mightily to get the elevator working. We hope
to see progress soon.



DeKalb County
Schools
Coliseum

SAT., APRIL 30, 2016

During this event approximately
100,000 meals will be packed to
send to hungry children. But, for
this to happen, we need your help!
We need to raise \$22,000 to pay
for the meals and need 500
volunteers to accomplish this
task! Each packing session only
lasts 2 hours but can change the
lives of countless children around
the world! Consider getting
involved today!

**Volunteers for
Two Hour Shifts Needed
Donations Needed
Contact Luke for more
information**

Sunday Mornings in April –
Building Blocks of Christian
Growth
Filled with the Spirit, Spiritual
Gifts, Prayer, Understanding the
Bible, Growing

Vacation Bible School
We need to know what dates are
not good for you.
Tell us your summer plans

Christian Sympathy
To Susan Nelson in the loss of her
mother.



April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Birthday Richard Eads Bently Jones Jeremy Kasinger	2 Birthday Brody Barksdale
3 Flowers	4 Birthday Sabrina Johnson Anniversary Josh and Allie Jones	5	6 Birthday Laurie Gregg Anniversary Joey & Terri Bobo W.Q.W 6:00 p.m.	7 Birthday Tyler Gregg Cesar Sanchez	8	9 Birthday Russ Beene Riley Edwards
10 Lord's Supper Mark & Glenda Morgan Birthday Bill Delk Brenda Williams	11 Birthday Vanessa Chambers Camila Guzman	12 Birthday Andy Daniel Cheryl Hulsey Anniversary Rick & Jennifer Wilkins	13 Birthday Jack Blanton Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6:00 pm 5:40 Supper 6:00 CBC Kids CBC Youth 7:00 Adult Choir	14	15 Birthday Margaret Myers Jillian Pedraza Anniversary Marty & Marilyn Borntrager	16 Birthday Karen Reed
17 Flowers	18 Birthday Ronald Smith	19 Birthday Brandon Jones	20 Deacons' Meeting 6:00 pm 5:40 Supper 6:00 CBC Kids CBC Youth 7:00 Adult Choir	21	22 Birthday Kelsay Sanchez	23 Birthday Bianca Mills Jonathan Roberts
24 Flowers Donzella Bobo Birthday Kaleb Jones	25	26 Birthday Marianna Gallegos	27 Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6:00 pm 5:40 Supper 6:00 CBC Kids CBC Youth 7:00 Adult Choir	28 Birthday Ciara Lucio	29 Birthday Allie Jones	30 Birthday John Morgan Anniversary Arnold and Melissa Collette

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

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

Nobody's Fool

The origin of April Fools' Day and the meaning of Easter.

Wow! This is great! We've been waiting for this special week with its special day to arrive. An annual spring tradition that originated in France in the mid 1500's by the decree of either King Charles the IX or Pope Gregory – historians aren't really sure which one. How will you celebrate it? Special surprise seasoning on foods? Vaseline on doorknobs? Perhaps the placement of a rubber band around the trigger of your kitchen sink hose sprayer so that, setting in its place, it'll blast your favorite roommate or family member when they turn on the water. I am, of course, referring to April Fools' Day.

Back in 16th century France, the new year began on April 1 but then King Charles and Pope Gregory implemented a new "Gregorian" calendar for the Christian world. It switched New Year's Day from April 1 to January 1. Unfortunately, with communication in those days being without Hotmail, FedEx, IM, or CNN, many didn't hear about the change. Others obstinately refused to make the switch. Such backward people came to be labeled "fools" and were made the objects of practical jokes or sent on "fools' errands." This harassment evolved over time into the practice of prank-playing on the first day of April. Like putting salt into the sugar shaker in your cupboard. Ah, deception at its best! That is, except for another spring day long ago when a few women with spices were sadly walking to a tomb they would soon discover to be surprisingly empty.

"April fools!" the angels at the tomb could have chuckled. Instead, they poked at the women with a loving question of rebuke yet also reassurance, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" In other words, if you're looking for a dead guy you're a fool if you think you'll find one in this tomb.

Good news for us! How? Because Jesus did it. He did it and it doesn't depend on your cooperation; it doesn't depend on your interpretation; it doesn't depend on a level of your appreciation. Jesus rose from the dead. Without your help he is risen.

It's not up to you to find some bones somewhere outside Jerusalem and investigate whether or not they belong to Jesus. It's not up to you to figure out exactly how the molecular structure of a human body could circumnavigate the atoms of rock. It's not up to you to reach a certain level of moral behavior or religious understanding to attain heaven. It's up to Jesus. He did it for you. He is risen. Because Jesus is risen, you know that God has accepted his death as your punishment for guilt. Because Jesus is risen, you know that the greatest powers of evil cannot manipulate you in your weakest moment. Because Jesus is risen, you know that the gates of eternal paradise in heaven have been opened to you and your Christian loved ones who die in the Lord.

Some churches still practice an ancient religious custom of gathering on the day after Easter and trading jokes. Stories with unexpected endings, surprise twists, even a sense of humor – to remind each other that in his battle for our souls against the power of sin and Satan, and the finality of death, Jesus had the last laugh. Celebrate Jesus' resurrection today. Live your resurrection every day. And you'll be nobody's fool.

PRAYER: You did it, Jesus. You defeated death and because you live I also live! Change me, then, when I act so foolishly, thinking I am so alone, so weak, so incapable. Raise me up with resurrection confidence, resurrection strength, and resurrection joy to believe firmly and behave faithfully. Make me new every day to leave old, sinful ways behind and walk in newness of life. Amen.