



The Cross & Steeple

www.collinsvillebaptistchurch.com

July 2016

From John

I can't remember his name. I'll call him Mike. And he said something to me that changed our relationship.

I worked at US Steel in Birmingham as a foreman when I finished college. Most of the men on my crew had been working at the steel mill for more years than I had been alive. And most of them were very nice to me. I had the good sense to show them lots of respect and issue very few orders. They abided me.

Mike was a quiet, humble guy. He was so quiet it took me a while to get to know him. He was a great worker. And a great Christian.

I carried a small New Testament in my shirt pocket, and I would read from it in bits during the day. Mike realized that, and he began to talk to me more. We invited each other to church, but we realized we were both so involved in our home church that it would be hard to get away.

So we just talked in small moments at the plant. Compared what was going on in each other's churches. Talked about each other's families. The job. Sports. Whatever.

The part of the mill where we worked was hot. In the winter. In the summer it was terrible. No air conditioning. A few fans on the floor. Heaters running in the ceiling to keep the steel from sweating and rusting in the summer humidity. Hot, hot, hot.

So one day near the end of the 3 to 11 shift, I made asked Mike if he took his shower there or waited until he got home. There was a small locker room inside for those of us who were management. The workers had a really big one outside near the parking lot. I always waited until I got home to peel my clothes off.

Mike casually said, "Oh, I never shower here. At least not since they made us shower with (you fill in the word for Blacks)."

I was startled. Did he really say that? He saw my hesitation and said, "Yeah, we used to shower in different buildings. Then they put us together. Now I never shower there. With them."

I did not say much of anything. The end of the shift came. I could not believe that a man who was so active in church and so nice could spout such racism.

But, in truth, had you known me a few years earlier in my teens, my attitude would not have been much different. I lived in those years when segregation in schools ended. When the Civil Rights movement was at its peak. When racism was served daily at many families' dinner tables.

But in my high school and college years, I had come to grips with my how wrong my prejudice was. I did that because I came to grips first with what it meant to be a Christian. When my faith and commitment deepened, I realized that being a Christian meant that we all are equal with Jesus. All sinners. And when we sing "red and yellow black and white, they are precious in his sight" we need to believe it. And live it.

And it hurt me that Mike was not there. I have come to realize a couple of things. One is that Mike was probably a better Christian than me. He had a blind spot concerning his racial prejudice. I hope he came to realize that. We all have places in our life that are blind spots. That we don't realize. I'm sure I had some then that were bigger than Mike's. And do now.

I also came to recognize that there are some issues in our society that are treated differently. Race is one. People will become quite sanctimonious and condemning over racial issues. I did in a small way with Mike.

None of us really want to consider what I said earlier about equality. Our equality is not about race. Or gender. Or sex. Our equality is about our sin. We are all sinners. Miserable failures. Who cannot stop sinning. Mike needed Jesus to forgive him. I needed Jesus to forgive me. To beg Jesus for forgiveness. And so do you.

We live in a society that often divides over "moral issues". After a disaster such as the shooting in Orlando, we are ready to self-righteously argue about why. Sexuality. Islam. Gun laws. Christian teaching. Immigration. Racism. Mental health. Name your issue. They all fail to get to the real problem.

Last Sunday night in our Bible study time, the adults at church came up with the right answer. Evil. That's why it happened. Just like the shooting a year earlier in Charleston. Evil.

To which I only add this. Evil because it is sin. It is sin that we all still battle. When I fail to remember that Mike and I both had to beg Jesus for forgiveness.

Christians must always condemn sin. I wish I had said more to Mike in a loving way about his attitude. We must never forget that we are all sinners. Forgiven by a loving God who sent His Son to die for us.

And we must remember that we have the solution and the answer to evil. We must share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Help others to come to the foot of the cross. To put down their hatred and take up the love of Jesus. That is what can change the world. The only thing that can change the world.

It has been an eventful spring and summer. We want to thank everyone who has had a part in making the past choir year so successful.

Please be in prayer for the children and youth music weeks and music leadership training weekend, both at Shocco, as well as the Youth Mission trip to Louisville, Kentucky.

We want to thank Leah and Jon Perkins and Belinda Barksdale for the wonderful work they have done in establishing such a good foundation for the Youth Praise Team, Young Musicians and Music Makers Choirs. We also thank Veda and Rick Carter for overseeing the snack suppers last fall. God has blessed our church as they have shared their talents, and we will continue to pray for them as He leads them in different directions.

We are also grateful for Sheila Smith who will be continuing with the Joy Shakers Choir assisted by Allie Jones, and for others who continue to serve so faithfully. As the new church year approaches, will you ask God where he wants you to serve in the body of Christ at Collinsville Baptist?

**Happy Independence Day.
Gloria Morgan**

*Happy 50th
Anniversary*

***Jimmy and Tangy Carter will be celebrating 50 years of marriage!
A reception being held upstairs at the Collinsville Public Library
on July 24, 2016 from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm.***

**First Day of School,
DeKalb County Schools
August 4**

**First Day of School
Fort Payne Schools
August 10**

**30th Annual World's
Longest Yard Sale
August 4 - 7**

**Friday, August 26
Collinsville Football
Dinner
3:00
Our Fellowship Hall**

Collinsville Quilt Walk

**Friday, September 23
Saturday, September 24**

**SEE YOU AT THE POLE
2016**

**WE CRY OUT
A Generation Seeking Him!
Psalm 24:3-6
Wednesday, September 28**

**Global Week of Student Prayer
Sunday, September 25 – Saturday, October
1**

**DeKalb County VFW Agricultural Fair
September 26 – October 1**

Turkey Trot

**Saturday, November 12, 10 – 3
Food, fun and games. An antique car
and tractor show, turkey shoot, cake
walk, and historic “turkey toss”**


**Election Day
Tuesday, Nov. 8**

**Community Thanksgiving Service
Sunday, November 20
Calvary
Collinsville Baptist Speaker**

**Thanksgiving
Thursday, November 26**

**First Sunday of Advent
Sunday, November 29**

July 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Watch for lots of new activities starting in mid-July. A little Bible School, a little Mission Work, a little worship, a little learning from other Christians. Watch for announcements coming soon.					1 Birthday Lue Deen Perkins	2 Birthday Emilee Garoutte
3 Birthday Jerrie Alexander Jared Edwards	4 Independence Day 	5 Birthday Teresa Bobo	6  6:00 p.m.	7 Birthday Julie Norris	Music Leadership Children's Choir Summit, Shocco July 8-9, 2016	
10 Lord's Supper Clyde & Sandra Killian Birthday Karlie Plunkett Quarterly Ministry Meeting and Covered Dish Dinner	11 Birthday Glenda Morgan	12	13 Birthday David Borntrager Dylan Nelson Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6:00 pm 5:40 Supper 6:00 CBC Kids CBC Youth 7:00 Adult Choir	14 Birthday Joseline Delacruz Katelyn Rogers Tammi Tucker		
Mix Music Camp at Shocco July 11-15						
17 Birthday Annabelle Shankles	18 Birthday Shelby Godshall Nikki Nelson Anniversary Rosemary & Hoyt Brooks JoAnn & Lamar Smith	19	20 Deacon's Meeting 6:00 pm 5:40 Supper 6:00 CBC Kids CBC Youth 7:00 Adult Choir	21	22 Birthday Belle Hamiter	23
24 Flowers Juanita Rogers Birthday Daizy Gallegos	25 Anniversary Jimmy & Tangy Carter	26 Birthday Jason Norris	27 Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6:00 pm 5:40 Supper 6:00 CBC Kids CBC Youth 7:00 Adult Choir	28 Birthday Crista Newsome	29	30
31	We are thinning out the books in the church library. Those that are surplus or too out of date will be available to church members at no charge. If they are not claimed, they will be given to the same Christian group that sends our old Sunday School literature to Mission Areas.					

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Independence Day; Our Christian Heritage

David Barton 2011

The Birth of a Nation

For 235 years, America has been blessed as the longest on-going Constitutional Republic in the history of the world. These blessings are not accidental they are blessings of God. This is evident as we look at the turmoil in other nations and contrast that to the stability we see in America. Preserving American liberty depends first upon our understanding of the foundations on which this great country was built, and then it depends on preserving the principles on which it was founded.

On July 2, 1776, Congress voted to approve a complete separation from England. Two days later, the early draft of the Declaration of Independence was signed. Four days later, members of Congress took the document and read it out loud from the steps of Independence Hall, proclaiming it to the city of Philadelphia, and afterwards they rang the Liberty Bell. The inscription on the top of the bell is Leviticus 25:10, which reads, "Proclaim liberty throughout the land and to all the inhabitants thereof."

John Adams said, "The general principles on which the Fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity." Probably the clearest identification of the spirit of the American Revolution was given by John in a letter to Abigail the day after Congress approved the Declaration. He wrote her two letters that day: One was short and jubilant that the Declaration had been approved; the other letter was much longer and gave serious consideration to what had been done that day. Adams could already foresee that their actions would be celebrated by future generations.

A Different Holiday

Adams also noted: "This day will be the most memorable epic in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival." He felt the celebration should be in a manner that would commemorate the day as a "day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty." John Adams believed that the Fourth of July should be a religious holiday. The two top holidays celebrated in this country are Christmas and the Fourth of July. According to John Quincy Adams, the two dates are connected. On the Fourth of July, the Founding Fathers simply took the precepts of Christ and His birth (Christmas) and incorporated those principles into civil government.

The Declaration of Independence was the birth certificate for this nation, but the men who signed it knew it could be their death warrant. The closing paragraph states, "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance of the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor." The 56 Founding Fathers, 27 of whom were trained as ministers, took their pledge seriously. On the morning of the signing, there was silence and gloom as each man was called up to the table of the President of Congress to sign the document, knowing that it could mean their death by hanging. Most wars have a motto. The motto of World War II was "Remember Pearl Harbor." The motto during the Texas war for independence was "Remember the Alamo." The spiritual emphasis, directed towards King George III who violated Gods laws, gave rise to a motto during the American Revolution: "No King but King Jesus." The Founding Fathers passed the torch to us. It is our responsibility to not let it go out.