



SALEM CRUSADER

“Contend for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.”
Jude 3

Volume 27 - Number 6 _____ JUNE 2006

Dear Salem,

Faith isn't a leap in the dark! Faith isn't blind! You see faith is a "knowing" - it's when the Spirit of God supernaturally empties your heart of doubt and brings you into a state of knowing so that you can know that you know that you know. The writer of Hebrews defines "knowing faith" this way: ***"Faith is substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen"*** -Hebrews 11:1.

Faith is an inner certainty. Some people call it a "gut feeling," an "unshakable conviction." When you come into a position of knowing, you know you are in faith. It's in this position of knowing that you've come to believe and have confidence in the Lord as your Protector and Provider. That's the time to move ahead in your needs.

Fight your discouragements. Don't let yourself get discouraged over what little faith you have, any more than the gold prospector is discouraged when he finds just a little gold. Gold is gold whether it's a little or a lot. And the prospector knows a little gold dust means

there's a lot more where that came from . . . that's what keeps him going. And that little faith you have means there's a lot more in you. That can keep you going.

Most of the time we have to start with a small step of faith. But as we get closer to Jesus and trust His Word, we become surer of His protection and provision. We become more confident. You just need enough faith to plant a seed, however small, and to expect the Lord to multiply it into something big.

I've used my "little faith" more than I have used big faith. And I've discovered over and over again that there's a "God factor" in every situation I face, the same is true for you and Salem. Faith plus God's Word plus God equals answered prayer! As I take the first step of faith that's when confidence, expectation and anticipation starts moving inside my spirit and that's when God starts moving on my behalf in ways I never expected. My faith knows that God is working behind the scenes.

I've found that before you can have the joy and thrill of living a life of faith in the Lord, you have to come to the point of taking that first step of faith, that total surrender of your life to almighty God, when you say, ***Lord, I commit everything to You, trusting You to help me, and I know You will!*** -Psalm 37:5 (paraphrased).

Upward bound,

Pastor Pat

***Sorrow looks back, Worry looks around,
but Faith looks up!***

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CONSISTORY NEWS

MAY 2006

TREASURE'S REPORT:

INCOME: \$6081.08

EXPENSES: \$8914.51

OLD BUSINESS

- Congregational Meeting - May 21
- Continual concern for the church finances
- Pastor Pat reported that due to the finances of the church he and Diane would not be attending the CCCC Annual Conference in July

NEW BUSINESS

- Approved slate of officers for election

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TIME-OUT SPORTS MINISTRIES

Check Out the new website

www.timeoutsports.org



*REAL FAITH STAYS
STRONG WHEN
DELIVERANCE
SEEMS
DISTANT!*



Salem Evangelical Church
is a member of the
*Conservative
Congregational
Christian Conference*

GOD'S COACHING TIP

**IT'S BETTER TO WALK WITH GOD
BY FAITH THAN TO GO ALONE BY SIGHT!**

A walk of faith can be challenging and yes sometimes even scary. But because God is powerful and present, you can step out in confidence every day (2 Corinthians 5:7).

MAY - 2006

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



The 2006 Congregational Meeting was held May 21 with a potluck dinner at 5 pm and then the business meeting at 6 pm. President Brent Rowland led the meeting with the slate of new officers for consistory to be voted on.

The treasurer's year-to-date report was given noting that Salem is hurting for income due to the higher gas and electric bills. Overall the church expenses have been held in check. There was a positive spirit approving the report and a belief that the Lord is mindful of our need.

Pastor Pat reported due to the income situation of the church he and Diane would not be attending the CCCC Annual Conference in July. He is looking forward to going to next year's annual conference in California.



The Committee Reports were received and the meeting concluded with a real sense that the Lord is doing great things in our midst and that Salem is moving forward with purpose.



RIVER VALLEY HS FCA CLIPBOARD



VOLUME 7

MAY 2006

ISSUE 15

Dear Vikes,

Tom Wargo has been a PGA pro golfer since 1976, he now plays on the PGA senior tour. I like what he said about "growing up" - "Growing old is mandatory, growing up is optional." That's so true. We're all growing older but the question is are we growing up? And there is a BIG difference. Spiritual growth is foremost and central to all personal growth...it's the ultimate priority and yet it's without a doubt the most neglected priority. Listen, God doesn't intend for you to remain a spiritual baby. He wants you to grow and 2 Peter 3 says, "Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (vs. 18).

Now let me share with you some observations, as an FCA huddle coach, I have made concerning spiritual growth:

First, spiritual growth isn't **CONSTANT** but **INTERMITTENT**. Life is full of peaks and valleys. Spiritual growth comes in cycles and most often in the valleys of testing.

Second, spiritual growth isn't **ACCIDENTAL** but **INTENTIONAL**. It doesn't happen simply with time. Spiritual growth is not chronological and is not measured by the calendar. You don't grow accidentally. You grow only when you are intentional about growth (read 2 Peter 1:5-6).

Third, spiritual growth isn't **OPTIONAL** but **IMPERATIVE**. It's the most important issue you have to deal with...because every other area of our lives issues out of our spiritual well-being. Our problem is that we often approach the pains in our life by treating symptoms rather than dealing with the root issue. "Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life" (Proverbs 4:23).

Finally, spiritual growth is the **NATURAL** by-product of a **SPIRITUAL LIFE**. Growth is one of the essential signs of life in both the physical and spiritual realms. Can I be brutally honest with you? I cannot imagine how someone can possibly have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and not have a burning passion to grow spiritually. I'm sorry, but I just don't understand how anyone could be content to just to go through the motions of Christianity and play church.

Are you growing spiritually today? I can't tell you how urgent and critical it is that you concern yourself with growing spiritually. Has your spiritual growth somehow leveled out, not going back but not going forward either? Have you been neglecting the most essential issue of your whole life? The FCA camp Bible is jammed packed with good stuff to help you grow closer in your relationship with Jesus...get one, open it up and start growing up!

Upward bound,
Coach Pat Street



NEED TO TALK?

CALL COACH STREET

360-3354

OR

E-MAIL

streetfca@hotmail.com



The Ladies Fellowship

The ladies of Salem and their guests enjoyed a time of fellowship with the theme, "Love Lifted Me" on May 17th around tables brightly decorated with hot-air balloon favors made by Barbara Dickason and bouquets of helium filled balloons.

The theme verse for the evening was from Psalm 36: "Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies" (vs. 5). Pat Curl accompanied us as we sang the hymn "Love Lifted Me"

Five men of Salem served 29 ladies a delicious meal provided by Carolyn Hittenrach, Debbie Hinaman, Pam Drake, Pam Smith, Maria Rowland and Diane Street. After sharing a story about God's love and



each lady reading a scripture card, we sang "Oh How I Love Jesus" and "Jesus Loves Me"




The evening continued in the church sanctuary where 35 ladies were inspired by the ministry of Donyell and Arielle Wenig. Arielle performed a mime presentation of "Jesus Loves The Little Children" and "Jesus Loves Me" and Donyell performed a mime and dance presentation to the songs "People Need the Lord" "Come to Jesus" and "Find Your Wings"

We praise the Lord for the gifts and talents He has blessed each of us with. May we use them to touch lives and further God's kingdom.

Submitted by: Diane Street





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Slow down, relax, And enjoy your summer. The Lord has been good to us!</i></p>				1	2	3
4 Summer Schedule 10:30am service No Sunday School Happy Birthday Kristin White	5 7:00p Elder's Meeting	6 7:00p Abraham Prayer Ministry	7	8 Happy Birthday Pam Smith	9 Happy Birthday Grace Smelcer	10
11	12 7:00p Executive Meeting 7:30p Consistory Meeting	13 7:00p Abraham Prayer Ministry	14 	15	16 Happy Anniversary Gary and Debbie Hinaman	17
18 	19	20 Happy Birthday Gary Hinaman 7:00p Abraham Prayer Ministry	21 	22 Happy Anniversary Jonathan and Christian Smelcer	23	24
25 Happy Birthday Dyan Wade	26 Happy Anniversary Peter & Carolyn Hittenrauch	27 Happy Anniversary Alan & Renee Drake 7:00p Abraham Prayer Ministry	28 Happy Birthday Andy Drake	29	30	