

NEWSLETTER 3, April 14, 2004 by Jim Burks, Pastor Trinity MBC, Citrus Heights, Ca

EXPLANATION: I had to put everything on hold for two weeks due to my Internet server. They were thinking SPAM when I sent out the 70 or so E-mails. After talking to New York and several people in various other places, I believe I understand this computer a wee bit better. I have been placed on the 'wide list' and anticipate things being okay from now on, I hope.

ASSOCIATION: Wonderful, loving and brotherly all fit in describing the last association held with the Mt. Vernon Church in Rialto. Their effort was terrific! The food was great. Their special extras in the bathroom: combs, mouthwash, even razors were great ideas. I spent an extra five minutes just looking at what was there for our comfort. It drew a crown! Thank you Pastor Steve Waters and church.

Fellowship was top notch, which of course, shows the attitude of the brethren composing this fellowship. Many were renewed at this meeting. We were blessed with an additional church joining with us. Next year (2005) the 74th Old California State Missionary Baptist Association will be held with our church, Trinity, in Citrus Heights, Ca 95610. 1-916 989-0401/722-8855.

During this session, the churches composing our Association voted to change article five of the Articles of Faith. Basically, this article on Salvation by grace remained, but an additional emphasis of the blood of Jesus was written into it. Reason? We want God and the world to know that we believe the blood of Christ is applied at first faith and before church membership.

PALMDALE came visiting during the holiday school break. Three families of the Palmdale Missionary Baptist Church spent a couple of days with us, including Wednesday night church. All three men and some sons spoke about their work in Palmdale. How they came to know the Lord and come into the church was a blessing to everyone. God Bless these loving brethren: Brother Armondo and Sister Debbie Gonzales and grandson Austin, Brother George and Julia Hernandez and four boys Kevin, David, Gabriel and George, Angel and Melody Kasarsis (?) and son, Jared. These families are members of the church and are seeking God's direction for calling a pastor. Amen!

THIS NEWSLETTER IDEA is to write weekly on subjects Missionary Baptists have studied over the years. I don't know everyone or everything but I have had some wonderful teachings. Some I have changed or redefined my thinking on, some I chalked up to "zeal," and some teachings I appreciate even more than the first time I learned them, in particular the blood of Christ.

CHANGES, however, never effected the Baptist teachings I received in the first church I belonged, Alisal Baptist Church in Salinas, Ca. Saved by grace, baptism by immersion, closed communion and the local independent church teachings remain my foundation of belief.

WHEN I WAS SAVED, it wasn't a decision of the mind brought on by influence of parents or friends. I was gloriously saved! The Holy Spirit dealt with me so strongly that I wept in repentance. With child like faith I trusted in Jesus and the burden in the heart was removed and peace entered. I simply asked God to saved me in the name of Jesus, His Son. He did! I did learn

that God saved me so that I could serve Him. I was baptized into the body of Christ within days.

In this weeks letter I am sort of renewing acquaintances with everyone. Two weeks isn't long, but the flow of continuity sure seems broken. So, I am writing more newsy stuff this time.

Speaking of newsy stuff, my baby daughter, Jeanna had her 29th birthday today. She and Robert her husband, have four of their own. God has been good to me and to my children. They are members of Trinity and Robert is the assistant song leader.

No doubt, errors will be made in mailings. Therefore, if you don't get a letter or, if you don't want a letter sent to you, let me know. E-mail me at [Jimthatlido@aol.com](mailto:Jimthatlido@aol.com).