

SPECIAL NEWSLETTER, April 22, 2004

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STOP THE PRESSES: Ordination of Justin Brett Burks
Saturday, May 15 at 2pm,

I was finishing up the weekly newsletter last night when the phone rang. It was Justin, my son. He informed me that Landmark Missionary Baptist Church of Palmdale, Ca. had extended a call for him to become their pastor. I dropped the phone when he said he had accepted their call.

Actually, all of us here at Trinity expected this. Many brethren over the state were also thinking this way. Therefore, Trinity Church is planning the ordination service for Saturday, May 15 at 2 pm.

The ordination will be held here in Citrus Heights at a building we will rent. All expecting to attend may want to R.S.V.P. by phone or letter to help our church in planning for food and lodging. Those from Japan and South America may want to let us know earlier than the rest; North Dakota, a little later; Sky Valley, even later, etc.

I look at this move as a celebration and a spiritual progression among God's people. It is a wonderful native event in the life of the church and the children of the church, in this case, my own son. It is what should take place within the people of God. Children must take up the work of the Lord from their parents or the church suffers greatly. But, how many newly ordained sons were PK's? I know a lot of them and thank God for counting Justin-another PK faithful, calling him into the ministry. So, if you see me carrying Justin on my shoulders with brethren clapping and singing the Jewish folk song, Havahnagilah (Ha-vah-na-gil-ah), all around us just join in. Is this not the time for celebration?

Because I have always expected my children, from their birth, to serve the Lord, I am 100% behind the call of the Palmdale church. It is not unlike moving up through the ranks of Little League Baseball or through the grades of school. Any negative feelings would only come if my children did not progress and move up. In the Lord's work, I would be one unhappy, irate parent if my children did not get into the game. Thank God they have.

Justin has a great family. Since Theresa, his wife, joined the church, they have been faithful to serve and raise their children in the Lord's house. Their daughter, Kayla is 12 years old, Brodie is 10 and Ty is 8. As any call to pastor a church must be, this is a family decision. There are few wives more hospitable than Theresa, a great quality and also in order of the call, which "shall store up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future," I Timothy 6:19. For all the members at Palmdale, I want to thank God for blessing them and keeping the church alive. This big responsibility for a small church body shall be the best time of their lives. I pray the Holy Spirit will bind them together from the start in this new and wonderful adventure of Pastor/Church relationship. Let the love of God rule everyone.

No doubt, this is the best Newsletter, yet. However, I expect even greater things to write about...well, perhaps when God saves another grandchild or calls one to preach.