



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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I would like to begin this newsletter offering a small portion of my Holy Week presentation at the Tabernacle Community Baptist Church, March 21-23 2016. The theme was: **"The Gospel Unleashed: From the Cross, Through The Church, To the World"**. This theme is in line with our own church theme – "Engaging Our Assignment: MAKING Disciples."

On Monday, I suggested that "The Gospel Unleashed": From The Cross is:

- Theological (It is a part of "God-talk" or "discourse about God")
- Providential (It is a part of God's redemptive plan for humankind)
- Spiritual
- Communal/Social
- Philosophical
- Transformational (Romans 12:1-2)
- Universal and Particular
- Powerful (1Corinthians 1:18)
- Political
- Confrontational

On Tuesday, I suggested that the gospel through the church is to be:

- Proclaimed/Preached (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:6-11; Acts 2:14-42)
- Purposeful (Practical): to bring about repentance!
- Propitiation ("to appease/conciliate/make favorably inclined")
- Productive: (The Gospel of the Cross is to produce DISCIPLES!)
- Paradigmatic (Model)

On Wednesday, I presented the gospel "To the World" through the African American experience.

- Jesus was/is present in our suffering (as early as the Slave Spirituals)
- Jesus found them and helped them bear their cross/ burdens
- They were present with Jesus in his suffering ("Were You There, When They Crucified My Lord?")
- The Cross of Christ was/is a source of:
 - Moral Instruction
 - Black Preaching
 - Arguments for equality between men and women ("Christ died for the man as well as the woman" - Jarena Lee, 19th century woman AME preacher)
 - Motivation for social/political liberation and equality (as well as personal salvation)
 - King stated that challenging American race relations and economic injustice: "is the cross that we must bear for the freedom of our people."

May we be reminded that Jesus' suffering and sacrifice opened the doors of spiritual opportunities for all people to become children of God. Let us also be cognizant, especially during this contentious political season, that a "great cloud of witnesses" have paved the way for the social/political freedoms we enjoy. For this reason, may we always

Be Present. Be Prayerful. Be Positive. Be Impactful.

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

We held our monthly meeting on Saturday, March 5th at our normal meeting time of 10:00am. Min Charlotte Flowers prayed and read our theme scripture **Matthew 28:18-20.**

As the leaders entered the fellowship hall they were asked to select a color and then sit at the corresponding table to form small groups for book discussion. Those who were not in attendance were assigned to a group by Pastor Williams.

There were a few administrative updates given to the leaders that included the following:

- Ensure that you are receiving emails as this our main mode of communication
- Drawers were installed under our church mailbox to house the forms that we use to keep God's house in order.
- There was a strong emphasis to submit ministry reports/updates to the church office to be included in our Pastoral Newsletter so that we can focus more on training during our Leadership Council.

We then participated in a discussion about Part 1 of the book ***IT*** which was inclusive of chapters 1-3 and focused on *What is IT?* Pastor facilitated a discussion with questions from the book.

Pastor concluded the meeting with his thoughts, sharing with the leaders the importance of working in small groups, being open to being transformed in Christ in addition to being prayerful. He recommended that the book "The Wounded Healer" by Henri Nouwen which is a hope-filled and profoundly simple book that speaks directly to those men and women who want to be of service in their church or community.

TEN-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN: "PROSPERING THE VISION"

This is a reprint from last month, as we have not had our April Meeting. We went to work using a CDC checklist to aid us in this process. Now that we have our elevator in and running and our bathroom renovations are the next immediate need, it's imperative that we plan for the future of our church. In looking at our history, we've had quite a few Community Development Corporations including:

- A Credit Union
- A Clothing Bank
- A Foster Care Site
- A Breakfast Program that fed over 10,000 people
- Community Vision Academy School
- Community Village that owned several houses in the area used for various purposes including housing for women recently released from Taycheedah Correctional
- A Thrift Store Venture with Northshore & Wauwatosa Presbyterian Churches

In the future we need to have sustainable entities that will enable us to not only connect with the community by providing jobs and suppling a need, but also provide funding so we can continue ministry on another level in God, **Making Disciples along the way!** We are diligent in this effort and do not take it lightly, we are prayerful to stay in alignment with the will of God and the order of His church. Any persons who have experience in this field are strongly encouraged to contact the office to assist. If you have a passion or a suggestion, feel free to share that as well.

FINANCE UPDATE

We have completed the third month of 2016 and we continue to thank God for his glorious blessings. Many of you are fulfilling your commitment you made to yourselves that you were going to do better in 2016 than you did in 2015 and you are off to a great start. It is our sincere hope that all of us will endeavor to do better in 2016 than we did in 2015 as God has blessed us. We, as a church and as a people, will only improve our conditions when we do better ourselves. If it is to be it is up to each of us. We acknowledge that God will do only for us which we are willing to do for ourselves. Matthew 16:19 states- ***“And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”*** This is a clear indication that we have been given the power to shape our own future, but God will only help us when we first seek to help ourselves.

The Finance Ministry strongly believes and supports the vision of Pastor Demetrius K. Williams as we continue to promote the three Strategic pillars (1. **Leadership Development**, 2. **Spiritual Growth** and 3. **Church Unity**). We must also continue to keep our Motto in mind as we continue to move forward “One Voice—One Vision—One Vocation.” Together, we are making a difference!

We are in the first phase of planning to renovate our bathrooms facilities. As stated in the March newsletter, the bathroom renovation plans were presented at the stakeholder meeting. We will tweak the plans based on the feedback we receive from the members. The project time line for completion is on or before July 2016. If we all give as God has blessed us, we will accomplish our goal and beyond. When praises go up, Blessings come down. We have **465** members and as of March 31, 2016 we have increased our participation from **38 to 48** members that have started contributing toward their pledge of an extra \$50 per month or \$600 for the year above their tithes and offerings to complete the bathrooms as well as other repairs. We are strongly encouraging the rest of our members to get on board. **Can we do it? Yes we can!! We believe that all we have is a gift from God and that generosity is an expression of our faith.** Once again, we thank you for your support and cooperation as we continue to move forward in strengthening our Church family.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In March Nancy Yarbrough moved into her Fresh Start Learning office at 4242 West North Ave. as reported last month. Nancy spoke at the Woman's Prayer Breakfast and emphasized the situation regarding Human Trafficking in Milwaukee. This ministry is being supported by Community Outreach and the Men's Network as we work together to reach out to victims who live in our immediate neighborhood.



We did not hold any Wealth Creation/ Debt Reduction classes in March but I continue to be available to consult on an individual basis to help reduce any worry you currently have regarding your finances. Contact Mike Robertson at **508-561-3921** or email me at, **msrobertson23@gmail.com** to schedule an appointment. If there is enough interest we can still schedule classes during the spring.

The Love Kindness program is continuing to have an important impact at the Hi-Mount school with awards and bulletin boards emphasizing the importance of kindness. I have been asked to make presentations at other schools and am awaiting specific dates. If you want to start a program where you work just let me know. The web site will be activated during April with the hope to expand our outreach beyond Milwaukee. Please record acts of Kindness you observe, perform or receive because we have plenty of buttons, window signs and bumper stickers to distribute. Please let any member of the committee know what you need and we will get it to you immediately.

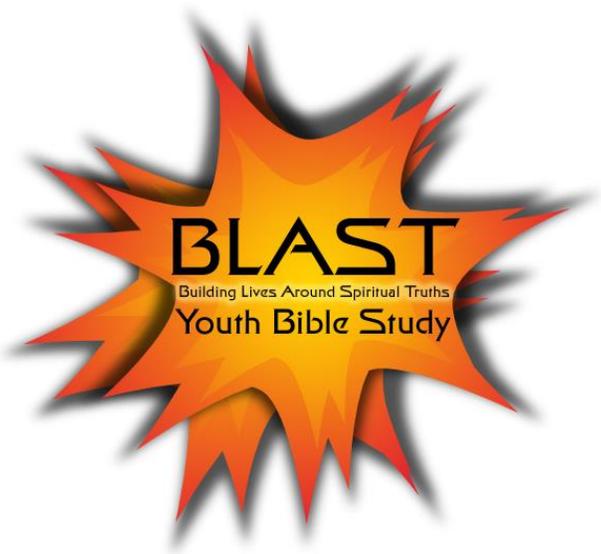
During March I continued to attend meetings where problems Milwaukee is experiencing were discussed. Deciding where we believe CBC can make a lasting difference in our immediate neighborhood is something that will require thoughtful consideration.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



B.L.A.S.T.

On Saturday March 12, 2016 BLAST Youth Bible Study took to the street for their Annual Neighborhood Canvassing with Milwaukee Fire Department (MFD). There were 21 adults and children who knocked on our neighbor's door from 46th and North Avenue to 48th and North Avenue. We handed out invitations inviting the community to Worship with us and with the help of the MFD we had 16 smoked detectors checked and changed. We pray that God will touch the hearts of our neighbors that they know that Community Baptist Church is truly concerned with their spiritual and physical safety.



WOMEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

By Sis Zumehka McCrary



THE BATTLE PLAN

On Saturday, March 12, 2016 we were given our assignment! As Christians we are in a constant battle on a daily basis. Not just a physical battle, but a spiritual battle. The word of God says in Ephesians 6:12 that "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of the world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." During this awesome and powerful Women's Prayer Breakfast we were given the tools we need to stand on the battlefield, to not be afraid or weak minded. Through song and dance we prepared of hearts and mind, because like Charles Jenkins says, **"This means WAR!"**

Missionary Nancy Yarbrough had us to put on the whole armor of God as we battle for our Community, our Families, and our Children! She forced us to see past ourselves and reminded us that God rewards those who's spiritual focus is on our fellow brothers and sisters. We have to build each other up in order for God to use us. That each and every morning we ought to begin by saying "Here I am God, Use Me." The Armor of God is OUR battle gear that we MUST clothe ourselves with on a daily basis! Without God's Armor, we are as vulnerable as a Soldier who goes into battle wearing only a bathing suit! **"We are in a War!"**

MEN'S MINISTRY

By Deacon Melvin E. Grisby Sr.

Greetings to all! Our mission is to provide a ministry based on relationships rather than activity that empowers men to be the spiritual leaders God has called us to be. We want to Build Strong Godly Character through Integrity and Accountability with one another and Help men assume their spiritual role of leadership at home, in the church, in the work place and the community. The desire is to provide opportunities for men to connect with one another as well as with other men to fulfill the purposes of Fellowship, Ministry, Discipleship and Worship.

The Men proudly cooked and served the women breakfast at the annual Prayer Breakfast on March 12, 2016. The guest speaker, Nancy Yarbrough, who is the founder of Fresh Start Learning Inc. now operates out of the white house at 4242 W North Ave. She is dedicated

to serving the community with a zest for helping women and she has made it clear that she is here to work with us, to learn more contact her at 414-544-2649.

Several of our Men went to Hi Mount Elementary School on Wednesday, March 2nd to read to some of their students. It is the goal of our Mentoring Program to reach as many students as possible. We are looking to expand the program for the coming school year. We have a number of Events and Activities planned for 2016!

Our **Annual Golf Outing** is set for **May 21st** at **Madison Park**. The Tee time is **8am** and the cost is **\$10.00** per Golfer. It is open to all members. If you need clubs, don't worry, we will provide them for you.

The Ministry is also starting a Men's Golf League in June at Lincoln Park (Wednesdays at 1:00pm) cost is \$11.00 per week. If you are interested, please see Bro. Herron, Bro. Jude, Bro Staples, Bro Phillips or Bro Grisby. The total cost is \$44.00 per Golfer (**Due May 1, 2016**) from June 15 through July 6.



Remember we have our weekly **Tuesday Breakfast** from **8:30am to 10:30am**.

We have our Game Night on the **3rd Friday** of every month.

Male Chorus Rehearsal is the **2nd and 3rd Saturday** of the Month at **9:30am** and we sing every 3rd Sunday.

Our Brotherhood Meetings are held on the **3rd Saturday** of each Month at **10:30am**. Remember, we need **ALL MEN** of CBCGM to work with us as we embrace our theme **"Engaging Our Assignment: MAKING Disciples."**

UNITY SUNDAY

The UNITY SUNDAY message was the last in a series to address the topic: "The Diligence and Discipline of Discipleship". The sub-topic was, "I've Got a Race To Run." (1 Corinthians 9:24-27) In this passage Paul makes a practical application of self-denial and self-discipline, using himself as an example, employing athletic figures familiar to the Corinthians in their civic games. What is discipline and diligence in their relationship to discipleship?

- **Discipline:** "Teaching, or instruction; that which is taught to pupils; training that corrects, molds, strengthens, or perfects. To bring order, rule or system of rules that affect conduct or action; to develop by instruction or exercise; to train in self-control or obedience to given standards."

- **“Discipleship** means discipline!...Without discipline we are not disciples, even though we profess His name....In an undisciplined age...there is greater need than ever that we be disciplined to be his disciples.” (V. Raymond Edman, *The Disciplines of Life* [1948])
- **Diligence:** “quality of carefulness; giving careful attention to something; devoted and painstaking effort to accomplish what has been undertaken; devotion and dedication to service.”

When we came to Christ for salvation, the goal of the gospel and the Great Commission was/is to produce a disciple. A disciple in the fullest sense of the word is a disciplined person. If a person is not willing to exercise discipline s/he cannot really be a disciple! As a matter of fact, the word, disciple, is used over 200 times in the New Testament. This emphasizes that God's will is that we would be trained and taught. In terms of our diligence, it is expected of a disciple that s/he will carry out his/her service to the Lord faithfully. We must remember that, *“the race is not given to the swift or strong but to those who endure to the end.”* Paul wants to show the Corinthians that the life of a disciple is not a life of selfish personal indulgences that fragment and frustrate community, but a disciplined life focused on personal training to enhance and foster positive communal living. Thus Paul exhorts the Corinthian community to be like athletes (runners and boxers) in preparation and training for the Isthmian games. This is an example from their own social and civic experience. Athletic Training and Discipline is Compared to Spiritual Training and Discipline. The high level of discipline and skill required of competitive athletes provides a compelling metaphor that suggests what's required in spiritual training. Paul uses these examples to show that he relinquishes his rights and brings his body into subjection for the overall good of community! Paul recognizes and wants to demonstrate to the Corinthians that **our competition is not against one another for individual prizes but the opposite – train and strive for excellence in serving others on behalf of Christ and the gospel!!!**



We dedicate this section of our newsletter to our beloved that have passed from our congregation and also the family members of our CBCGM sisters and brothers. We sincerely offer our prayers and condolences to the bereaved families.