

# The Brighton Light

BRIGHTON ARP CHURCH

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**FEBRUARY 2011:** The Love Of God Is Greater Far. "The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: 'Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with loving kindness I have drawn you.'" (Jeremiah 31:3)

God, through the prophet Jeremiah warned the people to repent of their sin, to turn from their idolatry. But, they continued full steam on their rebellious path, thinking that God would not allow a foreign nation to conquer the 'chosen' people. When God did allow the Hebrews to be taken into captivity they complained and said God was too harsh, that He should not have allowed this to take place.

When bad things happen or things go way wrong, we are often too quick to blame God, that God does not love me or to blame others. We can blame our parents, we can blame society or the authorities. However, until the person can come to the place in their hearts to realize that, yes things might be hard, things have happened to me, but I chose to do something I knew was wrong and harmful' the person will stay in the blaming mode. We sometimes fail to realize that actions, bad or good have consequences.

Please understand that there are things which happen that are out of our ability to control or really do anything about. It is not always due to bad choices nor is it a lack of faith. Where ever we find ourselves we need to be reminded that our Lord loves us still and will never cease to love us. How can He but not love us? He is always faithful to His promises and cannot lie. He died because of our sin and rose again to conquer death, hell and the grave. How great a sustaining love this is! As Jeremiah reminds us; "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love." (Jere. 31:3b) Will He therefore leave us alone to fend off the enemy of our souls? What does the word 'everlasting' mean to you? Those whom God has chosen to be His sons and daughters will be loved and kept for all time. He will never leave us nor will He ever forsake us. Our gracious Lord is the ultimate promise keeper. If He will not or does not, He is the ultimate liar and deceiver, and simply, He is not God.

Jeremiah also reminds us that; "with loving kindness, I have drawn you." (Jere. 31:3c) When a person falls into a deep shaft or well, that person is helpless. We have all heard where a child has fallen into a well or miners have been trapped in a mine shaft. They could not rescue themselves and had to trust others to do the rescuing to save them from sure disaster. Likewise, God had to draw our souls from the brink of eternal disaster. It is He and He alone Who is more than able to lift us up and to truly save us! How great is His everlasting love toward us! I believe the hymn "The Love of God is Greater Far" says it well. "The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can tell; it goes beyond the highest star, and reaches to the lowest hell; the guilty pair, bowed with care, God gave His Son to win; His erring child He reconciled, and pardoned from his sin. O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong! It shall forevermore endure, the saints' and angels' song!"

Praise our Lord for His amazing, everlasting and most wonderful love He has shown to as His chosen ones!

With love, Meredith

## SERMON SCRIPTURE SELECTIONS FOR THE MONTH:

February 6	Exodus 33:9-17; John 15:12-22 "To Be Called, Friends"
February 13	Isaiah 55:8-11; John 15:7-11 "The Standard Is Set"
February 20	James 3:13-18 "No Middle Ground"
February 27	Hebrews 12:1-13 "Look To Jesus"

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

February 14	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bailey Mr. and Mrs. Danny Hernandez
February 17	Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Glass
February 23	Mr. and Mrs. John Yarbrow

### NURSERY ATTENDANTS

February 6	Joe Anne Alsbrook
February 13	Katie Ruffin
February 20	Robin Gravely
February 27	Vickie Hugues

### FLOWERS FOR THE MONTH

Mary Steele Circle

February 13	Susan Cavin
February 20	Molly Ann Heath In Honor of Joe Anne Alsbrook

### Sick and Shut-Ins:

Joe Anne Alsbrook	Doris Hodges
Mary Frances Bennett	Linda Huffman
Mel Billings Sr.	Swayne Huffman
Mike Boswell	Adam Lewis
Rick Boswell	Racheal Lineberger
Don Brown	Ann Locke
Pam Bundy	Logan Lupinsky
Mildred Cashion	Julia McCormick
Cov. ARP Church	Luke Moncla
Cooper Curtis	Martha Lou Moore
Louise Dungy	Mike Otis
John Fletcher	Ricky Pannell
Cathy Fowler	Carolyn Patrick
Betty Frazier	Geraldine Rhodes
Helen Goulder	Sarah Smith
Kim Gray	Cecil Starnes
Melanie Griffin	Joshlin Walter
Jeff Hicks	Tom Hoover
Dana Hill	Matt Hoover
Joy Hill	

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you have any ideas or suggestions for the church website, please contact Chris Gravley, webmaster, at 901-372-3995 or e-mail at [chris\\_gravley@bellsouth.net](mailto:chris_gravley@bellsouth.net).

**THE DEACON OF THE MONTH** is Chris Gravley. If you have any requests for the deacons, please contact Chris at 901-674-3851.

**THE MARY STEELE CIRCLE** Valentine banquet will be held on Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 P.M. until 7:00 P.M. There will be a great meal, entertainment, door prizes, and a Sweetheart Shop. Donations will be accepted at the door. Please be sure to bring your friends and come out to enjoy this event.

**WORKERS COUNCIL** – Reminder there is a workers council meeting on Tuesday February 22 at 7:00 P.M. This meeting is for all Sunday school teachers and Wednesday night youth leaders.

**WINTER JAM 2011:** Winter Jam is coming to Memphis Fed Ex Forum on Sunday March 6. The cost is \$10.00 at the door and you will need extra money for food and souvenirs. For those interested in attending please see John or Nick. Ages are Middle school to Adults.

**CONGRATULATIONS!** Ben Cavin won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Special Olympics bowling competition on Tuesday January 25. Great job Ben!

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Alexi Starnes who made the A Honor Roll this 9 weeks. Way to go!

**CONGRATULAIONS** to Lilly Alsbrook who's science project was selected for the finals in the elementary division at the Brighton Middle School.