

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY

REMINDER

Volume XV

February 15, 2009

Number 7

PLAN NOW TO BE HERE NEXT SUNDAY TO HEAR OUR VERY SPECIAL GUEST:



Eric Barger

ERIC BARGER

of
Take A Stand Ministries

Saved in his early 30's from a life of sin, Eric Barger has been called by God to help Christians and churches understand the attacks on Christianity coming from so many sides in our world today.

His ministry provides biblically-based help on topics such as -

- The New Age Movement The Cults The Occult
- The Emergent Church Bible Prophecy
- Current Events Spiritual Warfare
- Christian Apologetics

- ☛ Bro. Eric will be sharing his testimony of how God saved him on Sunday morning - bring your lost family and friends to hear how THEIR life can be rescued by Christ's saving power!
- ☛ On Sunday Evening, he will be presenting a very important study on The Emergent Church.

PLAN NOW TO BE HERE!

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. *Admit that you are a sinner.*
2. *Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.*
3. *Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.*
4. *You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).*
5. *By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.*



Please Remember To Be Faithful to Give!

As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go *up*. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start *today* - OK? Thank you.

Church Directory

Todd W. White ----- Pastor
 Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist
 Dickie Eberle ----- Greeter
 Larry Mathews, Caryn Quinnelly, Todd W. White ----- S.S. Teachers
 Larry & Mary Byars, Brian & Charity Crawford,
 Jeannie Knight, Nathaniel & Rebekah White ----- Outreach
 Jamie Davis ----- Sound Technician

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Mary Byars
 Cradle Roll 2: Larry Byars
 Floater: Andrea Hooper

6:00 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Bertha Segebarrrt
 Cradle Roll 2: Janet Bridges
 Floater: Kelsey Moreno

Wed. Eve. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Rebekah White
 Cradle Roll 2: Shirley White
 Floater: Nathaniel White

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of February 8, 2009

Sunday School ----- 21
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 36
 Evening Service ----- 24
 Wed. Eve. Service, 02/11/09 ----- 29

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of February 8, 2009

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,114.00
 Love Off'g, Malcome Ellis (we're saving up) ----- \$ 5.00
 New Hymnals Fund ----- \$ 10.00
Total Received for Week of 02/08/09: \$ 1,129.00

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed to operate the church EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00

FUND DRIVE REPORTS

NEW HYMNAL FUND

Offerings Received To Date: \$ 1,120.00

NEW PIANO FUND

Offerings Received To Date: \$ 560.00

PARSONAGE RENOVATION FUND

Total Received, To Date: \$ 264.00

Visit Us Online At - www.southheightsbaptist.com

DON'T FORGET - EVANGELIST MALCOM ELLIS WILL BE HERE 4/8-12!

THE EMERGING CHURCH: A MAGNET FOR REBELS

The emerging church is a magnet for those who have rejected the old-fashioned New Testament faith and who despise traditional Bible-believing churches, dogmatic biblical preaching, and biblical judgmentalism in regard to lifestyle choices. Many of the books I have read by emerging leaders make this admission.

For example, in *Blue Like Jazz*, Donald Miller tells how that he refused to be restricted by the teaching of traditional-type churches. He wanted to drink beer and watch raunchy movies and talk trashy and run around with atheists and other rebels. In discussing his involvement in church in his youth he says, I wished I could have subscribed to aspects of Christianity but not the whole thing (p. 30). He complains, In order to believe Christianity, you either had to reduce enormous theological absurdities [i.e., Garden of Eden, universal flood] into childrens stories or ignore them (p. 31). He wanted to believe the gospel free from the clasp of fairy tale (p. 35). In other words, he wanted to pick and choose what parts of the Bible he would believe. He despised dogmatic Bible preaching and hated it when preachers said we had to follow Jesus because sometimes they would make Him sound angry (p. 34).

In fact, Jesus was angry sometimes even in His incarnation (he looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, Mark 3:5), and He will be very angry in the future when the wrath of the Lamb is poured out upon mankind as described in the book of Revelation and many other places in Scripture!

When Miller decided to attend a raunchy secular college in Portland, Oregon, where most of the students are atheists and agnostics and they use drugs and openly fornicate and sometimes run around naked, a Christian friend sat him down and warned him that God did not want him to attend there. That was good biblical advice (e.g., II Cor. 6:14-17; Eph. 5:11; II Timothy 3:5; James 4:4; I John 2:15-17), but Miller ignored the warning and felt that the wicked atmosphere was a liberating experience. He writes: The first day of school was exhilarating. It was better than high school. Reed had ashtrays, and everybody said cusswords (p. 38). After spending time with drug-using, atheistic hippies who lived in the woods he said, I had discovered life outside the church, and I liked it. As I said, I preferred it (p. 210).

At a book signing event, one enthusiastic reader of Millers *Blue Like Jazz* said: "I love *Blue Like Jazz* because its, like, a Christian book, but it doesnt make you feel bad about yourself" (A Better Storyteller, Christianity Today, June 2007). Another said: "I've already bought *Blue Like Jazz* 13 times. But I gotta have all these to give to people. Im a Jesus girl, but I also like to go out and do tequila shots with my friends. This is a book I can give to those friends."

Some members of Spirit Garage meet in an Irish bar in

downtown Minneapolis on Wednesday for a weekly Theology Pub, a mix of biblical discussion and beer. Lindsey Gice, a member of Spirit Garage, says that when the subject of Christianity comes up, I always feel like I have to qualify it, like, Im not that kind of Christian, I go to a cool church (Hip New Churches Pray to a Different Drummer, New York Times, Feb. 18, 2004). Gice said that she left church after high school because her former churches were way too judgmental.

Brian McLarens book *A New Kind of Christian* is the story of a pastor who rejects the Bible in a crisis of faith and follows the guidance of a modernist. The book recounts the mans journey from a fairly solid faith in the Bible as the absolute standard for truth, in which doctrine is either right or wrong, scriptural or unscriptural, to a pliable, philosophical position in which faith is more about a way of life than a system of belief, where being authentically good is more important than being doctrinally right (from the back cover of *A New Kind of Christian*).

In *A Renegades Guide to God*, David Foster mocks Bible thumpers and calls for a renegade type of Christianity that resists being named, revolts at being shamed, and rebels against being tamed (p. 8). He says, We wont be told what to do or commanded how to behave (p. 10).

Nanette Sawyer, in her chapter in *An Emergent Manifesto of Hope*, begins by describing her explicit rejection of Christianity (p. 43). She rejected the division of people into categories of saved and unsaved. She rejected the restriction on women church leaders. She renounced the doctrine that man is inherently bad and the necessity of judging oneself a sinner. She complains, This didnt leave any room for questions, doubts, or growth in faith.

The testimony of Anna Dodridge of Bournemouth, England, is featured in the book *Emerging Churches* by Eddie Gibbs and Ryan Bolger. She describes how that she grew up in a Christian home but fell in love with the world and got deeply involved in the club culture, which involves all night dance and drug parties. Her interests were in drinking and kissing boys (p. 262). She got fed up with the churches because they refused to support me and couldnt see how I could possibly want to go into nightclubs, and they thought it was disgraceful that we were encouraging the culture. As a result, she went off to Ibiza, Spain (a magnet for clubbers from all over Europe) for a couple of weeks. She and others that support the emerging church philosophy are fed up with traditional church, heavy-handed guidance (p. 264).

The membership of the emerging church congregation called *Revive* in Leeds, England, is mainly made up of people who didnt fit into regular church. They were too cynical, too rebellious, too radical (*Emerging Church*, p. 273).

Jonny Baker of Grace in London, England, says: "We once did a service called were right, follow us that explored the discomfort we all feel with that old-school, arrogant approach to evangelism (*Emerging Church*, p. 123).

Donald McCullough complains about those who make cocksure pronouncements about God and engage in doctrinal

warfare and are eager to condemn others to hell (*If Grace Is So Amazing, Why Don't We Like It*, p. 25). He is opposed to preachers who crack the whip of the imperative (Do this!) than announce the news of the indicative (God has done this!) (p. 78). He doesnt like the type of preaching that says, ... dont do that, curb your appetites, reign in desire, discipline and sacrifice yourself (p. 104). He claims that grace means we may relax in our humanity (p. 141).

These people are rebels against the plain teaching of the Bible, and as a magnet for rebellion the emerging church holds a wide attraction in these last days as prophesied in Scripture: "*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables*" (II Tim. 4:3-4).

This prophecy describes a great turning away from the truth among professing Christians. It says they will reject the sound teaching of the Bible and desire a new type of Christianity that allows them to live after their own lusts. That is a strange type of Christianity, but we are seeing its fulfillment before our very eyes. The prophecy says there will be heaps of teachers who will give the people this new type of Christianity, and this is exactly what we see. Christian bookstores are filled with books and the Internet is filled with Christian articles and blogs, but the majority of this material does not contain the straightforward preaching of Gods Word that reproves, rebukes, and exhorts (II Tim. 4:2). Rather, they are filled with doctrine that scratches the itching ears of those who have rejected the Bible. They are filled with pop novelties, psychology, self-esteemism, pampering of the ego, friendship with the world, heresies, questionings, boastings,

doubtings, illicit fellowship with error (e.g., evangelicals and contemplative spirituality), railings against legalism falsely so called, fairy tales, fictional romance, reconstructed history, fascination with ancient heretics wrongly called church fathers, and many other such things.

The New Evangelicalism of the 1950s was a rebellion against strict biblical Christianity, and the emerging church is simply a step further in that fearful direction.

Rebellion is a natural product of our fallen nature. The Old Man, as it is called in Scripture, which we inherited from Adams fall, is at enmity against God and His Word. True Christianity requires a new birth. There are no second generation Christians in the true biblical sense. Thus each person that grows up in a Christian home and church must come to grips with the gospel for himself and herself, and because the devil and the indwelling fallen nature are real, there is a spiritual battle that must be waged. I faced this battle in my youth. I grew up in a Bible-believing church and went through the motions of receiving Christ and joining the church, but I wanted my own way more than Christs. I rejected the Bible, left the church, and went very far into the world before being converted at age 23. Emerging church philosophy would doubtless have been appealing to me in my unsaved, rebellious condition.

Because of this ongoing battle that rages with each new generation, the rebellion that is part and parcel of the emerging church philosophy is very enticing to a wide range of people.

- from *WHAT IS THE EMERGING CHURCH?*
by Evangelist David W. Cloud

BE PLANNING NOW TO BRING SOMEONE TO HEAR -

EVANGELIST MALCOM ELLIS

Wednesday April 8 - Sunday, April 12



- Old-Fashioned Bible Preaching*
- Old-Fashioned Singing*
- Old-Fashioned Revival Services*



PLAN NOW TO BE HERE!