

# I was just thinking...

Ronny Russell, Lead Pastor

## Tear Down Those Walls

Acceptance. Some people are scared to death of the word. They're afraid that if they accept people where they are, that somehow they'll risk being perceived as accepting or condoning their sin and lifestyle.

Well, aren't you glad that God accepts you where you are? That you aren't rejected because of your lifestyle? You aren't perfect, you know. Far from it. You may be running away from some of your sins but remain stuck in others. But God accepts you where you are.

He accepts your arrogance, your judgmental attitudes, your greed, your gluttony, your air of spiritual superiority.

Early on in my ministry I heard an older pastor say that many people inside the church were far more difficult to love than those outside. I've come to learn over the years what he meant.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is always welcoming and accepting to outsiders. Jesus was derisively accused of eating with tax collectors and sinners. He wore that badge with honor. It was why the Father had sent Him, to those who needed a doctor, not just to those who were already well.

Connecting with outsiders will mean that we have to tear down some walls. Remember Ronald Reagan saying, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down that wall"? The Spirit says to us, "Mr./Ms. Church Member, tear down those walls."

Tear down those walls that keep outsiders from feeling accepted. Tear down those walls of pride in the mistaken belief that you've already arrived. Tear down those walls of superiority that you have erected.

When we try to connect with those outside the church we have to understand that things will have to be done differently. This is why Mission @ Stanfield looks different from the Mission campus. This is why even at the Mission campus, we will stagnate if we don't tear down some walls and open our hearts to those who are not the same as us and accept them where they are.



## Journey to the Cross

Last year Mission began an Easter experience called "A Journey to the Cross" as a self guided, experiential journey through the final hours of Jesus life. While Christmas gets much more attention, hype, and commercialism, Easter is THE reason why we do what we do as a community of faith.

This year, we are excited to continue this important experience for attendees of Mission and guests.

As with last year, we can't host this experience without you! There are several areas that we need volunteers this year. Those areas include:

- Station Attendants
- Refreshments
- Set-up/Tear Down
- Prayer Counselors
- Host/Greeter

**The dates for this years Journey to the Cross will be April 17-19 from 6:30 - 8:00 pm**

If you are interested in volunteering any of the evenings listed above please contact Jeremy at the church office or [jeremyh@missionchurch.org](mailto:jeremyh@missionchurch.org)

the art of  
**marriage™**

**Art of Marriage Workshop**

**Friday, April 15, 7:00-9:00pm**

**Saturday, April 16, 9:00am-3:30pm**

**Mission @ Stanfield (Family Sports & Fitness)**

**Cost \$50-See Barbara Lowder or Corletta Barbee for tickets!**

For more than 3 decades, FamilyLife has been helping couples understand God's design for relationships. Now, in this fresh new video guided event, couples have an opportunity to look at their relationship in a whole new way. Weaving instruction from respected pastors and Bible teachers together with compelling stories, humorous vignettes, man-on-the-street interviews and more, The Art of Marriage will help couples apply what the Bible teaches about marriage in a powerful way. It's practical, funny, and straight to the heart.

## Memorials

### General Fund:

In Memory of Sequel Gladden by  
Mr. & Mrs. Marney Lowder, Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Price

In Memory of Mary Webb by  
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Price

In Memory of Joyce Hatley by  
Mr. & Mrs. Max Morton

### Challenge to Build:

In Memory of Joyce Hatley by  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Downer

### Mission Fund:

In Memory of Charles Burris by  
Mrs. Tammy Harwood

## Sunday Worship Times

Praise and Worship:  
8:30am and 11:00am  
(worship care provided for  
infants through age 3)

Mission @ Stanfield 10:00am  
<http://missionstanfieldworship.ning.com/>

Bible Study for all ages: 9:45am  
(Mission Campus)

# The Mission Messenger

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**Next Newsletter Deadline: April 22, 2011**

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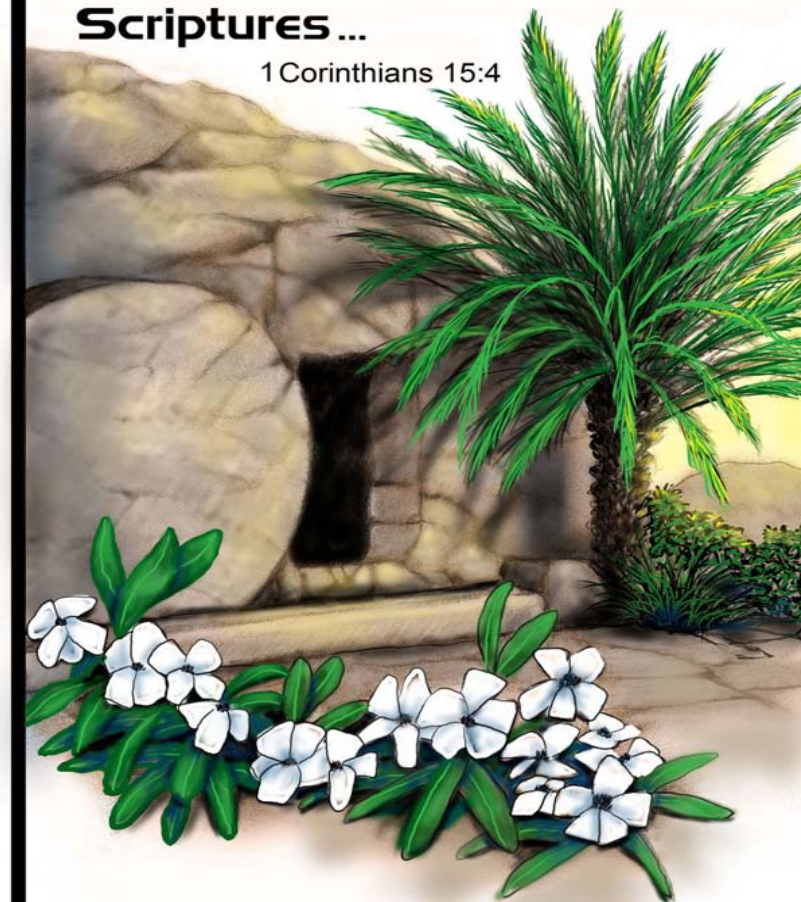
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## He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...

1 Corinthians 15:4



## Thank You...

We are grateful for friends that show such love and compassion during the sickness and passing of our mother. It is friends like you that give us so much strength and comfort. *The Family of Mary Webb*

Ronny, I am writing to thank you and Mission Baptist Church for your very generous support gift of \$600. Thank you for helping me "Share the Gospel with Christians". There are so many who are dying to know that God loves them and lives inside them. Blessings to you as you continue to pursue your passion for missions. Warmly in Christ, *Mark Maulding*

Dear Church Family, Thank you for your gift of \$610.48 through the Baby Bottle Boomerang Program. How God has blessed our ministry through the generosity of wonderful friends like you! By being a part of our celebration, you helped us reach an unbelievable goal. In less than one month, friends like you opened your hearts and gave us over \$21,000! Thank you for your donation to our ministry and for the part you have played in helping women in crisis in our community. Precious lives will be saved because of your generosity, and my prayer for your congregation is that God will richly bless you for helping to make our ministry happen. Together for Life, *Donna Medlin, Director of Development, PRC of Stanly County*

## Fellowship Club

The Fellowship Club invites YOU to join them on an outing to Concord on Wednesday, April 13.

**\*\*Note different day.** The bus will leave the church at 11:00! At our last meeting we voted to go to *Sogo Japanese Seafood & Steakhouse* for lunch for a different dining experience! The total cost for lunch is \$9 which includes drink & tip.

**Sogo Japanese Seafood & Steakhouse offers fine and authentic teppanyaki cooking.** Only superior quality chicken, steak and seafood are served. Our server and personal chef will give us a complete Japanese dining experience.

If you can't join us at Sogo for lunch, meet us at Memorial Gardens, 36 Spring Street SW for a display of God's beauty. We should be there by 12:45. This 1804 garden has been restored to its full glory. A walk through the gardens leads past an ancient stone foundation flanked with stone resting benches. Spring beds of pansies, hyacinths, daffodils, azaleas and 14,000 tulips have been planted in the garden. In summer, brilliant annuals shine throughout. Year-round the garden boasts enormous oaks, magnolias, dogwoods, roses and twisted crape myrtles. Pictures will also be made of our group. Don't miss out on this extra special **Fellowship Gathering!**



## Mission Welcomes New Members

Rena McKinney\*  
910 Country Mill Rd.  
Stanfield, NC 28163

Becky Pritchard\*  
8414 Smith Rd.  
Stanfield, NC 28163

Chris & Ashley Hunsucker\*  
165 Aurora Mill Rd.  
Stanfield, NC 28163

James Shue  
25708 Rowland Rd.  
Locust, NC 28097

Raelee Furr  
1952 Redwood Dr.  
Oakboro, NC 28129

Wyatt Helms  
9646 B Fred Rd.  
Stanfield, NC 28163

\*Mission @ Stanfield



### Mission Project



We are continuing to collect items for our soldier, Marty Little, serving in Afghanistan. A box will be mailed to him monthly. A basket is in the lobby for any items you would to send to him. Send a card to:

**Marty Little**

**Care of ODA Camp Prosser**

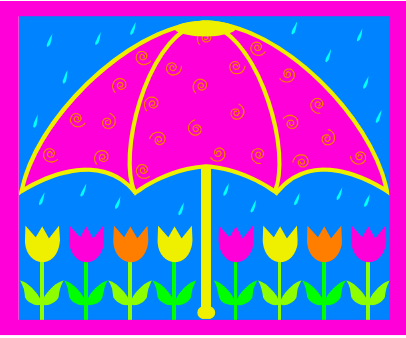
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**Sunday, April 17th**  
**"Hope for Honduras"**  
**Mission Sunday**



**CHILDREN'S Ministry:  
Joining Families in Guiding  
Children on their  
Spiritual Journey**

**A Special THANK YOU to the many people who teach children each and every week! Will you thank a teacher this week?**

**Child Safety Training – May 15 @ 9:50 in Boy Scout Room**

Anyone working with children or youth need to complete this training. Please make every effort to attend if you are planning to teach or chaperone. Thank you!

**Easter Egg Hunt – April 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 10:00 in Locust Park**

Families come and join us in the park for face painting, crafts, and lots of candy. Invite your friends who are ages 1 to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade to come and join you for a morning of fun!

**I'm A Christian Now – May 15, 22, & 29<sup>th</sup>**

Your child is now a Christian; they have made the most important decision of their lives. Now what? We are offering this 3 week class to help them transition into being a disciple of Jesus Christ. Also, some of those "churchy" words will be explored. Please let me know if your child would like to attend.

**Contact Beverly Cobb for more information on any of the above:  
[beverlyc@missionchurch.org](mailto:beverlyc@missionchurch.org) or 704-578-2644**

**April Calendar for Worship Care**

**Hostesses:** Apr. 3, Kimberly Helms; Apr. 10, Kelly Barrier; Apr. 17, Angie Fink; Apr. 24, Michele Roper-Shue

**8:30 Babies and Ones:** Apr. 3, David Ross, Pam Barringer; Apr. 10, Renee Skey, Wendy Smith; Apr. 17, Andrea Harkey, Krista Ross; Apr. 24, LouAnne Lucas, Leigh Anne Veazey

**8:30 Twos and Threes:** Apr. 3, Patricia Barrier, Volunteer Needed; Apr. 10, Lynn Helms, Dan Barrier; Apr. 17, Robby Fink, Jennifer Estridge; Apr. 24, Kamela Efird, Steven Lucas

**11:00:** Apr. 3, Pam Grant, Derek Blalock; Apr. 10, Trena Shinn, Stephanie Druschel; Apr. 17, Reba Tucker, Tom Moore; Apr. 24, Richard Tucker, Beth Blalock



**Student Ministry**

ConnXion @ Night on Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00pm.  
Come join your friends on Wednesday nights at Mission!

**Mystery Adventure  
Sunday, April 10th  
after ConnXion A.M.  
Bring \$20 spending \$  
See Thomas to sign up!**



**ConnXion A.M.**

Every Sunday, 9:45-10:45am, in the Café  
Breakfast, fellowship, Bible lessons



**Aftershock 2011**

May 1st, 7:00pm

An evening of worship with our creative movement team Friends!  
Everyone is invited!!!

**Breakfast List for April**

April 3: Chet Currie, Wesley Joyner, Jr.

April 10: Jackson Skey, Courtney Grant

April 17: Alexa Kennedy, Wyatt Proffitt

April 24: Mason/Brandon McNaught, Leena/Brianna/Jacob Wilson