

Sunday, March 1 Special Speaker Dr. Fred Schindler preaching in all services

FRIDAY, MARCH 6 D. A. C. S. State Competition for Capitol Baptist School held at Milford Christian Academy

- Saturday, March 7 & 28 Easton Literature Distribution; meet at the church at 8am
- SATURDAY, MARCH 14 Mandatory Workers' Training from 8am to 12pm
- Saturday, March 21 "Lovely in Silhouette" Ladies Seminar; 8:30am to 1:30pm; \$10 per person until March 14
- Sunday, March 22 Business Meeting for all church members after the evening service

SUNDAY

Early Service 8:30am Sunday School 9:45am Morning Service 11:00am Choir Practice 4:30pm Prayer Meeting 5:30pm **Evening Service** 6:00pm

WEDNESDAY

Teen Meeting 6:15pm Children's Service 7:00pm Bible Study & Prayer 7:00pm

SOUL-WINNING & VISITATION

Wednesday 3:30pm 10:00am Saturday

HOW TO AVOID DECEIVING OURSELVES

James 1:19-27 | Pastor T. H. Moore

hen I was pastoring in Pennsylvania, we had a fine elderly Christian couple in our church that asked me to go and see their grandson that was recently arrested and was in the Chester County Prison. At that time, he was seventeen years old. The parents of this young man were not living for the Lord and did not raise their son for the Lord. What landed their grandson in jail, was that he was having some trouble with a couple of older teenagers that were picking on him. They harassed him so much that one day, he decided to carry a knife with him to school. The next time the boys picked on him, he pulled out his knife and began stabbing one of the boys. He did not kill the boy, but sent him to the hospital. The police were called and he was arrested and put in jail.

When I went to visit him in prison, after passing through all sorts of security checks, I was brought into a hallway that had these little tables and chairs set up for inmate visitation. The prison guards told me to sit at one of the tables and wait and they would bring him out to me. After about 5 minutes, out he came. It was a pathetic sight. A seventeen year old boy dressed in an orange jumpsuit, escorted by a prison guard.

When he sat down in front of me, I made some small talk, and then figured that the best thing that I could do was to witness to him and give him the gospel. I opened the Bible that I had with me, turned to Romans 3:23, and read to him, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." After reading that verse, I explained to him what sin was,

and I asked him if he understood that he was a sinner. I will never forget what he said to me. He looked me right in the eye, paused and said, "I've never done anything wrong". This young man would not admit that he was a sinner. He was deceiving himself.

In our text this week, we read in James 1:22, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." And then in verse 26, "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain." Twice we read

Let's make sure that we are not falling into the trap of selfdeception!

the word "deceive". The word "deceive" means, "to mislead the mind; to cause to err"; "to cause to believe what is false, or disbelieve what is true." Often, deception is used in order to gain some sort of personal advantage. The Bible warns about two types of deception. The first, is when someone deceives us. The Lord Jesus Christ warned of this in Matthew 24:4-5, "Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many". When someone tries to get you to believe something that is not true, or gives you a false impression with the intent of misleading you, that is deception. Deception can be an evil tactic. When Satan tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden and caused

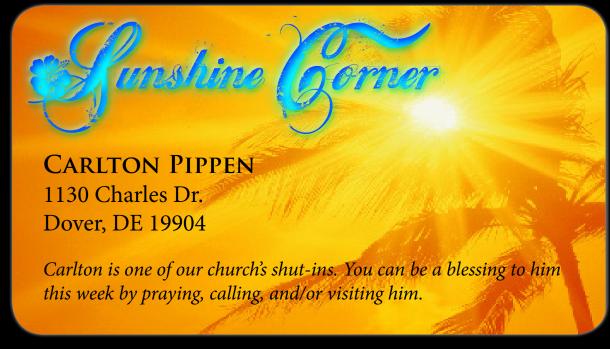
her to sin, the Bible says that he deceived her. In 1 Timothy 2:14, we read "And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression." So one type of deception is when one person deceives another person. But there is a second kind of deception—self deception. This is a far more serious matter because it comes from within ourselves. We become the fruit of our own deception. When we deceive ourselves, we believe our own lies, blind ourselves to our own condition, pretend to be something that we are not and live in a false reality. And the truth is that there is some degree of self-deception in all of us. All of us have heard the phrase, "Stop kidding yourself".

The most serious self-deception of all is in the area of salvation. The Lord Jesus Christ said that many people are deceiving themselves into thinking that they are saved, when in reality, they are not. We read in Matthew 7:22-23, "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." There are many people that say that they are certain that they are going to Heaven when they die, but cannot give a Bible reason for that assurance. They think that because they do things like read their Bible, pray, or live a little better than others that they are going to Heaven. They are deceiving themselves. Let's make sure that we are not falling into the trap of self-deception!

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Join us in prayer for...

- * EASTON BAPTIST CHURCH: Reid family; financial support; literature distribution; Get-Acquainted Meetings (March 29th April 2nd)
- , BUILDING RENOVATION: God's guidance and wisdom
- , AMBER CARMONA: labor & delivery in the near future
- PAM CORDREY: cancer and mother's cancer
- SCOT & KATIE DAKU: safety while on furlough; increased support
- , JIM DUNN: eye surgery recovery
- Year Jan Gonzalez' Cousin, Iris: heart transplant needed
- HEISHMAN'S GRANDDAUGHTER, ELLIE: heart complications
- , MIKE JAGER: eye surgery Feb. 25th
- , DON JOHNSON: recovery
- HEATHER REECE: radiation treatments
- LES SUTTON: in Delmar Nursing Home







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From the Mission Field

SETH & MELISSA ACREE - GHANA

November 2014

Dear Praying Friends,

As I sit down to write my October prayer letter, I am astounded to find that October has already come and gone. Seriously, time has gone by so fast, but this is just evidence of how busy things have been. As I look back over the few months since our August prayer letter, we can only praise the Lord for the things that he has done and allowed us to do.

Many things here at Lighthouse Baptist Church have improved in recent days. For one, the homiletics class that I mentioned in my last prayer letter has concluded and the preacher boys have had their opportunities to preach. A couple of the already more-experienced young men have accepted more permanent responsibilities (one is now teaching a Sunday school class and another has assumed responsibility over some of the children's ministries). This shift in ministry responsibilities (delegation) has allowed me to focus more on preaching during the main services and the freedom to expand the visitation program.

Besides the positive changes within the ministry itself, there has been (slow) progress in restoring the church van and renovating the church facilities. Having a nice looking church van that runs faithfully will dramatically help with bringing young people and the elderly to and from church every week. As it is, there are some people who have been missing church because there is no consistent means of getting to church. The van

has already had considerable body work and maintenance done. It has been painted. The van driver just got his license. All that remains is the restoration of the interior, and it should be good to go! The renovations to the church have also been started to help create a more welcoming atmosphere for visitors (and everyone, really). Planned for the renovations are a new wall, new lighting and new fans. The foundation for the wall has already been laid.

In my last prayer letter, I praised God for answered prayer in allowing a Bible study to continue with a man named Moses. Moses is in the Ghana Navy and has since been deployed. However, when God closes one door, He opens another. I've been able to start another Bible study with a group of brick makers (one man in particular), and through that, we've seen at least nine co-workers and family members profess Christ. Of these, three have been coming to church regularly and desire to get baptized.

Speaking of baptisms, we recently had our first baptismal service since I've been here in Ghana. Two were baptized: a 12 year old named James and Emily, my oldest. It was quite a treat that the first person I had the privilege to baptize was my firstborn.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support, **Seth Acree & Family**

Field Address: c/o DTD 3058, 77F, Comm. 22, Tema, Ghana **Supporting Agency:** BIMI, P.O. Box 9215, Chattanooga, TN 37412