

The Sanctuary Apostolic Pentecostal Church Messenger



**July
2016**

**1321 4th Ave. SW
Bessemer, AL 35022**

Schedule



Sundays:

9:00 am Pre-service prayer
9:30 am Sunday School (all ages)
10:30 am Worship service &
Children's Church (ages 5-11)
5:30 pm Pre-service prayer
6:00 pm Praise Explosion

Mondays:

7:00 pm Prayer

Wednesdays:

6:30 pm Pre-service prayer
7:00 pm Bible Study

Fridays:

7:00 pm "Aftershock": (Youth ages 12-21)

Saturdays:

Men's Prayer 8:00 am
Outreach prayer/visitation 9:30 am

Connect with us



205-426-1332



205-434-4971



The Sanctuary
Apostolic Pentecostal
Church



www.sanctuaryapc.org

Ministries

Todd Bertram, Pastor

Bible Quizzing - Gary Smith

Children's Ministry (ages 3-11) - Ronnie Wead

Drama Ministry - Jasmine Corcoran

Home Bible Study - Roy Westbrook

Hospitality Ministry - Misty Baker

Ladies' Ministry - Mary Ann Jones

Maintenance—Matt Corcoran

Men's Ministry - Kerry Jones, Sr.

Music Ministry - Anson Alford

Outreach Ministry - Johnny & Mary Jackson

Promotions - Kyle Bertram

Sound/Media - Darrell Baker

Student Ministries - (ages 12-21) - Matt & Mary Day

July Birthdays

2

Kevin Donaldson

8

Wesley Wead

18

Lucas Corcoran

19

Rylan Bertram

20

Chandrea Moore

23

Mary Ann Jones

Jonathan Westbrook

24

Lori Hill

25

Shamekia Leek

29

Chantry Hadden

Ashleigh Johnson

30

Kerry Jones, Sr.

Drawn Closer to God Than Ever Before! -by Linda (Tayda) Leek

My husband suffers from Paranoid Schizophrenia. I took him to the hospital as he was having a bad reaction to his medication; this included slurred speech, drooling, biting down on his teeth and disorientation. Admitted into the hospital, he did pretty well for a while. They had been adjusting his medications and monitoring him. On the third day, his mood changed; as the day progressed, so did his agitation. I am of the belief that his condition is caused by spirits of the enemy of our souls. Because of this, I felt some fear and asked to be moved that night to the other bed in the room. As I was laying in that bed, praying and reading my Bible, I started to feel something stir within me, "Are you really going to let the devil win?" I then got out of bed and started praying and singing praises to God, dispelling the fear inside me. I started rebuking the enemy and just knew in my spirit that things were going to get worse, but that I needed to keep praying.

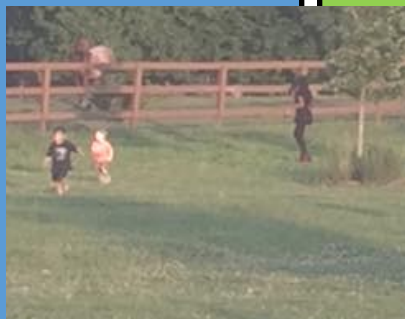
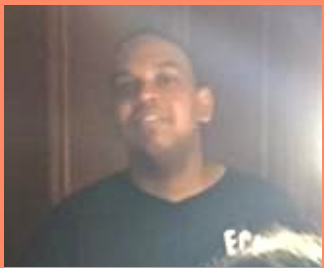
My husband's agitation got so bad that they had to sedate him; even that didn't work. The hospital staff finally had to restrain him only to see him break the restraints. Many were called in to help, and were so kind as they tried to talk him through his agitation. It eventually became so bad that they asked me to try to calm him. I remember laying hands on his head, talking to and praying for him. The doctor came into the room at this point and checked his pupils, his heart beat and pulse....nothing. I knew then that my husband had died. They called "code blue." I frantically ran out of the room and into the hallway, just knowing I had to get out of there. I saw all the nurses rushing to his room. I started yelling, "Jesus" from the top of my lungs. They tried to get me to go into the waiting room, but I just kept calling on the name of Jesus.

Soon I felt like I just needed some fresh air. It was like God carried me all the way down from the 5th floor to the ground floor. I continued to call on the name of Jesus while outside. I made a few phone calls, but don't remember much during that time, except that I began pleading with God to touch my husband. I remember telling God that I had lost my mom and just couldn't lose my husband too. As I prayed and prayed, I remember now that I felt no anger toward God. This amazes me, as I was angry with God and depressed for 2 years after my mother died. I know now that this was the beginning of a miracle in my own relationship with God.

Eventually the nurses came out and told me they needed me back up on the fifth floor. She told me that they had revived my husband and that he now had a pulse! I was hurting so badly, hadn't even cried yet; it literally was like God had been just holding me. Oh how I began thanking God! My emotions were all over the place! The doctor that found him not breathing, with no heart beat or pulse, started talking to me, actually very emotional himself.

(Continued on page 4)

Summer Barbecue



the **SANCTUARY**
student ministries

July Schedule

Friday, July 1—Student Night, 6:30 pm

Friday, July 8—Student Night, 6:30 pm

Sunday, July 10—PEAK Deposits due!

Friday, July 15—NO STUDENT NIGHT

Wednesday, July 20 through Saturday,

July 23rd—PEAK Trip

Friday, July 29—Student Night, 6:30 pm

**Baptized in
Jesus Name
May 22nd!**

Alex Palacios

**Received the
Holy Ghost
May 29th!**

Ronesia Peavy

Drawn Closer to God than Ever Before! (continued from page 2)

He informed me of my husband's current condition, that he had a pulse and had been put on a ventilator. He apologized for not being able to give me any more information than that as this was the first time he'd seen my husband.

I then called my brother and my sister-in-law: they came to the hospital. I also called Sis. Mary Ann Jones and asked her to come. They then took me to a family room and had to move my husband to the ICU overflow on the 2nd floor. I had many differing emotions, including a fear to go see my husband after all of this. Right then, I decided to just tell the devil, "You can cause all the confusion you want to, but you can't take my husband's life; his life is in the hands of God!"

To sum up my testimony, I can say that I've seen God in a new light. He is just so amazingly, amazing! Through all of this, I have drawn closer to God. During this time, my life has been turned upside down with no other choice but to lean completely on God. I've loved Him through it all. I'm so thankful to God! Even at my lowest point, when all the painful thoughts went through my mind, I had to stop and say, "God, if you take my husband I will hurt more than I can imagine, but I release him to you. Life and death are in your hands, God, not mine." Though I still have my ups and downs from day to day, God is there. My husband is improving each day and hopefully will be released from the hospital soon.

I've met so many people in the ICU waiting room; even when my husband is discharged, I'm going to go up there and pray and reach out to the other hurting families. I'm so thankful for my church family! Thank you all for your prayers and visits.



A note from the editor of the Messenger: I am always heartbroken when I see the damage done by the enemy to our unsaved loved ones. Oh how they need to surrender to God for healing and deliverance! God spared Tayda's husband's life; let's continue to be in prayer for his salvation in Jesus name!



See last page for July Events

(Events below are subject to change.)

Section 3 Sheaves for Christ Chess/Ping Pong Tournament—Aug. 6

Friends & Family Day—Aug. 14

(No night service)

Ladies' Prayer Conference—Aug. 19 & 20 with Sis. Shara McKee

Back to School Prayer—Aug. 21

Sheaves for Christ Offering—Aug. 28

Labor Day—Sept. 5

Summit Conference -Pigeon Forge, TN—Sept. 6-8

Toddler to Pre-Teen Skating—Sept. 17

General Conference—Indianapolis, IN—Sept. 27—30

Street Service—Oct. 8

Pastor Appreciation Service—Oct. 16

Harvest Party—Oct. 29

Looking ahead

Ladies' Prayer Conference 2016

Friday, August 19 at 7:30 pm & Saturday, August 20 at 10:30 am



**"Feel the Fire"
with Sis. Shara
McKee**

"...But His word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones..." Jeremiah 20:9

The Sanctuary
Todd Bertram, Pastor
1321 4th Ave. SW, Bessemer, AL 35022

205-426-1332

Extreme Christianity is Simply Authentic Christianity—by Ashley

Jabs

We live in a world where redefining is the norm. Lifestyle, standards, even terms of ethics are constantly being changed and skewed from what they once were. Many people in the world today choose to live life based upon these constant changes—redefining their lives around what is socially acceptable and right in another's eyes. Yet our foundational truth, the ultimate focus of authentic Christianity, does not change. The Word, which is forever settled in heaven (Psalm 119:89) cannot be redefined. The way, the truth, and the life is unchanging, constant in the midst of unsettled chaos that our world experiences today.

Experiencing authentic Christianity is understanding God came as a baby through a virgin mother (Matthew 1:18-20). It is understanding Jesus Christ was our Lord on the earth, experiencing the struggle and hardship, walking in our shoes so He would understand what it is to be human and overcome the flesh. It is believing He hung on a cross, bore our shame and sin, and died for the world that we might have life (I Peter 2:24). Authentic Christianity is taking up our cross and following the One who paid it all. And in the midst of this description, I can already hear the murmuring of those in the world—*living life this way is just so extreme*—and I would have to agree.

If you have followed media lately, more than likely you've seen or heard "extreme Christianity" tossed around in relation to individuals living extraordinarily for this one true God they serve. It often carries a negative connotation out of misunderstanding or unwillingness to "die to self" as required of Christian followers, even though the Bible clearly states, "he that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked" (I John 2:6). Matthew 16:24-25 states very clearly that true followers will take up their cross, follow Jesus, and deny self. The outcome is life and life abundant (John 10:10). But the extreme request the Lord makes of dying out to self goes against all human instinct, which I believe is why so many are apt to stand back and label these as "extremists." I teach every semester how the human body is programmed to survive—we call it "survival of the fittest"—and the students can thank their inborn "fight or flight response" for that dose of adrenaline that keeps them alive and reactive in times of emergency and harm. It is unnatural for us to choose to die. It's unnatural for us to carry a cross and to lay aside our desires and wants when everyone around us carries bags of drama, burdens, iPads, and the latest issue of *People* magazine. But friends, this extreme choice breeds extreme joy. Life, flowing like a spring of living water, will come to those that believe (John 7:38); ask anyone who has experienced that life-giving flow, and they will tell you nothing compares. It makes me thankful that Christians can be associated with such a term as *extreme*, for this is just how Jesus did it. His authenticity and supremacy was not ordinary. It was unbelievable to the highest degree how He came, lived, walked, and chose to die. This extreme God deserves

followers who are willing to make that same sacrifice, as we truly are born in His image (Genesis 1:27).

The Bible gives countless examples of life lived for God to the extreme, and how needful it is for our world to see the same acts of faith today! You may be symbolically battling a giant with nothing in your hand but the name of God and a few stones, just as David did (I Samuel 17), but extreme Christianity says you win. Or maybe you're feeling outnumbered, unprepared, and a little foolish to stand by obedience, relying on a promise from God (Judges 7:16-22). But just as Gideon walked by extreme faith, let our walk be no different. Abraham, Noah, Moses, Elijah, David, Peter, Paul...each lived truth in ways that didn't make sense to those around them. Extreme? Absolutely. Miraculous? Undoubtedly.

Extreme Christianity will be the reason we get up for early-morning prayer when the world sleeps. It is why we fast and the world feasts. It will be why we choose to stand out and not fit in. It will be giving our life savings to build a church in a foreign country. Extreme Christianity is sacrifice based upon the knowledge there is no better life than one with Jesus. It is living our days unashamed to live out our faith, no matter the cost.

To follow Jesus in anything less than an extreme manner would be like signing up for a lifetime of unsubstantial purpose and unfulfilled days. David K. Bernard makes it plain in his book, *The Apostolic Life*: "We can never reduce Christianity to a set of beliefs or practices. It must involve our entire life and our entire being." This extreme Christianity may require my life, but it's the only way I actually live. "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it" (Luke 9:24). The authentic purpose of man comes from nothing less than the choice to live a life fully devoted to Christ.

Ever since I was a child, I have been reminded to whom much is given, much is required (Luke 12:48). When one truly realizes the value of life, it is easy to understand that the requirement of self is insignificant in comparison. In his book *Not a Fan*, Kyle Idleman states, "The one thing we are most reluctant to give up is the one thing that has the most potential to become a substitute for Him." It is a grave danger to choose to carry idols of this world, reputations, and carnal dreams instead of the cross. It may be extreme to make the trade, but authentic none the less. This is what He commands: all of you.

Matthew 22:37 says to love God with "all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." This first commandment is the reason it's so easy to live for God to the extreme. Take this world, but give me Jesus! This Christianity involves a people who are willing and determined to follow Jesus no matter the cost. It's authentic in Word and extreme in action. No need to water it down or make it more palatable for those wanting less of a commitment—the end is near, and if we choose not to live to the extreme for Christ, we've missed the Great Commission altogether.

The Sanctuary Events Calendar - July 2016

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

			Bible Study 7 pm		1 Student Night	2 Men's Prayer 8:00 am Outreach Prayer & Visitation 9:30 am
3 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Praise Explosion 6:00 pm	4 Prayer 7 pm Independence Day Picnic	5 Pastor's Prayer	6 Bible Study 7 pm	7	8 Student Night	9 Men's Prayer 8:00 am Outreach Prayer & Visitation 9:30 am
10 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Praise Explosion 6:00 pm PEAK Deposits Due!	11 Prayer 7 pm	12 Pastor's Prayer	13 Bible Study 7 pm	14	15 Men's Fishing Trip July 14—16	16 Men's Prayer 8:00 am Outreach Prayer & Visitation 9:30 am Ladies' Pool Party
17 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Praise Explosion 6:00 pm Girls' Pool Party	18 Prayer 7 pm	19 Pastor's Prayer	20 Bible Study 7 pm	21	22	23 Men's Prayer 8:00 am Outreach Prayer & Visitation 9:30 am PEAK July 20—22 Home 23rd
24 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 Praise Explosion 6:00 pm	25 Prayer 7 pm	26 Pastor's Prayer	27 Bible Study 7 pm	28	29 Student Night	30 Men's Prayer 8:00 am Outreach Prayer & Visitation 9:30 am Men's Pool Party
31 Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Praise Explosion 6:00 pm Boys' Pool Party	AUGUST 1	AUGUST 2 Pastor's Prayer	AUGUST 3	AUGUST 4	AUGUST 5	AUGUST 6 Men's Prayer 8:00 am Outreach Prayer & Visitation 9:30 am Section 3 Sheaves for Christ Chess / Ping Pong Tournament