

Living God's Promises Every Day

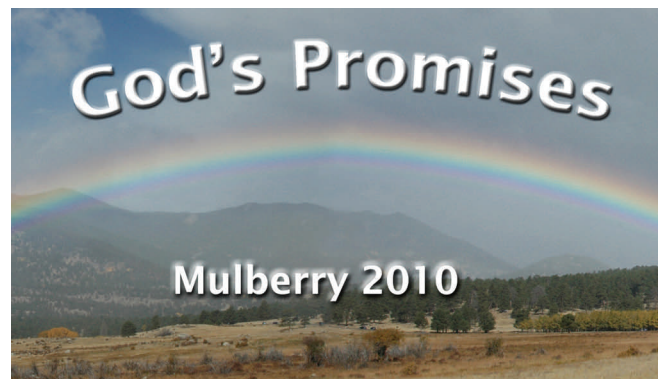
As a church family, we are going to focus in 2010 on the promises of God throughout scripture. Each month, we will concentrate on one promise, reflecting on the character of God as demonstrated in that particular promise and considering how we ought to live in light of the promise.

As we journey through the year together in this way, let's remember to *focus beyond the outward demonstrations of God's promises and look to the nature of the God who makes and fulfills these promises*. For each promise, there will also be corresponding implications for our daily lives: *how do we respond to God and how do we reflect God's promises to the world?*

The promises theme will be integrated throughout the entire life of the church in numerous ways. In several Sunday morning series throughout the year, we will focus on God's promises to us, our response to God, and other implications of promises in our lives. Some of the Awana Adult Challenge verses will be connected to the promises theme, and we will have opportunities to focus our corporate expressions of worship around God's promises.

The theme for VBS and Music Camp this summer will center on God's promises, and the children's ministry will highlight each month's central promise through weekly ministries. Some Sunday School and small group topics will also help us integrate the focus into our daily lives. The list of central promises for the year along with a depiction of January's theme and scripture is below.

In order to help us highlight each month's emphasis, we will have a visual representation and scripture passage displayed in the hallway between the solarium and the education building. (Thanks to Jason Harper for the original artwork!)



January: Faithfulness



Daniel 6:19-23

God's Promises 2010

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| January: <i>Faithfulness</i> | September: <i>Eternal Significance</i> |
| February: <i>Love</i> | October: <i>Communication</i> |
| March: <i>Salvation</i> | November: <i>Caring Provision</i> |
| April: <i>Potential</i> | December: <i>Presence</i> |
| May: <i>Attention</i> | |
| June: <i>Joy</i> | |
| July: <i>Wisdom</i> | |
| August: <i>Belonging</i> | |

A Note from Steve...

It is a privilege to be a part of a church that genuinely wants to help others, and I believe that we are in position to be able to serve in a way that makes a difference for Christ in our community. Considering the ways our church family spread joy and hope this Christmas is very encouraging. Working together, we helped provide Christmas presents for 18 families who would not otherwise have had gifts to exchange. Some Sunday School classes joined together to provide food baskets and other items for families. We supported the food bank with monetary and food donations. Some of us also gave our time and resources through other community organizations, and many found ways to individually bless someone this Christmas season. Great job, Mulberry! I know people in our community experienced the tangible love of Jesus.

I spoke recently with someone we helped in the past, and I thought it would be appropriate to pass on to you our conversation. Our church helped a single-parent dad and his two kids in various ways over the course of several months after they experienced damage to their residence in Gustav and a job loss. He stopped by a few weeks ago to visit. I was thrilled to see him and to learn that he

and his family are doing well. He is continuing in the job we helped him find, and he has even recently received a small promotion. They continue to live in the residence we helped him find and furnish. We talked about how God has been and continues to be at work in their family, and he expressed his gratitude to our church family and to God. I want to pass on that message of gratitude to you. His story is important because it illustrates how we can help others not only in the short term but how we can make a lasting difference in people's lives. In the whole scheme of things, what we offered may not have seemed like an incredible amount, but it made a huge difference in helping them get through a difficult time and make it to a more stable place as a family. And this is only one of many stories we could share of how God has used and continues to use our church family in this community.

Let me encourage you to continue to look for these opportunities as individuals to spread the hope of the gospel in tangible ways. We serve our Lord as we serve people, and it does make a difference!

In Christ,



Worship and Media

Authenticity: Conforming to reality and therefore worthy of trust, reliance, or belief. Truthfulness of origins, attributions, commitments, sincerity, and intentions.

Relevancy: a measure of how pertinent, connected, or applicable something is.

Engage : To employ the attention and efforts of; to occupy; to engross; to draw on. To come into gear with; as, the teeth of one cogwheel engage those of another, or one part of a clutch engages the other part.

Freedom: a state in which somebody is able to act and live as he or she chooses, without being subject to any undue restraints or restrictions

It is for **freedom** that Christ has set us **free**. Gal. 5:1
You, my brothers, were called to be **free**. Gal. 5:13
So if the Son sets you **free**, you will be **free** indeed.
John 8:36

I recently had the opportunity to attend the Louisiana State High School 4A Championship game in the Superdome. Though my team did not win, it was quite an event. The excitement of the fans was contagious...the noise, the music.

As Southerners, we really enjoy our sports. We jump. We yell – sometimes nearly uncontrollably.

If I were to ask you about the moments that were most emotional to you in life, would a ball game be at the top of the list? We show tremendous freedom in a football atmosphere. Shouldn't living with Christ daily engender the same excitement? Shouldn't we feel free to tell others about Him, lift His name aloud in praise, or to raise a hand to display allegiance and praise for Christ? Christ has given us freedom, and we should live our lives freely in praise of Him. This month, rest in the promise of the freedom we have in Christ and worship Him freely.

Thank you all for a great year. Choir, Praise Band, Testament and Handbells, you have helped us engage Christ in worship. Thanks for all of your hard work!

May God Bless You as we worship Him this year,



Children's Ministry

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas. God promised the Jews that He would send a Savior. Jesus fulfilled that promise, but that is just the beginning. The Bible is full of promises God has made to us. This year, we will focus on some of those promises and discover how we can respond to them and live our lives in their truth.

I am really excited about God's Promises 2010 and how it will apply in all of our church's ministry activities, including Children's Ministry. We will include the promise of the month in Sunday School, Children's Church, and Awana. This year, we will theme VBS and Children's Music Camp around God's promises. We will announce our plans for VBS and Music Camp at a church-wide meeting on Wednesday evening, February 10.

Mark your calendars! God's Promises will touch other children's activities and our Awana Adult Challenge as well.

As always, there are many ways that you can get involved with children's ministry this year. Watch for opportunities to faithfully serve our amazing God. And remember, you're never too young or too old to stand on the promises of God.

"Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands" Deuteronomy 7:9.

In Christ,



Awana Adult Challenge

Begins Sunday, January 17th

Get you team of
4 assembled today!

There will be a new winner this round as the team "No Pressure" has split up to form 4 new teams.

4^{first place}health

discover a new way to healthy living

New Beginners
Orientation Meeting
Sunday, January 24th
6:30PM

Intermediate Group
Meetings Resume
Thursday, February 18th
5:15PM



Deacons

Serving January 2010:

Bill Boyd & Charles Kirkpatrick

Regular Deacon's Meeting:

Sunday, January 17th, 7:15PM

Ordination Council:

Sunday, January 10th, 4PM

Deacon Ordination

for Paul and Eric Danos:

Sunday, January 10th, 5:00PM

Luncheon and Book Signing

Sunday, January 31st following service

Dr. Malcolm Tolbert will be here

signing his new book,

The Disturbing Galilean: Essays about Jesus

We hope you and your family will join us!

Called Business Meeting

On Wednesday, January 13th at
5:30PM to vote on the final list of
2010 Ministry Teams.

Mulberry Ministry Team

Church members: Ministers-at-large

Steve Graves, Pastor

steve.graves@mulberrychurch.org

Chris Babb, Minister of Music and Media

chris.babb@mulberrychurch.org

Mary Dowden, Children's Minister

mary.dowden@mulberrychurch.org

Charlene Patrick, Children's Day Out Director

charlene.patrick@mulberrychurch.org

Haley Kraemer, Secretary

info@mulberrychurch.org

Mulberry Baptist Church

A Place for Life!

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Houma, Louisiana 70360

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Small Groups Resume

- **Sunday Night Small Group** will begin meeting Jan 17 from 5 to 7PM
(Location to be announced)
- **Bud Barnes' 1 Peter Small Group** will begin meeting Jan 24 from 6 to 7PM
(Meets in the church library)

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December Statistics

Budget Receipts

Attendance

| Date | Amount | Sunday School | AM Worship |
|----------|-------------|---------------|------------|
| 12-06-09 | \$8,254.00 | 75 | 140 |
| 12-13-09 | \$14,787.00 | 71 | 187 |
| 12-20-09 | \$6,461.00 | 69 | 162 |
| 12-27-09 | \$6,785.00 | 49 | 85 |

Budget Goal YTD: \$373,242.48

Budget Receipts YTD: \$323,702.38

Wednesday Evening Schedule Resumes on January 6th

Family Meal

Awana

Prayer Service

Sanctuary Choir