

## Meditate on Christ's Last Words on the Cross

Have you ever contemplated Christ's final hours on the Cross? His sacrifice, His struggle, His last words? His last words are important to us. He came to be one of us, to walk as one of us, to struggle as one of us, to die as one of us. He was God in the flesh.

On the cross, Christ uttered words that have resonated His love and human struggle throughout the centuries:

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

"Forgive them Father for they do not know what they are doing."

"Dear woman, here is your son." "Here is your mother."

"I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

"I am thirsty."

"Father, into Your hands I commit my spirit!"

"It is finished!"

Join us on March 28th during morning worship as Mulberry's Music Ministries present "It's All About You: Meditations on Christ's Last Words on the Cross". We will encounter God together as we seek to understand Christ's humanity and the ways that His final words can give us encouragement and guidance today.

## God's Promises 2010

January: *Faithfulness*

February: *Love*

March: *Salvation*

April: *Potential*

May: *Attention*

June: *Joy*

July: *Wisdom*

August: *Belonging*

September: *Eternal Significance*

October: *Communication*

November: *Caring Provision*

December: *Presence*

**Visit [mulberrychurch.org](http://mulberrychurch.org) for more resources, including music and articles related to each month's theme**

God's Promises 2010

## March: Salvation



Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them.

And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: **Be reconciled to God.** God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. - 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

## A Note from Steve...

I really enjoyed watching the Olympics the last few weeks. I love seeing athletes from around the world compete together "in the Olympic spirit." It is special to see athletes receive their gold medals. I can't imagine their pride in seeing their flag raised and hearing their national anthem played - all because of their accomplishment. It is also interesting to see some games I would normally not see. (Anyone know where I can find a curling match around here? I'm a new big fan!)

I think one of the best parts of the Olympics is seeing athletes achieve a goal for which they have trained for such a long time. In some sports, an athlete may train for more than a decade for one shot at the Olympics. For years, they literally rearrange their lives because of this two week period. Some move away from family to training facilities, some make financial sacrifices, and most make social sacrifices as their sport becomes the central focus in their lives. Their daily routine has been followed with this Olympic goal in mind, an event which in some cases lasts less than one minute. To me, some of the overlooked heroes of the Olympics are athletes who represent their country and achieve a personal best in their event, even if it is only good enough to place 13th, or even 27th, in the Olympic competition. With determination, discipline, and perseverance, they have reached their goal and done their best at the critical moment.

I can't help but think of the spiritual analogy for us. There is much more than Olympic medals or national pride at stake in our lives, but we often fail to live with such determination or focus. Paul was likely referencing the ancient Olympic games when he wrote in 1 Corinthians 9:25, "Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever." He spoke of his whole life investment in Philippians 3 when he wrote "But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ... Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Finally, we can follow in our daily lives the encouragement found in Hebrews 12:1-3, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." Go for the gold ... or at least your own personal best!

In Christ,

*Steve*

## Worship and Media

The Music and Worship Ministries have a number of exciting events planned in the next couple of months. Come be a part and plug in.

Children's choir is growing. We would love to have your child with us on Sunday evenings at 5pm. They are preparing for a Spring musical and are beginning a children's handbell choir again.

The youth are working on plugging in to services with drama and are even planning to lead their own service in May. So teenagers come see what's going on each Sunday night. Contact Kelly Babb (985) 335-4200 for more information.

The Sanctuary Choir is preparing a musical presentation entitled, "It's All About You: Meditations on Christ's Last Words on the Cross." It's not too late to join. Sanctuary choir meets at 6:15 every Wednesday evening.

We are always looking for talent in Praise Band. If you can play a guitar, bass, keyboard, drums, or sing, and if you have a heart for worship and leading others in worship, join us in praise band. Praise Band meets each Wednesday at 7:30pm.

Handbells and Testament have been working hard preparing selections for our worship services and upcoming concerts.

We want you to find an avenue of expression for your worship that fits you, whether it be in the pew or with one of our worship leadership teams. Join us in experiencing God together as we are *creating worship experiences that are authentic, relevant and engaging, with excellence, that encourage freedom.*

In Christ,

*Chris*



# Children's Ministry

This month your children will learn about **God's promise of Salvation**. They will learn that Heaven is a free gift and cannot be earned. We will answer the questions, "What is sin? Am I a sinner? What is the price of sin?" Together we will discover Who is the answer to our sin problem and that we are to trust in Him alone. We will learn that faith is the key to receiving God's free gift of Salvation. I hope you will faithfully attend church with your children and allow them the opportunity to receive this message. I also hope that you will continue on-going conversations with your child about Salvation. You are their primary teacher and they will look to you for answers.

**Children's Easter Egg Hunt! Sunday March 28, right after lunch.** If you would like to donate candy to put inside eggs, it will be greatly

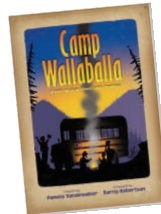
appreciated. There is a bin outside the Children's Office for your donations.

## **We are currently staffing VBS and Music Camp.**

If you would like to volunteer for one or both of these awesome camps, contact Amy Lewis (VBS) Chris Babb (Music Camp) or me. You may also volunteer through the MBC website. I hope you all have a truly blessed month of March!

In Christ,

*Margi*



## Deacons

### **Serving March:**

Leonard Pizzolatto

Mike Gray

### **Regular Deacon's Meeting:**

Sunday, March ? @ 7:15PM

## **Shepherding a Child's Heart**

Join us for a parenting group book study this spring as we work through the book Shepherding a Child's Heart by Tedd Tripp. Meetings will be held Tuesday mornings from 9:45 to 11:30 beginning March 2nd. Questions? Call the church office or Cindy Graves (852-1536).

## **From the Missions Committee...**

In our February meeting, the Missions Committee voted to continually collect items that are needed for mission projects in which we participate. Some of those are: Haiti, The Haven, The Good Samaritan Food Bank, The Armed Forces, Spring Creek Missions, and a number of others. We will place collection boxes in the education building near the front entrance.

We will be collecting the following:

Toothbrushes ~ Toothpaste ~ Dental Floss ~ Shampoo ~ Conditioner ~ Soap ~ Wipes ~ Hand Sanitizer ~ Eye Drops ~ Nasal Spray ~ Lip Balm ~ Petroleum Jelly ~ Sunscreen ~ Hand and Body Lotion ~ Chewing Gum ~ Deodorant ~ Combs ~ Brushes ~ Band Aids ~ Antiseptic ~ Alcohol Wipes ~ Diapers ~ Phone Cards ~ We will also continue to collect clothes for Spring Creek.

We will notify you with any additional items. Also, we welcome items that we may have neglected to add. Thank you so much for your generosity to God's work.

*The Missions Committee*

*The king will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'—Matthew 25:40*

## 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!***

2025 Bayou Black Drive

Houma, Louisiana 70360

(985) 876-3204 Fax (985) 876-3131

[www.mulberrychurch.org](http://www.mulberrychurch.org)

### Let's Listen To God's Word Together!

In 28 minutes per day in April and May, Mulberry will listen to the entire New Testament together. We have the audio New Testament professionally recorded in various formats for everyone who would like to participate in the 40-day listening plan. There is also a kid's version available with scripture songs. Listen in your car, listen at home, listen on your iPod ... fill your mind and heart with the life-giving words of scripture.

### Mulberry Women's Gathering

**Who?** Women of all ages from our church and beyond (please invite any friends)

**What?** A time to come together for the purpose of building and enjoying relationships and discussing some new ministry opportunities. We will have brunch/ breakfast foods; if you would like to sign up to bring something, contact the church office and let Haley know what you will bring!

**When?** Saturday, March 6th, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

**Where?** Sharon Bergeron's home, 313 Maple

**Why?** Because we need some fellowship time, and because there are many ways that we can corporately be a part of God's work in our community and the world!

### February Statistics

#### Budget Receipts

#### Attendance

Date	Amount	Sunday School	AM Worship
02-07-10	\$7,228.00	64	82
02-14-10	\$1,428.00	51	88
02-21-10	\$8,186.00	69	142
02-28-10	\$3,562.50	70	136

**Budget Goal YTD: \$64,599.66**

**Budget Receipts YTD: \$45,105.18**



### Awana Adult Challenge

Top 3 teams:

- Pigs Might Fly** (Chris Babb, Brandy Jabert, Joel Waldron, Lee Gautreaux)
- Three Bears and a Pig** (Steve Graves, Cindy Graves, Mike Gray, Laura Gray)
- God's Girls** (Mary Dowden, Julia Dowden, Jessica Dowden, Chelsea Price)