

Christ's Death Matters for #Lives to Matter

Editors Note: The recent murder of George Floyd and the subsequent demonstrations have opened up dialog between people about how we view and treat each other. This is especially important to believers as we follow Jesus' example of love and compassion. Dr. Dana Jones, Sr., pastor of Faith Christian Fellowship in Anderson, is the only African-American pastor that we currently have in our association. I asked him if he would share his insights into this situation and what he would want his Caucasian brothers and sisters in Christ to know about this issue. He shares that this was a very difficult article for him to write. Thank you, Dana, for sharing your heart and giving us insights that we may not have had before.

I am writing this from two perspectives. First, from the perspective of a Black man living in America. The second is from the perspective of a Black Christian. And for anyone who wishes to eliminate this dichotomy of perspectives based on ethnicity, I say look at the makeup of the Church in Revelation 7:9.

Firstly, let me say that **all lives matter**, "for God

A Message of Encouragement

Dearest Fellow Servants-

What a last few months we've been experiencing! We've learned, unlearned, and re-learned so many things outside of our area of expertise with the Coronavirus pandemic. I even learned the difference between a "pandemic" and "epidemic!" (Google does have some worthwhile uses, I guess.)

So, what have you been learning about YOURSELF during this time period? I've learned you can't be completely ready for anything as much as you'd like to be, that everyone handles crises differently, and everyone comes out of the crises in their own time and their own way. I'm sure you've learned the same, and many different things. If you're a leader, you know many of these things seem to fall squarely on your shoulders; whether it's to start services again, what that should look like, how long to hold off, and the list and voices of influence go on and on!

I want to encourage you to focus on two things
(Continued on page 4)

sent His Son into the world, that through Him, we might be saved." Secondly, let me declare to you, the reader, that this was difficult for me to write; not because of the issues that are pervasive in the news regarding the protests and the riots. The rioters and protesters are not the same people. The marchers, people from every walk of American life, are marching to change the way all people are treated by the police. Yes, the chant is "Black Lives Matters," but to be honest, does it not? Writing this is difficult for me because I know that some of you, whom I love, cannot empathize with me or the culture of Blacks in America. And to that end, you cannot understand the "why."

I say this with no intention of disrespect, but unless you walk in another's shoes, you cannot know his journey. Let me add to that, if those shoes being worn by the other man are painful to him, you cannot understand the sufferings of his journey.

Whites in America, especially in America, enjoy a privilege that is unique to our American way of life. There is no caste system here or other ethnocentric dispersions that affect the people in other cultures and countries; not for the majority of White Americans, anyway. If you are Caucasian regardless of your heritage, you are part of a unique club—White America. Look at



*Dr. Dana Jones, Sr.
Pastor, Faith Christian Fellowship*



*Greg Haisley, Pastor
Integris Community
Church, Albany*

(Continued on page 3)

Inside This Issue	
The Katecheo	2
Birthdays/Anniversaries	2
Upcoming Events	2
Disaster Relief continues ministry	4
May P & L and Balance Reports	5



Dr. Ron Ross

The Katecheo

For more than forty years this writer's favorite comment has been "it's a matter of perspective," and you know that is a pretty accurate statement. Referencing that statement brought back to mind the introduction used in a study on our identity in Jesus Christ. When this writer has spoken in some of our ECBA churches, he used the content of that introduction and for this article — here is that introduction.

We are the person we see ourselves to be! Obviously, we have been led to that conclusion by a number of acquaintances, performances, successes, failures, and the comments of others. Obviously, some of those results were valid while others may have been very misleading. Nonetheless, we have used those observations to formulate how we view ourselves.

We are the person others perceive us to be! In so many instances, would it not be great if what others thought were accurate, but we all know even that view of ourselves is tainted with error. This is what happens too often in churches. Churches in view of a pastor will call a man based on the content of his resume and the references he submits. Too often that procedure produces division in the body or dismissal due to moral failure.

We are the person we believe others perceive us to be! All of us have been deceived at some point in our lives. Perhaps it involved the purchase of a product only later to realize we had been scammed. Our reaction to such deception may involve returning the product or complaining about the lemon. Let's move on from that experience to something even worse; namely, that of self-deception. James 1 addresses the topic of self-deception, and is worthy of continual referencing. It is involved in our current crisis — COVID-19 and racial unrest. If you remember our introduction ... "It's all a matter of perspective!" Yes, it is and we all have our perspective.

This last observation is what really counts. **We are the person God knows us to be!** Though we may differ on our perspective of COVID 19 and racial unrest, God knows fully well the

reasoning behind it all. It is with interest that when Solomon was dedicating the new Temple, he had concern about the possibility of God's presence leaving. Because God is spirit and unseen to the natural eye - how would one know if He were present or absent? With that contemplation in mind, God appeared to Solomon one night assuring him that He had heard Solomon's prayer and responded with these words, "If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people, and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7.12-14, NASB)

Sure enough, "it's a matter of perspective," but it is God's perspective that counts. Let us all see ourselves through the perspective of Scripture, because it is the only unbiased appraisal of who we really are. Something to consider while staying masked and distanced!



Please pray for our pastors and their wives on these special occasions.

Birthdays

July 22 — Daniel Carpenter
(True North Church Plant, Daleville)

Wedding Anniversaries

July 3 — Dana & Sharon Jones
(Faith Christian, Anderson)

July 6 — Nathan & Pam Watson
(Halteman Village, Muncie)

July 19 — Bruce & Melissa Reynolds (Old Town Hill, Muncie)

Pastor-Church Anniversaries

July 20 — Chris Hubler, New Day Baptist Church— Alexandria Campus, 11 years

Upcoming Events

July 18 —10:00 a.m., ECBA Leadership Meeting at Redeemer Baptist Church , 3230 Lindberg Road, Anderson IN 46012

July 23 —ECBA Semi-Annual Meeting @ Integris Community Church , 365 W State Street, Albany IN 47320 **Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Meeting at 7:00 p.m.**

SBC Emphasis for June

July 19 —Send Relief Sunday and Children's Ministry Day

July 26 — Southern Baptist Media Day

#Lives to Matter...

(Continued from page 1)

the categories used in the U.S. Census. As a man born in 1957 in Memphis, Tennessee, I know racial prejudice because I have lived it.

I have heard, too often, from some of my white brothers that we (Black people) should forget the past. The past injustices of slavery, Jim Crow, segregation, the Ku Klux Klan, the civil rights struggles, and the continued inequities of treatment suffered at the hands of the “system.” I have heard my white brothers proclaim that it was not them that denied Blacks the opportunities that are supposed to be guaranteed to all under the Constitution of the United States; opportunities to vote, to own property, to have access to funding for education, and so on. It was those who came before them. Yet, for the Black American, all we can see are these past acts as they are ever prevalent in our present. In our present!

Even before the proliferation of camera phones, people of color, and especially Black Americans, suffered brutality at the hands of the police. Many charges were filed against them, but they were almost always systematically dismissed. Even as we look at George Floyd, there are White Americans who pause to view his past to declare that “he was no ‘angel.’” And no surprise here; that has always been the *modus operandi* for most Whites to take the side of the Law Enforcement Officer, saying “he must have been provoked by the suspect, as he was only doing his job.” Yet lately, we have seen more and more video evidence of police brutality exerted upon Blacks. Is this just a coincidence or have Black people been right all the time? It’s all a matter of whom you want to believe. And it is sad to say that White

America has consistently taken the side of the police.

And we, Blacks, understand why; because the police are always polite and professional when it comes to interacting with most White Americans. Now, I am by no means declaring that the opposite is true with Black interaction. Not at all. There are many more unbigoted, nonbiased police officers out there. Yet, for the Black man, you never know which one you’re going to get—so it behooves the Black man to follow protocols that will ensure that his life is not arbitrarily taken. Even though we know that we should have the same rights and receive the same treatment as Whites in America, we know that in the eyes of a bigoted police officer, we do not.

So, then, how can or should the Church react and respond to this, and especially the White Church? Firstly, each one must ask himself: “am I racist or ethnocentric?” This applies to all churches—Black, White, Hispanic, Asian, African, Protestant, Catholic, and the list can go on. Because if we are to “see” the Kingdom of God, we must love all of God’s people. When He made us, there were no “races.” God made “mankind.”

Race, therefore, is a man-made (therefore sin-by-design) construct. In 1779, a man named Johann Friedrich Blumenbach divided the human species into five races. This perspective continued throughout time; from the British colonies usage to define and distinguish white peoples (to include all immigrants to the New World from European countries) from their African slaves and indentured servants, to Darwin’s use to define Evolution. It seems ludicrous that the Church isn’t teaching this obvious truth, even cited in the Constitution of the United States that “*all men are created equal.*”

When each of us came to Christ—to

the knowledge of Him and Salvation *through* Him—we came into the Body with scars, wounds, baggage and the like from a culture and life of sin. Now, to be honest, some of that baggage is still pervasive in our respective churches. It is evident when we see Sunday services filled with folks who look, talk, and like the same things as “us.” But doesn’t Revelation 7:9 give a different picture of the Church? When it says “*all nations, and kindreds, and peoples, and tongues*” does that picture excite you? Does it? Does it move you to tears to see how God’s love as described in John 3:16 is revealed in His Kingdom? Because if we are to see the Kingdom of Heaven, then we must see mankind just as Jesus sees mankind, with Eyes of Undying Love.

Since the beginning of the marches and the riots, I’ve been talking with a white female neighbor of mine whose daughter is in an interracial marriage. Her daughter called her a racist after she made the comment “all lives matter.” She told her mother that she “just doesn’t get it.” After a few moments of talking with my neighbor, I realized that her daughter was correct in her assessment. Mom could not sympathize or empathize with the frustrations that her daughter was now able to know. Her daughter has had the opportunity to “see” from the other side. I told her mother that almost all Black people know about White culture but almost no White people know about true Black culture; only what the media portrays. And that is sad.

Yet, how can you? Do you have any close, personal Black friends? I don’t mean someone that you may know on a casual level. Are you friends with anyone of another ethnic group? Have you shared meals together? Laughed or cried together? Shared intimate stories with one another. Smelled their cooking? Eaten their food? Can you envision life through their eyes? Isn’t that reflective of what

(Continued on page 4)

#Lives to Matter...

(Continued from page 3)

the real church is supposed to do (Acts 2:46)? Isn't that the image of the Church that is described in the New Testament?

America has done many great things for the Church and Christianity. We are free (for now) to worship God in "spirit and in truth." America has also done many things to wound, cripple, and stifle the Church. Until the church takes on the responsibility of teaching Love as God intended, we will always be divided.

Jesus is coming back for believers that have or are "doing the will of the Father" (Matthew 7:21). God's will is not that we let Satan's influence in the world dictate to us how to serve Him, but that we actually serve Him. How? It's no secret: "For God so loved the world..."

Humbly Submitted,

Rev. Dr. Dana D Jones Sr.

Message...

(Continued from page 1)

Jesus said that are most important in the Christian's life: "...Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'" (Luke 10:27) Regardless of all the decisions you've had to make in faith, not knowing the responses you'll get, know that if we walk in these two greatest commands, we're walking in obedience to our Lord and Savior! Even when good people disagree, we can still walk in sweet and solid fellowship with the Lord and one another. So as we prayerfully enter into a revised version of consistency, let us each keep focused on the two greatest commandments, for there we will not only find truth, but the grace and mercy we need each day. He is faithful!

Agape,

Greg Haisley

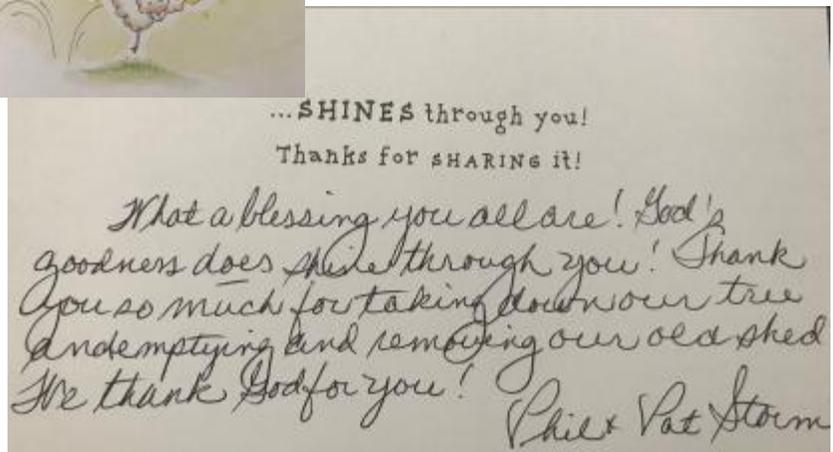
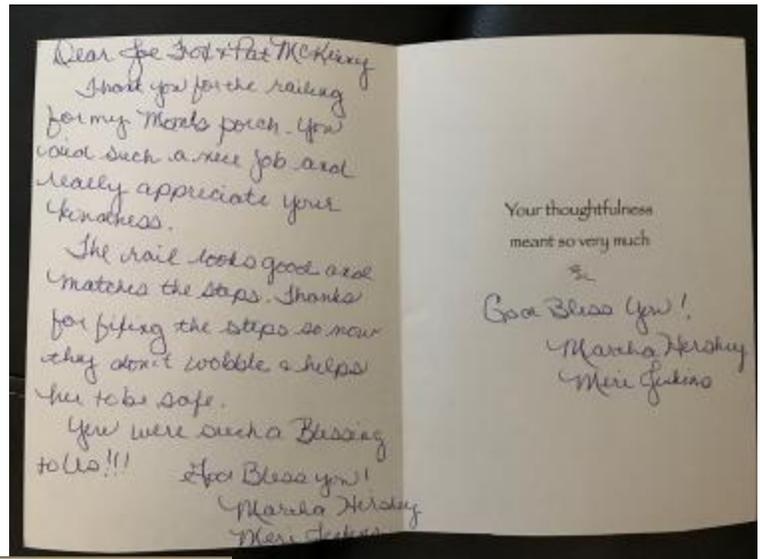
Diaster Relief Continues Ministry

Our Disaster Relief Team is currently one of the most effective ministries in our East Central Baptist Association. Even through the Covid-19 Pandemic, they have continued to reach out and help people. Below are a couple of thank you cards that we received. Disaster Relief team members, Joe Fox and Pat McKinney, installed a railing and repaired the steps for a woman's home, making it much safer for her.

Just this past week, the Disaster Relief Team also took down a tree plus emptied and hauled away an old

metal shed at the home of ECBA Administrative Assistant, Pat Storm. Pat's husband, Phil, has been diagnosed with Parkinson's and his condition was complicated by an abscessed back infection caused by a lumbar puncture last year. They wanted the tree removed to put in a new shed. Joe Fox volunteered the DR Team and said they could use it as a training opportunity. Helping Joe with this project were Daniel Carpenter, James Carpenter, Pat McKinney, and George and Ja eninne Eukart.

Thanks to Our DR Team!



ECBA Profit and Loss Statement for May 2020

Income		
4000 · Church Receipts		
4060 · New Day		0.00
4120 · Halteman - Muncie		527.76
4140 · Kingston - Anderson		359.00
4160 · North Delaware - Muncie		176.00
4170 · Old Town Hill - Muncie		0.00
4180 · Redeemer - Anderson		240.36
4190 · First - Montpelier		90.00
4210 · Faith Christian Fellowship		130.00
4230 · Integris		84.40
Total 4000 · Church Receipts		1,607.52
6999 · Misc Income		-115.00
Total Income		1,492.52
Expense		
7000 · Administrative Ministry		
7010 · Other Expense		27.95
7021 · Insurance		196.60
7090 · Payroll		729.99
Total 7000 · Administrative Ministry		954.54
7500 · Trustee		1,682.98
Total Expense		2,637.52
Net Income		-1,145.00

ECBA Balance Report May 2020

	May 20	Apr 20	\$ Change
1000 · ONB			
1010 · General Budget	34,412.93	35,672.93	-1,260.00
1011 · Discretionary Admin Team	7,493.99	7,493.99	0.00
1015 · BCM Rent Deposit	0.00	0.00	0.00
1016 · BCM Capital Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
1025 · Mission Building Capital Fund	6,362.19	6,247.19	115.00
1035 · Church P&H Fund	6,297.89	6,297.89	0.00
1040 · OMC	1,307.84	1,307.84	0.00
1051 · ECBA Endowment	0.00	0.00	0.00
1055 · Funds Temporarily Restricted	71,892.33	71,892.33	0.00
1000 · ONB - Other	-900.99	-900.99	0.00
Total 1000 · ONB	126,866.18	128,011.18	-1,145.00
1100 · Indiana Baptist Foundation			
1110 · ECBA Endowment	10,827.32	10,827.32	0.00
1111 · Church P&H ROI	1,179.71	1,179.71	0.00
1120 · Church P&H Fund	19,223.09	19,223.09	0.00
1125 · BCMH Temp Restricted	149,357.73	149,357.73	0.00
Total 1100 · Indiana Baptist Foundation	180,587.85	180,587.85	0.00
TOTAL	307,454.03	308,599.03	-1,145.00

EAST CENTRAL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

c/o Pat Storm

8900 W County Road 950 N

Middletown IN 47356

Phone: 765-623-3940

Email: ecba@theecba.org

www.theecba.org

Follow us



We're still on for the ECBA Quarterly Meeting

Thursday, July 23, 2020

Meal - 6:00 p.m.

Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

(All dependent upon current quarantine suggestions)

Integrus Community Church

356 W State Street

Albany IN 47320