



A.I.M. Newsletter

June 2010

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The AIM website is in the process of being redesigning. Please take a few moments and visit us www.aim2020.com and be sure to sign up to receive your newsletter by e-mail!

We are not at the present time charging a subscription fee for the AIM Newsletter but it does cost about \$1.30 per issue to get it to you. If you would help us defer this cost it would be greatly appreciated and needed.

"Be Real"

by Rev. Wayne Stover

Pastor of Salem Independent Methodist Church

When I was asked to write my thoughts on ministering, the first thing that jumped into my mind was a phrase that I first started using just a few years ago. I would tell the Sunday School class I taught at First Independent Methodist Church in Decatur, Alabama, to just "Be Real"-- not an original thought, but one that is very hard for some Christians, especially those in the ministry.

An old T-shirt of mine says "Not only am I perfect, I am a redhead too". Though I believe I do have a perfect heart in the eyes of God, I do realize that all my actions are not always perfect. I do mess up from time to time, and if I am to "Be Real", I must be willing to admit those failures....not only to God but to the congregation and also to those individuals that I may have wronged. If we think just because we are ministers that we must put up a front of never failing and being perfect, then we are no better than the Pharisees. When I fall into a rut of not studying, praying, visiting, I try to correct it as soon as possible. In one instance in a board meeting I did not realize I had interrupted a board member not once, but at least twice and did not give him a chance to finish his point. A few days later when it was brought to my attention, I was instantly pricked by the Holy Spirit that it was exactly what I had done. I made it right with him. I try to admit mistakes not only to God, but to the flock that He has given me to oversee and ask for their prayers in climbing out of that rut.

We must remember that being a minister, pastor, teacher or evangelist is simply a gift of the Holy Spirit, and none of these are any greater in God's eyes than being a greeter, a cleaner, or a singer in the church. As a part of the body, we must work together for the body to be efficient. When the heart and lungs refuse to work together, breathing becomes difficult. The human body is the ultimate example at multi-tasking (besides God), and the church works in the same way. There are many abilities or gifts in our church membership, and we must work together and not try to be a part that we are not. If we do that, then we become like that person that can't walk and chew gum at the same time or in my case, watch TV and listen to my wife.

Be Real---don't be a whitewashed sepulcher with dead man's bones inside. Don't try to be the brain if you are the little toe, and don't be the tongue when God says be the heart. Speaking of the toes, I am reminded of a conversation I had with my little sister lately in discussing this article. When I mentioned about the toe, she reminded me that when the body loses its balance, it is the toes that do the work in regaining that balance.

The next thing about being "real" is to know that Solomon was correct when he said "There is nothing new under the sun," including things to say. When Dr. Mike Weldon asked me to share my thoughts on ministry, I was very honored, but as I sat down with pen and legal pad in hand, I suddenly became very apprehensive. I know the messages I preach or scripture I

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The
A.I.M.
Newsletter Staff



Executive Director

Dr. Mike Weldon

Contributing Writers

Rev. Marshall Daigre
Mrs. Janis Lane
Rev. Daniel Mcntyre
Ms. Holly Muehleisen
Dr. Mike Weldon

Assisting

Mr. Mark Godbold
Mrs. Nina Price

Managing Editor

Karen Richmond

**The Association of
Independent Methodists**

405 Marquis Street
Jackson, MS 39206
Phone: 601-362-1301

E-mail Address:
aim2000@bellsouth.net

Website:
www.aim2020.com

Printing Company
Stephens Printing, LLC
642 Highway 469 South
Florence, MS 39073
601-845-7708

Director's Notes

by Dr. Mike Weldon

We worship, serve, love and are saved by an awesome God! If we were to only consider the moral depravity of our nation, the anemia of our church, then it would be easy to be discouraged and negative. But our God is still in charge!



Our nation is in desperate need of a sweeping revival to occur in our churches. The answers to the ills of our nation are not to be found in our capitol, but in our own prayer closets, at the altars, and in the pulpits of our churches.

We need a consecrated effort in our churches to pray for God to move in a mighty way in our midst. It is God-fearing, Bible-believing people like AIM that God can use to start a sweeping revival. I believe if that's what we really want and if we make ourselves available, God will use our association to help bring an out-pouring of His Spirit.

I am praying that our pastors and lay people will make a concerted effort to attend our annual meeting this year. I believe if enough of us were to gather in Decatur, Alabama this June that this would be our best opportunity for the Lord to revive us and send it back to our local churches. Make your plans and reservations now to attend. I am sure you will receive a blessing and you will be a blessing.

We will enjoy anointed preaching from some of our own men, worshipful music, introduction of two new churches and several newly credentialed men of God, not to mention the good food, fellowship and Christian fun. If you need information or directions to our annual meeting, please call the AIM office. Make sure your church is represented. Underwrite and send your pastor with several key laymen and women.



A Donation was received

in Memory of:

Charlotte Gardner

John Chandler

G. H. Godbold

You may send a donation in memory of someone in lieu of flowers or in honor of someone special.

Along with your donation please include name and address of the person whom you wish to receive the memorial or in-honor-of letter. He or she will be mailed a letter stating that a donation was made in memory of or in-honor-of.

46th Annual Meeting

June 17-19, 2010

Hosting Church:
First Independent Methodist Church of Decatur, Alabama

Speakers are:



Rev. Hal Daigre



Rev. Garland Terry



Rev. Sephus Garrett

Theme:

Rekindle the fire

Anointed preaching in the Wesleyan Tradition

Fellowship with other like-minded believers

Great food served by

First Independent Methodist Church of Decatur, Alabama

Ministers Meeting

Ladies Meeting

Good singing and music

Seminars on: “What in the world is carnality” and “The pastor and the church”

All pastors should attend

All laymen and women are invited

Guest are welcome!

"Can I Get A Witness"

by Holly Muehleisen



I don't know about you, but I just love hearing other people's testimonies. It's an encouragement to me to hear stories of how God is active and at work in the lives of His people. It also reminds me of where and how God has been moving in my own life.

As a first-time missionary preparing to leave for Japan, I have been given the opportunity to share my testimony in several AIM churches over the past year. I have shared about how God comforted and sustained me through stressful situations. I have shared how He has continued to guide me along each step of my path as my call has been refined from first full-time foreign ministry, to working alongside a national church, to the specific ministry of discipleship of young adults, and finally being led to a specific place and people – Japanese youth.

Every time that I sit down with a friend or a small group, or speak in front during a service and share what God has been doing and is doing in my life, I get excited all over again. I know that any time I get a little discouraged or I begin to have doubts, all I have to do is remind myself of God's faithfulness in the past to be encouraged and to have my faith strengthened.

This is nothing new or unique to me. Just pick up your Bible and flip to the Old Testament. Over and over again through the prophets and poets of the Old Testament, you can read the story of the Israelites' testimony of how God rescued them, protected them and provided for them over and over again. It is the story of God's continued and abiding love and faithfulness.

Flip over to the New Testament and anytime people ask Paul about Jesus and salvation, what does Paul do? He shares his testimony and how God transformed his own life.

As a missionary, sharing my testimony is a vital part of my own ministry here in the States, but I know it will play a huge role in my ministry in Tokyo. But you don't have to be in a foreign land to be a missionary. Some of Jesus' final words to his disciples were recorded in Acts 1:8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

After all, that is what being a missionary is all about: being a witness for the Lord, everywhere and anywhere you go in life.

My challenge to you is to share your testimony. How did you get saved? What has the Lord done in your life or in the life of your family since then? If you are nervous about sharing, write it down and share it with a friend or family member whom you know and trust first.

1 Peter 3:15 – "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear..."

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We are compiling a list of individuals that would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail rather than postal mail. If you would like your name to be added please let us know. All you have to do is send us an e-mail at aim2000@bellsouth.net or give us a call and request your e-mail address be added. Also, by including your postal address we can remove you from the postal mail out.

By signing up to receive the newsletter by e-mail you will be helping to cut down on the cost of the newsletter. This will enable us to produce it more frequently.

~ ~ ~ ~ 2010 AIM Ladies Refresher ~ ~ ~

by Mrs. Janis Lane

Do you ever wonder how the Lord can outdo Himself year after year? Well, He did it again this year!! The Lord is always faithful, and He met our needs and our expectations; no, He exceeded our expectations!! Kim McLean was on target with her messages on Forgiveness. Kim McLean and Devon O'Day are fantastic Worship Leaders. They are so touched by the Holy Spirit. Kim wrote us a 'theme' song on Forgiveness! We had wonderful sessions of just worshipping Jesus!

- A** - Accepting Forgiveness
- I** - Initiating Forgiveness
- M** - Miracles of forgiveness



Kim McLean

Kim used the three sessions to walk us through the process of Forgiveness - A.I.M. It was very moving as she used a personal situation – a rift between her and her sister – to illustrate how the Lord works in our lives to bring us to the point of recognizing our need, to act on our need, and to accept the result. When we recognize we are holding aught against someone as sin, the Lord can come in and work in our lives to bring Forgiveness into our hearts. [“For if you forgive men (women) their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.” Matt. 6:14 (NKJV)] Then, the Lord can use us as a witness for Him to others. Because of Jesus’ Forgiveness and His encouraging Kim to grow deeper and deeper in her relationship with Him, He is now able to use her daily as witness for Him in this lost and dying world. Kim is having a mighty impact in her community and in the music industry in Nashville. Kim is a dynamic, personal speaker – she can reach a person deep in his soul as a result of her life experiences. The Lord used her in a mighty way!



Devon O'Day, Kim McLean and Janis Lane

The weather was perfect!! We could not have ordered a better forecast. The Lord really blessed us. Those of you who have been to the Springville Conference Center know how beautiful it is when the weather cooperates!

Those who were there certainly enjoyed a wonderfully blessed time but we surely did miss some of our ladies that usually come. We are in prayer for next year and we hope all our churches will be represented; we are looking forward to seeing some who have missed the last several years. Please note your church calendar now for the 2011 AIM Ladies Refresher!



2011 AIM Ladies Refresher

Date: March 4 & 5, 2011
Location: Springville Camp and Conference Center, in Oneonta, Alabama

Harvest Pointe Is Moving Forward!

by Marshall Daigre

Pastor of church plant in Madison, Alabama

What started out as a calling placed on mine and Jessica's life near the end of seminary has now moved into the reality of a community of Jesus followers here in Madison, Alabama. We are seeing people move closer to Christ, and we are making disciples. In 2009, on Holy Thursday of Holy Week, we started a weekly Prayer Group. Our Prayer Group has grown and matured into a group of people who are able to share praises, prayer needs and fellowship weekly in the name of Jesus Christ. We have tracked how God has heard and responded to our prayers. What better way to start a church than on prayer? We have averaged about twenty-five people over the course of the past year that participate in our Prayer Group.

This year during Holy Week we not only commemorated a year anniversary for our Prayer Group but also had our first Sunday worship services! Palm Sunday was our first Sunday of worship together, and we followed that up by a sunrise service Easter morning. We had twenty-nine people at both of those services! We now meet on the first and third Sundays of each month to worship together.

Praise God that He has sent us some musicians! We had a couple that we had connected with early on but who seemed to show no interest in what we were doing. When we were trying to organize our first service they contacted us, and now the wife plays the keyboard and the husband plays the bass. We also have a pianist and guitarist! Six months ago we started an Advisory Team. This team oversees four areas: (1) Reach, (2) Care, (3) Build, and (4) Administrate. We meet monthly to discuss how we can accomplish goals set in each of these four areas, and this keeps us balanced and focused.

For our men I stress accountability. We have started two new accountability groups this year! We have six men participating in these groups weekly! We just started a Bible Study that really focuses on how to study the Bible, and we have five participants. My goal is that one of the five will teach the next Bible Study Group we have.

We are beginning to generate some funds onsite from our people tithing. These funds are held at FIMC in the missions account. This year when we incorporate, we will have our own fund set up with the Harvest Pointe name, but this way has been a trustworthy way for us until that time. We also are going to be producing a website this year. We have a long way to go, and we see ourselves as a church in the making. But we are moving forward! God is blessing our church, and we are seeing God's grace poured out in the lives of our people.

Thank you for your support in the planting of a new congregation of believers...

Lord Prop Us Up..

Author Unknown

Every time I am asked to pray, I think of the old deacon who always prayed, "Lord, prop us up on our leaning side." After hearing him pray that prayer many times, someone asked him why he prayed that prayer so fervently.

He answered: Well sir, you see, it's like this... I got an old barn out back. It's been there a long time; it's withstood a lot of storms, and it's stood for many years. It's still standing. But one day I noticed it was leaning to one side a bit. So I went and got some pine poles and propped it up on its leaning side so it wouldn't fall.

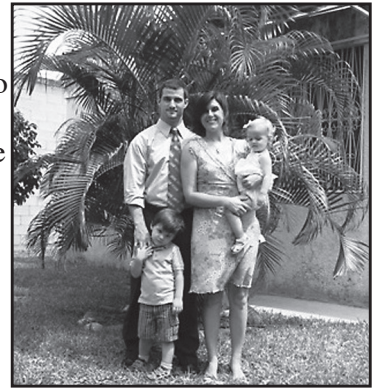
Then I got to thinking about how much I was like that old barn... I've been around a long time. I've withstood a lot of life's storms. I've withstood a lot of bad weather in life. I've withstood a lot of hard times, and I am still standing too. But I find myself leaning to one side from time to time, so I like to ask the Lord to prop us up on our leaning side, cause I figure a lot of us get to leaning at times.

Sometimes we get to leaning toward anger, leaning toward bitterness, leaning toward hatred, leaning toward jealousy, leaning toward gossip, leaning toward a lot of things that we shouldn't. So we need to pray, "Lord, prop us up on our leaning side, so we will stand straight and tall again, to glorify Him; the Lord."

Update from Guatemala

by Daniel McIntyre

We hope that all is going great in your families right now and that the Lord is showing you how faithful He is in all of your circumstances. (Deuteronomy 32:4 “He is the Rock, His works are perfect, and all His ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is He.”) We are very blessed to tell you that all is going great in Chiquimula, Guatemala. The Lord is truly working in this city, and we are blessed to be a part of it. Thank you for your prayers and support for our family and for this ministry. Levi and Mary Kathleen are growing like weeds and have the cutest personalities. It is precious watching them figure out English and Spanish and playing with other children. Levi plays with his best friend Darri a lot; Levi speaks English and Darri speaks Spanish, but somehow they understand everything! It’s great. And Mary Kathleen and her blonde hair make her very popular here, so she eats up the attention. In these past few weeks, we have been blessed with some beautiful weather and in these past few days, it has started to rain. We all wonder if the weather is better this year or if we have just gotten used to the hot climate, because it just seems so much more comfortable this year, praise the Lord!



Daniel, Brandi, Levi, and Mary Kathleen

Global Missions of Mercy was blessed with a group of eye doctors from His Servants Ministry this past month, and they are such a blessing to this community here every year. We were blessed to be able to be a part of this group this year, but I remember something about this specific group from last year. One thing that sticks out in my mind about this group from last year is that Daniel and I and the kids were all very sick the entire time they were here! So, we were all very happy that we were able to help in good health this year.

Also, we started buying clothes for the men, women, and children in the village this past month, and it seemed to be a big blessing. Daniel gave the men their clothes in the men’s Bible study, and Sarita gave the women’s and children’s clothes, along with clothes that Sarita had bought, in the women’s Bible study. Jorge said that the men really liked some cloth basketball shorts that were in the pile, so we will have to buy more of those this month.

Daniel and Jorge had their first monthly birthday party for the men as well. The kids and I went too, and it was a lot of fun. We celebrated three men’s birthday, and then had a short Bible study afterwards. The Lord is truly blessing this Bible study. Preaching gives Daniel and Jorge a break from the “seriousness” of their lives because, although they deliver the Word of God, they cut up a lot too.

All of the English classes are going very well. Riddles Chapel United Methodist Church got our English letters just this last week, and they have already started writing us back. So we are eagerly awaiting our next letters. A few classes from Clements High School are going to start participating in this project, so I am excited that maybe all of the students will get their own letters this time, even though they are excited to receive as many as they can get. The students and I were talking about how this time they are going to write their letters in English and Spanish because they want to teach the children in the U.S. Spanish also. I thought that was really cute! Praise the Lord, the classes are great!

Again, thank you for all you do for our family here, and thank you for what you do for the families here in Guatemala as well. Please continue to pray for the ministry and for each precious life here. Also pray that our eyes and ears will be open to the leading of the Lord. We love you and we miss you! www.globalmissionsofmercy.com



Men's Ministry in Guatemala

The AIM Newsletter will start having a “Youth Spotlight” in each issue. We want to recognize teens and their accomplishments from our churches.

If your church has a teen they would like to recognize please call or e-mail the AIM office.

2010 Calendar of Events

AIM - WIDE

June 17-19, 2010

46th Annual Meeting

Where:

First Independent
Methodist Church
3 Oxmore Flint Road
Decatur, AL 35603

South East Region

July 25-29, 2010

Youth Camp

Where:

Woodland Christian Camp
90 Woodland Camp Road
Temple, GA 30179

Mid South Region

July 7-10, 2010

Youth Camp

Where:

Timber Creek Camp
8113 Morton Marathon Rd.
Pulaski, MS 39152

Tennessee Valley Region

July 19-23, 2010

Youth Camp

Where: Kamp Kumbaya

Eupora, MS

Evangelist:

Bro. Randy Sawyer

Teen Evangelist:

Bro. Nathan Sanders

Pre-Teen Evangelists:

Bro. Frank Childs along
with his wife Bridgette.

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405 Marquis Street

Jackson, MS 39206

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"Be Real", contd.

teach on has been preached and taught by many men and women with more knowledge and experience than myself. I pray that my preaching and teaching is just hopefully a new way of saying what has already been said and written.

Though I may not say it in every message, I always try to make it known that even if I don't give credit to some individual person's quotes, I want it known that what I preach or teach is rarely, if ever, completely original material. I am not Peter, Paul, Wesley, Luther nor Graham. I am a man that tries his best to put his will on that altar of sacrifice daily and to be constantly drinking in the new wine of the Holy Spirit that I may receive of God and walk in His Light. I try to be the moon and allow the Son to reflect His light off of me. Once again we must "be real" and always remember the source of our power, our knowledge, and our righteousness is none of our own.

Ministering is not for anyone who does not have "real" problems, trials, and shed "real" tears. If we try to help people or families through these times, we must "be real." No amount of schooling or training is going to prepare you for those times. I know that in my ministry I have had many events that you could not "fake" your way through but can only help by being dependent upon the Holy Spirit's guidance to help those families. I am still humbled when I recall the first funeral I performed. I had only been pastoring for around a year or so when an elderly lady in my church was killed by her estranged husband, and then he committed suicide. The children wanted them to lie in state at the funeral home side by side with one service but two graveside services at separate graveyards. To this day I don't know where the words came from (actually they came through the Holy Spirit) and from that time to now, funerals still have not gotten any easier. To me, it is all about "being real," as in having a real love for people. In closing, remember the T-shirt? Well, not only am I not always perfect, I am also not quite as red-headed as I was when I bought the shirt a few years ago.