

A.I.M. Newsletter

December 2010

46th Annual Meeting of the Association of Independent Methodist

The 46th annual meeting of the Association of Independent Methodists was hosted by First Independent Methodists of Decatur, Alabama. Many thanks to Bro. Hal Daigre and the gracious congregation for the great job they did as host.

We enjoyed anointed preaching from our own men of God. We give a big thanks to Bro. Hal Daigre, Bro. Garland Terry, Bro. Adam Godbold, Bro. Sephus Garrett, and Bro. Gary Redd. WOW! What a blessing. Bro. David Lane did an outstanding job in our theology class, with the subject "What in the World Is Carnality?" Cindy Daigre did a splendid job leading the music and the special music by Amelia Henry.

Friday noon we held our Missionary Banquet. We had glowing reports from church plants, the mission field, and military chaplains.

The meals furnished by the congregation and their friendly servers was a treat for all who came. They are a lovely congregation and have a very nice facility. The Saturday business meeting included approval of a budget for the year, election of AIM officers and reports.

Special recognition was given to David Chandler for his years of faithful service as President. Appreciation was expressed to David for the miles traveled, prayers, encouragement, and ambassadorship for AIM that he so sacrificially gave in service to the Lord.



Our newly elected President Bill Chandler was installed and exhorted us to press even higher. He will be an excellent president and leader for AIM.



Our business meeting was highlighted with the receiving of two new churches, Hullets Chapel Independent Methodist Church of Springville, Alabama, and Wesley Independent Methodist Church of Rose Hill, Mississippi. One of our young pastors, Bro. Chris Williams is pastor of Wesley Independent Methodist Church. We also granted credentials to the following ministers; Rev. Chuck Fowler, Rev. Chris Kelly, Rev. Marvin Sparks and Rev. Brent Stover, and a Deaconess Missionary Rev. Denise Rogers.

God honored us with His sweet presence, and all who attended were blessed and deeply touched. We give God all the honor, glory and praise!

The
A.I.M.
Newsletter



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Director's Notes

by Dr. Mike Weldon

It is a joy to serve the Lord as your AIM Director. This has been a blessed but challenging year. He has blessed in our retreats for men, women and youth. We had a blessed annual meeting hosted by First Independent Methodist Church of Decatur, Alabama, and we had three very successful regional youth camps this summer.



We are so blessed and thankful for our wonderful AIM people who give their time, work, and personal finances as they plan, lead, and carry out these AIM functions. We simply have the best!

It was indeed a joy to serve these past years with President David Chandler. He is indeed a solid Christian, promoter of the holiness message and a great leader. Our new president Bill Chandler is cut out of the same mold; they are brothers. We look forward to serving with Bill and under his leadership. This has been a blessed but challenging year. The Lord has blessed our AIM youth camps, adult retreats, annual meeting, our pastors, and churches. Much victorious Kingdom work has been done. People have been lead to the Lord and are being disciplined.

We have been challenged by seven pastoral changes since annual meeting. Three positions have been filled but we need four godly pastors for AIM churches. Please help pray as we search for and screen possible candidates. If you know of some men who are genuinely called deeply spiritual and conservatively Methodist in theology, please refer them to the AIM office. Thank you so much for your prayers, cards, and notes during my recent and brief illness. Praise the Lord we are back on road and joyfully serving Jesus. A closing note of praise. First Independent Methodist Church in Madison, Mississippi, is now worshiping in their main building. The crowd is growing and there is discussion already about mothering another Independent Methodist Church in the area. Way to go! That's the spirit! I believe they will! To God be the glory! Great things He has done!



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.

Former President's Corner

by David Chandler

This summer at the annual meeting, I was given the honor of being elected as President of the Association of Independent Methodists. First, I would like to thank all those in attendance who, through a vote of acclamation, showed me the support I will need while serving as your president. I look forward to adding any guidance I can to Mike and the wonderful men that serve on the Executive Committee of AIM.

Now more than ever, we hear the call to go forth and spread God's message of Holiness. And we, all of us within AIM, are challenged to do just that. In later issues of our newsletter, you will see many updates from me. But in this, my first President's report, please indulge me while I thank our outgoing President, David Chandler, for his years of selfless service to the Association.

David traveled to almost every church within AIM, spoke to and encouraged our pastors on a regular basis, gave of his time and resources to the cause of "heart holiness", and was a constant inspiration to Mike Weldon. It was under his guidance that AIM was strengthened and energized. I would also be remiss if I didn't thank his wife and family, who supported him while he traveled, worried and prayed about his position as AIM president.

Suffice it to say, it would be impossible to fill his shoes, so I will not even try. Words cannot even express what he has meant to AIM and the many he has touched.

David, dear brother and friend, thanks from the bottom of my heart. Thanks to you from a grateful association. You have served, and will continue to serve God well.



President's Corner

by Bill Chandler

Greetings to each of you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I want to thank the Association of Independent Methodists for the privilege of serving as your President the past seven years. Over that time I have seen how God works in powerful and exciting ways. I have traveled to many of our churches and gotten to know many of our fine people and pastors. Many of our churches are growing; others are coming into AIM as new sister churches and church planting, though challenging, is growing and taking root. Our Executive Director, Bro. Mike Weldon, is doing a fine job in leading our Association, and it has been an honor to serve with Mike and watch this man of God pour his heart and soul into the Lord's work in serving you through AIM. I also want to thank Karen Richmond, the unsung hero of

AIM, who runs the AIM office in such an efficient manner. Lastly, I want to thank the Board of Directors who serve gladly and unselfishly. I am convinced, now more than ever, of the great need for the Association of Independent Methodists to grow stronger and larger to impact our world for Christ! The message of "free salvation for all men and freedom from all sin" has been preached by real Methodists for over two hundred and seventy years. I pray God's blessings on each of you and our churches as we seek to do His will and serve Him with all our heart.

The birth of the Savior on that holy night
gave us the gift of eternal life.

What love, what grace, what forgiveness
can be ours... if we simply believe.

It is a joy to share the blessings of faith
with you this Christmas.

Mark your calendars for the 47th Annual Meeting.

June 16-18, 2011

Hosting churches are
First Independent Methodist Church in Dublin,
Georgia and Faith Methodist Church of
Powder Springs, Georgia.

Conference will be held Dublin, Georgia.

Church Is Standing on the Word

by Mrs. Becky Pugh

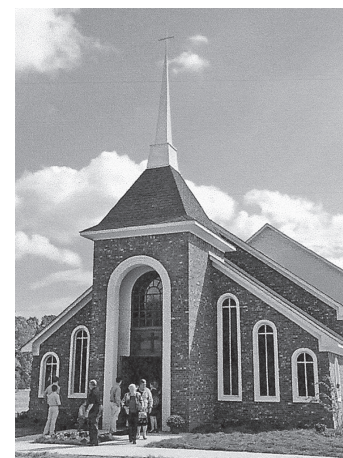


First Independent Methodist Church {FIMC} of Madison, will soon move into a new church building on Highway 51 North of Madison. In preparation for the move, church members are reading the Bible aloud from cover to cover. Volunteers go to the unfinished sanctuary, stand on a cross that marks the spot where a Bible was buried prior to the concrete foundation being poured, and read while literally standing on The Word. The pastor will stand in the same place to deliver sermons. The project is testimony to the priority given to scripture. First Independent Methodist Church of Madison is a place where God's word is proclaimed and lifted up.

Reading is a blessing. Some readers go alone early in the morning while their family and neighbors are still asleep. An older couple holds hands as they maneuver around and over construction materials to share the reading experience. A family goes after supper. The parents listen intently as their elementary age child reads a chapter. The project has been uniquely meaningful to each participant.

Think of the first reader who began the project on his way to work. The sun is just up. There are no workmen or highway sounds. There is the smell of paint and sawdust. He opens The Book and starts to read out loud. His voice echoes off concrete and rafters. He reads "In the beginning...", and knows God is listening. Reading God's word to God is a blessing.

In 2002, Bro Doug Pierce and his family answered the call to move to Madison. They had served the Independent Methodist Church in Forest, Mississippi, for eighteen years. At first, small groups met in the pastor's home. The congregation grew and found a meeting place at Madison's Fitness Depot. With increased membership, Sunday school classes, youth activities, missions, ministries and an established building fund, the time came to purchase eleven acres and construct a church building.



[Update - First Independent Methodist Church of Madison, Mississippi, is currently worshipping in their new building.](#)

Update on John & Beth Muehleisen

We've got a passion to challenge churches and individuals to become more mission active, and we've had a chance to express that passion as we've been with our current ministry partners and meeting new ones as well. We've met a lot of great people and renewed acquaintances with others who want to develop in our common cause.

We speak at another church here in Atlanta this weekend and then head up to Kentucky and Ohio to participate in Ohio Christian University's missions conference. We're both looking forward to that! Then, I head off to Africa for a month and Beth follows a week later with a team from McEachern UMC. We'll be helping the Africa Gospel Church missions team in Kenya with training and a retreat for the Kenyan missionaries as well as making a trip to Uganda to introduce them to the ministries there. Beth will return with the team a few days after Thanksgiving but I'll stay in Africa another week to speak at the Africa Gospel Church's annual pastors conferences. Please keep these trips in your prayers!

Lord willing, we plan to return to Uganda in early January for our next term of service. We've been telling you about the group of new missionaries that are coming and one couple has arrived and several more families are in the "home stretch" in their support raising.

Thanks for praying for them as they get ready to come to join the teams there.

As you pray, pray also for these requests:

- The final number of new ministry partners who join our team
- Safe travel for the team to Africa and back
- Effective ministry in Kenya and Uganda
- A major upgrade to the pastoral training curriculum in Uganda and the training of the trainers who lead our 13 pastoral training centers there

Thanks again for your interest in what we do in Africa, and for giving us the opportunity to share your passion for being agents of God's grace.

First Steps...

by Holly Muehleisen

Being a new missionary is quite a bit like becoming a baby all over again. Since I arrived in Tokyo, in the middle of August this year, everything has been new and exciting. However, I could count on one hand the number of Japanese words I knew at that point, and my lack of language skills made simple tasks much more difficult than they would be back in the US.

In the States, I could go grocery shopping, out to eat, hold a conversation with a friend, and worship easily. Here in Japan, I need help with all of these simple tasks. Just as you would celebrate a baby's first step or first word, I have made many small steps and reached small milestones that I have found worthy of celebration: there was the first time that I walked the mile into the train station and didn't get lost; the first time I went to the supermarket and bought some groceries by myself; the first time I was able to read a sign in Japanese and actually understand what it said!

This is a pretty good picture of what life has been like for me here in Japan these first two months. The process of learning how to speak and in general just live in Tokyo has been primarily a matter of following the example of others and then giving it my best shot. I have stumbled, made mistakes, and consequently have some pretty humorous stories to tell of my journey from complete newbie to being able to take my first steps and speak my first words in a new language and culture.

Learning how to live in Japan is not simply a matter of learning the language, although that is important and the reason why I am currently in language school. Striving for more than simple survival, I am aiming at thriving here. This requires me to learn and begin to understand the Japanese culture as well.

On those days that I sit in a worship service where I don't understand a word of the sermon, or a word I've sung...on those days where I make a breakthrough in understanding the lady at the fast food restaurant...on those days where I can't remember what I just learned the minute before and repeat the same mistake...on the days I struggle and on the days where I celebrate another first, I am reminded that there is a reason that I am here in Tokyo.

It is not to become fluent in Japanese or an expert in Japanese culture. The reason I am studying the Japanese language, trying to understand the Japanese world view, and living here at all is because this is where God has called me to share His love with those who do not know His name.

I do not know where God has called you or to which people He would have you share His love; but trust me, even with the difficulties and struggles, I'd rather be right here in the middle of His will than any place else.

"Living Stones"

by Melissa Woods

The Mid-South Region AIM Youth camp was held in July at Timber Creek Campground in Pulaski, MS. More than 100 students and counselors gathered together to learn about what it means to be a "Living Stone". First Peter 2:5 says, "...you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (NKJV). Our pre-teens were led in worship by Mrs. Bridgette Childs and were fed the Word by Bro. Frank Childs. Waldo (Bro. Frank's side-kick puppet) assisted Bro. Frank in engaging the students and preparing them to hear what God had for them each service. Our teen evangelist was Bro. Nathan Sanders. Bro. Nathan challenged our teen students to be a "living stone" by being a Nehemiah. Teens were encouraged to stand boldly for their convictions and trust God to help them accomplish His purpose for their lives. Many students accepted the Lord as their Savior, and even more students grew in their relationship with the Lord. Twenty counselors sacrificed four days of their time to disciple, to mentor, and to exemplify to students what it means to be a "living stone" on a day-to-day basis. God has blessed AIM camp for many years, and we pray that God will continue to use AIM camp as a way to speak to youth who are not believers, to disciple youth who are believers, and to draw all students unto Himself so that each one can be a "LIVING STONE" in a lost world.



Plans are already being made for AIM camp 2011. We look forward to gathering at Timber Creek Camp on July 6-9, 2011, for "Armed & Dangerous: What happens at AIM camp DOESN'T stay at AIM camp." Next summer students will hear the Word from Bro. Frank Childs and Bro. Marshall Daigre as they challenge the students to live out Ephesians 6:13.

We hope you will make plans to join us!

“Vanity! Vanity!”

by Adam Godbold

On Sunday, July 25, in the middle of the afternoon, eighty folks gathered together at Woodland Christian Camp in Temple, Georgia, for the first activities of what would prove to be an amazing week at AIM Southeast Youth Camp 2010. As the week progressed, these eighty would be visited by seven more temporary guests and would together experience the mighty working of God.



Of the churches in our southeastern region, four were represented: Christ Independent Methodist Church of Palatka, Florida; Faith Methodist Church of Marietta, Georgia; First Independent Methodist Church of Dublin, Georgia; and Claud Independent Methodist Church of Eclectic, Alabama.

The theme –“Vanity! Vanity!”– was unpacked throughout the week by our evangelist, Scott Engebretson, who delivered powerful messages built upon one, central question: What is meant by the term *vanity*? Put simply, Scott explained that in the book of Ecclesiastes *vanity* is best expressed not by the oft-assumed word “meaninglessness” but rather by the more neutral phrase “but a breath”. That foundation being laid, Scott offered his week-long challenge: *Will you prove life to be finally meaningless, or will you prove life to be -though but a breath- a glorious gift from God?* In doing so, he touched on various biblical concepts regarding the healing grace of God, the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit, the wise use of words, and the mandate to live life in Christ to the fullest.

Classes were taught by Marshall Daigre and Daniel Prince. Marshall led a three-part series on the book of Ecclesiastes, helping both campers and counselors in understanding how the book fits within the Word of God and is to be diligently studied and personally applied. Daniel lead a three-part series on the spiritual disciplines, in which he sought to equip those at camp with some everyday practices to be taken home and used for living in the grace of God. We made an exerted effort this year both to inspire and to empower, to give hope and to give tools.

In addition to teaching, Daniel also led worship throughout the week with the help of Lewis Brookshire (guitar, vocals) and John Chandler (jimbay). The services were filled with joyous singing and heart-felt praise as Daniel, with guitar in hand, prayerfully led us into the presence of God.

Following our service Wednesday night, several were led to share during a time of testimonies around our campfire. Over the span of more than an hour and a half, we heard words of struggle and triumph, encouragement and determination, as folks from each of our churches shared the thoughts of their hearts, including what the Spirit of God had done in their lives throughout the week and their intentions to live victoriously in Christ throughout the coming year.

Late Thursday morning, at the close of our final service, AIM Southeast Youth Camp 2010 ended with Holy Communion, as each cabin shared the Lord’s Supper together. Filled with the grace of God and countless memories of camp this year, we piled back into our cars, vans, and buses and all headed back to our various homes. “But a breath! But a breath! Everything is but a breath!”

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.

Update from Guatemala

by Daniel McIntyre

Everything is going great with the family and with the ministry. We have had such a smoother time this year, and wow what a weather change! I know that the Lord says to be thankful in all seasons, but man, we sure are extra thankful to be experiencing a rather cool season right now in Chiquimula. It is so nice to be able to get up and start the day without sweat running down your face. The kids are great and healthy, and they are really loving the nice weather, too. They play outside almost all day with Diego, our dog. Although the other day we did get kind of nervous about them playing outside so much because Levi yells “Daddy, Momma, there’s a spider out here!” Now if we were in good ole Alabama, we would have just told him to stomp on it, but here in Guatemala, we went running outside before the spider carried one of them off. And, yes, the spider was as big as Daniel’s hand! (I’m sure the grandparents really liked that story.) Anyway, we have not been carried off by the spiders, and the Lord continues to bless each day here in Chiquimula, Guatemala.

We had our second early prayer service with the men in the village. We had to leave our house here around 4 am to get there and start the breakfast, and the praying started at 5:30 am. Fourteen men came and we prayed for about an hour. Several men within the group lead some of the different prayers. It was really cool to see them leading others in prayer and seeing how they have become more bold and confident to pray and get past being nervous and worried about what to say. My dad came and did a study with the men on prayer and they seemed to have really enjoyed it and learned new things about praying. It was evident this morning that they are putting into practice what they learned from that study. Brandi came with Jorge and me to help cook for the men. We had, of course, re-fried black beans and eggs with bread and coffee. Jorge did a wonderful job in leading the men in some of the praying. Jorge has matured and grown deeper in his relationship with Jesus and in the Word also. He is a big help and a big blessing to me and the work I do with the men. It would be very hard to be doing the things we do and be at the level we are now without his help. So Praise the Lord for another successful prayer breakfast with those amazing men. We have these prayer breakfasts the first Wednesday of every month and the men seem to really like attending them, even though it is very early and they have to leave immediately to walk down the hill to their jobs and start at 6:45 am. We are also in the process of organizing a big wedding for about five couples to get married. Many of these men never legally, or through their churches, married their ladies. They are living together and have a family together, so they are a family but never did the paper work. So after doing some studying on this subject from the Word, many of them have decided that it would be best to go ahead and get married legally. This is a huge step for these men to first of all accept that they need to change that area of their past lives and also to be a witness and living testimony of the things of God and what He desires for us. I am very excited for these guys and the light they have become in the village. Some there were already shining that light, but with the others joining them, the light is shining brighter and thus can have a stronger and bigger impact on the whole village. Keep these men in your prayers and be excited that God has allowed you to be a part in sharing the Word and blessing these men through your prayers and support for us and the people in that village!

Mission Update from Honduras

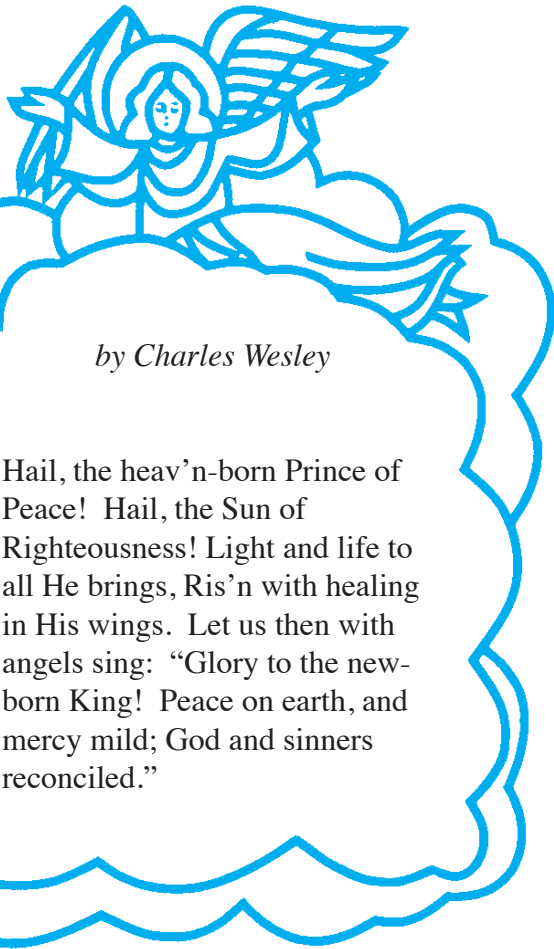
by Rev. Bob Wood

It has been a busy month for me in Honduras. One aspect of my work is to be a chaplain for the twenty-five medical or service teams that come to Catacamas annually. We have had two medical teams and one service team. One of the medical teams was Ken Pollard, an audiologist working at the Good Samaritan Clinic. On the second medical team I worked with a team of plastic surgeons doing reconstructive surgery on children with cleft lip or palate. We had a service team in the mountains digging latrines and building outhouses for families who have never had a bathroom. Ken is the first audiologist to come to PREDISAN. He is fitting patients with severe hearing loss with a specially designed solar rechargeable hearing aide. After Ken fit seventy-five year old Maria with a hearing aide, Maria explained that she had lost her hearing in both ears when she was a teenager. When Maria walked out of the clinic she was talking to everyone, and finally she could hear them talking back. She was praising God and smiling. The work here in Olancho is changing lives physically and spiritually. I preach, teach, pray with the sick, translate for teams, and I am teaching members of the seventy-one member Honduran medical staff English classes. I am busy, excited, and blessed.

I need your continued help both in prayer and in financial support. Please consider continuing to support my work by donating to: Predisan-USA, 2100 RiverEdge Parkway, Suite 1170, Box 39, Sandy Springs, GA 30327, and write in the memo section BOB WOOD. Thank you for your prayers and support.

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by Charles Wesley

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of
Peace! Hail, the Sun of
Righteousness! Light and life to
all He brings, Ris'n with healing
in His wings. Let us then with
angels sing: "Glory to the new-
born King! Peace on earth, and
mercy mild; God and sinners
reconciled."

Christ's Love Compels Us

By Jeff and Terri Rains

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)

After serving over 13 years as missionaries in Ecuador, God brought us back to the US in August of 2007. We began a wonderful new chapter in our lives in Boone, North Carolina, as Jeff began his job with Samaritan's Purse. During the past three years, God has blessed us with many friendships and experiences, which have helped us grow in our relationship with Him. Now we are beginning a new chapter in this great adventure of following Jesus.

Just as God led us to Ecuador many years ago, Christ's love is compelling us to return to minister in a different part of the country. We are excited about the opportunity to serve with SIM in Loja, Ecuador. SIM is an international mission organization with more than 1,600 missionaries serving in more than 50 countries in Africa, Asia & South America.

Loja is known as the "Forgotten Province" of Ecuador because less than 1% of the people there know Jesus as their Savior. We plan to work alongside Ecuadorian church leaders in the Loja area, equipping them to more effectively reach out to those who need to experience the transforming power of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Christ's love compels us, and we look forward to being a part of what He is doing in Loja. In coordination with the Ecuador Field Director and the SIM-USA office, we have set the date of departure for Ecuador as January 25, 2011. By this date, we are trusting God to raise up a team of at least 100 prayer partners, who will commit to pray regularly for us. Another goal that must be reached before buying our tickets is to raise our financial support. May God bless you richly in your great adventure of following Jesus!

Please take a few moments and visit us

www.aim2020.com and be sure to sign up to receive your newsletter by e-mail!