



THE TEMPLE *Trumpet*

A MINISTRY OF
FAIRFAX BAPTIST TEMPLE



Contents

VOLUME 39 • ISSUE 4 • 2011

Profile: Susan Lewis
page 2

Academy Takes
National Honors
page 3

Missions Conference
pages 4, 5

A Near Death Experience
page 6

A Loose Wire
page 7

**Be
Strong.
In the Lord.**

Save the Date!

October 31-November 3, 2011



Shaking Off Adversity

by Dr. Troy R. Calvert, Pastor

Have you ever wondered why it is that when you are trying to do what is right you still may encounter adversity? Maybe you received the opposite of what you thought you deserved? Paul is a great example of how we should react to adversity when we are seeking to walk with God.

In Acts 28, Paul has just been shipwrecked on the island of Melita. He and the rest of the prisoners and crew had spent the last two weeks fighting the storms at sea, not knowing where they would end up. The people of the island had made a fire for them, and, rather than sitting down to rest as he was certainly entitled to do, Paul busies himself with gathering more wood. As he places the wood on the fire, the devil, in the form of a viper, latches onto his hand. At this point you and I probably would have decided to stop serving and slow down for a bit. We might even decide that God was giving us this direction. However, rather than quitting what he was doing, Paul just shakes the snake off and keeps going. Meanwhile the islanders are watching and waiting for him to quit and fall over dead from the poisonous bite. Paul apparently did not even discuss what had happened. He was trusting in God. Paul knew that he had yet to appear before Caesar in Rome, and so he had no reason to worry about the bite of a poisonous snake.

We are often tempted, at the point of adversity, to over-analyze and think that God is telling us that what we are doing

must not be His will. When someone is called into the ministry, there can be many obstacles to overcome. If we know what God has called us to, we should continue down that path not ever deviating from what God has clearly laid out for us to do. God may be using the obstacles and trials to test and strengthen our walk with Him. God may be testing so that we can see whether we are truly determined to do His will or not.

Paul did not stop to “lick his wounds” but continued serving others. When we get “bit” are we prone to want to quit the ministry into which God has placed us? Do we want to commiserate with others about our wounds?

God wants us to continue serving to be certain that our gifts are being used to the edifying of the body of Christ.

Paul was a great example to all the others that were with him on the ship. They had witnessed his calmness during the storm and were now witnessing his calmness after being bitten by a poisonous snake. Often times we see people who are successful in their ministry but we don't see all of the trials they have overcome on the way. We tend to make a judgment by what we see on the surface without realizing what lies beneath.

How do you respond in adversity? Job 23:10 says, **“He knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.”** And, in Zechariah 13:9, the Bible says, **“And I will bring the third part through the fire, and**

(continued on page 3)

Paul had spent the last two weeks fighting the storms at sea, not knowing where they would end up.



Susan Lewis

PROFILE

Susan Lewis has a passion. Actually, she has several, and their alchemy in her crackles with energy under her demure exterior.

She is passionate about serving God as a faithful member of Fairfax Baptist Temple; she is passionate about Donald Lewis, her husband of 33 years. With no children of her own she is passionate about working with the students of Fairfax Baptist Temple Academy (FBTA), which she has done as a volunteer for almost 20 years. She is passionate about art and conveying that passion to students in a way that has established an amazing record of success in annual inter-school and inter-state competitions. And last, she is passionate about the martial art of Taekwondo in which she holds the rank of third degree Kukkiwon Black Belt and holds the highest national ranking as a tournament judge. In 2009 she was awarded the National Collegiate Taekwondo Association Female Referee of the Year Award.

It is the great good fortune of FBTA that much of her energy and two of her passions have been directed here—her love for children and her love for art. Almost 300 students have benefitted from her teaching over the years and almost that many have won recognition at the elementary, junior, and senior levels in regional, state, and national competition. Every year, at least one of her students has represented FBTA in the national AACCS competition (see story on next page), and this year was no exception. Of her 14 art students who competed at the regional and state level in 2011, 13 won first places and one placed second (at the regional level), and 6 went on to the national competition. All six who competed nationally were successful: two won first

Susan Lewis with three of her art students: Cassie Leavenworth (top, left), Nate Calvert and Hannah Zakaria all placed second in national competition this year. Madison Mitchell and Annie Castilla are seen (at right) working on the paintings that won them first places in state competition; Cassie Leavenworth shows off her prize-winning mixed-media project, and Katherine Chu is seen working on a painting that won first place at the national level.

places, three won second places and one finished third.

“This is a labor of love,” Susan declares emphatically. “I love art, but I have a special love for these children. Some of them are the best people I know; they are sold out to the Lord and have an absolute commitment to achieve excellence and give the glory to God. This really is a spiritual ministry and in that sense my art students minister to me just as much as I minister to them.”

Given her outstanding record of success it is surprising to learn that Susan is not a trained art teacher. Although she has drawn and painted her whole life she is largely self-taught. Her first formal instruction came at a military center in Belgium while her husband completed a tour of duty in the U.S. Air Force. She has since built an extensive art library and stays current with articles in artist’s magazines while attending week-long art seminars in different parts of the United States between July and November each year.

Susan schedules her year around the ODACS program which absorbs all her attention from September through March. She referees Taekwondo tournaments locally in Virginia and Maryland all year round but confines her national tournaments to the months from April through July. Taekwondo is more than just a sport for Susan: it is an opportunity for witnessing and servant-hood.

With a bright smile on her face she happily declares: “I feel extremely blessed that God has given me such a love for two very different types of ministries and that my husband supports and encourages me in my work.” ☒





A study in contrasts! Music Director Les Wall is seen introducing the FBTA choral group prior to their performance, and later celebrates with the students and their first-place trophy. In the other photograph Abigail Schimkus presents a command performance of her winning classical piano solo.

Academy Takes National Honors

by Hannah Kidd, 11th grade

Each year the American Association of Christian Schools sponsors a national competition that brings thousands of students together to represent their states as the students test their proficiencies in Bible, speech, academics, art and music.

Virginia has taken the honors as the leading state for nine years in a row. Last year, students from Fairfax Baptist Temple Academy (FBTA) played a major role in Virginia's victory, earning enough points on their own to tie with fifth place Tennessee. But that proved to be just a warm-up for 2011.

This year FBTA students established a record that may be difficult to match, obtaining 43 points out of Virginia's winning total of 80 points and scoring high enough to defeat the second place State of Illinois, who scored 38 points.

The statistics tell their own story:


- 38 students represented FBTA in 30 categories at the 2011 AACCS National Competition held at Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina.

- FBTA students placed in 20 categories, earning
 - Seven 1st places
 - Nine 2nd places
 - Four 3rd places

All six art entries placed either first, second or third. The choral group won a first place for the first time, and handbell choir and handbell ensemble placed second and third respectively.

Abigail Schimkus took national honors with her classical piano solo and was invited to showcase her talents at the awards ceremony attended by 5,000 people. Nate Calvert, son of Pastor Troy Calvert, placed first in topical preaching, the second FBTA student to win this coveted honor.

Zachary Damm placed second in U. S. history/geography for the second year in a row and, also for the second year in a row, Kyle Stevens and Dominic De Guzman placed second among science fair entries.

For those of us who participated, the competition was memorable in every respect. We praise God for His hand on us and His inspiration in our lives that teaches us to do all to His Glory! 

Shaking Off Adversity

(continued from page 1)

will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God." Are you going through adversity right now? Has a trial caused you to pull back from your service to the Lord? You may ask why God has to refine and purify us with tests and trials. Malachi 3:3 says, **"And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness."** Maybe God wants you to be able to serve Him in an even greater capacity.

Just because we have trials does not mean that we have sinned in some way. Paul hadn't. God was simply providing opportunity for greater service. We must continue forward in God's will allowing Him to guide every step. You say you want to be strong in the Lord? Don't allow adversity to stop you. Shake it off and keep on serving until Jesus returns.

Be Strong. Work. The Lord is with you.

Missions Conference
April 2011



A display of national flags at the entrance to Fairfax Baptist Temple is a sure sign that the annual missions conference is underway. As much as we enjoy the preaching and teaching, the highlight every year comes at the end of the conference when our guests are showered with gifts to express love and support for the work they have been called to do. An added touch this year was a presentation of notes and cards from missionary families to Marge Guy (seen with Pastor Troy Calvert), who is retiring from her volunteer job as missions secretary after 34 years of faithful service.

Take eight missionary families, add dozens of meetings in church, chapel and classrooms for most of a week, spice with lots of new friendships, warm fellowship and good food, mix well—and you have the recipe for another successful Missions Conference.

Our annual conference in April has the two-fold purpose of honoring our missionaries and reminding our church of its vital role in helping to bring the Gospel to “the uttermost parts of the earth.”

Missions is the heartbeat of Fairfax Baptist Temple. From the day of our founding in 1970 the focus has been to glorify God and evangelize the world. Our first missions conference was held in 1978, and today we support almost 300

missionary families in 86 countries. Total giving to missions since 1970 exceeds \$12,000,000.

This year our missionary guests included two veteran families, John and Debbie Andersen in Asia and Bob and Jan Marshall in Wales. Our other visitors were all young families on deputation in the United States as they prepare to go to the mission field: Ryan and Elisabeth Strother to London, England; Sam and Mary Beth Snyder to Kiribati in the Pacific; Joshua and Jennifer Morris to Bolivia; Alberto and Ashley Puente to Spain; Nathan and Karie Owens to Cameroon, Africa and Paul and Laura Hostetler the island of Madagascar.

In just a few days they stole our hearts with their examples of selfless dedication

and their stories illustrating the power of the Gospel to change lives in cultures as far removed from each other as the gentle hills of Wales and the deep jungles of Madagascar (otherwise known to millions of Americans as the location for a cartoon series).

The pictures on these pages capture something of the pageantry and pathos of this special week with our missionaries as we strive as a church family to let them know of our love and appreciation and hear in turn of their devotion to “preach the Gospel to every creature.”

As always, the highlight of the week is the Sunday night when we shower them with gifts as a tangible “Thank You!” to those who go, from us whose privilege it is to give.



Master's Kids Choir

No missions conference would be complete at FBT without a stirring performance by the Master's Kids Choir, directed as always by Georgia Wieler, based on an original script by her husband, Ted Wieler. This year's presentation featured the story of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ to bring the gift of salvation to all nations. Uplifting singing and inspired acting by the elementary age children was set against a background of colorful national costumes and flags.



Men's Mission Prayer Breakfast

A week packed with preaching, teaching, sightseeing, and other activities includes lunch hosted by ladies in the church to honor missionary wives, and a prayer breakfast for men and boys in fellowship with missionary husbands.



Upcoming Events

May

- 21 Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 21 Lamplighters Picnic
- 24 FBT Staff Banquet
- 25 AWANA Awards Night
- 25 Missionary Guest Speaker, Mark Shirk, Bhutan
- 26 Sr. Appreciation Banquet
- 27 BJU Film Premier, Milltown Pride
- 29 God and Country Sunday
- 30 Community Fun Fest

June

- 1 K5 Graduation
- 2 FBTA Alumni Game and Sports Banquet
- 3 FBTA Awards Assembly
- 4 Jr. High Activity
- 5 Promotion Sunday
- 5 FBTA Graduation
- 7 Nursing Home Ministry
- 8 Teen Gym Night
- 8 Summer Kids Program Begins
- 11 Gospel Blitz
- 11 Caleb's Cousins Fellowship
- 14 Men's Shooting Activity
- 17 Father Son Cook-out
- 18 Men's Prayer Breakfast
- 18-23 Summer Teen Crusade
- 19 Father's Day
- 26 Spanish Church 23rd Anniversary
- 27 - July 1 - VBS



A Near Death EXPERIENCE

by Dr. Ted Wieler, Missions Director

Have you ever been in a situation where you did not know if you were going to survive? I have. I was driving in the mountains of West Virginia. I drove over a sandy spot or something else that caused the car to start to skid. If you are familiar with those roads you know that there are only a few places with guardrails. Where I was driving there was no rail and I was in the lane closest to the valley. As the back end of the car became the front then the back then the front, you will understand when I say all that I could see was the side of the mountain then the vista of the valley, mountain side, valley vista, mountain side, valley vista. I do not know how many times I spun but I know it was at least three. I was completely and utterly helpless to do anything to stop the spinning.

Nearly 40 years later I still recall with vividness the moment of my prayer. I was looking at the valley as I prayed, "Lord, save me!" I remember thinking that my mother was going to be really upset that I had killed my brother—he was asleep and missing all of the joy of the moment. You may think it odd that my mother would mourn only the loss of my brother. Wouldn't my mother be upset at having lost two sons? Sure, but I really did not have any sense that I was about to die! I am not trying to make myself appear super-spiritual. I'm just reporting what happened. I didn't have any idea about the result except that I would live through it.

The rear of the car "fortuitously" went up the mountain side and then the car

tipped over onto the driver side. I had a very good opportunity to take a close look at the mountain side since my nose was touching it. My brother finally awoke. I do not recall exactly how he asked what in the world had just happened, but I am certain he asked in a loving and gracious manner. He used my ribs as a pushing point to lift himself out of the car. I was able to follow him. Neither of us was scratched. We were able to push the car back on to its wheels. It ran fine. A piece of molding was partially torn from the driver's side, one rear wheel was bent, and at the next gas station we found we were down one quart of oil—which may have been how we started the trip so I don't even count that!

Do I believe in guardian angels? Do I believe in a prayer-answering God? Do I know a little something about the advantage of being bigger than my older brother? Yes!

I had no thought earlier in that day that I was going to have this experience. Neither do you know when you might have a near-death experience or, worse, an actual death experience. My sleeping brother certainly had no last opportunity to snatch glory from hell's teeth. This is the caution of James 4:13-15: "For what is your life?" Was I prepared to die that day? Confidently, I say yes! "Absent from the body," I knew I would, and I know I will, be "present with the Lord" (II Corinthians 5:8). Do you have this confidence? I pray that you do because the reality is that your life hangs on a thread and every day is a near death experience. ☒

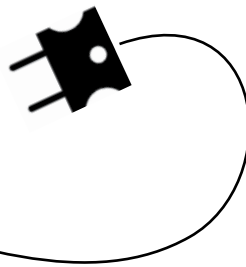
I still recall with vividness the moment of my prayer. I was looking at the valley as I prayed, "Lord, save me!"



Therese Antonio
Jon & Jan Day
Wayne & Kira Sanders
Rachel Niggli



A Loose Wire



by Becky Calvert

March was the usual busy time at the Calvert home as we geared up for the annual Bible, Academics and Fine Arts competition among Virginia church schools. With our two sons participating this year, practices were frequent, paintings and sermons had to be completed, and there was stress on every side.

The day of the regional competition among five area schools finally dawned, and the months of preparation were behind us at last. The air in our home fairly crackled with excitement as we rose early, got all dressed up for the big day, and dashed off to school. There the children went their separate ways to different competition locations, and I headed to the auditorium where I was assigned to work as a judge. The morning passed quickly and joyfully as I listened to choir after well-prepared choir, but, by lunch time, it was evident that we still had a long way to go, which meant that I would get back home later than anticipated. This was not a problem but for the fact that we own a sweet little dog who would sorely miss her walk to her outside "bathroom." She was depending on me not to keep her waiting!

We live a 10-minute drive from our church, and, with 30 minutes available for lunch, I figured that I could get home, walk the dog, and get back in time for the commencement of our afternoon program. Everything went according to plan until I jumped back into my car for the return trip, backed out of the garage, and pushed the button to shut the garage door.

Nothing happened. I pushed again. Still nothing. I had only a minute to spare, but I was determined not to panic, so I did what a girl does when confronted by a stubborn mechanical object: I called my husband. No reply. He was obviously enjoying the competition festivities!

What to do? I couldn't leave the house unattended with an open garage gaping at the neighborhood, so I climbed out of the car and stared at the unmoving door, willing it to close. No luck. I stared some

more and then realized that if I disconnected the line that attached the door to the electric motor I might be able to close it manually. Minutes later, bathed in a warm glow of success, I had the door down and was making my way back to the school, late, but not too late.

When we arrived home later that evening, we noticed that the garage door was not the only reluctant electrical device. The lawn lights were not working either. Inside the house, I discovered a pendant light in the kitchen was not working. A day later all the electrical outlets in our upstairs bathrooms stopped working. And I was still manually raising and lowering the garage door. What was going on? What would fail next?


At last, the electrician made his appearance and listened as my husband described our dilemma.

Then he headed upstairs and checked the bathroom outlets. Minutes later he uncovered the problem: a loose wire buried in an outlet, requiring the replacement of the whole unit.

The effect was . . . electrifying! Like magic, everything started to work again. What appeared to be a complicated problem was really quite simple: one loose wire. But that little wire had affected our entire household.

There was a message in there for me of course: the church, the Body of Christ, is to be a shining light to all the world, but little loose wires of sin can short-circuit the church's effectiveness.

I examined myself. Am I a loose wire? Are you? We may feel that a lack of service or a limited commitment to our church family or a lack of excitement about the things of the Lord affects nobody but us, but we make a grave mistake to think that way. We may seem insignificant in our own eyes, and our deeds (or lack of them) may seem unimportant, but one little wire that doesn't function can make a big impact.

We each have an influence, for good or for ill, which is why the Bible admonishes us: **"Whatsoever the hand findeth to do, do it with thy might."** (Ecclesiastes 9:10) 

"One little part that doesn't function can make a big impact."



Dr. Bud Calvert's

Itinerary

May

22-25 Missions Conference, Calvary Baptist Temple, Blackstone, VA, Pastor Bruce Rue

June

6 Guest Speaker, Florida Independent Baptist Fellowship, Highlands Baptist Church, Lakeland, FL, Pastor John Richardson

12 Guest Speaker, Lancaster Baptist Church, Lancaster CA, Pastor Paul Chappell

July

4-7 Guest Speaker, COEBA Conference, Crossroads Baptist Church, Baileys Crossroads VA, Pastor Lou Baldwin

10-13 Guest Speaker, Leadership Conference, Lancaster Baptist Church, Lancaster, CA, Pastor Paul Chappell

29-31 Missions Conference, Cornerstone Baptist Church, Asheville, NC, Pastor Jeff Kelly





Community Fun Fest

May 30, 2011 at Fairfax Baptist Temple



THE TEMPLE
Trumpet
A MINISTRY OF
FAIRFAX BAPTIST TEMPLE

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Merrifield, VA
Permit No. 752

FAIRFAX BAPTIST TEMPLE • 6401 MISSIONARY LANE, FAIRFAX STATION, VA 22039 • 703.323.8100 • FBTMINISTRIES.ORG • NEWSLETTER@FBTMINISTRIES.ORG

Temple Trumpet Staff

Dr. Troy R. Calvert, Publisher
Edward Thal, Editor
Sandy Kester, Copy Editor
Esther McDonald, Copy Editor
Deanna Dyck, Design/Layout

Sundays

Bible Study Fellowship 9:00 a.m.
Morning Service 10:00 a.m.
Evening Service 5:00 p.m.

Wednesdays

Awana (Sept – May) 6:45 p.m.
Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.

In this issue:

Academy Takes National Honors
Missions Conference
A Near Death Experience
A Loose Wire



Watch live services each week at
FBTministries.org