

# Capitol Baptist

## CAPTIONS

### Church Activities

JANUARY 27, 2017

- FRI.-SAT., JANUARY 27-28  
*Faithful Men's Retreat with Evangelist Randy Starr; begins at 6:00 PM with dinner on Friday*
- SUN., JANUARY 29  
*Guest Speaker - Evangelist Randy Starr*
- FRI., FEBRUARY 10  
*Family & Friends Banquet at 6 PM; Guest Speaker - Dr. S.M. Davis*
- SAT., FEBRUARY 11  
*"Strengthening the Christian Home" sessions with Dr. S.M. Davis*
- SAT., FEBRUARY 25  
*John and Romans distribution in Wilmington*

### Weekly Events

#### SUNDAY

Early Service	8:30 AM
Sunday School	9:45 AM
Morning Service	11:00 AM
Choir Practice	4:30 PM
Missionary Prayer Time	5:30 PM
Evening Service	6:00 PM

#### TUESDAY

Ladies' Ministry	6:30 PM
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#### WEDNESDAY

Teen Meeting	6:15 PM
Children's Service	7:00 PM
Bible Study & Prayer	7:00 PM

#### SOUL-WINNING & VISITATION

Wednesday	3:30 PM
Saturday	10:00 AM

### JEPHTHAH'S VOW - INTRODUCTION

*Judges 11:30-40 | Pastor T. H. Moore*

This week, we are continuing with the story of Israel's 8th judge, Jephthah. In this story, the children of Ammon are about to go to war with the children of Israel. In verse 29, we read *"Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he passed over Gilead, and Manasseh, and passed over Mizpeh of Gilead, and from Mizpeh of Gilead he passed over unto the children of Ammon."* Jephthah was gearing up for battle. But before Jephthah goes to war, he does something interesting. We read in verse 30 that he *"vowed a vow unto the LORD."*

The vow that Jephthah made was an unusual vow, and the results of it have brought about much debate. As we look at Jephthah's vow, let's see if we can learn some things about the great mistake that Jephthah made concerning vows.

#### I. The Principles of Vows (vs. 30a)

As Jephthah is about to go to war with the Ammonites, he decides to make a vow to God. He vows that if God would deliver the children of Ammon into his hand, that he would do a certain thing. Now, before we look at Jephthah's vow in particular, I want us to consider some general things that the Bible teaches us about vows. First of all, *what is a vow?* A vow is simply *"a solemn promise made to God."* A vow is when you and I tell God that we are going to do something. In reality, any promise that you and I make is a promise to God, whether it be at an altar in a church service, in some emergency situation or a life-threatening circumstance, or even just a casual promise to someone like a friend, parent, spouse, or sibling. The word "vow" is found

35 times in the Bible—33 times in the Old Testament and 2 times in the New Testament. The phrase "vowed a vow" is found 5 times in the Bible. We find many people making vows throughout the Bible—the Israelites (Numbers 21:2), Hannah (1 Samuel 1:11), David (Psalm 132:2-5), Jonah (Jonah 2:9), and the Apostle Paul (Acts 18:18). Here are some Bible principles concerning vows:

#### A. God Hears All Our Vows.

In Psalm 61:5, we read, *"For thou, O God, hast heard my vows."* Whenever you and I make a vow, God hears it. He knows every promise we've ever made to Him and everything that we've told Him we would do—whether it be verbally or silently in our hearts. Every single commitment that you and I have made to God, He has heard, and He has not forgotten about it.

*Vowing to do good things is good, but we are to fulfill that which we have vowed!*

#### B. God Expects Us to Fulfill All Our Vows.

We read in Psalm 66:13-14, *"I will go into thy house with burnt offerings: I will pay thee my vows, Which my lips have uttered, and my mouth hath spoken, when I was in trouble."*

A vow is not a light thing. We have all met people that do not put a great deal of weight upon their words. They will carelessly say things, embellish stories, and make promises that they do not intend to keep. This is a very dangerous thing to do!

We live in a world where it is acceptable, to a certain extent, to lie and use guile (not telling the whole story, in order to protect ourselves). But Christians ought not to be that way! Colossians 3:9 tells us, *"Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds."* 1 Peter 3:10 says, *"For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile."* We ought to mean what we say! How many times have we promised God that we would do things like read our Bible every day, or hand out tracts, or pray more, or never participate in a certain sin? When we make those vows, although we may have forgotten about them, brushed them off, or discounted them as "emotional moments," God expects us to fulfill them! Ecclesiastes 5:4-5 reads, *"When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay."*

#### C. Vows Are Voluntary.

Deuteronomy 23:21-22, *"When thou shalt vow a vow unto the LORD thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it ... But if thou shalt forbear to vow, it shall be no sin in thee."* No one forces us to make vows to God. We do it by our own volition.

Some people think, *"I've got the answer—I just won't vow anything to God, and I'll be safe."* That's not the answer. Vowing to do good things is good, but we are to fulfill that which we have vowed! Psalm 76:11, *"Vow, and pay unto the LORD your God: ..."*

## Join us in prayer for...

- **EASTON BAPTIST CHURCH:**  
*financial needs*
- **WILMINGTON CHURCH PLANT:**  
*Get-Acquainted Meetings March 2017; John & Romans distribution; deputation travels; financial support (currently at 72%); Sunday afternoon services at 2:00 PM; official start - April 2*
- **MAYFAIR PARK PROPERTY:**  
*continued progress towards land swap*
- **KATRINA BISH:** *stage 4 brain cancer*
- **CORNEL BUCKLEY:** *nerve problems*
- **KIM CARROW:** *foot surgery on February 3*
- **RUTH EVANS:** *broken neck recovery*
- **JOHN HASKINS:** *cancer*
- **DORIS HUTCHINSON:** *cardiopulmonary disorder; in Pinnacle Rehab, Smyrna, Room 208A*
- **GWEN LEYS:** *colon cancer; ability to eat solids*
- **MARYANN MACDONALD:** *health*
- **TERRY MEDLIN-JOHNSON:**  
*hip replacement surgery on January 30*
- **HEATHER REECE:** *back trouble*

*"Soul"-Shine  
Corner*

**LES SUTTON**  
Shut-in

Delmar Nursing Home  
101 Delaware Ave., Room 207  
Delmar, DE 19940

*Please pray for Les, one of our shut-ins, this week, and consider stopping by for a visit or sending a note of encouragement.*

*Harvest  
from  
Heaven*

**CHURCH SERVICES**

*1 visitor*

**SOUL-WINNING/DISCIPLESHIP**

*3 salvations*

**"QUIT YOU LIKE MEN"**

**2017 MEN'S RETREAT | 1 CORINTHIANS 16:13**

**\$20 PER ADULT**  
**\$15 PER STUDENT**  
(AGE 13 - GRADE 12)

**JANUARY 27-28, 2017 | EVANGELIST RANDY STARR**  
**AT CAPITOL BAPTIST CHURCH | FOR AGES 13 AND UP**

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## From the Mission Field

**ED & CAROLE HEMBREE - ROMANIA & BIMI EUROPE DIRECTOR**

**October 2016**

Dear Friends,

We have been quite busy since our last newsletter; please take time to read the following update.

**Travels:** In September, I went to Tbilisi, in the Republic of Georgia. The Republic of Georgia is a relatively new field for us, and we have a missionary going there sometime soon after the first of the year. I went to make some contacts for him, meet some national pastors and workers, and help make his move there a little easier. I also had opportunity to discuss some aspects of our Bible translation/distribution work among the surrounding nations. It was, in all regards, a valuable trip.

On the Mission Conference circuit, for the months of September and October, we have traveled to South Carolina, North Carolina, Alabama, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, and Virginia - a lot of miles and a whole lot of blessings. It is wonderful to report that in every conference in which I participated, the faith promise goal was met or exceeded. In some cases, the increase was a record! It is so encouraging to see that even in difficult and unsettled times, God is still calling servants and being faithful to supply the need. It is such a blessing to see believers realizing that giving to missions has nothing to do with the national economy, but everything to do with trusting God! We praise the Lord for safety as we have traveled and for the wonderful response to the preaching of God's Word.

**Challenges:** As many of you may be aware, one of our missionaries in Russia is facing a challenge that has potential ramifications for all our

missionaries throughout that land. One of our missionaries was arrested and charged with breaking a new anti-evangelism law and given a fine of over \$600 just for having services on a Sunday. (He was not put in jail.) The problem is not the money, but the conviction. If it stands, it will mean that all of our missionaries are unable to continue their ministries. The conviction was appealed, the appeal was lost, and another appeal has been filed. This process will continue until our missionary gets the case heard at the federal level. Please make this a matter of prayer - at least seven missionary families just with BIMI will be affected, in addition to missionaries in Russia with other agencies.

**Blessings:** Carole and I continue to enjoy good health and energy. Our Romanian "grandchildren" are doing wonderfully - growing up, maturing, and preparing for life. What a wonderful thing to see. The Bible college there is doing well, though there is need for prayer for more students. All in all, we rejoice in the continued blessings of God upon all aspects of the ministry.

**Thanksgiving:** For us, thanksgiving is not just a seasonal observance; it is a daily exercise. We are so thankful to be saved, to be called, and to be used. Please know that we are sincerely thankful to be able to partner with you in the greatest, most valuable work in all the world. Thank you for your prayer and financial support.

Ed & Carole Hembree

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