

A State of the Union Address, Addressing the Union of the State

Before we all head out for fall break, it seemed wise to share with you some of the things that are currently taking place within the body of Sharon Baptist Church. While I won't be able to fill in all the blanks (because God is still revealing the answers to us as a church), I can pass along to you the information that is true so you will be able to separate fact from fiction.

This past Sunday, October 4th, three major announcements were made to the body of Sharon Baptist Church. First, there was the announcement of Dr. Spencer's impending retirement; next, there was the news that Bro. Mark LaRue would be stepping down as associate pastor to pursue God's call to teach fellow pastors; thirdly, the congregation was told that Bro. Allen Guyer would be taking a sabbatical until the beginning of December. Following these announcements, the church was asked to vote on the proposed building project; the people voted and the result was an agreement to proceed with the plans. This is, without a doubt, an act of faith, which is just as it should be. May we all, both as members of local churches as well as individuals, never look to ourselves (or even our earthly leaders) as the source of our strength or ability to accomplish that which only God can do. What we have before us is a huge endeavor, one which can only be completed through God's provision and, therefore, one in which we will not be able to claim any of the glory.

The question that many of you may have is, "How does this affect SCA?" Well, it affects us in these ways: it reminds us that we are first and foremost a ministry and, as such, will always be under attack from powers and principalities; it calls us to be in constant prayer over that which God has entrusted to us; and, it causes us to disregard petty distractions and to keep our eyes focused on that which is truly important...the Biblical teaching and discipling of God's children for eternity.

As is always the case, we can go to God's word for examples, and therefore lessons, for any situation we may find ourselves in. I like to read about the children of Israel who experienced many difficulties but who also experienced much deliverance!

Here's a portion of Scripture taken from Deuteronomy 7:17-22; I've personalized the passages in order to show that the truth of the situation directly applies to us today.

“If you should say in your heart, ‘These [problems] are greater than I; how can I [handle] them?’ you shall not be afraid of them; you shall well remember what the Lord your God did [in the past], the great trials which your eyes saw and the signs and the wonders and the mighty hand and the outstretched arm by which the Lord your God brought you out. So shall the Lord your God do to all the [troubles] of which you are afraid.”

Surely we have seen God's hand upon SCA in times past; surely we can say that, apart from His intervention, we would not have a school today. So, if our God, who has delivered us from great and mighty trials (tornado anyone?) in the past, has purposed for this school to endure through yet another storm, is there any doubt that His plans will be accomplished? May we trust not in horses or in chariots, but in the name of the Lord, our God (Psalm 20:7)!

Are there uncertain times ahead? Yes. Are there things of which we can still be confident? Yes. Should we panic? No. Should we stand in eager anticipation of what God is about to do? Absolutely! A while back God gave me this mental picture of a huge auditorium with lots and lots of people attending an event. Those who paid the most had the best seats and got to have the best view; those who paid the least sat in the very back and had an obstructed view at best. God revealed that, if I really wanted to have a front row seat to all that He was going to do here at SCA, then I had to be willing to pay for more than just “general admittance”. There would be a higher cost, but there would also be a better view! I don't know about you, but there's no cost too high for a front row seat to see God's glory! I'm willing to pay through whatever means are necessary (no pastor, new pastor, interim pastor; no building, new building, half a building) to have that front row seat, to be so close to what God is doing that His movements jar my seat! I believe SCA's greatest days are yet to come!

Your servant in Christ,

Mrs. Kris

**A prayer meeting is held each Tuesday at 8:10 a.m. in the library...all are welcome!*