

HOPE

**MATTERS
OF THE
HEART**

Living Word Church
Sunday, November 15, 2009

Welcome to Living Word Church

P.O. Box 1944, 1705 Barracada Road, Walterboro, SC 29488
Phone: 843-538-8815 Website: LivingWordChurch.com

Rev. Daniel M. Cooper, Senior Pastor

Welcome

Welcome! We're glad you're here and hope you feel at home. Whether you are just beginning to ask questions about God or you are a Christian wanting to deepen your faith, Living Word is a place you can call home and find spiritual help, hope, and encouragement.

Thanks for Coming Today

We are honored to acknowledge your visit today. Don't worry, we won't embarrass you. We simply ask that you share your name and your choice of contact information — email, address, phone, however you prefer for us to acknowledge your visit.

You can do this by filling out a "WELCOME" card (available from one of our volunteers or on the welcome table in the foyer) and dropping the card in the offering or returning it to a volunteer. We will contact you to thank you for attending and see if we may be of service to you. Thanks again for coming!

Women's Life Group

A new Life Group for women only will meet on Thursday, Nov. 19, at 7:00 PM at the church. All women are invited.

Buy a Turkey & Support Missions

Volunteers will be frying turkeys as a Thanksgiving missions outreach. All money from the turkey sales will go to Haiti Under God, a ministry sharing God's love with the people of Haiti through evangelism, feeding children, and orphanages.

Would you like a fried turkey for Thanksgiving? Would you like to give a turkey to another family? Let us do the work for you. We will buy the turkey and fry it. You can bless your family, or another family, and give to a good cause in the process. The suggested donation for a 10-12 lb fried turkey is \$35. Turkeys can be delivered or picked up on Wednesday, Nov.25, or Thursday, Nov. 26.

To order a turkey, or to volunteer frying turkeys, please contact Donald Lyons (843) 909-8076.

Do You Have an Extra Coat?

Matthew Judy, the 14-year-old grandson of Gail Nix, is collecting coats for needy people as part of a mission challenge for Christ in Youth. Matthew has collected 200 coats toward his goal of 500. Any help will be greatly appreciated. If you have a coat to donate, please bring it to the church or see Gail Nix.

HOPE

Jeremiah 29:11-13; Ephesians 1:16-23; Titus 2:11-14; Romans 5:5; 15:13;
I Peter 1:3; Hebrews 6:18-20; Hebrews 10:23; Proverbs 13:12

Hope - to look forward with desire and confidence; to believe or trust; to have expectation.

1. God knows the future and _____
and full of hope.
2. As Christians we can be filled with hope knowing that Christ has won the
final victory and is _____.
3. We can look forward to Christ's wonderful return with eager
_____ and hope.
4. When we are serious about wanting God _____,
He will make sure we are not disappointed.
5. The _____ desires to fill us with joy and peace
in believing that we may bubble over with hope.
6. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we have been given
_____ and we have everything to live for,
including a future in heaven.
7. Our hope is secure and unmovable when it is _____.

LIFE GROUP — HOMEWORK & DISCUSSION

HOPE

No words are more devastating than “There is no hope.” In Dante’s *The Inferno*, the sign over the gate to hell reads, “Abandon all hope ye who enter here.”

As Christians, we serve the God of hope. Our God of hope asks us to trust Him that we may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13). God wants us to walk in faith, hope and love (1 Cor. 13:13). In a world filled with hopelessness, on course for an eternity of hopelessness, God desires to use us as His vessels of hope.

When everything around us shouts “There is no hope,” we are challenged to stir up hope, walk in faith, and believe with hope that God is well able to do what appears to be impossible (Romans 4:18).

MY LIFE

1. Share a time when God came through for you in a situation that appeared hopeless.

LIFE IN THE WORD

1. In the NIV, 1 Corinthians 13:6-8 says “Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.” Take a moment to think about the phrase, “Love always hopes.” What insight can you share with the group about this phrase?

Someone once said, “Hope is hearing the melody of the future. Faith is being able to dance to it.” Take a moment to consider the following quote from *Surrendering Your Life for God’s Pleasure*:

“Hope is about the future. Hope is wanting and believing in something you don’t have yet. And in that space between wanting and having, between the present and the future, lies a gap that you can fill with one of three things: despair, fear, or faith. Despair is the decision to quit hoping, to quit wanting anything because disappointment has broken your heart. Fear seeps in when you want something but lack confidence in God’s faithfulness. Faith upholds you when you want, and even when you ache while you don’t have what you want. It helps you stay focused on God’s trustworthiness.”

— *Surrendering Your Life for God’s Pleasure*, p.43, by Brett and Deanna Eastman, Todd and Denise Wendorff, and Karen Lee-Thorp

2. According to the above quote, despair quits hoping, fear lacks confidence in God, and faith keeps you focused on God. How does Proverbs 13:12 compare with the statement, “*Despair is the decision to quit hoping, to quit wanting anything because disappointment has broken your heart*”?

3. We know that disappointment can break our hearts and lead to despair. We also know that life will at times be very disappointing. So how can we deal with the disappointments in life before they lead to despair?

4. According to the quote above, “*Fear seeps in when you want something but lack confidence in God’s faithfulness.*” There is a principle that is often repeated in the lives of people in the Bible where they go through a 3-stage process. First, there is the birth of a vision. Second, there is the death of the vision. Third, the vision finally comes to pass. We witness this in the lives of Abraham and Sarah and the promise of a child. In the life of Joseph in his dreams of leadership. In the life of David in being anointed

as king. What insight can we gain from Romans 15:1-6 that can help us battle fear and lack of confidence in God's faithfulness?

5. Someone has said, "There are no hopeless situations. There are only people who have grown hopeless about them." The quote on the previous page says, "*Faith upholds you when you want, and even when you ache while you don't have what you want. It helps you stay focused on God's trustworthiness.*" Read Luke 8:40-55. Here two stories unfold. First, a man's only daughter, a girl about twelve years old, is dying. Second, a woman has been bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. How different the past twelve years have been for these two. But now they both have something in common—no one could heal them. What insight can we gain from these stories that can help us when we are confronted with hopeless situations?

LIFE AT HOME

As you walk in faith, hope and love, remember the greatest of these is love (1 Cor. 13:13). So when offering hope to those facing painful trials, consider this wisdom from popular Christian author and speaker, Charles Swindoll, in his book *Hope Again: When Life Hurts and Dreams Fade*.

"Trials are distressing, teaching us compassion so that we never make light of another's test or cruelly force others to smile while enduring it.

"How unfair to trivialize another person's trial by comparing what he or she is going through with what someone else has endured. Even if you have gone through something you think is twice as difficult, comparison doesn't comfort. It doesn't help the person who has lost a child to hear that you endured the loss of two.

"Express your sympathy and weep with them. Put your arm around them. Don't reel off a lot of verses. Don't try to make the hurting person pray with you or sing with you if he or she is not ready to do that. Feel what that person is feeling. Walk quietly and compassionately in his or her shoes."

Sometimes the best hope we can offer others is God's love flowing through a human heart.

CHURCH SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

First Service	9:00 AM to 10:00 AM
Second Service	10:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Children's Church	10:30 PM to 12:00 PM
RockSolid Youth	4:00 PM to 7:30 PM

LIFE GROUP TIMES & LOCATIONS

Life Groups are small groups of people who meet weekly in homes throughout the community to study, to share, and to support one another in their Christian lives. Each group is led by a trained leader. A typical meeting lasts about an hour and a half and includes light refreshments. Our current groups are listed here. Call one today for details on their group or call our Life Group coordinators Donald & Retta Lyons (909-8076 or 908-0057). You can also email Donald at dlyons@lowcountry.com.

Sunday 3:00 PM

English Strickland
Randall Nettles

Location

Magnolia Place
Apartments

Group

Residents of
Magnolia Place

Sunday 4:00 PM

Raymond & June Hiott
538-2172

225 Wells Lane
(off Bells Hwy)

All ages

Donald & Retta Lyons
909-8076 or 908-0057

5672 Sniders Hwy
(4 miles from I-95)

All ages

Sunday 6:00 PM

Ray & Josie Colson
538-2117

1789 Sidneys Road
(Northside)

All ages

Rick & Debbie Linder
562-2417

Smoaks

All ages

John & Barbara Steele
549-7751

30 Waverly Street
(Longleaf)

All ages

LIFE GROUP TIMES & LOCATIONS

Sunday 6:30 PM

Joe & Julie Epple
Linda Frazier
835-2327

Location

Cottageville

Group

All ages

Tuesday 6:30 PM

Bob & Janet Rogers
599-1011 or 599-1010

Living Word Church
(in the Pebble)

All ages

Wednesday 6:30 PM

John & Pam Maxlow
217-8395 or 217-8389

21 Prestwick Place
/corner Wexford Way
(right on Wexford—past country club)

All ages

Clyde & Bonnie Reid
532-1708 or 835-5249

202 Stark Drive
(Woodland Terrace)

All ages

Ben Langdale
Shawn Langdale
893-6859

299 Dandridge Road
(Hyde Park)

Teenage Boys

Stacy Langdale
909-0758 or 893-6456

6117 Jefferies Highway
(Walterboro North)

Teenage Girls

Thursday 7:00 PM

Linda Frazier, Pam Maxlow,
Sharon Cooper

Living Word Church
(in the church)

Women

Buddy Buchanan
908-1510

Living Word Church
(in the fellowship hall)

Men

Andy Harrison
909-1122

Living Word Church
(in the fellowship hall)

Men

Friday 5:00 PM

Andy Harrison
909-1122

106 James Street
(Forest Hills)

Boys & Girls
6th—8th grade