



Things You May Not Know About The New Church Build by Jimmy McGlawn

About two years ago when the contract negotiations began there were times when issues would come up that were beyond the Board of Trustees knowledge and experiences. As part of God's plan for the new church, I reached out to a former member of Burns who had the knowledge, skills, and experience to help the church get the best terms possible with the contract and construction.

That person is Mr. Melvin R. Booker. He is a native of Oxford and accepted Christ as his personal savior at Burns when he was twelve years old. He remained a faithful member of Burns until he left for Vietnam in 1969. Melvin's wife is the former Cheryl D. Kelly also of Oxford. They were married in Burns Methodist Church only 11 days before he was shipped out to fight for our country. Melvin and Cheryl have been married fifty years and currently reside in the Atlanta, Georgia area. Their son, Sean,



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The Pastor's Point

by

Rev. Sapada Thomas

Meeting Jesus Under “Unusual Circumstances”

Luke shares a story in his gospel chapter 24:13-35 of two men walking to Emmaus after Jesus' resurrection who were sad because Jesus was crucified, died, and they thought he had not risen from the grave (like he said he would). The two men on the Road to Emmaus were in “Unusual Circumstances.” Luke reports that while these men were walking and talking, Jesus showed up and began walking with them but “they were kept from recognizing him”. Jesus shared the stories of the prophets and his own story, and the men still did not recognize Jesus. However, at the end of their journey, they were very intrigued by Jesus and invited him into their house. He broke bread with them; and then their “eyes were opened. At that point, they recognized Jesus. Hummmm...they knew the story of Jesus...experienced his resurrections...walked with him?? But it was not until they invited him into their homes and spent time with him that they really knew who he was. Interesting!!!!

So, what is our Relevant Word in this story? Due to Covid-19, our worlds have been turned upside down, particularly

when it comes to our church building. We now live in “Unusual Circumstances.” We do not gather to worship, fellowship, study, or eat together (physically). We have been forced to utilize technology to stay connected. But the more beautiful thing to our story is that we allow it. We now have the opportunity to intentionally invite Jesus into our homes (just as the men). I believe that some of us are in the same situation as these two men were; we know the story of Jesus, we



read the Scriptures, even walk with Jesus from time to time, but we still do not know who Jesus really is. We have the opportunity to invite Jesus in our homes every week now due to Covid-19 so Jesus can reveal himself to us. This

can occur through intentional daily prayer, reading the Bible, meditating and reflecting on God's grace in our lives, etc. So how are we using this opportunity for Jesus to reveal himself to us under these "Unusual Circumstances"?

The Point: Truly getting to know Jesus does not occur in a church building, rather Jesus reveals himself to us when we spend daily time with him in the privacy of our homes. This is our true "One on One" time with Jesus.



Words of Comfort in Times Like These

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble. Therefore we will not fear...

—PSALM 46:1-2

The emerging situation with the COVID-19 coronavirus and the many news reports around us are creating anxiety and worry for the future and our well-being. In times like these, it is especially important to remember God's promise to be with us. He who made us, and gave his own Son for the salvation of the world, will not leave his children in this time of need.

He is with us as he invites our prayers. Prayer is not a last resort, but a loving promise from our Lord that he will hear

us. Please join us in praying for those suffering from the coronavirus, those caring for the ill, those seeking a vaccine, and all others who serve in these times. Pray for those experiencing anxiety. And please know that we are praying for each of you.

There will be many inconveniences, challenges, and frustrations in times like these. God grant us a spirit to see these as avenues of service to others. God is at work in each of us. *[He] is our refuge and strength...therefore we will not fear.*

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his wife Julianna, grandchildren Lillian and Miles also live in the Atlanta area.

When I reached out to Melvin, he readily agreed and said he would do whatever he could to make the project a success. Melvin's expertise stems from forty years as a Federal Construction Contracting Officer (retired), warranted and certified across two Federal agencies; The Federal Aviation Administration and the USDA-Forest Service.

When offered compensation for his consultant services, he declined any compensation and he stated that he would donate his services in dedication to Mr. and Mrs. William Russell and Edna Wiley.

Please join me in extending thanks and blessings to Melvin for his contribution to the successful building of the new church.

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P.O. Box 277
Oxford, MS 38655

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