

Shining Brightly During a Dark Time

By Jim Richland, Associate Pastor

It has been said that what one generation tolerates, the next one fully embraces. There’s a lot of truth as well as a stern warning to us all in that maxim. If we are not careful to stand guard for ourselves, our families, our church, and our community, things that we could scarcely imagine will begin to become commonplace.

This was brought to my attention this past week as I was catching up with some fellow ministers and one commented on the horrific Halloween scenes finding their way into the entryways of nearly every store. Much to my chagrin, I had not noticed them until my fellow minister drew my attention to it. I had, in many ways, grown accustomed to the Halloween season being marked by such dark displays.

When I arrived home, I shared with my wife how I had grown used to seeing these displays in stores. She reminded me of when my daughter, Clara, was younger and would literally hide her face when walking into certain stores around this time of the year. In some ways, it saddens me that she, too, has become complacent to these morbid scenes and walks by unfazed. The frequency of these images has created a culture that is increasingly comfortable with it in the open. And that’s the point.

One of the most effective tactics of the enemy is constant repetition, to enable us to be less shocked by what should appall us. Over time, the envelope will be pushed further and further until there are no limits whatsoever. If you’re anything like me, you are likewise bothered by this trend, but you probably feel powerless to do much about it.

The truth is you’re not powerless; the enemy just wants you to think you are! And while some may call for you to boycott certain stores or holidays to send a message, I’m going to suggest something else. For far too long Christians have been identified by what we’re against rather than what we’re for. Doing this always casts our faith as a negative, rather than as a positive. Instead, we need to shine the Gospel light in the midst of this dark world and dark holiday.

One way to do this is by being a part of our church’s Fall-o-ween Jesus event this month. This provides a wonderful, fun, and most importantly, Christ-honoring alternative to Halloween. The community turnout last year was beyond our wildest expectations! I believe God blessed our efforts to love on our community and point them back to Him. I hope that you will help repeat this community witness this year by donating candy, decorating a room, or simply coming to show your support.

This world may be getting darker with each passing day, but that just means our light will standout brighter for the glory of God!

In Christ,
Pastor Jim



WHEN: Sunday, October 29th

TIME: 6:00 - 7:30 PM

WHERE: Family Life Center

Join us for fun, candy, refreshments and more!
If you would be interested in helping with set-up,
serving food, security, decorating or anything
else, please let Kelsey Mathis know!



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Healing the Wounded Spirit

by Dr. Darrell Tate, Senior Pastor

Proverbs 18:14 “The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?”

Perhaps you have seen the Subaru commercial that pictures a concerned father looking through the passenger window of the family car at his five- year-old daughter, sitting behind the wheel, securely fastened in the seatbelt. Before giving her the car keys, he cautions her about watching out for traffic, no texting while driving and to be sure to call when she arrives. Finally, as the camera moves from the face of the concerned father back to the daughter, this time she is not a five year old little girl but a teenager ready to drive. I have been there and done that. The truth is, no matter how old our children become, as parents, we see their vulnerability and we have a deep desire to protect them.

When Solomon used the phrase “a wounded or crushed spirit,” he was referring to an injury to the inner person. One can endure physical sickness, but an injury to the inner person is an injury that is difficult to overcome. Disappointment, betrayal, misunderstanding or rejection can lead to a wounded spirit. Adults can live for years with an emotional injury that happened during their childhood. To some degree, everyone lives with a wounded spirit, including our children. A girl that fails to make the cheerleading squad or a boy the baseball team, the young girl that is not asked to the prom or the young man who hears, “no” when he asks his potential date, can feel the sting of rejection that may last a lifetime. Parents play a crucial role in helping their children deal with the injuries that accompany growing up in a fallen world. Let me offer three suggestions to help heal your child’s wounded spirit.

1) Heal Their Wounded Spirit With Words of Affirmation and Love.

The Bible says, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue...” (Pr.18:21). Words have the ability to harm and heal. Words can empower and discourage. Children desperately need to hear the affirmation of a loving parent to help neutralize all of the negative input from the world. Dr. James Dobson says, “As your children grow, any deviation from the norm—in height, weight, hairstyle, skin color, voice, et cetera—will be pointed out by their peers and used to embarrass them. Sometimes, even adults who should know better will play this cruel game. It’s your job as parents to counteract these hurtful comments with love. Encourage your children. Remind them of their strong qualities and abilities. And above all, employ Scripture passages such as Luke 16:15 to teach your kids that the misguided values of man are often the very opposite of the values of God: “For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.” Children need to know God designed them for His good pleasure and that they are loved unconditionally.

2) Heal Their Wounded Spirit With Your Presence

There is no substitute for being present for your children. Whoever said, “its not the quantity of time but the quality of time that matters” had it all wrong. It is the quantity! When my children were small I could have been gone every night of the week

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preaching in revivals, serving on various boards, attending meetings et cetera. However, I recognized that my first responsibility under God was to my wife and children. I could not be God’s man if I was an absentee dad. I said no to many opportunities that were intriguing in order to be present in my children’s lives. Looking back, I’m glad to have made the decisions that I did in regard to my children. My boys are married men now and they are my best friends. I still hug them and let them know that I love them. Often times they call and say, “dad, will you pray for me?” Evaluate your schedule, prioritize your goals and trim away those nonessentials that steal you away from your family. Have fun together, laugh together, communicate and enjoy the time you have with your children. Your presence brings a sense of security into their young lives!

3) Heal Their Wounded Spirit by Praying With Them.

One of the ways children learn to pray is by witnessing how their parents pray. When my children were small, we prayed as a family each morning before they went to school, we prayed as a family around the supper table and we prayed as a family before bedtime. Sometimes myself or Tina would lead the prayer and other times one of my children would lead the prayer. For many years our family saved the Christmas cards we received around the holidays. Each evening at supper we drew out one card from the basket and prayed specifically for that family. We usually received enough cards to make it well into the next year. However you choose to do it make sure you pray with your children. Sit down on your child’s bedside at the end of a long day and pray together. Thank God for His blessings, ask for His guidance and protection and pray for God’s favor in the life of your child. Praying with your children can bring comfort, reassurance and hope to a wounded spirit.

Please know that I pray for you and your family everyday.

God Bless,
Pastor Darrell



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

By Dean Combs, Sunday School Director

Hello Highland Park Family,

The Lord continues to bless our Sunday School with great attendance. On September 10th, we set a new record for Sunday School with 330 in attendance.

Here is our Sunday School Attendance for September:

Date	This Year	Last Year
9/3	257	236
9/10	330	257
9/17	269	243
9/24	322	262
Total	1178	998

For the month of September, we had an 18% increase over our last year’s attendance. Please continue to invite people to Sunday School and worship services so they can hear God’s Word.

Your Brother in Christ,
Dean



- 1 Krista Cox
Sandra Newman
- 2 Ken Cox
Carson Hill
Lynn Whitaker
- 3 Deanna Henderson
Dianne Key Emlinger
- 4 Emma Palmer
Jan Whitaker
- 5 Cody Cook
Jaime Edwards
- 7 Glenn Boyd
Maria Irwin
Karen Pruitt
- 8 Matt Bost
- 9 Kait Silva
Declan Weddle
Donnie Wilson
- 10 Tonya Hiatt
- 11 Asher Bowers
Mary Lynn Sawyers
- 12 Noah Petree
- 13 Sherry Moore
Lakien Vernon
- 15 Essie Burroughs
Evie Jensen
- 16 Blake Shupe
- 17 Allen Creed
Haley Parsons Hobbs
- 18 Grace Hopkins
Brenda Miller
- 19 Alexis Atkins
Sam Boles
- 20 Thomas Hill
- 21 Jackson Bost
Ben Mathis
- 22 Tinsley Burcham
Sandra Collins
Phillip Hopkins
- 23 Norma Hunter
Julie Parsons
Jane Utt
- 24 Audra Chilton
Mack Collins
Ann Cruise
- 25 Frank Brinkley
Sally Galyean
Leannah Hudson (Love)
Tanner Joyce
David Surratt
Hazel Wilkins
- 26 John Pfothenauer
Brian Tyndall
- 27 Greg O’Neal
Caiden Soots
- 29 Bud Fussell
Joshua Tate
- 30 Merle Newman
Daniel Tate
Silas Vogler
- 31 Chuck Hiatt

By Gail Josey, WMU Director

During the month of September, the group collected canned goods for Surry Medical Ministries as part of Global Hunger Day. We decided to concentrate locally rather than globally. As the photo below shows, many items were collected and greatly appreciated.

Also during the month, our WMU hosted the Fall Gathering for the WMU



Council of Surry Baptist Association. We fed 83 ladies from 19 churches in the association. The ladies enjoyed the fall decorations by our own Chrystal Brim that included a placemat with the WMU theme for the year. “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer” Romans 12:12. The food was delicious, and the excellent program was given by Blake and Amanda Bowman, International Board Missionaries to Mexico. Amanda is the daughter of Ernie and Karen Pruitt and Pastor Darrell’s niece.

The WMU is excited to start a new year and show compassion through our mission and ministry projects. Come and join our faithful group!

Blessings,
Gail



UPCOMING EVENTS AT HIGHLAND PARK

- Night at the Farm: Wednesday, October 4th from 5-8 pm
- Vaccination Clinic: Wednesday, October 11th from 5-7 pm in the Fellowship Hall
- Special Guest: Sunday, October 15th - Karen Slate, Regional Director for the North Carolina Baptist Children’s Home
- Staff Appreciation Day: Sunday, October 22nd
- Fall-o-ween Jesus Event: Sunday, October 29thfrom 6:00 - 7:30 pm in the Family Life Center
- Surry Baptist Association Annual Meeting: At Highland Park on Monday, October 23rdbeginning at 4 pm, with dinner for those with reservations at 5:30 and the 2nd session at 7 pm