

NORTH FLORIDA

TRES DIAS

MARCH 2013

ENCOURAGE...

LOVE...

HOPE...

FAITH...

MARCH 2013



UPCOMING WEEKENDS

Men's #48
April 11 - 14, 2013
Robert Bass • Rector

Women's #48
April 25 - 28, 2013
Hazel Long • Rector

Men's #49
October 10 - 13, 2013
Steve Simmons • Rector

Women's #49
October 24 - 27, 2013
Cathy Chastain • Rector

TWO CALLS FOR UNITY

"I have given them the glory that you gave Me, that they may be one as We are one: I in them and You in Me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent Me and have loved them even as you have loved Me."
John 17:22-23

There seems to be two calls for unity in the church today. One, which our Lord prays for during His final days on earth, is being spoken by the Holy Spirit to beautify the church and prepare her for the harvest of souls Jesus died to bring in. The other call to unity is from a different spirit that insists that there is no absolute truth in the realm of religion. We achieve unity, in this call, by letting go of the pride of insisting our way is right, and recognizing that all religions lead to God and are equally valid.

Jesus prayed that His church would be one even as He and the Father are one. He implied that this would be the key to the world believing in Him. Not miracles, not great preaching, not brilliant apologetics, but Christians answering His call to really love each other. The world will believe because they know this love requires God. Unity doesn't come naturally because we are naturally proud, and pride divides.

Pride doesn't seek unity, but uniformity. "To be in our church you have to believe just like us, you have to dress just like us, and it helps if you look and talk just like us." This is not what Jesus died for. The very word unity implies diversity. The church is to bring people together in Christ who would not naturally be together; young and old, black and white, rich and poor, cultured and uncultured, learned and unlearned; the ground is level at the cross.

Jesus states that He has given us His glory to make us one. Understanding this is the key to churches becoming one in Christ even while holding differing positions on various doctrinal issues. There are two kinds of glory in scripture, one that God will not share and one that He wants to share. The one God will not share concerns who gets the credit for the things that get done. God will get all the credit and we will lay down our crowns at His feet. He says, "My glory I will not give to another." (Is. 48:11)

The other glory is the manifestation of His Person, Presence, and Power. As His church beholds this glory in an increased way she is being transformed from glory to glory. (2Cor. 3:18) As we focus on the beauty of Jesus and come into the glory of His Presence all of the smaller things that seem so important to pride take their rightful place. He wants us to get our eyes off of ourselves and on to Him and His desire for us to love one another. Then...the world will believe.

THERE IS BUT ONE GOOD; THAT IS GOD. EVERYTHING ELSE IS GOOD WHEN IT LOOKS TO HIM AND BAD WHEN IT TURNS FROM HIM.

C.S. LEWIS

NORTH FLORIDA TRES DIAS

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR
ANOTHER WAY TO SERVE?

WE ARE IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS
TO HELP WITH CHILD CARE
AT THE SEQUELAS.
FOR MORE INFORMATION
OR TO SIGN UP, PLEASE CONTACT
BOB ALVIS AT
balvis9@hotmail.com

March
Sequela
SATURDAY • MARCH 9 • 6PM
Freedom Church • First Assembly
2801 Thomasville Road • Tallahassee, FL
Bring a Covered Dish or Dessert

LOVE...



These days, life is so busy for everyone. We have commitments, obligations, children and grandchildren, and we have work, keeping our boss happy while completing our work on time. At every turn, we are bombarded with information. We are in constant communication with everyone about everything through our smart phones, I pads, text, messenger, face book, news and television. At the same time, our lives are full of friends and family going into and through storms. These storms may be a sickness, immediate or planned surgery or even an accident. We have marriage struggles and storms because we don't spend enough time with our significant other or our children.

We all have the same stories with different twists, but we as believers in Jesus Christ have one big thing in common. Jesus said I AM with you. He is with us through any and all the storms in our lives. It is His promise to guide us with His counsel if we will come to Him in prayer. He knows our need before we speak it. Just be still and talk to Him. We will find Him right there listening. Call on the name of JESUS, He will walk through the fire with us to the other side. He would not have us walk through anything that He will not carry us through. He is in the boat with us as we sail through the storm. We are very important to Jesus, and it deepens our relationship with Him when we fully trust in Him as we walk out this journey together.

Many in the Community have been praying for months for men's weekend #48, and as I pray alongside you, I covet your prayers and ask you to keep praying for the candidates, sponsors, team members and their health, and all our families. Pray that God will prepare the hearts of the candidates and the team for what He has for each one of us. Pray that God's mighty right hand will lead us in the direction that He would have us go through His weekend.

I am excited and looking forward to our first team meeting and the anticipation of what God is going to do for the team and the candidates of NFTD # 48 men's weekend.

Yet I AM always with you, you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory. Psalms 73:23-24

YBIC • Robert W. Bass • Rector • NFTD #48

HOPE...

FAITH...

MARCH 2013



kingdom. When God's

kingdom. When God's was a prime directive, in fact Jesus taught truth, died on a cross...and rose from the dead, all for the sake of joy..all so that our joy may be full.(John 15:11) Each of us has unique ways of knowing and obeying God with our joy, when our hearts come alive and we can't constrain delight. Our joy gives others glimpses into the uniqueness of God's Spirit He has crafted in us. So The scripture I have chosen for the Weekend is *John 15: 10-11. "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love and live on in it, just as I have obeyed My Father's commandments and live on in His love. I have told you these things, that My joy and delight may be in you, and that your joy and gladness may be of full measure and complete and overflowing".* The theme is: "His Joy in Abundance and Overflowing". My desire is is to always be full of His and Joy and constantly overflowing.

Hazel Long • Rector • NFTD #48