

## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR BOB

Sunday, January 24, 2010

*Good morning and welcome to Abundant Life! I am glad that you are here; I consider it an honor to worship the Lord together today. If this is your first time to worship with us please take a minute to complete one of our Welcome Cards located in the guest packet. If you did not receive a guest packet you can get one at the Information Center in the lobby. Once you complete the card either drop it in the basket during the offering or leave it at the Information Center. Again, I am glad that you are here today!*

On Wednesday of this week as I was doing my daily Bible reading during my devotional time, Matthew 14 was a part of the assignment for the day. In verses 35-36 we read about a time in Jesus' ministry when word got out that He was in town, Matthew tells us that "they (the people of the region) sent out into all that surrounding region, brought to Him all who were sick, and begged Him that they might just touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched it were made perfectly well."

The element of touch is a recurring theme in the ministry of Jesus during His brief time on earth. Numerous times we are told of His touch that healed, delivered and even raised the dead. Then there are the times like this one, that we read that people literally pressed into Jesus to touch Him and they were healed and made whole.

It is intriguing to me that in our lives today, almost 2,000 years later, the touch of the Lord is still a recurring theme in our lives and ministry. We talk about touching others with His love, being touched by His presence, being touched by the words of a song or the response of a brother or sister as being touching. As human beings we have a longing in our souls to be touched and even to touch. It is a longing that can only be fulfilled by the touch of Jesus in our lives.

There are times that He reaches out and touches us and our lives are forever changed. Then there are times that we press into Him and we touch Him. Either way life transformation takes place. Consider this with me, sometimes we sit back and wait for Jesus to touch us, heal us, deliver us, and make us whole and well. But what if like the people in Matthew 14:35-36 Jesus is present but He is waiting for you and me to reach out and touch Him? Just think about it for a minute, how do we touch Him?

We touch Jesus through our praise & worship, through our prayers, even through our service to others. But sometimes I wonder if we stop short of experiencing the full power of touching Him because we don't want to look "foolish" or we don't want to be presumptuous, or maybe because we just aren't willing to put forth the effort to reach out to Him? This I know and believe with all my heart – Jesus is present in your life and mine through the presence of the Holy Spirit and He is there to change your life and mine to be a little more like Him! Will you reach out and just touch the hem of His garment today? He won't disappoint or let you down!

Blessings!

*Pastor Bob*

**Winter Weather and Church Closing** – In the event of winter weather, snow, sleet or ice a decision will be made to cancel church services by 7:30AM and the closing will be announced in the following ways:

- Local TV stations – WBTV, WSOC
- Church website: [www.livingabundantly.org](http://www.livingabundantly.org)
- Email notification
- A phone calling plan will be placed into effect to call every home in the church

## FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

**Wednesday Night Connection** – New service time 6:30PM – Join us as Pastor Bob leads a study entitled **Rebuilding the Real You** – a study from the Book of Nehemiah. Books are available for purchase for \$12 each, please sign up at the Information Center.

**Men's Breakfast – Saturday, January 30 – 8AM** in the fellowship hall. We will share a delicious breakfast and discuss plans for our Men's Ministry 2010. Please sign up at the Information Center if you are planning to attend so we can plan accordingly (*have enough food!*)

### **Ladies Bible Study – A Woman's Heart, by Beth Moore**

Beginning Tuesday, February 2 from 7-8:30PM

At Jen Staring's home – 157 Foursquare Road

(4 houses beyond the church on the left)

Cost is \$16 for workbook – due by Jan 24

See Jen Staring or Melodie Smith with questions

Childcare in the church fellowship hall

### **Valentine's Fun Night**

**Sunday, February 14, 5:30-8:00PM, in the Fellowship Hall**

**What to expect:** Food, Friendly Servers, Kids Watch with Movie (after our meal) and Exciting Games!

**Age for Kids Watch:** Birth to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

**What to Bring:** See the sign-up sheet at the Information Center for attendance and specific food needs

**What you get to take Home:** Smiles, laughter, fun, great memories and new relationships with others!

**Deadline to Signup:** January 31, 2010. We hope to see you there!

### **PRAYER REQUESTS / NEEDS**

- **The Nation of Haiti** – devastating earthquake
- **Danielle Harris** – recuperating from surgery, healing of cancer
- **Madison** – 9 year old cousin of Shannon Covington, healing of cancer
- **Jenny** – Shannon Covington's aunt – healing of cancer
- **Matt Staring's cousin's family in Georgia**, house fire, serious injury to husband and the loss of their baby in the fire.
- Remember those in our church and community who have lost jobs and those who are struggling financially

### **Upcoming Events**

Jan 30 – Men's Breakfast 8:00AM – Church Fellowship Hall

Jan 31 – Children & Youth Ministry Volunteer Meeting (following Sunday morning service)

Feb 7 – Super Bowl Fellowship 6PM

Feb 14 – Valentine's Fun Night