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The last thing she said to me before leaving the house was, "Don't go alone to talk to him."

He had left a message earlier in the day, and called again while we were in Bible study. His message was that he goes to a new independent Christian church in the Los Angeles area, was not too far from us, and needed a pastor or elder to talk with on the phone. When I called him back he asked if I had time to talk, and I told him I really didn't, but would call him back in the morning if that was okay with him.

When I did, he informed me that he had AIDS, had been in the hospital for a couple of weeks, and was at Motel 6. He said he had gone to Maryland to see his mother and sisters, who he hadn't seen in a long time. They didn't know he was sick, and were shocked when they saw he had gone from 230 pounds to 119. They were even more shocked when he told them he had come to know Jesus, and had left his gay lifestyle. His mom was an orthodox Jew, but she and his sisters had all embraced new age beliefs. They made it very clear they wanted nothing to do with him now that he was a Christian, and tossed his luggage into the street, without his train ticket home. He ended up here because the person who picked him up along the road was heading to Springfield. His only remaining friend was sending him a train ticket, and had arranged for him to get from Litchfield to the train station in St. Louis, but he needed to get to the Baymont in Litchfield to sign for the ticket.

What do you do with a story like that? Are you being played, or is it a real need? It was decision time. I decided I would take a chance it was for real, and would drive him to Litchfield. When I called to tell Marilyn, she begged me to ask Mark to go with me, and he graciously agreed to do so.

After we got him a room and had lunch together, he said he had really enjoyed spending time with brothers. We felt the same way. Whether he really is a brother is not relevant to his current need, but it will be wonderful if one day we do meet again as brothers around the throne of our heavenly Father. God Bless, Rick



## THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

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# BLOOD DRIVE

## Chatham Community

**Saturday, November 16**

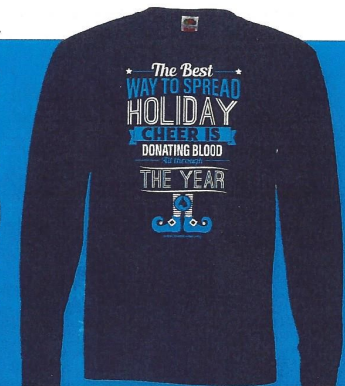
**10:00 am - 1:00 pm**

Chatham Christian Church - Fellowship Hall

9897 S Main

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THE WORLD  
BE THE GIVING TYPE**

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**CHATHAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
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**Sunday Worship Service**  
**Bible School**  
**9:15 AM**  
**10:45 AM**

## STATISTICS

Worship ..... 100  
Offering ..... \$9,412.00

## SERVING THIS SUNDAY-11/10/19

Greeters .....	Rhonda Luzio
Visitors' Stand .....	Bob & Dixie Williamson
Communion Meditation .....	Chris Luzio
Ushers .....	Kirk Polley
	Scott Bales
	Rick Polley
	Brad Stirmell
	Duane Carrell
	Chad Formea
	Gary Gredzieleski
<b>WORSHIP NURSERY</b>	
Toddlers .....	Erica Blakley
	Carter Hunley
Infants .....	Jeni & Kate Sperry
	Kileen Huber
<b>Sunday School</b>	
Toddlers .....	Rhonda Luzio
Infants .....	Karen Mann
	Rebecca Smith

## The Hidden Word

LUKE 18:1

"Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart."

## Let Us Pray For...

--Pat Mohler recovering from a heart attack.  
--Jameila Reese recovering from a heart attack.  
--Family of Bill Hovey, former superintendent of schools.

## THE HAND OF GOD

"Joseph's witness was not in protesting the paganism of Egypt or trying to reorient the culture in which he lived. The only opportunity he had for witness was to be a good slave."

Join us at 6:30 Sunday as we discuss how to be a good witness in our culture.

## NOTE FROM HAITIAN CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

We have mentioned several times that Haiti is suffering through a very difficult time. The conversations we have with our brothers and sisters living there tell of a difficult time to get around, limited food, and some concerns of what will come next for their country. By some estimations, this is the worst political and resource situation in decades. There has been trial after trial as access to fuel has become extremely rare. Even if fuel can be found, it comes at a tremendous cost of up to \$16 US for a gallon of gasoline or diesel. For a country where the average wage is just under \$30 a month, the math simply does not add up. The country is paralyzed with no end in sight. Protests and roadblocks have become more common as desperate times invite desperate people to behave in ways they normally would not.

However, even in this difficult time, God keeps moving in a tremendous way. Here are a couple of highlights:

- ♦ Pastor Walter decided that God was calling him to plant a church where he was surrounded by witchdoctors and those who practice evil. The church has 30 who attend. He is giving light and hope in a dark place.
- ♦ Pastor Geneus started a church at Rivere Sable after feeling a call to tell this community about Jesus. His first building was located right next to a witchdoctor's home. At first, the witchdoctor gave him much trouble but as the church grew and people came to know the Lord, the witchdoctor no longer wanted to be in the community and asked Geneus to buy his land. The new church will be located directly on top of the site where the witchdoctor used his magic to treat patients.

We don't want to downplay the tremendous hardships of our Haitian brothers and sisters, but we wanted to share that there is hope, even when some may believe the situation is hopeless.



## PAINTBALL

For those going to play paintball on Saturday, we will be leaving from CCC at 9:00am. Due to busy lives and some firm commitments, we could use a few more players. So, in an effort to gather up two sizeable teams, please feel free to invite a friend to come along and enjoy the day with us. If you find someone interested in playing, please pass along the information so I can manage the transportation. As a reminder, it is \$30 per person which covers all the equipment necessary. We will return by 3:30 that afternoon.



Don't forget about the fellowship opportunity this Saturday at the Donaldson's farm! Mike and Kelly are providing the hot dogs, smores and either water or hot apple cider to drink. All coming are encouraged to bring a side dish to share. If you need to plug in a crock pot, there will be power outlets available in the barn. See you there!



The Men's study will resume on Thursday at 7:00pm. After wrapping up our discussion on Chapter 6, Scott will guide our study into Chapter 7 of the book. The corresponding Scripture for Chapter 7 is Galatians 4: 1-18.



## High School Youth Group

Don't you just love a little friendly competition? I know most of you do as you compete on the basketball court, soccer field and even for a specific role in a theatrical production. When you are on a team or cheering for your team, there is something about it that makes you excited to root for "us" and root against "them."

While often this is harmless fun, in everyday life God invites us to view others differently. This Sunday we are starting a new series to explore how God is for us and we in turn should be for others. We are going to look at the stories of Abraham, Jeremiah, Jonah, Isaiah and more to see the overarching big story found in Scripture that reveals God's love for us and in turn, how we reflect that to others.



Kids you are doing a fantastic job and there are only 4 practices left before the Christmas Play on Sunday, December 8th! The next two practices will both be double rehearsals before taking a week off for Thanksgiving. Very important practices will follow so everyone must attend the technical rehearsal on December 1st and the dress rehearsal on December 7th. We are all looking forward to your production!