

“Eggs, Eggs Everywhere”

Man oh man, what a wonderful Easter celebration I had over the weekend. From Southside Baptist on Friday night, First Mt. Moriah on Saturday afternoon, Turkey Creek on Sunday morning, to family all Sunday afternoon, it was a special weekend for sure. It's hard to believe that Easter has now come and gone and the next holiday celebration will be Memorial Day...the proverbial start of summer. School will be ending shortly thereafter and summertime fun will be on...as in beach vaca's, mission trips, Vacation Bible School and so many other wonderful warm summer month activities.

In fact, time is moving on so fast that Addie Lee is planning her graduation party from Dixie High School. We were planning it last night in fact. My last young'n graduating from high school...yep, it makes me feel as old as I am. She and her Mama are planning the whole thing and it's gonna be a shindig of a party for sure. She told me she wants some of the best ole fashion pulled pork BBQ in the Lakelands for the main course. So I'm thinking I can't disappoint her, so I reckon I've gots to ask my bud Dwight Herring who cooks that wurl famous Do Rights BBQ for a few pointers. Best BBQ in the Lakelands...well, that's gonna be a humdinger to pull off, so I best get to work on it.

Speaking of all the fun things you do in the summer, my family will be making a trip to Tybee Island for a couple of days in July. So in my Easter basket yesterday...uh, that's right, my Easter basket, which I get along with all the kids...so in my Easter basket Kim gave me some Peeps, them marshmallow things are my fav, and she also gave me a new beach towel. Yep, every since the kiddos were little, she, like a lot folks I reckon, has fixed Easter baskets for the children. Each basket has a little candy and a little gift. That tradition has been going on for however many years Zack is old. Only when the kids got of age, she never stopped that little tradition cause it's just a fun thing to do. Now, she does it for each of the children and the grands, and interestingly, she gives me a basket as well, cause I reckon she thinks I'm just one more of her kids. She always said I was one whup'n shy of a good upraising and she's been threatening to give that last whup'n for the past nearly thirty-five years now. And Sheila, I don't need any comments from the peanut gallery right now. You see, Kim just loves doing for her family...she can't help herself. I'm just glad I'm in the family...just say'n!

Other great summer time activities that so many look forward to are mission trips, youth camps and VBS. I know Randy Day has our Associational mission trip to Lashmeet all planned out. We'll be taking about forty folks from about eight different churches. Buddy Cobb will feed us well and the mission team will minister through the Good News Club, Block Party Trailer and construction. Got a few folks who will experience a mission trip for the first time and that's

always fun. My biggest challenge of the week will be Wanda Alexander, but she is way easier to handle than is her sister, who will remain unnamed for my survival purposes. Actually, Wanda, like last year, has told me she will do anything I ask of her for this one week of mission activities...now that's the missional spirit. Now if Wanda's sister had of said those same words, I'd be thinking the second coming must be drawing nigh, the trumpet call is about to sound and the dead are about to rise up out of their graves...just say'n!

And then there are summer camps for the young people. So many of our churches take advantage of camps like Summersalt, Camp La Vida, Camp McCall, World Changers or any number of opportunities for the youth in our churches. These are weeks where spiritually mature church leaders have many opportunities to pour spiritual knowledge into these young folks and give wise counsel to youth who increasingly no longer have families to provide them a sound Biblical foundation. These summer youth camp weeks should be seen as one of the best weeks of the year for sharing the gospel and providing opportunities for salvation.

And lastly, as I think about summer time fun, how could you not speak of Vacation Bible School. VBS has for decades been weeklong Bible clinics with various themes aimed at presenting the gospel to our children. There is literally no telling how many Christian leaders today accepted Christ during VBS. I know, cause my own Zack, who grew up in a Christian home, is now a pastor and chairman of the Executive Board of the SCBC, gave his heart to Christ as a child in VBS at Memorial Baptist Church, where I was the pastor. VBS is undoubtedly a lot of work for church leaders when it is done well, but when led by spiritually mature leaders, VBS is as productive in leading children to Christ today as it has ever been.

To that end, Saturday, I witnessed eggs, eggs everywhere, as 7500 loaded-with-candy plastic eggs dropped from a helicopter on the ball field at First Mt. Moriah. It was way cool, and even though it was pouring, blowing and spitting rain all afternoon, children and their parents came out by the droves to take part in this new and strange way to celebrate Easter. All the children who came had to be registered by their parents and each one of those families, this summer, will receive an invitation to...you guessed it...VBS! What an awesome way to promote VBS!

In the final analysis, all churches should expend maximum energy to do these things well this summer. Instead of backing away from revivals, VBS and summer camps, now is the time to go-pedal-to-the-metal to utilize these wonderful events in order to share the gospel. I have said pretty much my entire ministry that a week of revival is to adults what a week of summer camp is to youth what a week of VBS is to children. Probably more folks have come to the Lord over the past number of decades using these

three weeks of the year effectively than any other three weeks out of the year. I know times are a'chang'n, but if it takes eggs, eggs everywhere, even falling out of the sky from a helicopter to git'er'dun, then alls I gots to say is, "fire up them helio-birds and rain down the eggs"...just say'n!