

# NINEVEH NEWS

May/June 2009

**Praises:**

We praise the Lord for the following lives impacted by the Wake Up America, Inc. ministry:

- Ninety-four Professions of Salvation
- Sixty-eight Rededications
- Numerous Responses for:
  - Better Witnesses
  - Apathy and Indifference
  - Doing more for Christ

*We praise God for our military who selflessly defend the freedoms we cherish and their families . Thank you for your service..*

**Join us at the Fuquay Town Hall on May 7th, 12 to 1 pm, for our community National Day of Prayer Service**

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**The Tree** by Mike Macon



Each day He faithfully treks to that solemn place. Just a hundred yards from his home, but it might as well be one hundred miles. With each step he sheds the cares of the day to lighten the load. Emptied of worldly woes, thoughts and memories flood his soul as his mind focuses on the object of this somber passage. The lightened load that was so easily cast aside is replaced with another burden—one heavier, one that must also be laid down, but how? *This* burden is not easily cast aside. *This* burden tenaciously clings to his soul. As he nears the destination of this daily journey, emotions well up within him—unbearable, heart-felt emotions born from the familiar burden carried each day.

There it is, standing before him, a tree—majestic and strong. He kneels and begins to earnestly pray. Generations before him have prayed at this hollowed place, the same prayer that he now prays. That knowledge offers a degree of comfort and a connection to those who have gone before him.

He pours out his heart be-

fore God in prayer for his only son—a son recently deployed to Iraq on his second tour of duty. In this holy place, in this place of prayer, burdens are laid down and sons are lifted up.

Strewn on the ground around this tree's mighty trunk are plow blades, sprinkler tubing, and other farm implements that testify to the life of a farmer, a life lived by faith. It is fitting that at the center of these symbols of a life lived by faith stands the emblem of all faith—a tree. Another's Son, long ago, walked a solemn trek burdened beyond human imagination. One foot in front of the other, steps faltering under the great weight, a burden willingly and joyfully carried up Calvary's hill to another tree.

It's at the tree that we experience God's grace. It's at the tree that we can confi-

dently lay our burdens down. It's at the tree that we can ask God's favor and protection on *our* sons and *our* daughters. And, it's at the tree that we can be strengthened to endure another day until He comes again. There at the tree—a place of prayer, and most of all, hope.

As he stands—emptied, burdens lightened—a foreboding thought overpowers him, "What if I'm not able to make this journey each day—sickness or some other issue blocking my way?" Then God's Spirit whispers softly, "Take a piece of the tree with you wherever you go."

*This story is true. A dear friend lives it each day. But, it's not just his story; it's the story of countless fathers and mothers across our great land. Pray for God's protection on all our sons and daughters who serve selflessly in the armed forces of our nation. Pray also that God would grant their families hope, grace, and strength for each day as we join them in prayer at the tree, Calvary's cross.*

**Family** by Mike Macon

On May 10th we celebrate "Mother's Day" and on June 21st, "Father's day." These two days are set aside each year to acknowledge the most important people in our lives. Take time this year to

"honor thy father and thy mother" (Ex. 20:12) for it is a command of God as well as the right thing to do.

Remember, FAMILY stands for: **F**ather **A**nd **M**other **I** Love **Y**ou!

Finally, if you're like me, both parents deceased, the best way to honor your parents is to live your life honoring God.

## Poems by Sigrid Josam

### A Journey

War...Destruction...finally peace.  
 Don't let it happen again.  
 Power hungry politicians.  
 Speeches... Promises.....all false.  
 Speak up... get involved....educate.  
 Finally more food... work...living space.  
 Something new to plan for.  
 The urge to travel  
 Sweden maybe, it's not too far.  
 The friend you meet says America.  
 Finally marriage...he follows his dream.  
 Waiting for visa...writing letters  
 and six months later I'm on the ship.  
 A giant, the largest, the SS United States.  
 Five days to freedom?  
 What will it bring?  
 Stormy weather...sea sickness  
 And finally you see the Statue of Liberty.  
 In the early morning dawn, all are on  
 deck to view  
 The sight.  
 The coast of the States in the morning  
 light.  
 Your throat tightens, tears flow.  
 What will it be, this new land of the  
 free?

### Do Something!

Count your blessings,  
 take care of the land.  
  
 Don't build houses  
 on shifting sand.  
  
 Be it the mountains or the sea,  
 Build for the future for our children to  
 see  
  
 Many lives were lost  
 when we fought for this land.  
  
 Get involved,  
 take a stand.

*Ms. Josam is a senior-saint who grew up in Germany under Hitler. She immigrated to America at age 22, and has resided in North Carolina for the past 49 years.*

*Her life provides a unique perspective into the blessings we enjoy in America.*

*Her writing draws you in and you can almost picture yourself on that ship in the early dawn's light as the Statue of Liberty comes into view. What a moment that must have been for so many seeking freedom and opportunity—freedom and opportunity that I fear many today take for granted.*

## Outreach Strategy Change by Mike Macon

The board of Wake Up America, Inc. Ministry (WUA) recently voted to change its existing community outreach strategy. The previous strategy called for a community evangelistic outreach event to be conducted each year, usually in early October. Instead of this single annual event, the new outreach strategy will be to plant weekly home Bible studies that will meet year-around.

The primary emphasis of these home Bible studies is to reach unchurched neighbors, family members, and friends with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. A secondary emphasis is to equip and grow Christians to be faithful witnesses for Christ where they live and work. A final benefit is to build lasting relationships among attendees through prayer, accountability, and encouragement.

Three home Bible studies, already planted, have been operating for some time. One has been meeting weekly for just over seven years, another for five years, and a third, just under a year. Many individuals have received Christ through these studies and numerous

others are experiencing spiritual growth. Experience demonstrates that people who may not attend church are open to attending a small Bible study/prayer group if **invited by a neighbor or friend.**

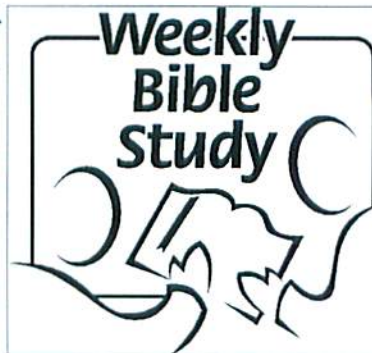
Our model for home Bible study outreach requires two positions to develop and lead this new ministry program. God has already called two very capable people to fill these two leadership roles—Bruce and Georgia Treece.

Bruce is a retired executive from State government and holds a seminary degree. Bruce's wife, Georgia, is a businesswoman gifted in organization and leadership. They also manage a small business in Fuquay-Varina.

Future issues of our newsletter will address details of this program as they are developed.

Please pray for Bruce and Georgia as they seek God's will and begin work on the program details. Pray also that

God will call needed Bible study leaders, prayer leaders, host homes, and hospitality workers to support this effort. If you are interested in attending, hosting, or leading a home Bible study in your area, please contact us via e-mail at:  
 "mmacon@nc.rr.com"



***"The harvest is truly plenteous, but the laborers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into His harvest."*** (Matthew 9:37, 38)

## Youth Forum

### The Devil and The Duck

A little boy was visiting his grandparents on their farm. He was given a slingshot to play with out in the woods. Try as he might, he couldn't hit a target. Discouraged, he headed back for dinner. As he walked back, he saw Grandma's pet duck.

On an impulse, he let the slingshot fly, hit the duck square in the head, and killed it. He was shocked, and in a panic, he hid the dead duck, only to see his sister watching! Sally had seen it all, but she said nothing.

After lunch the next day Grandma said, "Sally, let's wash the dishes." But Sally said, "Grandma, Johnny told me he wanted to help." Then she whispered to

him, "Remember the duck?" So Johnny did the dishes.

Later, Grandpa asked if the children wanted to go fishing and Grandma said, "I'm sorry but I need Sally to help make supper." Sally just smiled and said, "Well that's all right because Johnny told me he wanted to help." She whispered again, "Remember the duck?" So Sally went fishing and Johnny stayed to help!

After several days of Johnny doing both his chores and Sally's, he finally couldn't stand it any longer. He came to Grandma and confessed that he had killed the duck. Grandma knelt down, gave him a hug, and said, "Sweetheart, I know. I was standing at the window. I

saw the whole thing, but because I love you, I forgave you. I was just wondering how long you would let Sally make a slave of you."

Whatever is in your past, whatever you have done... and the devil keeps throwing it up in your face (lying, cheating, anger, bitterness, etc.) ... whatever it is... You need to know that God was standing at the window and He saw the whole thing; He wants you to know that He loves you and that you are forgiven. God's just wondering how long you will let the devil make a slave of you.

Ask God for forgiveness right now and be set free.

### Lightside

A fifth grade teacher in a Christian school asked her class to watch TV commercials and see if they could use them in some way to communicate ideas about God. Here are some of the results:

*God is like.*

a FORD

He's got a better idea.

*God is*

*like.*

COKE

He's the real thing.

*God is like.*

HALLMARK CARDS

He cares enough to send His very best.

*God is like.*

TIDE

He gets the stains out that others leave behind.

*God is like.*

GENERAL ELECTRIC

He brings good things to life.

*God is like.*

ALKA-SELTZER

Try Him, you'll like Him

*God is like.*

DELTA

He's ready when you are.

*God is like.*

ALLSTATE

*You're in good hands with Him.*

*God is like.*

DIAL SOAP

*Aren't you glad you have Him? Don't you wish everybody did?*

*God is like.*

CHEVROLET . . . *the heart beat of America*

*God is like.*

BOUNTY PAPER TOWELS

*He is the quicker picker upper. can handle the tough jobs. . and He won't fall apart on you*

Morris was removing some engine valves from a car when he spotted the famous heart surgeon Dr. Michael DeBakey, who was standing off to the side, waiting for the service manager. Morris, a loud mouth mechanic, shouted across the garage, "Hey DeBakey, come over here a minute."

The famous surgeon, surprised, walked over to where Morris was working on a car. Morris said loud enough so all could hear, "So Mr. fancy doctor, look at this work. I also take valves out, grind 'em, put in new parts, and when I finish this baby will purr like a kitten. So how come you get the big bucks, when you and me are doing basically the same work?"

DeBakey, very embarrassed, walked away, and said softly, to Morris,....."Try doing your work with the engine running."

The following was overheard at a recent high society party...

"My ancestry goes all the way back to Alexander the Great," said one lady. She then turned to a second woman and asked, "How far does your family go back?"

"I don't know," was the reply. "All of our records were lost in the flood."

A little girl was sitting on her daddy's lap. She gazed up at her father and said, "Daddy, did anyone ever tell you that you're the most wonderful and smartest man in the world?"

Her father, filled with pride said, "Why no, honey, they haven't."

"Then where did you get the idea?" she asked.

- A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
- A lot of money is tainted. It taint yours and it taint mine.
- A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
- When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.

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*"Reclaiming America Through Jesus Christ"*

### **May/June Quote:**

*"Guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism. ...[W]here is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation deserts the oaths...?"* George Washington, 1st President of the United States

### **May/June Scripture:**

*"May Your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord even as we put our hope in You"* (Psalm 33:22)

## **Director's Corner** by Mike Macon, Executive Director

**Memorial Day** is a day of remembrance for those who have died in the service of our nation. By an act of Congress in 1971 the last Monday in May was set aside for our nation's annual Memorial Day observance. This year Memorial Day will be observed on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Another day in May that has been set aside by our nation's leaders is the **National Day of Prayer** (NDOP). In 1952, President Truman signed a joint resolution of Congress as an official day of prayer for the purpose that "we may beseech God to grant us wisdom to know the course which we should follow and strength and patience to pursue that course steadfastly." Each succeeding president proclaimed a NDOP of his choosing until 1988 when President Regan amended the law to establish a standardized annual date for national observance, the first Thursday in May. This year, the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual NDOP falls on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Now these two solemn days may seem unrelated, but I can't help but reflect on the things they have in common.

Both required our leaders to act to establish national observances for each day—one day to honor our fallen heroes and the other day to seek God's wisdom, strength, and direction for our nation.

Another thing common to these two

days is that both the military and our leaders take an oath before they serve. Members of our military take a solemn oath to "... support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic..." The Constitution specifies in Article VI, Clause 3 that: "The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution..."

George Washington said concerning oaths taken, "Guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism. ...[W]here is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation deserts the oaths...?" In other words, a person's oath without an overriding personal reverence and sense of obligation towards God is meaningless. This wisdom is from one of our founding fathers.

Allow me to point out one final commonality between these two days—both have fallen into relative obscurity.

As a child I remember Memorial Day as a solemn day—a day when my family, especially my grandfather, spoke of fallen heroes and the true price of freedom. Parades, speeches, and graveside memorial

services were attended. Flags were proudly flown, and moments of silence observed. What about today? Memorial Day for most people is little more than a long weekend for cookouts, sports, gardening or trips to the beach.

The same seems true for the National Day of Prayer. Our nation has told God in so many ways, "We no longer need You!"

For me, Memorial Day is standing before the Viet Nam War Memorial reading the names of the buddies I grew up with and served with who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

For me, the National Day of Prayer is attending a community prayer service earnestly praying that God will help us recapture the ideals for which an NDOP was originally enacted—to seek God's divine protection, strength, and direction for our nation.

Ultimately, every day with a grateful heart, I am carried by the Spirit of God to another memorial and emblem of sacrifice—the Cross of my Savior, Jesus Christ.

This year, take time to honor our fallen heroes; take time to honor our God; and, guard against imposters whose oaths are meaningless. Remember, **"Faith and freedom are twin sisters. Both flourish when we honor the God from Whom all our blessings flow."**