



ROCKFORD BAPTIST CHURCH | MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



**So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm
and hold to [what] you were taught.**

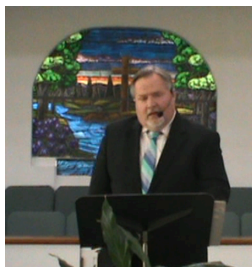
STAND FIRM

2 Thessalonians 2:15)



ROCKFORD BAPTIST CHURCH | MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Bro. Jeff
Encouragement
THE PASTOR



"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God."

(Isaiah 41:10 NIV)

We often find ourselves overly concerned, concentrating on the negatives. Focusing on the things around us, clouding our eyes and deafening our ears, bringing sorrow to our hearts and our souls.

Learning the principles of Experiencing God, we are confronted with the reality God speaks to us, but we must stay God-focused. Being God focused means keeping the focus of our life on God. Often, the reason we do not hear God speak is because we are doing our own thing, what we want to do, watching the world and it's ways. When we are watching God, we are focused on what He is doing and we are invited to join Him in His work.

When this is the personal practice, we will see and experience what only God can do.

continued on page 2

"Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming."

Joel 2:1

Rockford-Coosa Begins 6th Year

We joined the Samford Ministry Training Institute as an Extension Center in the Fall of 2019...



At the invitation of Dr. Kevin Blackwell, at that time Executive Director of MTI, and after much prayer, our Center began with an astonishing response. Enrollment has remained stable, as we have enjoyed a steady stream of graduates each year.

Each Diploma level had been conferred during these six years. This May, the highest diploma was awarded - the Diploma of Superior Achievement- to our student Adam Gomillion. Each diploma represents the completion of classes with basic requirements for a satisfactory outcome with every two years, students receive the Diploma of Biblical Studies (8 courses), the Advanced Diploma in Biblical Studies (16 courses), the Biblical Studies of Distinction (24 courses), and the Diploma of Superior Achievement (32 courses).

continued on page 3



An Obstacle; A Stepping Stone

Five Years of Morning Devotions



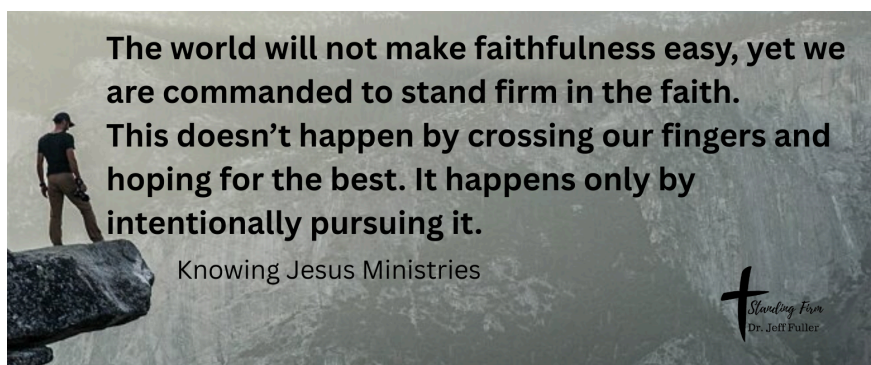
The year 2020 was a year of obstacles; but a year of stepping stones. Many churches were forced to limit time together, public worship, and other activities and events were either postponed or cancelled. It was a time of one obstacle after other obstacle.

Rockford Church choose to create stepping stones in the midst of such difficult times. One such stepping stone was the creation of Standing Firm Devotion.

Two weeks before Easter (April 2020) Pastor Fuller, while taking his daily walk around time felt the moving of God to do something quite different. In front of the Sanctuary of Rockford Baptist Church Pastor Fuller announced he would be doing a morning devotion on his Facebook page the next week with a focus on Holy Week and the journey toward the cross.

And as they say, the rest is history.

continued on page 5



continued from page 1

John writes what Jesus said:

“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever- the Spirit of Truth... you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in You.” (John 14:15-17)

As believers, we have entered into a love relationship with Jesus Christ; God Himself. It is at this point- when we admit, believe, confess- the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, took up residence in your life. Jesus said, “I will be with you always,” and through the Spirit He is with you, never to leave you. The Holy Spirit will point us toward the Father. He is ever present in your life to teach you, convict you, and draw you. He will reveal God’s work and cause you to seek after Him.

Therefore, cheer up, focus on God, an watch Him as He works. Join Him!

rbc Live on Website

As of July, the monthly newsletter will be available on the website tab DIGITAL COMMUNICATION. Due to the increase in postage, the newsletter will no longer be mailed to individuals; yet copies will be available in the Atrium.

By this change, we are advancing into the present. We live in a digital world, using PDF documents in many areas of our lives, therefore this is just a another way for you to help us save financially and globally.



Rockford-Coosa Begins 6th Year

continued from page 1

Our center has been blessed with very dedicated instructor's. Dr. Fuller and Rev. Christopher Todd (formerly pastor of New Home Missionary Baptist Church) joined together to be the first to lead the center in 2019. In 2022 Rev. Don Evans (former pastor of Grimes Chapel) joined us for a very successful study of the Book of Revelation. He had planned to come back the next year, yet passed away September. Rev. Mike Jones (former pastor of Ray Baptist) came to give instruction until taking a church in Georgia.

Rev. Larry Gore joined us in Spring of 2024. Bro. Larry retired from Santuck to the Nixburg area and was an answer to our prayers. Due to his connection to Santuck and Elmore County, Bro. Larry added five students to our enrollment, which created an interest, leading to a future extension in Elmore County.



Above:
Santuck
Baptist
Church
Right: Rev.
Larry Gore



August 18 we will open the 46th Extension for Samford University MTI at Santuck Baptist Church.

Under the leadership of Rev. Larry Gore as the Extension Director, there is a fire storm of interest in the Santuck-Elmore Extension Center. Rev. Ben Nobles (pastor of Santuck) will aid as an instructor. two others are being recruited to assist in instruction.

Rockford-Coosa Extension is losing Bro. Larry, but will be gaining Rev. Gary Miller. Bro. Gary is a retired pastor who is currently serving with the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions in the Evangelism Office. He comes to us to begin as an instructor with the Fall Semester-Term B.

If you desire more information regarding this exciting opportunity in your backdoor, check these websites:

<https://rockfordbaptistchurch.org/samford-mti-rockford-coosa/>
<https://www.samford.edu/programs/ministry-training-institute/extension-classes/>



Above: Rev. Ben
Nobles
Below: Rev. Gary
Miller



The Church is the Church only when it exists for others...not dominating, but helping and serving. It must tell men of every calling what it means to live for Christ, to exist for others.

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer —

AZ QUOTES

Obstacle; Stone

continued from page 5



Screenshot of earliest FB promo

Five days turned into five years. Each morning at 9, on Dr. Fuller's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/Dr.JWFFuller) individuals have turned in for the **STANDING FIRM DEVOTION**, since April 2020.

In the beginning, various locations were used as background for the morning devotion. From walks around the Rockford Church Campus, at the back of the educational building, and the patio at the Pastor's house. As the years have progressed, the Baraca Conference Room has now become the home of the morning devotion.



Screenshot of earliest FB broadcast

While the greatest majority of devotions have been a "live" broadcast, a few times each year a "pre-recorded" devotion will be aired in place of the "live," so Pastor Fuller is involved in other ministry challenges. The "pre-recorded" broadcast as scheduled ahead of time and available at least two hours prior to the normal 9 AM time.

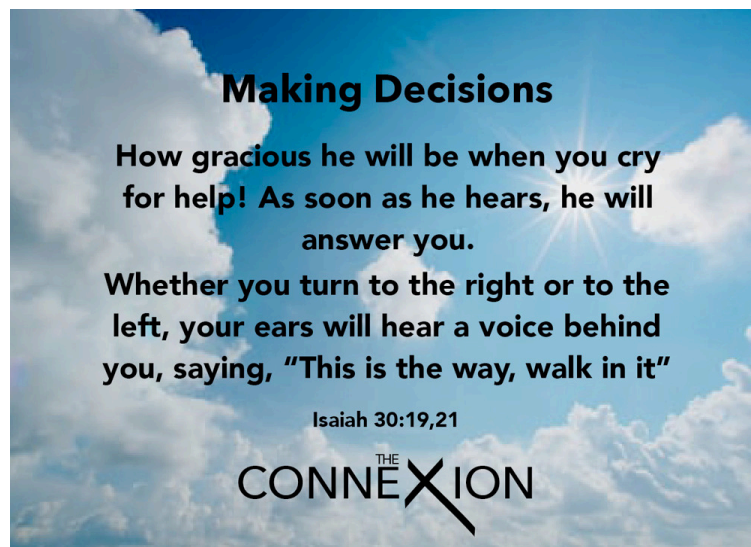
Over five years, Standing Firm Devotion has

gathered a large number of individuals from a broad spectrum. In the first year, fifty individuals watched within the first five hours ; as of May 2025, that number was hovering around 150. On the average, monthly viewers is around 350 each week. Viewers are from Alabama, around the southeast US, Colorado, and Laos, and the Philippines.

Various topics and scriptures have been covered in these morning devotions. Basically, the goal is to encourage individuals to be disciples of Christ, growing in the faith. We have been advised many have found comfort in these morning devotions, especially in the beginning days as they were faced with a huge obstacles. These obstacles became stepping stones to reach up to the only One who could said he "would never leave us or forsake us."



Screenshot of a recent FB broadcast from the Baraca Conference Room



Freedom: But Grace

Dr. Jeff Fuller

As an unsaved, unregenerate person, death reigns in your mortal body. You are breathing, functioning, and living in the physical realm, but in the spiritual you are dead. You are a zombie; you are part of the Walking Dead. Living, but dead. Operating, yet within and without there is a continually wasting away of the physical and spiritual life.

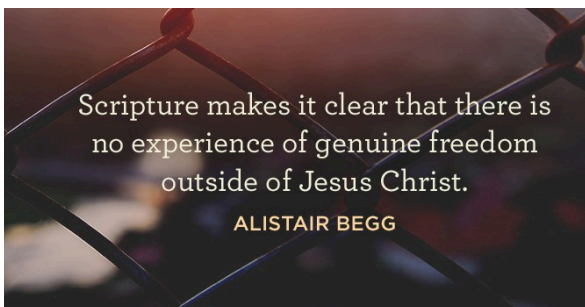
BUT GRACE!

By God's Grace you have been saved (can be saved). It is by God's riches at Christ expense we are made alive.

By Grace, which is a gift we receive by Faith. The writer of Hebrews says it best: "Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen. For by this our ancestors were approved. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible." (Hebrews 11:1-3 CSB)

By Grace, abundantly bestowed brings Regeneration, Renewal, Restoration.

This is true freedom!



Jesus responded, "Truly I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin. A slave does not remain in the household forever, but a son does remain forever. So if the Son sets you free, you really will be free. I know you are descendants of Abraham, but you are trying to kill me because my word has no place among you. I speak what I have seen in the presence of the Father; so then, you do what you have heard from your father." (John 8:34-38CSB)

Celebrate! You, He has made alive! You, He will make alive! This choice is for you to make. What is your decision?

Until next time... From: Freedom Series #2
April 2022 | Blog tab on
rockfordbaptistchurch.org



JOIN US!

SUNDAY

9:00 AM Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
10:00 AM Sunday School | Bible Study
11:00 AM WORSHIP CELEBRATION
(Sanctuary/Online Campus)
6:00 PM SHORT-TERM DISCIPLSHIP

WEEKDAY

WEDNESDAY

9:00 AM Standing Firm Devotion (Online)
6:00 PM Prayer and Inspiration (FLC)

Wing His Words Pam Ford Davis

The Informer

Nobody likes a tattletale.

Lawbreakers call them squealers.

A tattletale is eager to report any infraction to those in authority. That can cover a lot of territory.

If little brother sees big brother skip his chores he goes straight to his parents. Young tattletales turn in their best friends to teachers and school principals without a thought of personal consequences.

It's not always easy to determine if the tattler believes that informing will make them look good or if they simply have a mean streak.

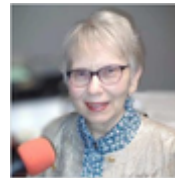
Joseph, favorite son of Jacob, told on his older brothers and it played part in their hatred and resentment.

"At 17 years of age, Joseph tended sheep with his brothers. The young man was working with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought a bad report about them to their father.

Now Israel loved Joseph more than his other sons because Joseph was a son born to him in his old age, and he made a robe of many colors for him. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not bring themselves to speak peaceably to him (Genesis 37:2b-4 HCSB)."

It was a rocky relationship. Never the less, God was in control; He was not finished with Joseph. He would one day deliver his people (including the brothers) from starvation during drought. Joseph would be 2nd only to the Pharaoh in the land of Egypt.

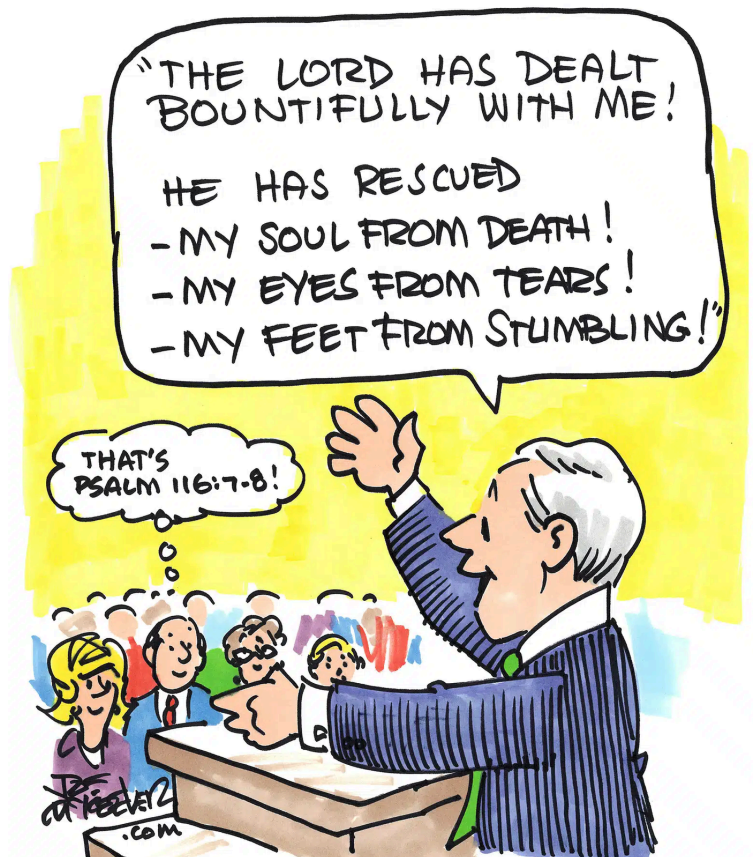
Remember, God is ALWAYS in control.



About

Devotionals are my first love in writing. Published articles in Mature Living Magazine, Devotions for the Deaf, The Secret Place, Light from the Word, Coos...

Pam Ford Davis / Dec 28, 2019



JESUS CHRIST
OUR FOUNDATION

Families Founded in Faith

EXALT | EQUIP | EVANGELIZE