



EASTER 2008

# Revival Crusade

Glenn & Fleta Mathews

## On July 26, we will celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary!

God has blessed us abundantly. Lord willing, before that date we will have made our first trip to Alaska, using most of those frequent flyer miles that we have accumulated over the years. We have two fine daughters and two equally fine sons-in-law, 7 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. It keeps us busy remembering all those birthdays! Another note regarding the anniversary: Fleta's Pastor, Ed Madaris and Glenn's Father, R. R. Mathews, performed our wedding ceremony. Glenn's father has been with the Lord since August 1964. Fleta's pastor is past 90 and, as of this writing, still preaching and serving as an interim pastor!

## In January, Fleta received her upgraded certification in Biblical Counseling.

She completed the requirements in December through American Association of Christian Counselors, and is now a Charter member of the new International Board of Christian Counselors. Our ministry of "Caring For People God's Way" offers hope and direction through Biblical principles. This is provided free of charge to those God brings into our lives who are experiencing painful crises or sinful situations that only Christ can cure. Pray for God's wisdom and leadership as we seek to lend a helping hand to people in pain. Glenn also plans to upgrade his certification this year.

**Another mission trip?** It is probable that we will be going back to Dominican Republic yet again (8<sup>th</sup> time) later this year to participate in a Conference/Training Seminar for native pastors. Working it into the schedule and having sufficient funds are the only concerns.

**A 24<sup>th</sup> Bible Lands Study Tour** is scheduled for October 31-November 10, 2008. This trip will be led by Dr. Bryan Ferrell, pastor of Timberlake Baptist Church in Lynchburg, VA. Glenn has agreed to accompany him and to do some of the teaching on site. Brochures are available by contacting us or Pastor Ferrell ([www.timberlakebaptist.org](http://www.timberlakebaptist.org)). A 25<sup>th</sup> tour is being planned for October of 2009, conducted by Lewis Memorial Baptist Church ([www.lmbc.org](http://www.lmbc.org)) in Huntington WV. Again, Glenn has agreed to accompany them and to teach on site. Brochures for the 2009 trip will be available later this year.

**2008 MEETINGS** Thus far this year we have ministered in 10 churches in GA, MD, NC, OH, VA, WV.

**REVIVAL CRUSADE** is now in its 47<sup>th</sup> year of ministering via radio. From October of 1961 to August of 1964, Glenn's father was the speaker. After his homegoing, his brother-in-law, Guy Smith maintained the program until his death in September of 1976. Glenn has been the speaker since that time. Since entering the field of evangelism in 1976, we have averaged almost 40 weeks of meetings each year. In addition, we have crossed the Atlantic over 30 times and the Pacific 5 times, conducting mission work on each continent and leading tours of Bible Lands. We give thanks to the Lord that he continues to open doors of service for us. *You can check the history of the ministry on the web site.*

[www.RevivalCrusade.net](http://www.RevivalCrusade.net)

## REFLECTIONS ON THE RESURRECTION

By Fleta Mathews

*As Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4b*

At this happy Holy season, new life is popping up all around our little corner of the world! Nothing delights quite like the wonder and beauty of spring-time! For those of us who claim Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, our FOCUS now is on the RESURRECTION. We look and long for His Second Coming... the soon return of our Lord. What a renewing reviving hope it brings. While these are encouraging thoughts, Rude Reality may startle us if we take a close look at our ways of walking in the world. She will force us to focus on our fumbling faltering Faith as it is perhaps or is possibly seen by a WATCHING wounded skeptical world. What a condemning thought!

Glenn preaches a sermon called "How Is Your Faith?" What a disquieting question! Does our daily living really reflect our firm faith in Jesus Christ, or is it a resounding rebuke for our failure to "flesh out" what we say we believe? Someone who studies human behavior so aptly stated: "What a person says he believes and what he actually does, may not necessarily be the same." Is this what James 1:8 describes? "A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways."

If we are stable single-minded children of God, we should have our feet firmly planted on the Solid Rock of Jesus Christ. By His indwelling Holy Spirit we have power to truly walk "In newness of life". Exactly what does that mean for us? What does it require? And how does it look to a WATCHING wounded skeptical world? Do our ways at work on Monday match our words of worship on Sunday? Do they reflect His saving sustaining Grace? Or is it as "sounding brass" for our failure to walk In His Steps as Sheldon writes in his book by that name. Do we really ask ourselves what would Jesus do in all of our attitudes and actions? If we do ask, just what are we doing?

Let us not be "hearers of the Word only" and not doers. If we are, James compares us to a person who looks at himself in the mirror and right away forgets what manner of person he was. He continues to tell us if we are not forgetful hearers, but diligent doers of the Word, we shall be blessed in our deeds. "Pure religion (faith) and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction and to keep himself unspotted from the world." James 1:27

May we faithfully do all these things through Christ who gives us enabling strength. Then Christ will be lifted up and receive the honor and glory due His name. Why? *That in ALL things He (Christ) may have the preeminence. Colossians 1:18b.*

## PREVIEWS

### March 19-23

Crossroads Baptist, Huntington WV  
Pastor Jack Mayes

### March 30 - April 2

Blaise Baptist, Mocksville NC  
Pastor Tim Wolfe

### April 6-11

First Baptist, South Point OH  
Pastor Larry Mullens

### April 13-15

Ice Creek Baptist, Coal Grove OH  
Pastor Fred Conley

### April 20-23

Brush Arbor Baptist, Danville Va  
Pastor Stephen Lamb

### April 27-30

Bethel Lighthouse, Marietta OH  
Pastor Gary Drake

### May 4-7

Sybene Baptist, Chesapeake OH  
Pastor D. L. Webb

### June 1

Camp Creek Baptist, Central SC  
Pastor Bo Mackey

THERE ARE SOME OPEN WEEKS IN THE  
SUMMER AND THREE OPEN WEEKS FOR  
THE FALL MONTHS.

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## VIEWS FROM GLENN

Frequently I am asked questions regarding such as: Are we in the last days? Do you expect the Lord to return soon? Is there hope for our country to experience genuine revival? The answer to those questions is YES. One does not have to be much of a Bible student to know that we are near the coming of the Lord.

The question on the possibility of genuine revival is not so easy to answer. I am convinced the thing that would possibly bring revival in America is the same thing that brought the prodigal son (Luke 15) to himself. It was only when both his stomach and pocketbook were empty that his thoughts turned toward his Father. It may be that the USA must come to a similar position before there is recognition of God, much less repentance toward Him.

Perhaps in a later letter I will discuss those topics a bit fuller. The question that we should be asking is: What has happened to "church"? From the center of family and community life, "church" has moved to the periphery and, for many, beyond the realm of relevancy. What our foreparents knew as conviction of sin is all but extinct.

The vast majority of preaching being done in America today is not the kind of preaching that produces conviction. I often hear "we can't change the message, but we must change the methods" if we are going to reach this generation. It is my observation that those who are changing the methods, are often changing the message. It is all but impossible to find a written sermon from the 1800s that give "God loves you" as the motivating factor in getting people to "accept Christ". In fact, "accepting Christ" is also seldom mentioned in the 1800s.

It is only after WWI that the emphasis shifted from God's holiness, justice, and judgment on sinners to God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life. In short, Christianity moved from being God/Christ centered to being man/self centered. As a result, we have churches where conversion supposedly occurs without being preceded by conviction and righteousness comes without repentance. In most places neither heaven nor hell is mentioned. The sole emphasis is on the present and getting the most out of life.

Certainly the New Testament does not stress the things that are being stressed today. Unless there is a return to a Christ Centered Christianity that emphasizes the following topics, the Holiness of God, the importance of doctrine, repentance for remission of sin and subsequent Godly living, the imminent return of the Lord, loyalty to the local Bible believing, Bible preaching church, I seriously doubt that we will experience revival in America.

There are many results of Christ's resurrection. Perhaps the one that is often forgotten is this one: JUDGMENT! *Acts 17:30,31 ... (God) commandeth all men everywhere to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead".*

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