



TRUE LIGHT

Baptist Church

NOVEMBER 2009



A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

“30 YEARS IN MINISTRY”

On December 4, 1979, I stepped into the pulpit at New Hope Baptist Church, Denver, Colorado to preach my trial sermon. I had no idea what, if anything would happen beyond that point. For those of you who may not be familiar with the process of being called, licensed, and ordained to the ministry, let me share my ministerial history.

Around 25 years of age, I began to sense a change in my spiritual life. Although I had attended Sunday School all of my life, the lessons began to appear more applicable to my life, and I developed more of a desire to learn. As I attended Sunday School regularly, one Sunday the teacher, Mrs. Johnson, asked me if I would teach the Sunday School class for the two weeks that she would be on vacation. I refused, but with some prodding and her display of confidence, I finally agreed. She never came back. As I continued to teach the class, my deficiencies of my biblical knowledge became more and more apparent. I sensed God’s leading me to get some formal training as to not lead others astray, and not to continually embarrass myself on Sunday morning.

The pastor of New Hope, Rev. M. C. Williams had recently resigned and a new pastor had been called, Rev. Dr. James D. Peters, Jr. His preaching style was none like I had ever heard before and served to feed a thirsting soul. At a New Hope function at the Merchandise Mart I had the opportunity to share with him my concerns regarding teaching the Sunday School class and my desire to get some formal training. He responded that he was having a class for potential ministers and that I should attend. Needless to say, this shocked me. I had said nothing about ministry and certainly had no desire to do so. As the week or so passed leading up to the meeting, I wrestled in my spirit as to whether or not to attend. I moved from an absolute no, to maybe, to why not, back to no and all points in between. I was not able to put it aside and forget about it, it was something that seemed to capture both my mind and my heart. Anyway, I attended the meeting, listened to Rev. Peters paint a grim picture of the requirements, loneliness, and the fact that once you declare God has called you that you



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

GIVE THANKS	3
YOUTH SPOTLIGHT	4
THE GROWING CHRISTIAN	5
WHY MEN NEED FRIENDS	6

cannot turn back without people looking somewhat despairingly at you. I decided that I wanted no parts of that. At the close of the meeting, he declared that he was having a BBQ at his house and invited those who had attended the class. With reluctance, I attended the BBQ where he presented those of us who had attended the class as potential new ministers. That was not what I was expecting, and surely not what I wanted to be openly announced.

From that time on, probably for a number of months I tried to wrest from my spirit any thoughts towards ministry, but found the harder I tried not to think about it, the more I did. It got to the point where it so consumed my thoughts that I could hardly think about anything else.

Understand there were two major hurdles beyond the fact of ministry itself that were of concern. One, obviously the lack of biblical understanding, in those days, I had to look in the index to find where a book was located and really was not sure if it was Old or New Testament. Second and most importantly, was that I was extremely shy, to a fault, and the thought of standing before two people giving a speech was intimidating, not even to consider the normal 800 in attendance at New Hope. I was afraid, incompetent, and any other descriptors that come to mind.

Continued thoughts of ministry became so consuming that it was only as I began to consider positively the possibility that my mental torment began to subside. Although I felt that God had the wrong number when He called me, I submitted to His will and told Him if He wanted me to do so that I would. After sharing this with Rev. Peters, he setup a time for me to meet with the deacons and share my testimony. Upon hearing my testimony, a time was established to preach my trial sermon.

Those who know me best, my parents, my wife, my siblings and friends tried to be encouraging, but I sensed their concern knowing my quiet nature, and how I often spoke at a level that was inaudible and had to be asked to repeat what I said on a regu-

lar basis. Despite their concern, they encouraged me anyway.

As the evening of my trial sermon approached, I became more and more nervous about the whole ordeal. More than once, I thought about renegeing on what I had said. When the day of my trial sermon came, my mother threw a dinner to celebrate the occasion that afternoon. Throughout dinner, I was too nervous to eat. In fact, I became ill to the point of heaving chills and a fever and had to go to bed. Before I lay down I kneeled next to the bed and expressed my willingness, but more so my fears to God. As I awakened to prepare for the evenings event, the sickness was gone, and calmness had come over me that lasts unto this day.



In 1988, our family: wife Melvia, children, Melody and William III, and I planted True Light Baptist Church in the Montbello subdivision of Denver. True Light has grown and is recognized as one of the most progressive churches throughout the city.

Before becoming full-time pastor of True Light in September of 1992, I was employed for 17 years at Ball Aerospace Systems Group in Boulder, Colorado where my last assignment was as a Program Manager for Electro-optical Focal Plane Development. In conjunction with my secular employment, I also served as Minister of Youth and Children, and Minister of Outreach and Education while at New Hope Baptist Church.

In 1993, the church purchased four acres of land upon which it presently sits. The providential circumstance of the purchase of this land, approximately one-tenth of the asking price, has throughout the years served to anchor the ministry location in Montbello. God's favor is evident in placing the church directly across from Montbello High School, within eyesight of two elementary schools, and on what has evolved to be one of the major access streets.

The church has conducted two phases of construction on this site, Phase One in 1995 and Phase Two in 1999. A third phase is in design and development to meet the growing demands of the congregation and to continue to enable the church to increase its influence in the community.

Over the years, the church has been involved outwardly in the revitalization of Montbello High School, reading programs in elementary schools, selecting principal leadership, design of Green Valley Ranch High School, Mayor's Homeless Initiative, community Infant Immunizations, and has strategically placed its members in positions of influence whereby it can be influential in academic and community affairs. Internally, the church has been involved in after-school tutoring, youth mentoring, AWANA, Boy Scouts, health screenings and education, extended personal finance training, arthritis exercise groups, Weight Watchers, Puppet Ministry, Gospel on the Green, scholarships, and many other meaningful ministries. A weekly radio program takes pastoral teaching beyond the walls of the church to the surrounding region.

As I reflect upon these past 30 years, I can see the hand of God has been on my life and this ministry. He has been faithful. I thank the membership for your support, encouragement, and willingness to follow my leading as God leads me.

Give Thanks
Give Thanks



**Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ His Son.**

**And now let the weak say "I am strong."
Let the poor say "I am rich."
Because of what the Lord has done
for us**

GIVE THANKS

**Speak to one another
In psalms and hymns and
spiritual songs,
Offering praise and making melody with
all you hear unto the Lord,
At all times and in everything,**

GIVE THANKS

**Unto God the Father
In the name of
Our Lord Jesus Christ**

Y
O
U
T
H

S
P
O
T
L
I
G
H
T

TAYLOR TOOTLE

Age: 12 years old
Grade: 7th Grade
School: The Academy at High Point
Parents: Angela and Leon Tootle
Grandmother: Bonne Tootle



Church Activities: Youth Praise Dance, Deliverance Choir, Puppet Ministry, Community Youth Night, and Youth Church

Favorite/Memorable Scripture: Romans 3:23, *"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*

Tell me a little about yourself? My favorite color is blue. I enjoy volleyball and trying new things. I also enjoy cooking sometimes, but really like going to the movies.

What do you enjoy most about school? I enjoy learning different things and also the teachers are nice.

What is your favorite subject/why? Grammar is my favorite subject. It is easy to do and the rules are constant and never changing. I also enjoy my technology class because I enjoy learning new things on the computer.

What do you like about True Light and the Youth Department? I like the leaders within the youth department. I think they are always looking for new ways to communicate with the youth. I think the entire church tries to reach out to the youth so they don't end up getting involved with the wrong things.

What do you enjoy about Community Youth Night? I like community youth night because it gives me an opportunity to get my homework done. I am also able to fellowship and get to know other youth. We have a lot of games and the food provided is really good!

Goals/Aspirations? My short term goal would be to get good grades and succeed in school. My long term goal would be to attend college. I am not sure what I want to be, but I am thinking about a lawyer or a teacher.

You mentioned you want to be successful. What person comes to mind when you think about success? Mrs. Jocelyn Stephens is successful. She has a great job and also when I have a problem, I can go to her and seek advice.

During the month of November, we celebrate Thanksgiving. What are you most thankful for? I am thankful for life. I am also thankful for my family, friends and also the church.

FIVE POINTS

For the growing Christian

READ DAILY YOUR BIBLE

Read daily your Bible, if you would be strong
To witness for Jesus and overcome wrong;
"I'm busy" you say, as you lay it aside
But when you neglect it you'll surely backslide

"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that you may grow thereby."

1 Peter 2:2

KEEP LOOKING TO JESUS

Keep looking to Jesus, He never can fail
And walk in His footsteps in every detail;
The world's bright attractions will fade from sight
When you look to Jesus, your Saviour and Light.

"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father by him."

Colossians 3:17

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

Pray without ceasing, you can count on Him
Who cleanses and keeps you a victor o'er sin;
There's nothing so great that our God cannot do,
And nothing so small that He won't do for you.

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."

Luke 11:9

CONFESS HIM TO OTHERS

Confess Him to others, be bold for our King
To those who are living in darkness and sin;
What help can you better to all recommend,
Than this blessed Jesus—the needy one's Friend?

"Whoever shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven."

Matthew 10:32

DO SOMETHING FOR JESUS

Do something for Jesus, He did all for you,
Your joy is complete when His will you do;
So seeking to please Him through each new day
His presence shall gladden each step of you way.

"But be doers of the word and not hearers only."

James 1:22

ANGELS OF HEALTH AND HEALING



Think friendship is just for women? Think again.

Although some men aren't aware of the importance of social support, there are significant benefits of friendship on their mental, emotional and physical health.

Male friendships can take root in common areas such as work, playing on a sports team or becoming a father. Men can build and strengthen friendships by:

- ⇒ **Making time for friendships to develop.** This might mean working together to fix a car or build a deck.
- ⇒ **Sharing information and activities.** If your friend tells you something about his father, share a story with him about yours. If he asks you to play racquetball, invite him to poker night.
- ⇒ **Calling and e-mailing.** Stay in regular touch with close friends, take time to build new friendships, and don't lose contact with friends you haven't seen in a while
- ⇒ **Getting a group of friends together** every year for an outing, such as a camping or skiing trip.

Mayo Clinic Health Solutions

Things to Remember in November

- ⇒ Wednesday's from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. the Health Ministry has a low impact exercise program. Our instructors are **trained** and **certified**. Come out and join the men and women who are already benefiting from this program.
- ⇒ Weight Watchers is here at True Light every Thursday evening from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- ⇒ Healthy Lifestyle Changes is here at True Light on first and third Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.



BONNE'S KITCHEN CORNER

STEWED TOMATOES AND OKRA

Fruits and vegetables contain essential vitamins, minerals, and fiber that may help protect you from chronic diseases. Compared with people who consume a diet with only small amounts of fruits and vegetables, those who eat more generous amounts as part of a healthful diet are likely to have reduced risk of chronic diseases, including stroke and perhaps other cardiovascular diseases, and certain cancers.

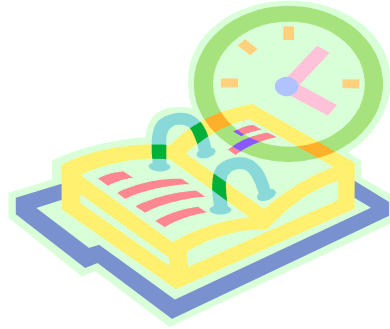


The Center for African-American Health offers a variety of healthy recipes designed to appeal to African American, including this recipe for stewed tomatoes and okra.

8	large tomatoes
2 tsp	butter
2	medium onions chopped
1	green bell pepper chopped
16 oz	frozen or fresh okra
1 cup	frozen corn
2 tsp	sugar
½ cup	dried breadcrumbs

Plunge tomatoes in boiling water for 1 minute to make them easier to peel. Peel and chop the tomatoes. Heat the butter in a large skillet and saute' the tomatoes, onions, and bell pepper. Add the okra, corn and sugar and simmer for 25 minutes. To thicken, add the breadcrumbs and stir well.

Church Calendar Highlights



KEEP CONNECTED!

Active members of True Light who are sick, shut-in, elderly, or others who are physically unable to attend church may request a CD or DVD of the Pastor's sermons. Please contact a member of your Family Ministry Team or the office for further details.



November 2009

Nov 1	(Sun)	First Fruit Sunday
Nov 8	(Sun)	Harvest Sunday
Nov 15	(Sun)	Miracle Sunday
Nov 21	(Sat)	EMAM
Nov 22	(Sun)	Victory Sunday
Nov 26-27		Office Closed —Thanksgiving
Nov 29	(Sun)	Mission Sunday

December 2009

Dec 5	(Sat)	Women's Holiday Tea
Dec 9	(Wed)	Senior Christmas Party
Dec 13	(Sun)	Children's Christmas Program
Dec 18	(Fri)	Marriage Ministry Potluck
Dec 19	(Sat)	Puppet Ministry Program
Dec 24	(Thu)	Christmas Eve Concert
Dec 31	(Thu)	Watchnight Service



After Hours Prayer Line

"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

Matthew 18:19-20 (NIV)

After Hours Prayer Line Phone Number

(303) 375-0754 Ext: 9

- ◆ Call for prayer and leave a recorded message. Our Intercessory Prayer Team regularly monitors this line.
- ◆ If you leave contact information, a member of the Intercessory Prayer Team will call and pray with you.
- ◆ Your Intercessory Prayer Team wants to pray with you and for you.



True Light Baptist Church
14333 Bolling Drive
P.O. Box 39003
Denver, CO 80239

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DENVER, CO
PERMIT NO. 3331

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

IN GOD WE TRUST