

ARBC

Sunday, June 5, 2011

Good morning church! How are you this morning? Wonderful to be in the house of the Lord and what a special day it is to come together to see what God has done with our deaf Ministry over the last 25 years. Are you awake? Would you rather be here than in the Gwinnett County Jail? Just joking. We are glad you are here. Brother Dave Wilson that normally leads our music had to leave to take his wife Joann to the hospital. So I will lead music. We will pray and sing because we want to lift the Lord Jesus Christ up and Brother JoJo and his wife are here. Glad to see you and what an honor it is to follow your great leadership here. I publically thank you and it's an honor to be here on the heels of your shoes.

Father God we are grateful and ask that your precious Holy Spirit move up and down the aisles. Thank you for the many years and we want to recognize your blessing on the deaf Ministry here. We are family here, not 2 churches we are one in Christ. I want to pray for Brother Dave and Joann this morning. Thank you for Brother Jojo being here. May you be lifted up and have you shine today. We pray in your name, Amen.

Let's stand together as we sing Shine Jesus shine.

(Singing...Words on Large Overhead Screen)

Take this time to greet your neighbor give them a hug or a handshake and let them know you are glad they are here.

Let's sing together. (Singing...Words on Large Overhead Screen)

Pastor Tim: Amen you may be seated thank you. I also want to recognize Mike and Lauren Gahan, our former deaf pastor. Thank you, very good to have you here this morning. Now our ASL class will lead us in a song.... Be Glorified.

Can you understand? Are you ready I want you all to join us in singing together.

Applause!

Amen, what a wonderful time we have now as Brother Lane Burris will baptize a few ladies. There he is.

Okay, I will be voicing. I will turn my voice off, maybe I can sign better if I do. Today is a special day in the life of Annistown Road Baptist Church. Why for 25 years it is His work, His Ministry. We praise Him and look forward to the next 25 years. Today we have 2 beautiful young women we are celebrating today. This water is not magical it is just water. They have come today to be baptized and it is an outward sign that

something has changed in their heart. We have Mariah and Alma that have come this morning. These are our two candidates for baptism. Those are your brothers and sisters in Christ. If you have any problem you tell them and they will help you. It is our responsibility to help them. Jesus has left and he told us we are to go across and teach making disciples of each one. That's what Jesus taught us. Now who is first? Mariah says I will.

Okay now I have 3 questions for you; first... I forgot! Sorry I am a bit nervous in front of all these people. First, have you asked Jesus to come into your heart and you promise to follow him in everything you do. Third question is will you follow him and to make disciples of others. Because of that I baptize you in the name of the Father, son and Holy Spirit.

Alma I want to ask the same 3 questions. Have you asked Jesus to come into your heart? Yes, you promise to follow him all the days of your life? Yes, do you promise as you continue to study his word that you will make disciples of all that you come in contact with? Because of that I baptize you in the name of the Father Son and Holy Spirit. Thank you.

Pastor Donnie Osborne: Was it just me or did you all notice how well Vernee spoke for her husband. Can you do that for me? Anyway, it's good to see you all. A bit of information going on here at church, we have a lot going on. We want to share that with you. First, VBS is a few weeks away and we still need teachers. I see some people that probably can do that. You will see a red card in your bulletin that lists some supplies that are needed. So if you would take this card with you when you go to the grocery store and pick up a few things to help VBS be a success.

Also, we need help in preschool. If you can sign up to teach we need teachers.

Also, kids camp is coming up week of June 20-24. Will Wright is the person to see if you want your kids to go to that.

Also youth camp is the next week so if you want to send your teenager away, I will take them (laughter).

Ladies Bible study starts on the 22nd. It is a Beth Moore study. The fruit of the spirit.

Operation Christmas Child ... It's not too soon to start thinking about Christmas and this month we are asking that you bring in match box cars for boys and small stuffed animals for the girls. So please bring those in so we can be ready for December.

This Wednesday night will be catered by Zaxby's. \$5.50 is the normal price. Please take the side panel in the bulletin, fill that out and make your reservations.

Also, if you are a guest, please fill out that portion in the bulletin and put it in the offering plate, so we have a record of your visit.

Also, if you have prayer requests, we will be glad to pray over those on Monday. Also if you want information about the church, there is a place for that as well.

Good to see you all this morning.

Orchestra playing... Shine, Jesus, Shine.

Applause!

Pastor Tim: Amen, Shine Jesus Shine, we want him to shine in this place. It's my honor to ask Dr. G. J. Thomas to come up and share about the beginnings of our deaf Ministry here.

Dr. G. J. Thomas: Good morning it is good to be here. I got a face book from Laramie I think to see if I could say a few words about when the deaf Ministry got started. I hope that it will be right, it's been a while. My wife, Debbie and I remember a church called North Fort Worth Baptist Church and it was the first time we had seen a deaf Ministry. We just sat back and watch. I don't know that either of us said we will do our best to make sure that happens. But when the Lord started Annistown Road Baptist Church it began to stir in my heart if that could happen here. The offices were in single wide trailers and I remember making a phone call about how to start a deaf Ministry. The man on the phone said "don't do it". He talked about the barriers and how hard it was. I remember I felt sorry for him, and felt angry because he felt God wasn't big enough. The Lord brought a lady named Barbara Ferrell, she became a channel and then Lane & Vernee found the church and brought their son. Then people started to come. We started to add things like VBS and service for deaf folks. Then the Lord brought Mike Gahan here. He began to preach and God started to do great things. Then the Lord allowed it to become their own mission. I was thinking about what God was doing. The day we made the first phone call, we didn't know where God was taking us. God takes a small seed and can make it grow. A lot of lives have changed and will continue to change. Anytime you step out in faith, God responds. He goes above and beyond. It has been a joy to see what God has done. Thank you and God bless.

Jeff McMullen: I want to show this power point of our deaf Ministry and it shows the history and the beginning of our history. So just sit back and watch.

Applause!

Pastor Tim: Let's stand together as we shout to the Lord for all he has done for us.

(Singing...Words on Large Overhead Screen)

Pastor Tim: He is our comfort.

(Continues singing)

Pastor Tim: Amen, thank you.

Rev. Jerry Baker: It's wonderful to come and visit with you again. My wife and I remember when we were members here and what you shared with us. I want to share some things about deaf missions here and the relation that your church has. In the early 1900's Ella, a graduate of the GSD in Cave Springs, was sent to Cuba to work with deaf. A long history here. That GSD was housed in the Hern Academy in Cave Springs which became GSD. More than 50 years ago it came to be. Many of your congregation came from this church. We come for meetings here and things that happen here in the building on the weekend or at night and you all make it possible to have a place to meet. You have helped to provide the leadership for the junior teenage conference for the deaf. One conference had a campout but got rained out and ended up here in the gym. The plans are being made for the Conference in Norman Park. You have all helped with that.

I was able to go on a mission trip to Russia and you made that possible. I interpreted for your pastor there. I have been asked to come back 3 times since then. The GBCD has established a Carter Bearden fund that helps people go on mission trips. We have been to several different places to help deaf people go to other parts of the world to talk to deaf. All of you have helped with the growth of those things. You have sent officers to the Conference for the deaf, you have helped to train pastors, and you have had a board member from this church. God has worked in and through you here in Georgia and around the world. We give God glory and praise. Thank you.

Choir/Orchestra playing. Laramie and Vernee Burris signing. (The Glory of God)

Applause!

John McGivney: Hello everyone, as a deaf mission for 25 years it all started with offering. As you can see it has been a blessing. We also have some deaf missions outside the United States also. But our church here is not only for the deaf but also for the youth mission and senior citizen mission. Thank you now we pray.

Dear father in heaven I want to say thank you for putting seeds in our church members and continue to grow for the next 25 years and beyond. In Jesus name, amen.

Suzanne Sofey & Priscilla Harris:

Your only Son no sin to hide,  
But You have sent Him from Your side

To walk upon this guilty sod  
and to become the Lamb of God.  
Your gift of love they crucified.  
They laughed and scorned Him as He died,  
the humble King they named a fraud  
And sacrificed the Lamb of God.  
Oh, Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,  
I love the holy Lamb of God.  
Oh, wash me in His precious blood,  
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.  
I was so lost I should have died,  
But You have brought me to Your side  
to be led by Your staff and rod,  
and to be called a lamb of God.  
Oh, Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,  
I love the holy Lamb of God.  
Oh, wash me in His precious blood,  
till I am just a lamb of God.  
Oh, wash me in His precious blood,  
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Applause !

Rev. Ricky Milford: I don't need this. (Laughter) I think I will move this out of my way too.

It is my honor to be here this morning. To join this 25th anniversary that is awesome what a celebration today. Can you remember when we were here in 1986 and they first started this up. We took it off the ground running, it was unreal and has been solid since day one and the work is not over. Amen. We appreciate all the hearing and the deaf, for what you all have done. To learn the Ministry service to learn the Word. This morning I taught Sunday School and asked does it stop at 25? No, start another 25. Take the baton like a relay race; pass it on to the young people. We are getting old. Praise the Lord. When I say at my deaf church when I say Praise God, you say "all the time". I think we are ready for the PowerPoint presentation. I will give them a minute to crank it up.

You may wonder what does that have to do with our 25th celebration. That is a good avenue to give a parable because Jesus used them a lot. And they work. It says Mark 4:33-34 please read it together.

33: "Jesus used many stories like these to teach the crowd God's message--as much as they could understand.

34: He always used stores to teach them. But when he and his followers were alone,

Jesus explained everything to them.”

Let's us pray. Father thank you for the word we just read, let your word stay in our hearts as we teach others about you. Bless this church and the hearing and deaf together. For your honor and glory we pray in your name, amen.

Now you know IBM has a new program that we have learned to use called Story one and we have changed it to Story one it is IBM's new baby. We try to get on the same level so we can all understand. Some huge words that education blows us away with is simple to help people understand what God has called us to do. It helps us to see the challenge. What we read in the Bible will help others. Many of you like baseball right? You are familiar with baseball right? If not you are lost. I like the illustration. It is about baseball, outfielders, infielders, etc. I will use that. What's first base? Did you miss it?

## I. First Base - This is Salvation

John 3:3

3: “Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, unless one is born again, he cannot be in God's kingdom.” (NCV)

When you are ready to go to bat, the pitcher is the devil. He will tell you that you can't hit the ball and will strike out. Call Jesus because he will hit the ball for you. He can destroy the devil. How can we pass first base? The crucifixion. We have to accept Jesus as our personal savior. We try to teach people why we need the Lord. As we sit here we have lead so many songs. This was awesome. This morning was worship. When we sing and praise the Lord, what are the angels doing in heaven? The windows open and they join us. That glorifies. That is awesome. People come to accept Jesus, angels celebrate. Jesus helps us and through His blood we are saved. How do we get to 2nd base? We have another person over here. Next slide please... Next please... Technical difficulty. Be patient, the devil will not win. Praise the Lord!

## II. Second Base - This is Baptism & Church Membership

This morning we had a wonderful baptism service that inspired me. It becomes a member. That is second base. As you go through the exciting occurrence we know that Jesus raised from the dead. That is His command to be baptized, to serve him, and plant more seeds. You know you can't be baptized without being saved first, we all know that. But a lot of people don't know that. So we have to teach them. You have to accept Jesus into your heart first, then Baptism. You can't go to heaven without Jesus in your heart. Plain and simple we must teach people that.

First base is salvation  
Second is Baptism

### III. Third Base - This is Christian Service

You have to believe in Jesus, you accept him, become a member and you want to serve. Jeremiah explained this and Jerry Baker explained that. Your heart gets big and everything works together and you want to honor him.

You know you can take training to serve him. Get out of the boat; you can't stay in the boat forever. We have to recruit people to come to know Christ. We serve better because we are saved, it's true. But what is next, home. What is that? Heaven.

### IV. Home Plate - The Finished Job

You did well, my faithful servant. You are allowed to enter the kingdom. You see can I bat and run by first base and never touch it? No you must go through all the phases to get to heaven. It's good up there.

A short story; in 1941 the baseball series was awesome. A tied game-2 each. People were shouting. A man walked up and strike 1, another one, strike 2. Then he looked at the coach and the pitcher thought about it and threw the ball and the batter thought he hit a homerun he started to run and then when the dust settled we saw the "Your out!". The umpire said we will have a short meeting and then the decision was made the batter is out why? Because he missed first base.

Can you picture this? You get to heaven and Jesus says, you missed first base. You can't enter the kingdom of heaven until you have Jesus Christ in your heart first and foremost. I preached that a long time ago and when I left, the pastor called me and said guess what happened? One of the deacons went to the pastor and said he thought he missed first base 35 years ago. Maybe you are the same, you missed first base, and you still have a chance. Come, Jesus is your savior and He will save you. Would you please stand for the invitation?

You can sit down.... Please stand.

Music playing.... Just as I am. (Singing...Words on Large Overhead Screen) Signed by Michael Cain

Pastor Tim: Amen, thank you for being here today and thank you Pastor for the message. My word is to you church if you have not gone to first base and accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as your savior; seek someone out that can explain. That is what this altar is for, bring your burdens. You may be seated. We don't go over a lot, but a word to my deaf friends.

I am very happy you are here today and if you don't have a church home, we would love for you to come today here! We love the deaf. And the hearing people too. (Laughter) I

am the preacher and I love for us to be together as a family; each one is very important. Please come and be with us, we love you. Alright amen. For those of you that know me you know it is true.

When I came as pastor a few months ago, I shared with you a few visions and one was our need for a youth pastor and pastor for our young people. Brother Curley will come with some exciting news.

Brother Curley: Thank you. The personal committee has been very busy this year, we met and prayed a lot about where God is leading us here. I am excited today to share with you a transition. Many of you know Pastor Donnie Osborne; he is working with our Youth, and he is transitioning here into a different position and that is one that is Minister of Families and Education. We are praying about that and excited about that. You will know more about that later. Pray about that too. That is part of the transition. That means we have something we need to do with the youth too. We have met with a fine young man Seth Stone; he is a recent graduate from Columbia International University in SC and is from Grayson. He has a lot of Ministry experience. His college work also did a number of different things. He majored in music and Biblical studies. If you don't mind Seth, please stand. His girlfriend and soon to be wife is Shelly, so we are excited about that. The church personal committee is trying to move fast and has called Seth on an interim basis to get started I think tomorrow and the church will have a more formal business meeting to discuss a longer tenure. So please welcome them and Pastor Tim come on up here.

Pastor Tim: It has been a prayerful time and I am so excited. I met with Seth a few weeks ago and sometimes you don't know the direction of things so you leave what you need to leave. The exciting thing is Seth and I met at a restaurant and talked for hours. He is extremely talented and his fiancé is looking for a teaching position and is also very talented. She wants to teach anything in music. We are not trying to jump ahead but it is an immediate need and the personal committee has the authority to hire interim. When they are done with the honeymoon and youth camp we will come together at that time. He grew up in a preacher's home. I want for Seth and Shelly to come up here and church family form a circle around and give them a hug or handshake. As I said, the pastor can't do everything and he can't either. He needs your help, so don't just tell him your great ideas, have a solution too. Come with love, graciousness and humility. I know that God will bless.

We welcome you today, Lynn and I will be in the lobby and because of our deep love for Jojo and Debbie will you join us in the lobby too? Church stand together and Nolan will close us.

Nolan Bragg: Father in heaven thank you so much for 25 years. We thank you for giving us the message. We have to get to first base and then second then third to get home. Thank you so much in Jesus name, Amen.