

Tucker Swamp Baptist Church

THE EXPERIENCE

37527 Seacock Chapel Rd., Zuni, VA 23898

March 2009



Senior Pastor
Dr. Rob Edwards

Associate Pastor
Rev. Bill Dawson

Director of Youth
Beverly Bryant

Church Secretary
Kathy Battle

Publications Secretary
Cindy West

Custodian
Faye Johnson

Ministers
The Congregation

Office Phone
757-242-6553 and
757-242-3793

Fax
757-242-9461

E-Mail
mail@tuckerswamp.com

Web Site
tuckerswamp.com

Mark Your Calendars . . .

A Praise and Worship Easter Musical

**LION
OF JUDAH**
**CALVARY'S
LAMB**

Sunday, April 5

10:50 am

7:00 pm

Reception following the 7:00 Presentation.



Warmer

... through fellowship

Deeper

... through discipleship

Stronger

... through worship

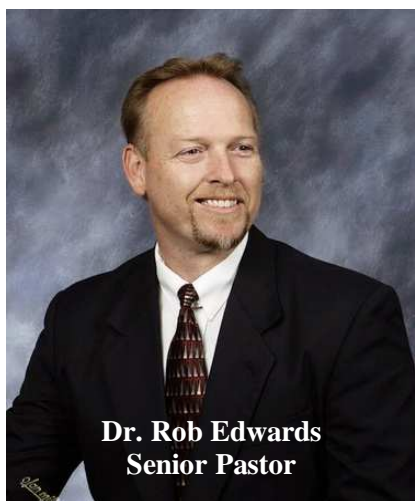
Broader

... through ministry

Larger

... through evangelism

From Pastor Rob



Dr. Rob Edwards
Senior Pastor

At 9:20 p.m. on May 4, 2007 one of the strongest tornadoes on record formed outside of the town of Greensburg, KS. This small town of approximately 2,000 residents had been under a severe weather warning during that day, as strong thunderstorms rolled ashore from the Gulf of Mexico into the central U.S. Even so, the storm that spawned the tornadoes didn't cross into Kansas until about 8 p.m. As it crossed the state, smaller tornadoes started spinning off, until the one large tornado formed outside Greensburg. Within minutes the National Weather Service issued a Tornado emergency, indicating the approach



of a catastrophic storm. By 9:45 p.m. the storm had reached Greensburg, and within minutes, 95% of the town was destroyed.

These events have been chronicled in news stories on major networks, and pictures have been shown of the devastation in this small town. However, as time passes, people seem to forget the need as other things crowd in. Yet, the people Greensburg still live with the catastrophic results wreaked by a storm that lasted only of few minutes. As of today, only a small portion of the town has been rebuilt.



Maybe you're already wondering why I am retelling the story of Greensburg, KS. Maybe you're thinking that you'd like to help, but you're not really sure how to. Well...that's why I am sharing this story with you. Under the leadership of Tommy Hyatt, we are putting together a mission team to go to Greensburg, KS to help with reconstruction. You do not have to have construction experience to go on this trip, but the more vol-

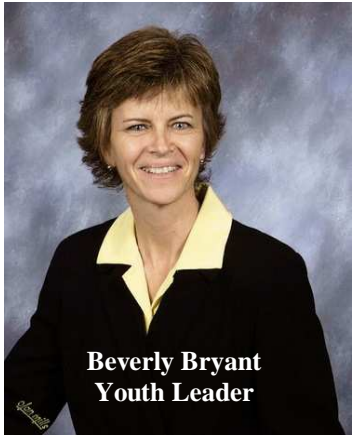
unteers who have experience, the better. The dates for this trip are June 12 through June 21. If you have any interest, please contact the church office or Tommy Hyatt at 242-6482.

For more information on the town of Greensburg, check out the following websites:
www.greensburgks.org
www.scktro.org
www.kansas.com/static/slides/050507tornadoaerials

Tucker Swamp Baptist Church
37527 Seacock Chapel Rd.
Zuni, VA 23898

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 1
Zuni, VA 23898

YOUTH



Beverly Bryant
Youth Leader

Upcoming Opportunities

March
6 & 7 Planet Wisdom Discipleship Conference
11 Bingo at Consulate

April
8 Youth to Consulate

God Is Speaking . . . Are You listening????

You never know what you might learn at a rock concert. Some people say the music is the same as worldly music and you shouldn't listen but if you take time to hear the words God may just be speakin' to you. In the midst of the drums and the guitar playing and the teenagers singing and clapping I heard a still small voice,

*"And I don't wanna look inside myself
'cause then I'll have to change somethin' else."*

All I could think was boy is that true. It's hard to really look inside oneself because we don't want to face what's truly there. Sometimes it's good stuff but like the song says most of the time, if I look with God's eye I can find something that needs changing.

BUT . . .

Wait a minute listen further

*"and I don't want to live, like someone else I'm
happy in my skin, bein' myself."*

Now that is an entirely different message. I should listen again. Then as I sat and listened more I heard the band saying how "they" try to teach us how to dress, how to talk, how to act, how to make money, even how to fake being happy with an artificial smile and that's when God said, "Don't be someone else made by the world's standards, be mine, be happy in me and with who and how I made you." Now that's a lesson I can live with.

*"Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go;
he's the one who will keep you on track."*
Proverbs 3:6 (The Message)

Dates to Remember



March 6-7, 2009
WASHINGTON DC
"Wisdom in Making Good Decisions"

Hylton Memorial Chapel
14640 Potomac Mills Rd
Woodbridge, VA 22192

Cost
\$50
+
3 meals

Tickets need to be purchased—scholarships available if you talk to Beverly
For more information ask Beverly go online to planetwisdom.com

Speaker: Mark Matlock Praise Band: Dutton Drama Team: Skit Guys

This year at PlanetWisdom, Mark will be teaching on using *Wisdom in Making Good Decisions*. PlanetWisdom is designed to engage the whole person - the heart and the head. With the combination of solid biblical teaching from Mark Matlock, powerful worship led by our new worship band Dutton, interactive audience exercises, and thought provoking, funny skits from The Skit Guys, your students will be ministered to on every level, and they won't get bored!

PlanetWisdom is about discipleship. Our goal is to help students move from their spiritual adolescence into a mature faith. We're passionate about empowering students to become thinking, growing, authentic followers of Jesus Christ. And we're committed to supporting youth workers in the local church. Your students will leave with more than an emotional high. They'll leave PlanetWisdom with greater knowledge of the Word, and a deeper understanding of how to apply it to their daily lives.

Help your students become world-changers. Don't let them miss out on this life-changing discipleship experience.

Missions Camp
July 20 - 25 **\$260**

SNOWBIRD MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

****SPACE STILL AVAILABLE****

\$100 nonrefundable deposit will secure you a spot for a week of a lifetime
(scholarship money available, talk to Beverly)

Needed: Chaperones—one adult for every 8 students of the same gender
Crew Leaders (with skills, i.e. carpentry, painting, chain saw/yard work)—one adult for every ten students

Rewards: Amazing worship and learning time, blessings from the joy and satisfaction of knowing you've helped others, closer bonding with your fellow youth members and adult chaperones

FUN, EXCITEMENT, LEARNING & GROWING in JESUS CHRIST!!!!

Will You Help?

While at the new Life Children's Home in Peru for Christmas 2008, I toured the unfinished building which will house a library on the lower floor and an infirmary on the second floor. I felt drawn by the Lord to raise funds to help them get this project finished. I asked them to get me a figure before I left and I promised them I would come home and try to raise the money they need. The following are the figures they gave me in American money:

Steps	\$586.00
Windows	1564.00
Electrical	293.00
Tile for Floor	<u>1906.00</u>
Total	\$4349.00

I am asking that you pray about this project. If you feel compelled to help finish this much needed building for the children at this home, please put the money in the envelopes that will be placed in each adult classroom for the next five weeks. If you write a check, please made it payable to Tucker Swamp Baptist Church and on the comment line write "Peru Library Fund." God will bless even the smallest amount. Thank you in advance for your support. I am so glad to be a part of such a loving church where Christian fellowship abounds.

Joe Hancock

Peru Mission Team Meetings

Sunday, March 8
Sunday, March 29
4:30 pm

Please note: Attendance is mandatory for those going on the June Peru Mission Trip.

Planning for the Summer

TSBC LAWN AND CEMETERY CARE SERVICES

Bids are being sought for Tucker Swamp Baptist Church lawn care and Tucker Swamp Cemetery lawn care contractual agreements. If you are interested, contact Bobby Fowler or Jeff Kelso for information about areas to be contracted and contractual agreements pertaining to each area. Bids must be in by March 18.

Bobby may be contacted at:
18113 Johnson's Mill Rd.
Sedley, VA 23878
Phone: 757-562-2451

Jeff may be contacted at:
38078 Seacock Chapel Rd.
Zuni, VA 23898
Phone: 757-242-9603

Bobby or Jeff may also be contacted through the church office.

Father/Child Wild Game Banquet and *Cooking Contest

Friday, March 13
6:00 pm

*Please bring your cooked wild game dish with you.

NEWS FROM THE WITZEND

Our eight new Bethany college students have officially been in Garissa for a whole week. We are so grateful to have them here with us. Almost all of them brought us diapers and wipes from America which is such a huge blessing. We can buy diapers here but they are expensive and made out of plastic material which is not breathable (or environment friendly) so my kids often develop heat rash on their behinds from all the moisture remaining on their skin. The biggest thanks must go to Laura Stocks family who managed to get a chain saw to Jason. I will be sure to keep everyone posted on all the projects we can be involved with now that Jason has a chainsaw. (He is very excited about this and everyone who comes to visit definitely will be shown the chainsaw to ooh and ahh over it). I must say I am amazed and so proud of these students for adjusting to this new environment/culture. Most are making a 100 degree difference in outside temperature since they are coming from the winter in Minnesota. They all have participated in two Amazing Race challenges. One took place all over Nairobi so that they immediately could get the feel of the crazy matatus (*a minibus or van used to carry passengers*)

The second Amazing Race took place here in Garissa town where all the stops could be a weekly place they would go to. We had all of them try goat stomach at a local restaurant before they could get the next clue. I tried stomach and think it is nasty while Jason somehow enjoys the taste. The night after the race we had a barbecue with all 16 students. We slaughtered our two goats the day before in order to celebrate this occasion. Recently, we had all the students over for Laura's birthday. Everyone played ultimate Frisbee and then just hung out. I heard a few of the girls say how freeing it was to come to our house and wear shorts instead of skirts to be able to play. I know that they will get used to wearing skirts all the time but will always have a sense of freedom when you can wear other things.

Recently, someone left their brand new baby on the side of the road. Billy (one of the students from Bethany College) and Harrison (a graduate of Bethany College) found this baby while walking home. They didn't



Jason, with our eight new Bethany College of Missions students who will serve in Garissa with us for the next semester.

know what to do and were nervous to even pick the baby up so they called Jaco and Jason. Once Jason arrived they got the baby and decided the best thing to do was report her to the police. Jason called me when they were at the police station, and expressed his desire to bring this abandoned baby into our home. I said a quick prayer, but told him now is not the time for us to bring this new baby home while I am still pouring in a lot of time and care to our two daughters, Righteous and Nevaeh.

After all the paper work was finished with the police they took the baby at the local orphanage. Billy named this precious baby girl Shekinah, (the glory of God). We have a really good relationship with the owner of the orphanage, Mama Hani. There are 80 children at Mama Hani's orphanage and she loves each one. There are many handicapped children there because the Islamic belief is that the child is cursed 70 times if they are born handicapped. There is one dormitory at the orphanage that the more violent handicapped are tied to their beds because Mama Hani just doesn't know what to do with them.

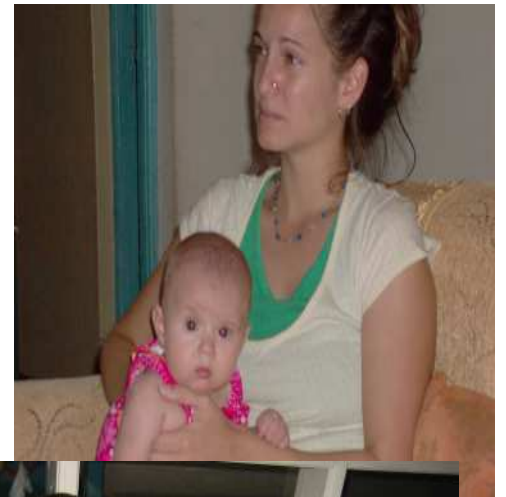
This makes me extremely sad so I have never gone into that room, but the Bethany students have. We put together a Christmas program for the 24th and made a meal to bring for these children as well as buying some gifts for them. If you visit us online, (www.thewittzend.blogspot.com) you will see some pictures of the camel leg we prepared in order to feed the 80 orphan children for Christmas.

God moved in Jaco and Helen's hearts to adopt Shekinah! Now they have two Somali children and they are expecting in February. I admire them so much, and it challenges me to consider if God would have our family adopt someday. Jaco definitely runs up against obstacles when he travels with Musa in town. The Somali's always want to know what he is doing with one of their own. Several times it has caused a bit of a scene but through it all God is faithful and has kept them safe.



I am sad to report the Children's Officer of Garissa came and told Jaco he has to return Shekinah to the orphanage until Musa's adoption is finalized. Even Momma Honi was trying to argue with the officer to go and see Jaco and Helen's home where there is no comparison of how Shekinah's needs would be taken care of. The root of the issue is that the Officer is a Muslim and does not want the baby being raised in a Christian home. Please pray for this situation, Jaco and family are very discouraged right now. There are many babies that pass away in the orphanage simply because there isn't enough milk and staff to meet the tedious need that a small baby needs to survive.

Several of you expressed a desire to visit us here in Africa as part of a mission team from TSBC. We would love to have you join us in God's amazing work (there is so much to do here ... the fields are ripe unto harvest); so please let us know when you will be coming so we can begin to make plans! We love you all so much and pray for you always!



Visit us online at www.thewittzend.blogspot.com



Helen, with their daughter, her adopted Somalian child and baby, Shekinah.

Women of Grace

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy spirit. Romans 15:13

The TSBC Women of Grace Steering Committee is full of the hope of what our God will do in 2009. After our January weekend planning retreat, the Lord has provided many new opportunities for each women of TSBC to become involved in missions projects, fellowship and worshipping Him together. We invite you to join God where he is working in the following ministry ar-



Community Shut-in Gift Baskets

Start Date of Collection: Sunday, March 1
Due Date of Baskets: April 1

We will be putting together baskets to be taken to TSBC members who are shut-ins in our area. We will be collecting tissues, pens, notepads, hand cream, gum/candy, note cards, word searches, chap-stick, devotional books, bookmarks, travel size powder and lotion, dental floss, manicure sets, Germ-X, combs, toothbrushes, toothpaste, nail files and clippers. These items will be assembled in baskets and delivered to our shut-ins as a reminder that they are remembered, prayed for and missed. The start date of collection is Sunday, March 1 and items can be placed in the red collection tubs located throughout the church. Items for these baskets are due by Wednesday, April 1. Also, if you have a family member or friend who is a member of TSBC who is a shut-in, please contact the church office.

Ladies' Day Tea

Saturday, March 7 from 9:30 am until 1:30 pm

* Fellowship * Lots of Classes to Choose from * Games * Silent Auction *
* Lunch and Childcare Provided

Feel free to bring your own favorite tea cup for Tea Time!



It's approaching that time of year, for the much anticipated annual Ladies Day Tea! You and your friends are invited to this year's rendition to be held on Saturday, March 7 from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm. It will be a fun filled day of fellowship, lots of classes to choose from, games, silent auction, etc. Lunch and child care are provided. Feel free to bring your own favorite tea cup for Tea Time!

The classes that will be offered this year are titled: *Common "Sense" in the Kitchen, How to be a Missionary in your Community, Praying Through the Scriptures, Special Encounters with Jesus, and Beadworks: Bracelets*. There will be a \$10.00 fee for the bead class to cover your supplies.

For the silent auction during lunch, please donate your new or gently used items. This is a great place to find a new home for those Christmas gifts you got that just weren't "you." Look for the Women of Grace collection boxes placed throughout the church to place your donated items in. We need volunteers to decorate the tables, so if you would like to decorate a table, please contact Mary Powell at (757) 242-9436.

SBCV Women's Ministries Presents
Following God with all Your Heart
Conference
with Elizabeth George
March 13-14
First Baptist Church of Norfolk

SBCV Prayer and Evangelism Conference

Saturday, March 21

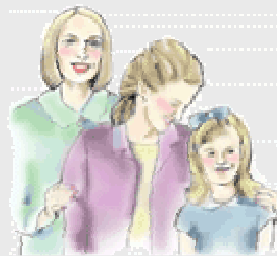
Seaford Baptist Church

A day full of Bible Study, worship and fun! Contact the church office for more information!

Mother Daughter Banquet /Quarterly

Friday, April 24

Be on the lookout for more information on the Mother Daughter Banquet/Quarterly. Plan to be present for an amazing testimony from Linda and Jen Varrick and time spent reflecting on the unique relationship between a mother and daughter.



Check out the WoG Spot Bulletin Boards throughout the church for upcoming events and sign-up sheets.

It is our prayer that God will lead you to become involved in His work around you. There are many upcoming opportunities to grow in your own relationship with the Lord and to show the Lord's love to others. We invite all ladies of TSBC to bring a friend and become involved in TSBC Women of Grace.

We extend our sympathy to . .

Bert West Family upon her recent death.



Forever Young Lunch

Eley Sunday School Class
Will Prepare the Meal

Tuesday,
March 10
10:30 am



PJ is the grandson of TSBC members, Richard and Juanice Ramsey and the son of Parker and Jenna Ramsey. Many of us at Tucker Swamp have been praying for little PJ and his family as they have gone through their journey. God has been so faithful to answer prayers; we thought you might like to see and to hear more about PJ Angel Child.



PJ Ramsey playing in the snow!

My name is PJ Ramsey. I am a very special little boy! I was born on November 20, 2006, which makes me 2 years old now. I was born with two rare chromosomal syndromes, Partial Trisomy 13 and Cri du Chat. I was born at DUKE because my mommy and daddy knew that I had these syndromes before I was born. I spent my first three weeks there and then came home in mid-December 2006. I could not eat by mouth so the DUKE team placed a G-Tube. I also needed oxygen to keep my oxygen sats up because I had stridor, some lung disease, and a VSD and ASD in my heart. In February, the cardiologist told me that I needed to go back to DUKE. I had a very long stay at DUKE this time, four months. I had a VSD/ASD repair, a supraglottoplasty, and an extra digit removed. After my heart surgery, I developed seizures. I went home in June 2007 and got to go to the beach and to the park and had lots of fun. Then in September 2007, I got really sick again and stayed at DUKE for three more months. During this time, I got a trach and went home in November 2007 with a trach and on a vent. I did, however, get to celebrate my 1st birthday at home! My 1st birthday was so special I made it!

You can read more about PJ at: <http://www.carepages.com/carepages/PJAngelChild>

From the Mailbox



Dear TSBC,

Thank you so much for your prayers, love and all your great acts of kindness during our time of recovery from our house fire in May of 2008. We are blessed to have great neighbors and such kind spirits that you have displayed. We can only pray that the Lord will continue to bless you all and your great ministry.

With love,

Rev. Robert, Tammy & Qusha Gay
(Owners of TSBC former parsonage)

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the prayers, visits, calls, cards, and food during the time of Mother's death. It is so good to have a church family that cares.

The Family of Bert West

Giving & Stewardship

Why is giving such a hot button topic for many people? Maybe it's because giving is an acid test in a person's life. You can fake other areas of commitment to Jesus, but you can't fake a real financial commitment to the kingdom of God. There's an old challenge that asks, "What are your real priorities in life?" Let me look at your checkbook for ten minutes and I'll tell you...

Our giving practices often reveal clues about the depth of our response to God's incredible commitment to us. Prompted by his faithfulness, we can move in the direction of becoming the kind of cheerful and grateful givers that delight His heart.

Submitted by John Anderson,
Stewardship Committee Member

TSBC FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

During the six month period August 2008 through January 2009, the food pantry distributions were as follows:

Average members of families served—54

Average number of persons served—286

Average amount of food distributed—4,375 lbs.

This amount to 26,100 pounds of food for the six month period (over 13 tons).

The food pantry distributor staff is all volunteers, about 17 in number on any given distribution day. The ordering process is a daily occurrence.

We wish to thank all of you who generously donate of your time, resources and food on a continuing basis.

Jimmy Bryant

Food Distribution
Saturday, March 21
9:00 am

Workers arrive no later than 8:30.
If you would like to help with this ministry, contact Margaret Rhodes (242-9334).



TSBC Disaster Relief

KENTUCKY ICE STORM

Tucker Swamp anchored a Disaster Relief Team of several SBCV church volunteers that responded to a chainsaw Callout for the Midwest Ice Storm in early February. Departing on the 3rd and returning on the 10th, the team ministered in the Paducah, Kentucky area. Concentrating on the elderly and handicapped, physical needs were met through the removal of storm debris while many lives were touched and the gospel faithfully and pointedly presented to families in northwestern Kentucky. Please pray that these fertile seeds may grow and yield a kingdom harvest.

TSBC Team Statistics – Kentucky Ice Storm

Days – 8, # Team Members – 8, # Jobs – 13, # Manhours - 235 ½, # Assessments – 39,
General Contacts – 32, # Presentations of Gospel - 12

FINAL DISASTER RELIEF TRAININGS FOR 2009

For new volunteers, training will be scheduled Friday evening, 6:30-9:00 pm and Saturday, 8:00 am-4:00 pm. Cost is \$30.00 and includes hat, shirt, ID credentialing, and lunch. For those re-certifying, training will be scheduled on Saturday, from 10:00 am-4:00 pm. Cost is \$20.00 and includes ID credentialing and lunch.

Questions? Contact Mark Gauthier at disasterrelief@sbcv.org

February 27-28 - Central-East Ministry Area - Swift Creek BC, Midlothian

April 17-18 - Midwestern Ministry Area - Boones Mill BC, Boones Mill

April 17-18 - Northern Ministry Area - Crossroads BC, Leesburg

May 15-16 - Central-West Ministry Area - Forest BC, Forest

May 29-30 - Southwestern Ministry Area - Pioneer BC, Max Meadows

ANNUAL DISASTER RELIEF ROUND UP AND MISSIONS CONFERENCE

The 2009 ROUND UP AND MISSIONS CONFERENCE will be held April 3-4, 2009 at Thomas Road Baptist Church, Lynchburg, VA.

SCHEDULE

Friday: 7-9:00 pm—Reception

Saturday: 9:00 am—Registration

10:00 am—Worship/Praise

11:30am-12:30 pm—Lunch (Chick-fil-A boxed lunch)

12:30-4:00 pm—Breakout Sessions

Breakouts include the following: *First Aid/CPR (3-4 hours), Advanced Food Safety, Fork Lift Training, Towing, General Safety and Protection, and others.*

The simultaneous MISSIONS CONFERENCE will include displays and breakout sessions for the following mission opportunities available in Virginia and beyond: *Families on Mission, Baptist Builders, Disaster Relief, Dakotas, Africa, Rio de la Plata, Appalachian Region Ministry, and Hands on Mission Projects.*

Cost is \$10 which includes materials and lunch. The cost also includes the Round-Up or the Missions Conference or a combination of both. **Special Speaker:** David Wheeler, Associate Professor of Evangelism, Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary

For more information on Disaster Relief contact, Max Porter at 653-8152, max.porter@yahoo.com or Bill Battle at 647-8376.

PUTTING FEET
TO YOUR PRAYERS

Saturday, March 21

AT
SEAFORD BAPTIST CHURCH
1311 SEAFORD RD
SEAFORD, VA 23696

We are each called to be witnesses to the world around us. Our efforts are fruitless if not first and continually bathed in prayer. The year 2009 is all about the impact prayer can have on pushing back the darkness. Make plans to participate in the Prayer Evangelism Conference being planned for your area.

Call the church office to sign up to attend this conference.

SPEAKERS

Larry Grays

Larry Grays is serving as senior pastor of the Midtown Bridge church in Atlanta, GA, which launched in 2007. God has given Larry the opportunity to preach in pulpits all over the country and at numerous crusades.

Jonathan Falwell

Jonathan Falwell is the senior pastor of Thomas Road Baptist Church and the executive vice president of Spiritual Affairs at Liberty University, both in Lynchburg, VA.

Eddie Rhodes

Eddie Rhodes is the campus pastor and preaching professor at Tennessee Temple University. He is also an evangelist who partners with local churches to reach the lost and equip and encourage the saints to reach their God-given potential.

