

NEWS AND VIEWS
MOUNT OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH

3500 Edwards Mill Road, Raleigh, North Carolina 27612-5362

Phone... (919) 787-1910

E-mail: office@mobic.org

Web Page: www.mobic.org

*“Southern Baptists with the Full
Gospel for the Whole World”*

SAM GORE, Senior Pastor
EDITH JACKSON, Prayer Coordinator

NANCY MCBRAYER, Office Manager
MIKE KING, Maintenance Supervisor

VOLUME 37

August 2015

NUMBER 8

How can we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land? (Psalm 137:4)

What a fascinating and provocative question for God's people to be asking. The context of the passage is believed to be during the Babylonian captivity. If we hold to that view, and I see nothing wrong with that interpretation, it may tempt some people to think that we can't possibly have the capacity to understand what it's like to live under foreign domination. We can't possibly have an idea of what it must have been like to be mocked and ridiculed by captors who taunted them about their worship experience. Some might say we have nothing to compare this experience with in our culture. After all, we can still freely worship and sing the Lord's song can't we? Well...can we?

I grew up living in the Land of the Free. But today that means something different from what I thought it was. Today we share lives with many who think living in the Land of the Free means we are free to live our lives any way we would like. Free from any and, possibly soon, all restraint. That perception, my friends, is not the freedom that lends itself to worship of the Living God. But this kind of pseudo freedom, or faux freedom, the one that has no responsibility connected to it, does incite the worship of any, or many, gods. You see, humanity is responsible for itself before God.

Depravity, debauchery, licentiousness, greed, covetousness, corruption, and delusion are but a few conditions of a culture that has cast off the cords of God. Breaking free from traditional and historical boundaries, we have become a culture where nothing means everything. Like a ship afloat on a sea without a sail. No one seeks to pursue their destiny anymore and the plague of purposelessness seems to be the norm. We languish in a land that has lost its blessing.

Therefore, I submit to you that as we consider the Psalmist's question we can truly identify with the sentiment. We have been carried off into captivity and didn't have to leave home to get there. Our home left us. We are now living as islands of godliness in a sea change of shifting cultural conditions as the floating mass of humanity shoots through the rapids and heads over the falls. So once again we entertain and reflect upon the question, *How can we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?*

Indeed the land has become foreign to us in so many ways. Our heritage as a people is overrun with deception, lies, and indifference to the degree that we no longer know who we are. Maybe because we don't remember who we were. The beauty of knowing the Lord is that He always seems to remind us of our destiny as well as our point of beginning. So *how can we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?*

We can sing the Lord's song as a people who have received a perspective of who we are. We believe the Lord will see to it that we will be brought out from this strange place and into our final destination. Perhaps this is why I love those homecoming songs so much.

By the time you read this letter, our youth mission team will have returned home from their first mission trip to Manassas, Virginia. They have so much to share with us about learning what it really means to be on mission with Jesus, anywhere we are. We have scheduled a day for this mission report to be heard in the worship service on August 30th, the last Sunday of the month. Come and share with us as we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land. Manassas is where battles were fought. And here's the revelation...the Lord won and He's still winning!

Blessings to you,
Pastor Sam