

NEWS AND VIEWS
MOUNT OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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Give Me a drink. Multitudes of people will communicate this message today. And many more will do so this year during what we have come to know as the holiday season. If you have ever heard part of my testimony, you can know that this message used to be on my mind, in my heart, and upon my lips day after dreary day. Then I heard the Lord clearly say to me as surely as He said to the Samaritan woman, *Give Me a drink.* I heard hope in the Word of God as I moved away from my bondage as a drunkard to becoming a disciple of Jesus. God always calls us from something to something. Oh, how sweet the journey has been from ruin to revelation! The Lord has revealed His plan for me and is in the process of revealing it to the church. I want to be a part of that as the world seems to be coming apart. How about you?

Entering into my ninth year serving the Lord and the congregation of Mount Olivet, I am more excited at what the cultural sea change is producing. There are many thirsty people who have been disappointed at what the things of this world can offer. It is getting harder and harder for people to remain hidden among the multitudes, pretending to be satisfied with what has become known as life. The changes this year has brought a new normal into our lives with the so-called cultural issues of same-sex marriage and selling body parts of the victims of late term abortions. Where will the voice of hope continue to be heard if not in the life of the church?

I have begun to hear the heart cry of thirsty people even in their silent desperation. Some folks are awakening to the reality of being lost in a land that has lost its blessing. All that they have placed their trust in is falling away, decaying like so many faulty foundations. They are finding that they can still depend on the Word of God to define clearly the way of blessed living. Some people are returning to be encouraged by the life of the church after being wounded by some in the church so many years ago. They are believing that the Lord has a better drink of water than the bitter drink they have been consuming. The Lord is moving people around. And He is stirring the hearts of the faithful who have clung to Christ for so long. In a world where everything seems to be falling apart quickly, some have said it is just the world falling into place for the Almighty God to reveal Himself fully. I believe the Lord still desires that the church at Mount Olivet is to become a well from which the thirsty can drink a different kind of water.

The Living Water that Jesus offers comes through the life of the church living out His word and serving Him. Remember, He first asked the woman to *Give Me a drink.* John 4 records the Eternal Word sitting on the side of an earthly well named after a flawed and faulty man...Jacob's Well. Can you believe that the Lord can use our all too human congregation to be a part of His plan for giving Living Water to the world perishing for a drink? Can you be a part of the mission of disciple making? I believe you can.

There are two ways that you can partner with the church in its mission today. *Praying and paying.* You are invited to an all-night prayer service from 6 pm on New Year's Eve to 6 am New Year's Day. You can come and go or stay all night seeking the Lord's heart and will for the days ahead. The prayer ministry at Mount Olivet is one of the most visible ways that we can see the Lord manifest His presence and power. Our people are constantly learning what God can do through the prayers of His people and the power of His promises. Prayer truly defines our relationship with the Lord. Are you talking with God?

The second way is to invest some financial resources into a worshipful giving opportunity to and through this church. If you know me well you will know I don't make that appeal often. My purpose in doing so is that the Lord desires to set some people free from financial bondage, which can be a powerful stronghold to some of the Lord's people. Bondage to money, mammon, or wealth can be as disabling and destructive as a bondage to alcohol, drugs, sex, or power. All sinful bondage is spiritual bondage.

As this year comes to a close we are faced with many financial challenges to make improvements to or repair the physical plant, or the *well house*, one might say. We need to maintain the well house. Help us dig again the well of God's grace that used to flow so freely at Mount Olivet. You can be a part of being a blessing by blessing the Lord through your giving. Sometimes we have not because we ask not. What are you asking the Lord for this day? To give you a drink? Or how to give Him a drink? His Life for LIFE?

Praying and paying is our challenge. Step up as we step closer to the Lord this year...Just a closer walk...

Blessings to you,
Pastor Sam