

MT. OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH, 3500 Edwards Mill Road, Raleigh, NC 27612
NEWS & EVENTS – JUNE 2021

Phone...(919) 787-1910
E-mail: office@mobc.org
Web Page: www.mobc.org

SAM GORE, Senior Pastor
NANCY MCBRAYER, Office Manager
MIKE KING, Maintenance Supervisor

Remembering the memories... that is how I began to spend the last day of May, which always comes before the first day of June, according to our calendars. I sat outside on the deck watching the sun rise in the east, with gleams of light streaming through the trees in the woods behind the house. The early morning breeze was gently blowing and the bird kingdom was showing signs of life. I began to watch the different kinds of birds as they flitted about, not staying in one place for very long. I realized that life is like that. No matter how much we are resistant to change, we really don't stay in one place for very long. So I was recalling the times of great change which have impacted my life and how many of those times have been time stamped in my memory during the month of May, especially the latter part.

The promise of the coming summer season is preceded by the moving out of May. It occurred to me that the latter days of May have ushered in a season of great anticipation about what is coming. For instance, our neighbors across the street have a bush behind their mailbox that has little tiny flowers that attract honeybees and remind me of days long ago. When I was a boy in the first grade I smelled them...I don't know what this green bush is called with the sweet smelling flowers but it triggers a memory worth remembering. We didn't have air conditioning in those days and the large windows were open at this time of year. Whenever I smell that fragrance wafting across the driveway as I go to work in the morning I think this thought...it's almost time to get out of school. I call that bush the get out of school bush. Graduation time is like that. When we are moving into a new place of life where many are anticipating a new reality.

I didn't have much time to reflect on what was coming when I graduated high school. A few days later I entered into a totally different lifestyle to which I was accustomed. Riding a bus to Raleigh, I began to fulfill a commitment to military service. And the experience of living under the authority of the U.S. Air Force was more than a little disconcerting for a small town boy from South Carolina. I remember leaving RDU airport aboard a plane to Texas looking out the window and thinking to myself it would be the last time I'd spend any time in Raleigh. Like a bird that doesn't stay very long in one place I remembered the fallacy of that kind of thinking. Who would have thought that the Lord had a different plan from the plan that I had planned? The point I'm making is that I didn't really have much of a plan...kind of like a bird flitting about. Landing here. Landing there. Remembering the memories.

While I was sitting there drinking my coffee on the last day of May, I realized the memories of our lives are like dismembered parts of our experience. The painful parts are the ones we like to forget but we don't. Sometimes they are ignored, often at our peril. We may anticipate the hopeful part of change that comes into our lives. But the painful parts, the ones that surprise us, we would rather forget the experience or pretend that it didn't hurt so much. Consider two men confronted with change as their life is rapidly slipping away, quite painfully, I might add. These two men were being crucified, and Jesus was in the middle. One of them rejected the Lord when he needed Him the most. But the other man had this to say...

*"Jesus, **remember** me when You come in Your kingdom!" (Luke 23:42)*

All of this man's life came down to one moment when his life was coming apart. He cried out to the One who could put the dismembered parts of this man's life together. *Remember me...*

Jesus, the Living Word of God, when dying on the Cross, spoke words of Life to a man in the midst of death. The God Man in the Middle of it all made this declaration that changed everything to this man in transition.

*43 And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, **today** you shall be with Me in Paradise." (Luke 23:43)*

I am a man in transition. A continuous May to June transition from this world to God's Kingdom. And so are you. At times when we are remembering the memories, putting the pieces of our dismembered parts of our life experience together, we might not remember them rightly. Sometimes that's on purpose. Here's one thing to get right. Make sure we remember to remind the Lord Jesus...Remember me. Make sure we remind ourselves...remember the Lord Jesus...we cannot truly live without Him. Pray with me. Lord, put me back together. In these latter days. All the broken pieces. All the missing parts. Forever.

Blessings to you,
Pastor Sam