



# The Lifeline

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GULF SHORES

April 2009

USA Today carried a report on March 9 that was stunning. Last year, the Institute for the Study of Secularization in Society updated the largest comprehensive study of how people identify their spiritual affinities. They created the American Religious Identification Survey back in 1990, and updated it last year. Here's what they found:

- ◆ **15% of Americans answered "None" when asked about their religious identity, up from 8% in 1990.** That means about 46 million of us make no claim of any kind of spiritual association. Barry Kosman, the co-researcher behind the survey, brought home the significance of this finding: "These people aren't secularized. They're not thinking about religion and rejecting it; *they're not thinking about it at all.* More than ever before, people are just making up their own stories of who they are. They say, 'I'm everything. I'm nothing. I believe in myself.' Religion has become like a fashion statement, not a deep personal commitment for many." **Of this group:**
- ◆ **40% say they had no childhood religious experiences at home.**
- ◆ **55% of those who are married had no religious ceremony.**
- ◆ **66% said they didn't expect to have a religious funeral.**

To bring this home to us, the report found that this category of Americans who claim no religion at all now outranks every other major U.S. religious group except Catholics and Baptists. **What does that mean for us?** Certainly several foreboding realities emerge. The Gospel of a Holy God who hates sin and sent His Son to the cross for us is sliding into the background faster than anyone could have predicted. The notion of a Christian nation is rapidly evaporating before our eyes. And those who stand on biblical values and God-shaped morality can expect to be increasingly marginalized and attacked.

But there is also hope in these numbers. Making people Christians is a work of the Spirit in the human heart, and that flies under the radar of national surveys. What is more, in the increasing darkness, the brilliant light of Christ can shine even more brightly! So children of God, let us sing and mean, "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!"

Standing with you, **Bro. Lloyd**



April 9, 2009  
6:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday - also called Holy Thursday is the feast or holy day on the Thursday before Easter that commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles. On this day, Christians remember the Last Supper. During the meal Jesus took bread and wine and shared them with his disciples. The night of Maundy Thursday is the night on which Jesus was betrayed by Judas in the Garden of Gethsemane. The name 'Maundy' is derived from the command or man datum by Christ at the Last Supper, to love



## April Events

- ▶ April 3-4 - Women's 'Loving Well' Retreat
- ▶ April 5 - Grand Rapids, MI Day
- ▶ April 7, 14, 21, 28 - Men's Lunchbox Bible Study - NOON Outreach/Visitation - 6:00 p.m.
- ▶ April 8 - NO PM ACTIVITIES/NO SUPPER
- ▶ April 9 - Maundy Thursday Service - 6:30 p.m.
- ▶ April 10 - CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
- ▶ April 11 - Easter Egg Hunt - 9:30 a.m.
- ▶ April 12 - Easter Sunday
- ▶ April 15 - Finance Committee Mtg - 4:00 p.m.
- ▶ April 18 - Brotherhood Breakfast - 8:30 a.m.
- ▶ April 22 - Business Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
- ▶ April 26 - Deacons Meeting - 4:30 p.m.
- ▶ April 29 - We Care Ministries Meeting - 4:30 p.m.

## FBC Children's Ministry

### Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> @  
9:30 a.m.



Bring a basket  
and  
let the magic begin!



## NATIONAL TURN OFF THE TV WEEK

April 20 thru 26, 2009

[www.tvturnoff.org](http://www.tvturnoff.org)

### FBC WEEKLY ON SUNDAYS

8:45 A.M. & 10:15 A.M.	Worship Service
8:45 A.M. & 10:15 A.M.	Bible Study for All Ages
4:45 P.M.	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
4:45 P.M.	Youth Choir Rehearsal
5:15 P.M.	AWANA
5:30 P.M.	Youth Ministry Activities
5:30 P.M.	Worship Service
6:00 P.M.	Brazilian Ministry Worship Service

### FBC WEEKLY ON WEDNESDAYS

4:45 P.M.	Wednesday Family Night Supper
5:30 P.M.	Youth Leaders Meeting (Youth Office)
6:00 P.M.	Intercessory Prayer and Bible Study
6:00 P.M.	Brazilian Ministry Bible Study
6:00 P.M.	Music and Missions
6:00 P.M.	Jr. and Sr. High BREAKPOINT
6:45 P.M.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal