

Sheryl Milliken

From: on behalf of Office

To: The Branch

Subject: 11.05.08

From the Pastor.....

Church Family,

We had a very interesting reading today from Jeremiah 43 that gives some insight into our country today. In Jeremiah 42, Johanan and company come to Jeremiah and ask for a word from God for direction in their lives. They greatly feared the Babylonian army and wanted desperately to flee to safety in Egypt. Jeremiah gives them the word from God to stay in the land of Judah and not fear the king of Babylon. In chapter 43, Johanan responds like everyone does when they get a word from God they don't like, "YOU LIAR!" (?!?!?!?) (Isn't it good to be a messenger of the Lord? ☺) Now, it is easy to look at Johanan and think he is just dumb for not following the word of the Lord. However, if we can put ourselves in his place, we should be able to understand his reaction (and maybe find a bit of ourselves). He believed his life was at stake. He witnessed the carnage the Babylonians left the first few times through. And he was scared. The last thing he wanted to do was stay in Jerusalem. Therefore, his circumstances created a situation where he thought he knew what was best for himself and his fellow countrymen. "It is time to go to Egypt. And no one – not even a known prophet of God can tell us otherwise."

It is easy to allow our perception of our circumstances to distract us from what God is doing. Pecan Grove, we have GREAT comfort and strength knowing that nothing that happens on earth can ever challenge what God is doing. The challenge to each of us is to continually offer our desires and opinions on the altar of sacrifice. "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." We are blessed **because** we know God is working. He is always on His throne.

Father, keep us today from being Johanan.

Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice – **we serve an AWESOME God!**

Pastor Jim

Men's Ministry.....

Monthly Men's Breakfast is this Saturday from 8:00-10:00. We eat from 8:00-9:00 and do a work day from 9:00-10:00.

Women's Ministry.....

Women's coffee November 8 at 9:00. Topic will be Living the Spiritual Disciplines.

Worship Ministry.....

The holidays are getting so close and Christmas is just around the corner. The choir/praise team will be working on Christmas music for the next 6 weeks as we prepare for a great time together on Sunday evening, December 7. We'll have more information about that exciting evening later but the preparations are going on right now and we want to invite you to join us. Even if you can't make a year-long commitment, come join us for Christmas.

Tonight and every Wednesday night we will meet in the choir room upstairs. We'll all have a great time together! For more info or with any questions, please call Pastor Randy.

Youth Ministry.....

Checkpoint tonight @ 6:15, in the chapel. We will be starting 1 Peter chapter 2 so if you want to read v. 1-8 you will be ready for tonight. In addition, it is an Anchor week for the 6th grade so invite your friends and go wild.