

MID-SOUTH GREAT BANQUET NEWS

GOT BANQUET? MUNFORD PRES FINALLY GETS IT!

By Elizabeth Garrett

When Fred and Anita Feuring first attended the Great Banquet more than ten years ago, no one from the Munford Presbyterian Church had ever been. The banquet seemed like a “good thing” for the Feurings, as their family was struggling with a challenging teen at the time. They both seemed to be uplifted by the experience, but it wasn't until a number of years later that others from our congregation began responding to the invitation.

Our church has historically been known in the banquet community for the “Got Jesus?” billboard we used to have on Highway 51. I guess you could say we had Jesus, just not the Great Banquet! A “defining moment” occurred when Pastor Mike Gibson could not attend an out-of-town seminar, which usually brought him great spiritual renewal. Not only was he at a spiritual “dry spot,” but budget constraints would simply not permit an out-of-town conference. Thankfully, several people were relentless in inviting him, and it was finally God's timing for him to go. After his experience, he began talking with me and my husband, Phillip, about going. Almost immediately, I responded with, “I've been praying about it, and God has told me Phillip needs to go, but it's not time for me yet.”

To this day, I cannot recall anything in particular that made me change my mind. In contrast, I cannot forget how the banquet marked the beginning of major life changes, which greatly challenged and strengthened my faith, giving me courage to remain steadfast in Him. Even in my current leadership roles at our church, I can see the banquet's influence on how I approach situations and respond to different individuals. It has greatly impacted Phillip in the way he makes decisions, his passion for

God's work, and in the ministries in which he chooses to be involved.

After we attended the banquet in the Fall 2008, eight others from our church have gone and five more are attending this spring. Has the Great Banquet REALLY impacted our church, which has more than a hundred members? Only thirteen have gone. Yet out of this group, one person has been baptized since going and two families have joined the church. These thirteen represent three elders, six deacons and ministry leaders to shut-ins, children, music, and men, as well as the nursery and Sunday School directors. One of these Great Banquet community members leads a Financial Peace ministry that has impacted hundreds, and two others are beginning a ministry for bike and car enthusiasts.

Combined, these ministries represent major outreach for the Munford community. Since the beginning of this year, our church has averaged more than fifty visitors each Sunday. It was imperative that strong programs and people be in place to lead these areas of ministry. For example, we went from having fewer than five to twenty-five in our children's church program in just a few weeks. Of course, none of us planned this. Only God could have known what was going to happen and who needed to be strengthened for each task.

Nine Great Banquet weekends =

- One soul saved
- Two families join church
- Two community outreach programs started
- Six ministries strengthened
- At least nine families changed for the better
- Ten church leaders strengthened
- God's timing and potential impact on entire community... *priceless*.

REFLECTION FROM ROY

In the old days, when the London underground railway issued tickets bearing the names of the various stations it served, there was one route that had a quite unintentional significance. The ticket bore the words “King’s Cross to Mansion House.” It entitled the passenger to board the train at the King’s Cross station and to get off at the Mansion House station. It became a collector’s item—a ticket from King’s Cross to Mansion House. Of course, one could also buy a ticket to go other way—Mansion House to King’s Cross. For long, long ago, and far, far away, just such a journey was planned. Then the time came. The Lord Jesus came from the mansions of glory to a cross on Calvary’s hill—the King’s cross, we may well call it now.

In verses Philippians 2:5-8, we find the **LADDER OF GRACE**. Then in verses 9-11, we find the **LADDER OF GLORY**. The first four verses are a downward movement, as grace is God reaching down to us, and the last three are an upward movement.

Keep in mind this passage in Philippians as you go back to the last supper Jesus had with his disciples in John 13. Think of this as a picture of Jesus at the eternal banquet.

- He gets up - he has something to do.
- He lays aside his garments - that's Jesus putting off his divine prerogatives and the outward manifestation of his glory.
- He took a towel and girded himself - that's Jesus wrapping himself in humanity.
- He poured water in the basin - that's Jesus giving his blood to cleanse the filth of our sin.
- He took off the towel - in such perfect identity was his humanity with our need and our sin that he contacted the depth of our defilement with his humanity and absorbed it unto himself.
- He finished washing their feet - that's Jesus saying, "it is finished."
- He put on his clothes - that's Jesus ascending back to heaven in all his glory.
- He returned to his place - that's Jesus at the right hand of the Father with his work all done. All that is left now is for it to be applied.
- Then Jesus asked, "DO YOU KNOW WHAT I HAVE DONE FOR YOU?"

He made that trip from Mansion House to King’s Cross and back to Mansion House. Hallelujah, what a Savior!

REMEMBER THE GREAT BANQUET

We would like to suggest for everyone to consider the Great Banquet as a choice for giving to the Lord’s work.

As the cost of everything else keeps going up, so do the expenses of the Banquet. Please consider the Great Banquet as a part of your regular giving or possibly in memory of a loved one in lieu of flowers or simply to honor someone by making a donation in their name. Contributions are tax deductible. To make a donation, take advantage of our web site (to the right ➡) for online giving or please make your check payable to “The Great Banquet” and drop it in the mail to:

Mid-South Great Banquet
P.O. Box 343357
Bartlett, TN 38184

Dear Generous Donor,

On behalf of the entire Mid South Great Banquet Community, the Board of Directors would like to thank you for your generous donation to the trailer fund which resulted in the purchase of the trailer pictured below. This will enable us to store all the materials for the weekends and bring it to each location for easy set up and take down. What a blessing that will be! In addition, because we'll be able to park the trailer at Faith Presbyterian Church free of charge, we'll save the monthly storage fee we have been paying for our storage room.

It is because of the contributions of faithful supporters like yourself that the Great Banquet continues to be able to bless so many people's lives. May God bless you, even as you have been a blessing!



All the best ,

Mid South Great Banquet Board of Directors

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. " 2 Cor. 9:6-8

Visit our web site at www.midsouthgb.com

The **Prayer Chart** tab will allow you to sign up for the 72 hour prayer vigil for the men and the women's weekend. Look for Mid-South Great Banquet Men's #54 and Women's #55. The **Forms** tab will allow you to print a form or register a guest online.

It will also allow you to print a form or fill out a sponsor form online.

The **Donate** tab at the bottom of the page will allow you to pay weekend fees or make donations. **NEW:** We now accept PayPal as well as all major credit cards.

COOL STUFF

We are planning some cool stuff involving reunion groups. But we don't want to start without YOURS. If you don't see the name of your group below, get in touch, so we can add you to the fun.

Email The NAME of your group, the names of MEMBERS, and where and when you MEET.

Send this, ASAP, to
glorywhspr@bigriver.net

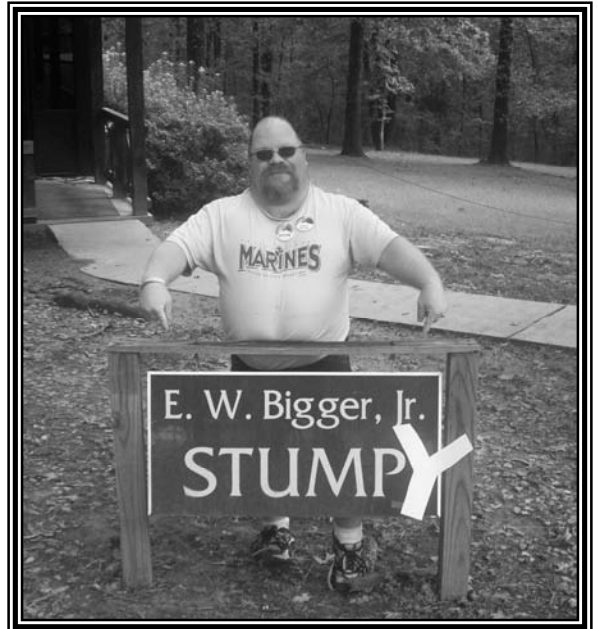
These are the already located Reunion Groups

Brownsville
Busy Believers
Circle of Friends
Cornbread
Mocha Chics
Soul Sisters
Square Pegs
The Serenity Sisters
Butterbean Queens
The Quilt Pieces
The Yummy Chics
Twisted Sisters in Christ

WHAT HAS THIS WEEKEND MEANT TO YOU, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT!

I went into The Great Banquet (#52), In the fall of 2009 not knowing what to expect. I admit I was scared of what I might find, But through The Banquet, I found a key missing part of my life, a Passionate, Forgiving, and Loving Lord, JESUS CHRIST. This was the very thing I needed to get my life back on track. Having been through the Banquet, I know that this truly has been a turning point in my life. I am very grateful to my brother and his wife (my best friend) for not giving up on me I love you both.

Decolores,
William (Stumpy) Akridge



NATIONAL GREAT BANQUET AND AWAKENING CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 16-18, 2010

You are invited to the 20th Year Celebration of the Great Banquet! The National Conference will be in Decatur, IL at Jack Pitzer's church (the author of the Great Banquet and Awakening). It starts Thursday night at 7:30pm and continues until Saturday night at 9:30pm. You are welcome to stay and join us for regular Sunday morning worship too.

This national gathering is an opportunity of a lifetime to get together with other communities, blend ideas and strengthen our lights to a blazing fire! Don't miss out on this exciting event! There will be Key Note speakers, workshops and amazing worship to build everyone up.

Early Discount Registration ends May 31st, so register now to receive your discount! Go to www.lampstand.net to read all about it and register today.

I hope to see you at the Conference in September!

Smile - Jesus Loves You Bunches! ☺
Jessica McLaughlin
Lampstand Communications Director
Jessica@lampstand.net

SUPPORT MID-SOUTH GREAT BANQUET TEAMS #54 & #55

If someone is interested in providing agape, snacks, candy or beverages, there are several drop-off points:

- Advent Arlington (Wade Bunker, contact person)
- Advent Cordova (Rick Thompson, contact person)
- Faith Cumberland Presbyterian (Stumpy Akridge, contact person)
- Munford Presbyterian (Elizabeth and Phillip Garrett, contacts)
- First Presbyterian Church, Brownsville (Dale and Roscoe Green, contacts)
- First Presbyterian Church, Covington (Ron Nociti, contact)
- Grace Presbyterian (Michelle Miles and Debbie Metoyer, contacts)
- Holly Grove Cumberland Presbyterian (Glory and Bill Hamilton, contacts).

Items for the men's weekend need to be dropped off by Wednesday, April 21. The men's weekend will be: Thursday, April 22 - Sunday, April 25. Items for the women's weekend need to be dropped off by Wednesday, April 28. The women's weekend will be: Thursday, April 29 through Sunday, May 2.

WEEKEND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Who should attend the Community-Involved Services during the weekends?

We have a lot of new people in our community, and this is something that we often forget to emphasize. Here are a few simple guidelines to follow, but the main thing to remember is that everything we do is for our guests and their well-being.

- You must have attended a Great Banquet or comparable weekend (Walk to Emmaus, Awakening, Faith Walk, etc.).
- Children should not be brought to any of the events, including send-off, candle-light, and closing. This is for logistical reasons, as well as being sensitive to our guests. Imagine how hard it is for a mother missing her children to observe other people's children present during her weekend. Additionally, child care is not provided for any of the events during the weekend.
- The only people allowed in the conference room are team members and guests. For those that come to pray in a speaker, we try our best to have talks transmitted for you to listen outside of the conference room, however this is not a guarantee. The talks are given for our guests, and while we all want to hear the talks of our friends and family members, having an "outsider" enter the conference room is a distraction.

Visit our webs site at www.midsouthgb.com

Contact your Board of Directors at
BoardofDirectors@midsouthgb.com

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**If you are not receiving emails please
send your information to:**

BoardofDirectors@midsouthgb.com

The Board of Directors extends
a special thanks to:

Our Editor: Karen Wilson Hicks

GREAT BANQUET & AWAKENING CALENDAR

MEN'S MID-SOUTH GREAT BANQUET #54

Lay Director: Ken Carlton

April 22nd	Send Off	7:00 PM	Rose of Sharon
April 24th	Serenade	7:05 PM	(Arrive at 6:15 PM Chapel)
April 24th	Candlelight	7:30 PM	Chapel on Campgrounds
April 25th	Closing	3:30 PM	Rose of Sharon

WOMEN'S MID-SOUTH GREAT BANQUET #55

Lay Director: Margie Gray

April 29th	Send Off	7:00 PM	Rose of Sharon
May 1st	Serenade	7:05 PM	(Arrive at 6:15 PM Chapel)
May 1st	Candlelight	7:30 PM	Chapel on Campgrounds
May 2nd	Closing	3:30 PM	Rose of Sharon

4th Day Meeting for MSGB #54 and #55

May 8th **5:00 PM** **Faith Cumberland Presbyterian**

MEN'S MID-SOUTH GREAT BANQUET #56

September 16 – 19, 2010 — Pinecrest

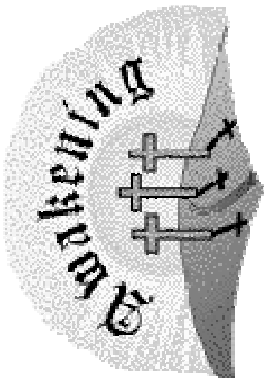
WOMEN'S MID-SOUTH GREAT BANQUET #57

September 23 – 26, 2010 — Pinecrest

There are five things that you cannot recover in life:

- (1) The Stone.....after it's thrown,
- (2) The Word.....after it's said,
- (3) The Occasion....after it's missed,
- (4) The Time.....after it's gone, and
- (5) A person.....after they die

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P. O. Box 343357
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