



A Publication of Gospel Baptist Church

Volume 4, Issue 3

March 2009

From Pastor Bill . . .

Bright Lights was first introduced to me by the Gillaspies about a year or so ago. **They wanted to see a ministry for the pre-teen and early-teen girls that would be a source of preventive maintenance in the area of morality and civility as a Christian. Why not?**

"I loved the idea because I love to pre-empt the Devil when and wherever I can."

For too long we have been *reactive* about problems that teens run into, only "fixing" what happens, rather than *bolstering* them for what *may happen*. **If you have a daughter or granddaughter coming of age, please consider having her involved in this great group of people.**

I realize that no matter what the training is, people eventually have to individually choose for themselves, but why not give them *both sides* of the story before that choice comes upon them? We are not robots who obey our environments. I believe Genesis 1-3 taught us that, but our environments *do* influence us and give us options in our decision making and **God also commands us to give our children the best He has for them in their early years.**

(Jer 10:2) "Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them."

(Prov 19:27) "Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge."

God richly bless the Bright Lights ministry.

Passionate for Purity, Bill Lytell, Senior Pastor

What's Happening

"If you were not here for these days, then I must tell you that you missed something miraculous. "

Isn't He Wonderful has been a little chorus I have been singing since the conclusion of our Revival meetings with Evangelist Tom Farrell. **It has been wonderful to know that the Gospel is still as powerful as it was in the first century for Peter and Paul.** We prayed, fasted, called and prepared for these meetings, but only God could do what took place from Sunday through Friday.

We are thrilled to report that 29 people trusted Christ as their personal Savior. Every service saw someone walk the aisle except for the Wednesday night service. There was such a spirit in the meetings that you sensed God was there and working. **One local pastor who was with us on Friday night said to me afterwards, “This reminds me of the old-fashioned camp meetings.”**

It was a thrill to see many people come for re-assurance of salvation and a few who surrendered to full-time service. Please pray with and for us as we follow up on these. **Our prayer is the same as our Lord Jesus ~ that we would have “fruit that remains.”** We have been getting people lined up for baptism and see an enthusiasm and growth already. Glory to God!

Along with this wonderful week, we have been blessed to see many salvation decisions in our Junior Church. Miss Carolyn Miley has faithfully taught our Junior Church (for children ages three years old to the third grade) for well over 20 years. She has seen many come to know Christ as Savior, but God has done an extraordinary work this past month (January). **There have been 33 young kids who have prayed to receive Christ as their Savior since the beginning of 2009.** We are busy following up and it is our prayer and desire to also see moms and dads trust Christ.

The annual Missions Conference will also be held in March. The dates are March 22nd through 25th. Dr. Don Sisk, former director of BIMl, will be the keynote speaker. I really do not know of any other human being more qualified to speak on missions than Don Sisk. He has been on the field as a missionary and served in the BIMl headquarters for many years. **Would God continue to strengthen our desire and sacrifice for missions.**

Easter happens to fall in April of this year (the 12th to be exact) and that means we will be involved in the Sunrise Service at Bonita Beach. Every year we have averaged 1,500 people and the impact for the sake of the Gospel is unbelievable. **Please pray that we would see an even greater crowd this year and that we would be able to know of someone who has trusted Christ because of this outreach.**

Pastor Lytell just recently returned from Ambassador Baptist College. It was very cold at that time and we had to thaw him out upon his return. He had the opportunity to preach in chapel and speak to the preacher boys there. God used his ministry in a great way that week and we are glad God gave him safety and good health.

I hope you will pray with us about these things. We truly covet your supplication on our behalf.

Your friend, John Boutchia

Bright Lights Ministry—Testimony from Jayla Gillaspie



Jayma & Jayla Gillaspie

Bright Lights is a program designed to encourage young ladies to be strong for the Lord in their youth. BRIGHT stands for **B**eing **R**adiant **I**n **G**odliness, **H**oliness, and **T**estimony (I Timothy 4:12). At each meeting, we sing songs, have a lesson that focuses on a specific character trait, an activity (usually a craft or game), a short Christian biography and a time of fellowship. **Our goal in Bright Lights is to provide an atmosphere of positive peer pressure for girls while they're making life-influencing decisions.** In our lessons, we discuss such topics as honoring our parents, accepting the way God created us, presenting the Gospel to others, and learning to examine every thought and action by God's perfect standard.

We began our group at Gospel Baptist in the fall of 2007 with about five girls ages 10-12. Since then, we've had as many as 12 girls, with an overall average of six. We meet once a month on Friday nights. Sarah and Kate Chapin help me with almost every aspect of the meeting, from preparing a missionary story or snack, to participating in an occasional skit. Each of our meetings is a little different and they adapt themselves to wherever they're needed.

Bright Lights



From front right: Hannah Stone, Hannah Wiley, Kayleen Ott



From front left: Kayleen Ott, Rachel Glore, Kate Chapin, Sarah Chapin, Jayla Gillaspie, Michaela Dacius, Joyce Fremont and Hannah Stone

at Gospel

**Next meeting:
March 13th at 7:00 p.m.
in Rm. 207**

God has been working in my own life through this group. I felt God calling me to this ministry two years ago while reading Before You Meet Prince Charming by Sarah Mally, the founder of Bright Lights. At the time, I was struggling in my life with questions about inner purity, God's purpose for my life, and what I was supposed to do with my teen years. In her book, Sarah Mally **encourages young ladies to trust God and His perfect timing for their lives.** Young people don't need to entangle themselves with the things that the world thinks are "necessary" or "normal" for the typical teenager. I wish that I had been exposed to this kind of thinking earlier in my life and because of this, I was excited when I heard about the Bright Lights program. Through preparing the meetings and talking with the girls, I have grown during these past two years. Each lesson that I'm

supposed to teach to others has a personal application to me!

I am grateful for the opportunity God has given me to minister to others and for the support of my pastors and their wives. I'm also thankful for the enthusiasm and encouragement I have received from the parents and girls. **Please pray that this ministry would raise up a Godly generation of young ladies who are strong for the Lord in their youth.**

Jayla Gillaspie

Bright Lights Testimonies

"The activity that we did for one lesson [Contentment] was interesting because for the past two weeks before that meeting, I had been studying Braille. Our activity tested our senses while being blind folded. Then we were asked, "How hard would our lives be if we were blind?" The biography that was read to us was about Fanny Crosby. She wrote over 8,000 hymns that we still sing today. She was able to accomplish all of this despite being blind. Through this lesson, I believe Godme to see what I needed to see."

- a Bright Lights girl

"Bright Lights has planted a seed in my soul. I know as I grow older as a woman I will apply the teachings of the Lord Jesus. My favorite lesson was Presenting the Gospel. Now one of my dreams is to lead someone to the Lord Jesus Christ."

- a Bright Lights girl

"[My daughter] has found a real inner peace through coming to Bright Lights, and truly glows from the inside out when she arrives home."

- a Bright Lights parent

Youth News

King Lemuel in Proverbs 31 learned from his mother that *"favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised."* I am so thankful for the Bright Lights ministry to young ladies in our church. **When Jayma and Jayla Gillaspie presented this ministry to Angie and me, we were thrilled that God had placed a burden in their hearts to teach young ladies not just to be good, but to be Godly.**

As a youth pastor, I am constantly reminded how the god of this world pulls on young ladies to be sensual instead of spiritual. Our society's magazines seem to cry out a message that unless a girl is beautiful outwardly she will not be accepted. The apostle Peter instructs ladies *"Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."* (1 Peter 3:3,4) **Instead of being concerned with appearances, fashion, and popularity, our young ladies need to focus on pleasing their Lord and Savior and being submissive to the parents God has given them.**

This behavior should be modeled and taught to younger ladies by our older ladies in the church (Titus 2:2,3). God has given young ladies many women to pattern their lives after in His Word like Sarah, Hannah, Ruth, Esther, Mary the mother of Jesus, Mary the sister of Martha and Lazarus, Priscilla, and many more. **May many young Godly ladies come from the Bright Lights ministry and may more ministries in more churches be started to spiritually challenge young ladies today.**

By God's grace, Pastor Marty

Recommended Sermons

Look At All The Rounds

Preached by Pastor Bill Lytell
July 12, 1992

Behold The Goodness and Severity of God

Preached by Pastor Bill Lytell
December 14, 2005

Sermons can be downloaded at

www.gospelbaptistchurch.com

You can also write or call the church office
to order a copy.

Upcoming Events

March 17th

Ladies Tea

March 18th & 19th
Chapel & Prayer Meeting

Ambassador College
Ensemble

Missions Conference with Don Sisk

March 22nd - 25th