

# Elgin Congregational Holiness Church

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- **Men's Fellowship: Free Breakfast is the First Saturday of every month at 9am. Everyone Welcome! See Rev. Richard Abram for more information.**
- **Women's Meeting: Forth Thursday of every month. Speak to Sis. Judy Hensley to help or if you have any ideas**
- **EPIC Youth— see calendar for upcoming Youth Events. See Tangy Sims for details.**
- **Remember our youth: They need our help. Contact Tangy Sims to see how you can help.**
- **Want to write or help with the newsletter? Contact Pat Davis  
Email:  
zipzapitsme@gmail.com**

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## “Transformed...”

I was invited to hear a friend minister. When I arrived, I realized I was overdressed. I began to look around and feel uncomfortable. There were men and women that looked pretty rough, as some people might say. Most had tattoos, some had Mohawks, and some had piercings on their face. You see, this was a service to minister to former and recovering drug addicts.

They opened the service with prayer requests and then a few worship songs. Then one by one they began to share testimonies.

As I sat there, my eyes were opened. The Holy Spirit really began to deal with me and show me that I was wrong for feeling awkward and uncomfortable. I was judging them by their outward appearance. This wasn't the kind of Christians that I was used to seeing; I felt as if maybe I shouldn't be there. Again, I was wrong...

The Lord showed me that this was what ministry and the love of God is really about. Just because people have done things that I would never do, or wear things I would never wear doesn't mean that they are less than me. God loves them the same. They may not speak the way I speak or be as sanctified in my eyes, but they are God's and who am I to judge?

I sat back and began to be transformed and renewed as I saw the zeal and passion for God that came from these men and women. Their worship to God was done in truth. They weren't ashamed to lift their hands or fall on their face before God. There was a hunger within them. It was as if they hung on every word that was spoken or sang.

As they began to share their testimonies, I was amazed. These people were heavy drug users, thieves, and those abandoned by their parents.

One man described how he had tried many religions, even satanic worship. Only one month prior to this meeting, he was a priest in another false religion. Another spoke about how he carried the casket of his 18 year old friend. He felt responsible for his death because they both did drugs one night, and his friend overdosed.

I was reminded of the woman with the Alabaster box. She poured out everything to the Master. It didn't matter that others looked down on her. She lay at His feet and worshipped. She did it because she had been set free. It cost her everything.

You see, that's what these former addicts were experiencing. For the first time in their lives, they felt free! *They met Jesus.* He had delivered them from their bondage and forgiven their sins. He had covered the shame that they have carried for so long. And now, they are passionate for God and don't care what others think because they know where He has brought them from.



My prayer is that I never forget God's love. Lord love through me. Let me not hinder your work. Don't let me look down on others because they may be different. Help me to keep the fire lit within me like I see in these men and women. Holy Spirit let your blaze burn bright.

Jennifer Gill  
(Sister Luke's daughter)

## An Army Is Rising

Can you hear them? Can you hear that sound? It's like the beat of a drum. It is the march of an army with a voice lifted in unity singing freedom. One mission - to share the good news of the gospel. That was the very vision as team H.E.A.R.T. marched into Victory Temple's new youth center in Winsboro. The message was sent to explain that just as a doctor or baker must have tools to do their job, so does a Christian. The Whole Armor of God is needed for these days that we are facing.



The Holy Spirit especially emphasized in the teaching to further explain the shield of faith. As mentioned in Hebrews 11:6, without faith it is impossible to please God. Faith is the activator to the things of God and we must work out our faith. The working out of our faith can be like pizza dough. We have to have some oil and water and let it sit for a while for it to rise. There comes a point that we are to press and work it out in many different directions to get it to where it needs to be. This can take constant work. If not it will pull back and draw up. We are to constantly grow in our faith.



Just as with a soldier suited for war, our own shield of faith must always be prepared for battle. It is said that in old times, the shield was prized by a soldier above all other pieces of armor. The soldier counted it a greater shame to lose his shield than to lose the battle and an honor to die with his shield in hand. It is also said, a mother would say to a son going to war: "Either bring your shield home with you or be brought home upon your shield."

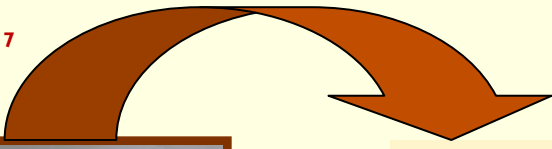
When it becomes hard in this land, take hold of your shield of faith and extend it. As you do, it will activate all the other pieces of the armor.

P.S. I extend a special thank you to the H.E.A.R.T. team and a couple other honorary guests during our ministering at Victory Temple. Thank you to Heidi as she is now marked the best baker in the land and to Savannah for she is a doctor in the making.



Keep on marching church and let your words be heard in all you do. Let your song be freedom.

Sister Angela Barnette



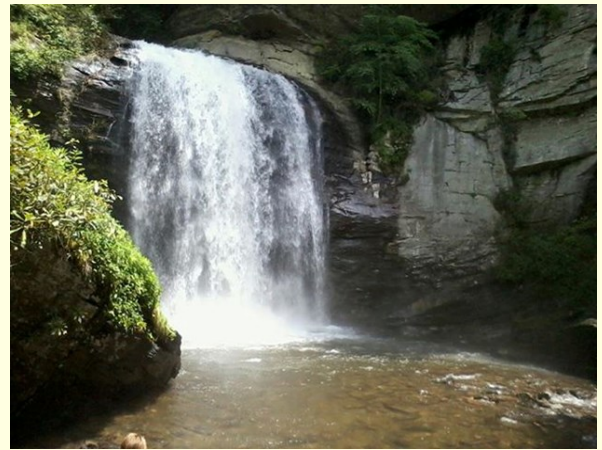
Guess who **WON'T BE GOING BACK TO SCHOOL** in a couple weeks...

Yep, William Hensley graduated from High School in May and the only school he plans to attend will be in conjunction with advancing his firefighting career.

Pastor Wesley Luke presented William with a congratulatory recognition from the church as well as a token of our appreciation for William's accomplishments in school and as a member of the Elgin CH Church.

So, all you young folks who will be starting back to school soon, just remember to work hard, do your best and stay the course, and before you know it you will be following in William's footsteps.

*Vacation is Over???*



**To Everything  
There is a Season**

**Ecclesiastes 3**

'To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

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**AUGUST 2013**

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 <b>Men's Breakfast 9am Spaghetti Dinner 11-2</b>
4 <b>Come To Church</b>	5	6	7 <b>Teen and Junior epic</b>	8	9	10
11 <b>Worship</b>	12	13	14 <i>After service - Ice Cream Social Youth Fund Raiser</i>	15	16	17 <i>Epic teens - Spears Creek Baptist Church Free Worship</i>
18 <b>Praise</b>	19	20	21 <b>Teen and Junior epic</b>	22 <b>DOVE Women's Ministry</b>	23	24 <i>Epic Youth Sesquicentennial State Park Cook Out</i>
25 <b>Pray</b>	26	27	28	29	30	31

**Ice Cream Social**  
August 14  
(after church service)  
Ice Cream Social  
Youth Fund Raiser.  
All youth to participate.

**Epic Teens Event**  
August 17, 6-8pm  
Spears Creek Baptist Church  
Free Worship night.

**YOUTH UNITE**  
All youth groups are invited to be part of a movement! This movement is all about coming together as ONE big body of Christ and making a difference in our schools and community together.  
Join us for a night of worship, and SUBMIT to God's plan for us this school year.  
**FREE worship night!**  
August 17, 2013  
6:00 - 8:00 pm  
116 Spears Creek Church Lane, Elgin  
Spears Creek Baptist Church  
Message: Pastor Brandon Oort - Radata Church  
Worship: The Fuse - Friendship Baptist Church

**August 24th**  
**Epic Youth Outing**  
**Sesquicentennial State Park**  
Family fun and fellowship.

- \* Cook Out!
- \* Canoeing
- \* paddle boats
- \* playground
- \* basketball court
- \* trail around whole pond

For all of the Epic youth and their families. (Times to be announced)