



Volume 9, Issue 1  
February 2006

# HIGH TIMES

A Ministry of Highview Christian Fellowship  
"Providing World-Class Ministry Deserving of an Awesome God"

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

*Couples Valentines  
Day Retreat,  
Frederick, MD  
February 10-12*

*Bishop Thomas at  
Pastor's Conference in  
Arizona  
February 20-23*

*Bishop Thomas at  
Alabaster Ministries  
Anniversary  
Banquet, Balt, MD  
March 4*

*Kenya Crusade in  
Kenya, Africa  
March 12-20*

*Bishop Thomas at  
Joint College of  
Bishops,  
Cleveland, OH  
March 21-24*

*New Members  
Reception  
March 31*



*Bishop Phillip O. Thomas*

Dear Members and Friends:

Once again our church has entered a time of wonderful potential change and challenge—**our vision is to retire our \$1.5 million mortgage in five years.** Part of this challenge has been to embrace the most ambitious stewardship effort that this ministry has ever known, and we need your help to ensure its success. Our theme for this five-year campaign is:

**"CD-ROM: Christ Deliverers-  
Retire our Mortgage."**

The success of our campaign is directly related to the number of active members and friends who get involved. In a congregation our size, it is crucial for everyone to take part in the process from the very beginning. Some of you will be able to provide financial support with no problem and others will realize more of a challenge. However, the bottom line is we all must participate because it says in Deuteronomy 16:16-17: that "**no man** should appear before the Lord empty-handed," and, "**every man** shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord thy God which he hath given thee."

While I was preparing the initial briefing to the congregation, the Lord had to remind me that He has history with this ministry when it comes to changes and challenges. He first reminded me that our

## FROM THE DESK OF BISHOP THOMAS

### "CD-ROM: CHRIST DELIVERERS – RETIRE OUR MORTGAGE"

*"The Lord had to remind me that He has history with this ministry when it comes to changes and challenges."*

congregation is endowed with many God-given gifts and that He has blessed us these many years in such an awesome way that we have never known lack.

In the early 1980's when we needed an insurmountable sum of money to expand the building in Arlington, you never staggered at the awesomeness of the task. You presented your gifts to the ministry, as well as volunteering your precious time to build a church for which we were all proud and that still stands for others to enjoy. As a result of your acts of faith, we never had to acquire a building loan. And years later, because of the renovation to the property, we were able to sell it for a substantial amount.

And when we were faced with yet, another major challenge in the mid 1990's, in one year about forty members gave tithes and offerings totaling well over \$100,000! That was utter dependence upon God!

Throughout this five-year campaign we will create ways to keep you motivated and informed. We will plan services and special events, post information, speak words of encouragement and utter prayers to keep you focused and on track.

Remember, working as a team (**T**ogether, **E**veryone, **A**chieves **M**ore), we can achieve together what none of us can achieve alone.

Our goal is attainable, it is the Vision and it can and must be done in five years! With prayer, faith, vision and courage, we can do it!

### GO YE THEREFORE....FOCUS ON FOREIGN MISSIONS

BISHOP THOMAS will travel to Kenya, Africa in March 2006. This missionary journey, sponsored by Pastor Nate Butler of The Righteous Church of God in Washington, D.C. will focus on preaching and teaching to hundreds of pastors, men, women and children and will support the building of an orphanage in Kenya. Our sponsor in Kenya is Pastor Paul Muema. Also traveling from Highview will be Minister Bena Miller-Washington and Minister Rhonda Ruffner. We solicit your prayers and support.

## Darts at Jesus

***“Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me.” Matt 25:40***

Sally particularly liked one of her seminary teachers, a Dr. Carl Smith, known for his elaborate object lessons.

One particular day, Sally walked into class and knew they were in for a fun day. On the wall was a big target and on a nearby table were many darts. Dr. Smith told the students to draw a picture of someone that they disliked or someone who had made them angry, and he would allow them to throw darts at the person's picture.

Sally's friend Jean drew a picture of the person who had stolen her boyfriend. Another seminarian friend drew a picture of his little brother. Sally drew a picture of a former friend, putting a great deal of detail into her drawing, even drawing pimples on the face. Sally was pleased with the overall effect she had achieved.

The class lined up and began throwing darts. Some of the students threw their darts with such force that their targets were ripping apart. Sally looked forward to her turn, and was filled with disappointment when Dr. Smith, because of time limits, asked the students to return to their seats.

As Sally sat thinking about how angry she was because she didn't have a chance to throw any darts at her target, Dr. Smith began removing the target from the wall. Underneath the target was a picture of Jesus.

A hush fell over the room as each student viewed the mangled picture of Jesus; holes and jagged marks covered His face and His eyes were pierced. Dr. Smith quoted Matthew 25:40: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me." No other words were necessary; tears filled eyes of the students focused only on the picture of Christ.

Submitted by Andy Murphy

## "GOD'S Blessing"

Submitted by Myron, and Danielle Day and Family

As my husband and I have shared with Bishop Thomas and others, our testimony is that when asked what we got for Christmas, we agree, it's not about the receiving, it's about giving and blessing others and not forgetting what's more important, "the birth of Jesus Christ."

Some of you may or may not know that my husband, Myron, was out of work and placed on restrictions for six long months due to his back injury. He held odd jobs here and there with a Temp Agency and it was a true struggle. Sometimes I had to pinch myself to know that I was still alive because of all that was placed upon me. That helped me realize that I still had my right mind. Some days I didn't understand or know how we got through, but it was GOD.

The story began back in October, the 7th to be exact. My husband was driving down Route 123, coming home from a doctor's appointment on a rainy day, when he noticed a car on the side of the road with the hazard lights on. He looked in the rearview mirror and saw that it was a young lady, all alone, talking on her cell phone. Myron then turned around and approached the car. He could tell she was a little nervous. He tried to reassure her by telling her that he was a Christian with a wife and six children and that he didn't intend to harm her but only wanted to offer help. The young lady then told Myron that she had run out of gas. Myron told her that he didn't have any money but would go get her some gas. She told him she had a gas can in the trunk. She then gave him \$20.00 to get her gas and told him to also put some gas in his tank. Before he left, he asked her if he could use her cell phone to call me let me know that he was okay since it was raining and I was expecting him home. He knew that I'd be worried if he was late. He then went to the gas station, got the gas and came back and made sure the gas was put in the car. He even drove behind her to make sure she was okay. Then they both went their separate ways. Keep reading it gets better....

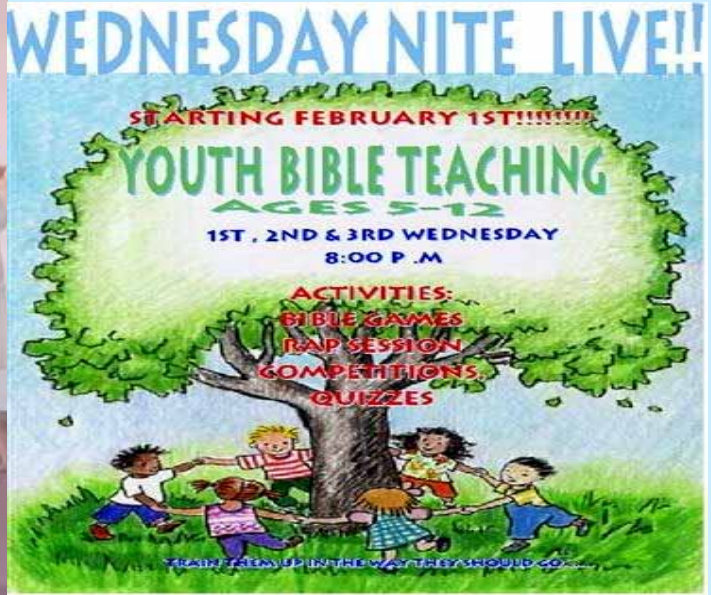
On Thursday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December we received a message on our answering machine at 8:40 in the morning from a young lady explaining who she was and what she wanted. It was the young lady from the side of the road on Route 123 that October day. She said she was able to track us down because Myron had used her cell phone to call me and she was able to locate us by looking at her bill to get our number. She went on to say that she told her friend the story and how they now call Myron "The Car Angel." They were both so grateful for what Myron had done that they wanted to bless our family from their hearts. They had Myron and I meet them the next day at the local K-Mart parking lot and blessed us with a monetary donation for Myron being there at the right time. She also went on to tell us that because Myron stopped to help her that day, it allowed GOD to show her the lack of character in her male friend.

The next blessing came as a result of Myron cutting grass this past summer. It was then that he met a man named Ed and they began to talk about life and their families. At first Ed thought Myron was the guy moving in the house next to him since he was cutting the grass. Myron told Ed that he was married with six children and was looking for work but had been placed on lifting restrictions due to his back injury. Ed gave Myron the number for a temp agency in Woodbridge and told him to check them out, which he did. Once Myron found out that he was going to be able to work with the agency, he called Ed and told him the good news. Ed was happy for Myron and asked him to come by his house because he had something for him. When Myron arrived at his home, he told him he had some food for us and gave us several boxes of food. Myron asked him about the hedges in his yard and he said it's funny you asked because my wife just told me I need to do something about them. Myron told him that he'd run home and get his tools and come back to trim the hedges. After that conversation, Ed told Myron that he wanted to do something for our family for Christmas and to be sure to stay in touch with him. To make a long story short, we received a call from his wife the week of December 19 wanting to know if we could meet with them on, you guessed it, Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:30, to get some things for our children. We went to their home and they had four large boxes of toys for us. Then they took us to the grocery store to finish off our Christmas blessing to shop for groceries for our home.

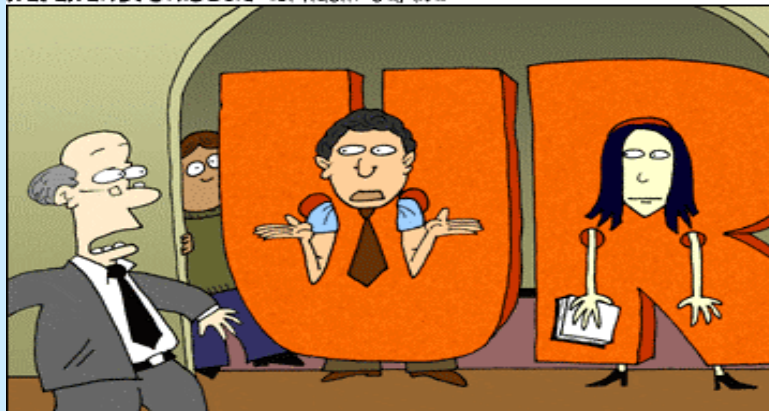
I always tell people that what gets me through the day is knowing that GOD is preparing us and will use us to share our testimony to encourage someone else. Please keep your FAITH in GOD, pay your tithes, fast and pray and GOD will do the rest. So I thank GOD and Bishop Thomas for allowing us to share our testimony. I pray that this has and will help someone else.

**HIGHVIEW CELEBRATES OUR YOUTH!!!!**

**PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SUPERBOWL CHAMPIONS:** JULIAN SMITH...JACAR DEVANTE BALDWIN, CHARLES SHIFTON BALDWIN, JR., KENNETH PENNYWELL, JR



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Thanks to Joe Kaufmann

02-06-2006

YOU SAID "COME AS U R", DID YOU NOT?

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Thanks to Rebekeh

01-16-2006

EXCUSE ME, IT'S THE RAPTURE ... MIND IF I PLAY THROUGH?

Kids...please share this one with Bishop Thomas...he's the one in the middle ☺

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*"Where Everybody  
Is Somebody  
Special"*

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**"WASH ME THOROUGHLY FROM MINE INIQUITY"  
(PSALM 51:2)**

## BEING HONEST ABOUT SIN



We don't talk much about sin anymore. It's no big deal. In the past Christians hated it, feared it, fled from it, and grieved over it. The truth is, we need a new way of looking at our sin; a new understanding of it. All sin involves denial! One of the worst things about sin is that it carries with it a certain moral myopia - nearsightedness. We need a new lens. We need to begin to see our sin through the eyes of the One we've sinned against. David prayed, "Against thee...have I sinned" (Ps 51:4).

One Christian college professor got honest and put it like this: "I'm nice to my students, respectful to my colleagues, love my family, I don't steal, commit adultery, use drugs or swear, and I floss regularly! But when I look at myself honestly I see that I harbor bitterness, hoard my time and resent others intruding on me. I'm vain and consumed with how others perceive me. I wrestle with my sexuality and have strayed with my eyes and my heart. I pretend to listen but I don't. I think more about being great than being good. I act more spiritual than I am. I'm a mess - broken in every way - and my only hope is God's mercy."

A realization of our sinfulness can begin as a gentle nudge, or knock us down with hurricane-force. What's important is how we respond. Regardless of how often we've fallen, God offers us cleansing and a chance to begin again - if we're willing to acknowledge our sin and receive forgiveness.

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