

CHURCH NEWS

'THOSE PREACHERS!'

By Lady Debra R. Smith
Greater Evergreen
Baptist Church

(1 Tim.2:1-7) Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, for which I (Paul) was appointed a preacher and an apostle—I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying — a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Girl, did you hear?

Yes, I did.

Can you believe it?

You know what they say about — 'THOSE PREACHERS' — they're all the same!

Hello Las Vegas! Did ya'll know we're only days away from the end of another year? I'm sure we can agree, it's been quite a year in the life of the believer. It seems that no matter where we go, or who we talk to, our faith has been tested and tried. If we will just be truthful, there have been distractions, interruptions and things that just made us go 'huh??' regarding our churches and stuff going on within the ranks of leadership.

For just a moment, let's pause and take a closer look at 'THOSE PREACHERS' — are they really all the same? How often do we consider the life of the preacher/pastor? Well, to the naked eye, it might appear that preachers/pastors have it all together. Preachers are usually identified as well groomed, well spoken, and living large and in charge.

Unfortunately, along with these superficial qualities, (that have absolutely nothing to do with their assignment) they are often accused of being other things as well (please don't make me go there cuz you know I will) that cause believers and non-believers alike, to form negative opinions and sadly enough, cause some to fall away from the church.

Since, Sister Debra has the



Lady Debra R. Smith

privilege and task as wife of 28 years to one of 'those preachers' may I shout with a voice of triumph NO, ALL PREACHERS ARE NOT THE SAME! (hallelujah). Though none of us, including 'those preachers', is perfect, we as the body of Christ have been charged in the Word of God, to pray for—not gossip about; encourage—not discourage those who answer the clarion call of preaching the Gospel and are steadfast contenders of the faith! (If you hear me- holla!) Las Vegas, imagine how wonderful the church would be if we could just
(See Lady Debra, Page 23)

The Crossing closes doors to be the church

By Briana Mackey
The Answer Managing Editor

On Sunday, Oct. 3, the 2,500 members of The Crossing church in Las Vegas found the doors to their sanctuary closed. Unlike the hundreds of previous Sundays over the past 10 years, the church did not offer worship music or a message delivered by Pastor Shane Philip. Instead, The Crossing decided to celebrate its anniversary by shutting its doors and going out into the community to "be the church."

More than 1,500 people showed their love for God in a completely different fashion than ever before and blessed eight different areas of Las Vegas with community service. In the "most powerful experience" co-organizer and Creative Arts Pastor Lee Coate has seen in his 20 years in ministry, The Crossing did something revolutionary by taking the church to the streets of Las Vegas.

"This was a big deal" Coate said of the effort to put 1,500 people to work during two days of service projects in Las Vegas "We've never done anything on this scale," he admitted and said that it took more than six months of planning and promotion to plug the church body into service in the community. Among the beneficiaries of Serve Day were Shannon West Youth Homeless Center, Helping Hands of Vegas Valley, Opportunity Village, Jaycee Park and more. The Crossing endeavored to find a service opportunity for every willing par-

ticipant in the church, Coate explained, and arranged chances for teens, families and more to show Christ's love to Las Vegas.

Wearing t-shirts emblazoned with the slogan "Love God, Love People, Serve Others," members of The Crossing painted over graffiti, replaced floors, solicited food donations and so much more. Coate said the church fulfilled partnership commitments to organizations such as Calvary Downtown Outreach and Family Promises while establishing new ways for the church body to get involved in ministry.

Of course, organizing such a non-traditional outreach did not come without concerns, shared Coate. The Crossing did give consideration to the traditionalist members who might not want to participate. "We wondered if people would step up and get involved," he said. "We wanted it to be significant and powerful and have a decent showing," he added. Coate also said they "had to navigate" considerations of the lack of offering during the weekend of service and its affect on the budget as well as the interruption to routine the outreach would present to loyal members. "We decided if we're not on the edge where God has to show up, maybe we're not where we need to be," Coate said. In the end, he explained, the participation in Serve Day was affirmation that the church was leading its body appropriately and "people appreciated" and were
(See The Crossing, Page 23)

Michael Hatch Real Estate Appraisal, Inc.



Appraisers, Analysts & Consultants
"Where Integrity Counts"

3540 W. Sahara Avenue, Suite #250

Las Vegas, Nevada 89102

(702) 474-1384

mikehatch@estate.lvcoxmail.com

www.mikehatchappraisal.com



"Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain that build it." - Psalm 127:1

Michael Hatch, Pastor - Prayer Center Revival Church

The Business Liaison

Providing Specialized Services For
Corporations,
Small, Women & Minority
Owned Businesses,
Non-Profit Organizations & The
Faith-Based Community

Call For An Appointment Today!
(702) 460-8280

Business & Finance Solutions
For your church, business or personal endeavors

- Loan Packaging, Presentation
- Project Management
- Construction Consulting
- New Business Creation
(For Profit & Non-Profit)

Lois E. Greene
President & CEO

- Customer Service & Sales Training
- Unique Graphic & Logo Design - Marketing & Public Relations
- Human Resources, Payroll, Training & Development
- Strategic planning, seminars & workshops (Youth & Adults)

And More...