

# NEW BEREAN NEWS

3600 BAMBOO ST, PORTSMOUTH, VA 23701

## God's Minute



There is no greater feeling of liberation than to experience this freedom from sin and death that you have provided for me through Jesus Christ. Today my heart and my soul are free to praise you. For this I am very thankful. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us **Romans 5:8**

On this Independence Day I am reminded of all those who have sacrificed for my freedom,

following the example of your Son, Jesus Christ. Let me not take my freedom, both physical and spiritual, for granted. May I always remember that my freedom was purchased with a very high price. My freedom cost others their very lives.

Lord, today, bless those who have served and continue to give their lives for my freedom. With favor and bounty meet their needs and watch over their families.

Help me to live my life in a way that glorifies you, Lord. Give me the strength to be a blessing in someone else's life today, and grant me the opportunity to lead others into the freedom that can be found in knowing Christ. Yet, God in His love sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to come to earth

and willingly die in the place of sinful humans like us to absorb all our sin, rebellion and wrongdoing. Therefore, all who entrust their complete life to Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins will be saved from their bondage to sin and given eternal life in Him and enjoy an intimate and personal connection and relationship with God himself.

This is true freedom. And true freedom only exists in Jesus Christ. How does it happen? God changes our heart by His Holy Spirit. God makes us spiritually alive by giving us a new heart. This heart desires to love God. It sees Jesus Christ as beautiful and desires to love Him as the Lord and Savior of our life. By faith, we give our life to Jesus and

of our life. By faith, we give our life to Jesus and receive His forgiveness and freedom from sin. Not only this, but we are now free to do the very thing we were created to do – to honor and enjoy God forever. And this joy in God is from our heart – our new heart given to us by God.

### Special points of interest:

- **My God, My strength**
- **Mediate on God's precepts**
- **Never be in spiritual darkness**
- **God is the rock of my strength**
- **Be strong**

### Inside this issue:

## Prayer: Stress reliever

Psalm 91:2: I will say unto the LORD, "Lord you are my refuge and my fortress, my God, in you I will trust."

Can you hear the Holy Spirit speaking to you? Is that still small voice gently guiding you? If your answer is no, then it is time to get in a quiet place, be still and listen.

Visualize your burdens as a heavy cloak of sin. Tell the Lord that you recognize your worry and stress is a sin, repent and accept His forgiveness. Now, as you visualize yourself removing the cloak of sin, recite the words, "When I am afraid, I will trust in you Lord." (Psalm 56:3) or another scripture that

gives you strength and confidence in the Lord. Breathe deeply, allow peace to rise in your heart and let your body relax. Anytime, you feel the stress rising in you, decide not to let it take hold and demand it to leave in the name of Jesus Christ.

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# What does "Freedom" mean to me?

Freedom can mean different things to many people. Here at NBBC our members took the time to share their views:

Freedom is the absence of control from someone or something. The ultimate freedom is a relationship with the Spirit of the Lord, and where the spirit of the Lord is there is freedom. (2 Cor. 3:17)–  
**Mildred Newby**

To me freedom means deliverance. **Berlestine Duncan**

Freedom means to live in a country that we can do things as we please as long as it is legal. Dorothy Goodwin

Freedom - free to exercise your freewill. –**Adam Parker**

Freedom to me is having joy, and the right to make choices. I am thankful for freedom in Christ.-  
**Marsha- Moore**

Freedom- to be free from the power of sin, the domination of sin and one day the presence of sin.

Freedom- to live, to love, to laugh and enjoy Jesus Christ, my Lord! - **Joan Jackson**

Freedom – to live without inhibitions, worries, or restrictions. -**Hebrew "Immanuel S. Watkins"**

Freedom to me means no matter how many times I fail in the sight of men, I can go to my Savior, my heavenly father, who forgives me and loves me unconditionally. -**Arlean Parker**

Freedom is being carefree and being able to express oneself freely... freedom is just overall the ability to be free. -**Dazha Jones**

Freedom is what we have in Christ, we are free from the bondage of sin. -**Amber Parker**

True freedom means living without the chains of sin and destructive behavior. Jesus Christ paid a price to release you from those bonds. Therefore, do not put your body into slavery to damaging habits. Glorify God with your whole-self-heart, mind, soul and body. -**S Newby**

Freedom to me means living my life happy and in the Lord freely. To be able to vote and use my voice and to stand up for what I believe in.— **Lisa Johnson**

## From the Missionary Ministry



The purpose of the Missionary Ministry is to minister to the sick and shut-in whether at home, in the hospital or extended care facility.

To also avail ourselves to be committed to being of help to others in time of need. We offer services in the church, in our community and aboard.

The Missionary Ministry welcomes anyone with a willing heart to join our ministry. Remember John 15:12 "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you."

Sis. Marion Johnson

## The full Armor of God

Truth, righteousness, the gospel, faith, salvation, the spirit, and prayer-- these are a Christian's tools and armaments. They are what enables a Christian to triumph over evil and stand before God as a son or daughter worthy of the adoption into God's spiritual family.

**Belt of Truth:** When we are girdled with the liberating truth of Jesus Christ, no matter how dark the hour or fearsome the battle, we can move in confidence.

**Breastplate of Righteous-**

**ness:** This important piece of armor protects one of the most important parts of the body-- the heart. Since a Christian's character is measured by what is in his or her heart, it is important to keep the intentions of the heart righteous and holy.

**Shod:** when the feet are shod with it, lights up the narrow but well-marked pathway leading to the Kingdom of God, and makes it easier to walk down that path without wandering off it.

**Shield of faith:** The shield

of faith will quench all the "burning arrows of the evil one."

**Helmet of salvation:** The helmet of salvation protects and saves the mind, the person's sense of self, from death and brings it safely into God's presence.

**Sword of the spirit:** Use the word of God to bring about cleansing, blessing, and spiritual growth in the child of God.

Finally, we are reminded of the importance of **prayer**. Prayer is our form of communication with God, to let

him know how we are doing, ask for what we feel we need, and express gratitude for the gifts God provides us with.



## Three steps to Freedom

**Step 1.** It is submission to God's Word that initiates the process of sanctification. When believers submit their lives to God's Word it means that Scripture replaces all the influences (opinions, personal views cultural preferences, idiosyncrasies, prejudices and deductive reasoning) that had previously informed our mindset/ attitude and our decision-making. Submission to

God's Word, therefore, radically transforms our outlook and brings us into the position where we can begin to see life through God's eyes.

**Step 2.** Sanctification by the Word is Dedication to the Word of God. Dedication to God's Word means committing to know it, to know it thoroughly. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105. We find God, we

discover God's character in the Scriptures. He had put everything he had into knowing God.

**Step 3** to freedom is the Incorporation of God's Word into the very essence of a Believer: where we hide God's Word in our hearts. We approach his step having already submitted the governance of our lives to God's Word and after dedicating ourselves to knowing God's character

lives to God's Word and after dedicating ourselves to knowing God's character and will through study of His Word. In this final step to freedom, God's Word becomes a part of us. When God's Word becomes a part of us our orientation towards life changes in the most fundamental way. We not only have light for the way, we KNOW the way.

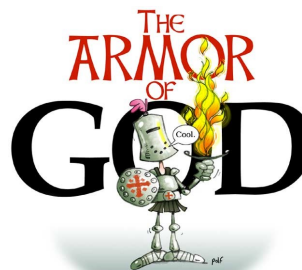
## NBBC Vacation Bible School 2013

NBBC Ministry will be hosting our annual Vacation Bible School. This year we are please and excited to be teaching about THE ARMOR OF GOD. Join us for a fun-filled, exciting and challenging opportunity to build on your faith in Jesus. These three nights will help you learn more about the Lord, have fun with other

children and adults and help you see Christ in a more clearer way. There will be snacks, songs, games, and bible teaching.

Contact the church office for additional information (757.483.4821) Class for adults and children ages 3 and above, July 17th, 18th and 19th nightly from 7:00-9:00 pm. We are looking

forward to seeing you!



Our sick and shut in  
 Father, hear our prayers  
 for the sick and shut in of  
 our church and for those  
 in need. Show your mercy  
 as you make broken  
 bodies whole. May these  
 special people find last-  
 ing health and deliver-  
 ance so they may join us  
 in thanking your for all  
 your gifts.

**Bring your article and ideas**

Calling all New Berean members. If you have an article, a word of encouragement, a poem, an upcoming event that you would like to share, you are welcome to submit it and we will be more than happy to include your article in the New Berean Newsletter. The deadline is the 1st Sunday of each month. You can email your article to nbnews01@gmail.com. All articles received after the 1st Sunday may not be included until the following month. We look forward to hearing from you.

WE'RE ON THE WEB

WWW.NBBCMINISTRY.COM

# Look who became a member in July!

Sis. Deloris Barmore

Sis. Regina Parker

Sis. Leslie Rawls

**Birthday**

Cheyenne Brown  
 Jayden Coltrane  
 Marsha Moore  
 Amber Parker  
 Donald Reed  
 McKenzie Ricks  
 Jean Wyche

**Anniversary**

Alvin Jr. & Tiffany Parker  
 Donald & Regina Parker

**Stars of the Month**

Berlestine Duncan  
 Donald Reed

New Berean Baptist Church  
 3600 Bamboo, Rd Portsmouth, VA 23703  
 757-483-4821  
**Leroy E. Ricks Sr., Pastor**