

# The B.A.C. Page



May/June 2010

## PROFESSOR'S OR POSSESSOR'S?

-By Rev. Ken Otto

### MATTHEW 7:21-23

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles? Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evil doers!'"

Who will enter the kingdom of heaven? Will everyone who professes Christ enter? The Lord says, "No, there are some who profess my name..." The false professor is a person who uses the Christian's vocabulary, recites his creeds and prayers, attends his services, participates in his functions, yet he does not know nor accept the Lord's Word. Therefore, Christ says he shall


not enter the Kingdom of Heaven. There is a law of entrance. A person cannot get into heaven by professing that Jesus Christ is Lord; he can get into heaven only by doing the will of God.

There are two kinds of people who say "Lord, Lord," making a false profession. First, there are those who profess and do very little else. They do not hesitate to talk about their religion or church and to express confidence in it. They feel religion has its place in the lives of men and in the structure of society. They attend church, give and serve others as much as is needed in order to make them feel comfortable with themselves and acceptable to God. Some feel comfortable and acceptable attending a few services, giving a little and serving only when approached. Others need more, so they do more. Secondly, there are those who profess and do a tremendous work for their religion and society. They are as sincere as can be; and they call Christ, "Lord, Lord" in all the areas of religious life, in prayer, rituals, conversation, witnessing, formulas, preaching, teaching, giving, writing, dress, appearance, ordinances, confessions, activities, helping others, church or synagogue attendance, but why is this person rejected and shut out from heaven, a person who calls Christ "Lord" and labors so diligently "in His name?". There are three primary reasons the professing person is rejected and shut out of heaven.

First a profession alone fails to do more than profess. Profession alone is the big "I". Note the words in verse 22 of Matthew chapter seven - "did we not", "done all these things", "many wonderful works". They are wonderful works, but when we stand before God, what we have done will count for nothing compared to what Christ has done. A genuine believer is going to be worshipping Christ. This is the critical point: profession only shows just how inadequate our understanding of God and ourselves really is. It shows just how centered we are upon our own ability and goodness. (Continued on Page 6)

# What Does It Mean To 'Believe?'

Micca Monda Campbell



**"If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you shall be saved."  
Romans 10:9 (NIV)**

**Devotion** - I didn't take the time to discuss it with my parents or even tell them where I was going. Inside that large arena, I leaped from my seat and ran toward the stage. I was running to Jesus. My mother called my name and begged me to stop. As I looked back at her, a sea of people began to fill the gap between us. Normally, this would have frightened a small child, but I wasn't afraid at all. The pull towards the stage was much stronger than the fear of being separated from my mother. Luckily, a counselor reunited us and my mother was there to witness my introduction to Jesus.

I was seven years-old when I met Jesus for the first time. While attending a James Robison crusade with my family, I was captured by the words of the evangelist as he described Jesus as the Son of God and the Savior of the world. That divine night, my eyes were opened to God's message of hope. When Pastor Robison invited all who believed to come forward, I went.

That was an exciting day for me. However, as the years passed I noticed something disturbing. I wasn't experiencing the change I had hoped for. In fact, each time I heard a pastor say, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and experience freedom from sin and a life marked by peace, power, and joy," I became more confused. I do believe in Jesus. Why weren't those truths a reality in my life?

Like some today, I had misunderstood what it meant to believe.

To "believe" means much more than simply acknowledging Christ's death on a cross.

Unfortunately, for many today that word has been reduced to just that - a mere mental acknowledgement. Like me, multitudes have said the sinner's prayer because they believe Jesus died on a cross. But without the call to confess sin and commit to a life of following Christ in obedience, no transformation takes place. That's the problem with knowledge alone. It requires no commitment and brings about no lasting change.

The Bible teaches that to believe means to *acknowledge* what Christ did on the cross and to be so changed by it that we want to *obey* His will and His Word. Therefore, to believe is to obey. A person who truly believes is compelled by God's love, and responds with a desire to obey Him. Their belief not only motivates them to obey but to trust God completely with their life.

When I finally understood this truth, I made a new and final commitment: "God, I so believe in Your Son who died for my sins that I surrender my will for Yours." Then, I began studying and applying God's Word to my life. That's when I noticed real change taking place. I noticed something else too. My problems didn't instantly go away, but I wasn't carrying them alone anymore. That's not all. No matter who mocked me or what trouble came my way, I decided to trust God. Doing so brought peace to my heart like never before.

A true believer is not only identified by what she confesses, but by the fruit of her obedience. The only way to identify genuine belief in your life and the lives of others is by a life that demonstrates it. When a person has experienced real change through a surrendered life, others will know it by their actions.

If you are like me, wondering why no change has occurred since you prayed to become a Christian, perhaps you need to move from acknowledging Christ to living a life of obedience to Him. I promise you ... it's what you're looking for.

Dear Lord, for too long I have only acknowledged You as the Son of God and the Savior of the world. I long for real change. Today, I surrender my will to You. I commit to a life of obedience. Forgive me for my sins and fill me with your Spirit. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

### Related Resources:

Do You Know Him?

*This devotion was adapted from Micca's book, An Untroubled Heart. Order your copy now!*

Visit Micca's blog

*When Life and Beliefs Collide: How Knowing God Makes a Difference by Carolyn Custis James*

### Application Steps:

Begin today with this commitment: "God, I so believe in Your Son who died for my sins that I surrender my will for Yours." Then follow through by reading the Bible and asking the Holy Spirit to help you live out it's truths by obeying what it says there.

### Reflections:

How does your life reflect the fact that faith and action are inseparable?

Can you feel secure in your experience with God if it never leads to obedient action?

### Power Verses:

James 2:24, "You see then that a person is justified by what he does, and not by faith alone." (NIV)

James 1:23-24, "For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was." James 1:23-24 (NASB)

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**Proverbs 31 Ministries**  
616-G Matthews-Mint Hill Road  
Matthews, NC 28105

[www.proverbs31.org](http://www.proverbs31.org)

## BAC Children's Ministry Coming Events

# Vacation Bible School

**"The Egypt File" June 13-17, 2010**

**6pm - 8:30 pm nightly**

**See the back page for further information.**

## CAMA Services HAITI Relief Report

March 2010

On behalf of Compassion and Mercy Associates (CAMA), the relief and development arm of The Alliance, I want to thank you for your generous commitment to help those in desperate need. Currently, over \$1.3 million has been raised for CAMA's Haiti earthquake relief efforts!

Here are some ways your gifts have been applied:

On January 12, an initial gift of \$25,000 was made to sister organizations on the ground. To date, a total of \$30,900 has been given to Samaritan's Purse, \$85,400 has been given to World Relief, and \$25,000 has been given to Youth With A Mission.

A CAMA survey team arrived in Haiti on February 12 and identified five Alliance-affiliated churches in need of assistance to rebuild their facilities. Currently, Drew Bishop of CAMA and Adner Joseph of the Alliance Haitian Association are on their second trip to assist these churches.

We are sending tents for distribution to those desperately in need of shelter, as the rainy season will soon be upon Port-Au-Prince.

The Southeastern and Metropolitan Districts of the C&MA are coordinating with the Haitian Association to reach out to family and friends still living in the wreckage of Port-Au-Prince.

### Future Plans

We will be working with the Haitian Association to rebuild damaged churches and homes. Haitian churches will be utilized as bases for community development involving food-for-work and income generation projects, clean water distribution, and other community identified needs.

Short-term teams will be needed soon. More information and opportunities will be located on the [Short Term Missions website](#) as they become available.

### Current Status

Due to the overwhelming financial response of people like you, CAMA's planned work in Haiti has been fully funded. That being said, I would like to invite your participation in additional relief opportunities. Go to the [CAMA priority projects](#) page for additional giving opportunities.

God bless you for your generosity, as you have been the heart and hands of God to the people of Haiti.

Living the Call Together,



Rick Hemphill  
Director for Communications 

## BAC News & Stories

### Did You Miss Spring Fling 2010?

This year's Spring Fling was held on Saturday, March 20, 2010, the first day of Spring. The weather was a gorgeous 79 degrees and clear skies. We had 43 children to attend in all with about 20 adults.



Parents joined in on the fun and activities

We started the day off at 11:20 am with a couple of songs and a one of three devotions brought by Kendra Collins about the Power of the Cross.

The children then decorated Easter Egg cookies and had lunch that consisted of hotdogs,

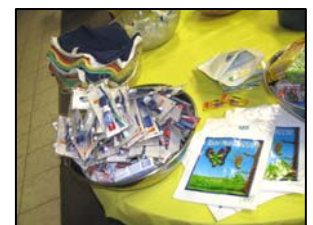


The kids were able to make themselves yummy sundaes

chips, beans, salad, and ice cream sundaes which the children fixed themselves. After lunch Patrice Russell organized some games and the children were able to ride the train with Larry Todd and have fun on the 5in1 Wacky inflatable rented from Arch Angels Amusements. After the games, children met with

Kendra Collins for devotion number two of three.

After meeting with Kendra, the children participated in their service project: Goodie bags for the Salvation Army. 53 bags were packed in all with personalized cards made by the children, scriptural literature, wash rags and soap, toothbrush and paste, hand sanitizers and tissue packs and hard candies. After we had completed this project Kendra Collins met with us for one last devotion.



Items ready to be packed in gift bags for the Salvation Army

The day ended with more songs and the children were able to view the

VBS 2010 promo for "The Egypt File". Pastor Rick Rosati closed us in prayer and the children were given take home goodie bags that had an activity book about the day's devotions, a cross puzzle magnet with the devotional theme, a pencil, candy and their decorated cookies. The children ended their day by playing on the 5in1 inflatable and train ride until 2pm.



Children are busy decorating the cards that were included in the gift bags for the Salvation Army

We missed having you this year if you didn't attend. Maybe we will see you next year. 🌱

## *Belief Matters - Part One*

*By Carolyn Collins*

### **Truth or Theory**

Beliefs matter. Beliefs root, grow, and produce fruit, actions. Beliefs determine actions.

Creation, recorded and preserved by Biblical accounts; "clearly seen" (Rom. 1:20) in the awe and beauty of the universe; substantiated by the complexity of plant and animal life; declared by the Lord Himself, stands on the solid rock of truth.

The Bible's account of Creation is interwoven throughout the Bible as in Job 38-41, Psa. 139. It is foundational truth and cannot be discredited.

Creation is not proven by belief or disproven by lack of belief. Beliefs do not change Creation; they dictate man's actions.

Pseudo intellectualism, fake or false, enters world and masquerades as intelligence in an effort to change our beliefs and actions. Pseudo intelligence rejects the Bible as authority; pseudo science substitutes the created as creator into homes and minds through media and pseudo education.

We who believe in the Creator are portrayed to be uneducated. The opposite is true. We need to determine what we believe, why we believe, and teach our children well.

Have you considered the order of God's Creation? God is not the author of confusion ... (1Cor. 14:33).

The Bible is our plumb line. In Genesis 1 we read of Creation Week when God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness ..." (v. 26) and (v. 27) "So God created man in his own image ..." forming "man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." Gen. 2:7. The Lord God created woman of Adam's rib. Gen. 2: 21-22

Faith based on truth sees the hand of the Lord in every flower and in the face of every child and the person in the mirror. 🌱

### **Mining Treasures**

How much treasure do we bypass in a day, a week, a lifetime? Do you believe mining treasure is a pastime best left in the past? Treasure, here, is defined as anything intensely valuable for its beauty, joy, and blessing, or benefit to self and others. The deeper treasures are the ones that enrich heart, mind, and soul, as well as life.

One place for mining is the church library. Consider a book, *Start Where You Are*, by Charles R. Swindoll. It contains nuggets of pure wisdom that are scattered along the bottom of its pages.

Examples: During the time it takes you to heal,  
Wisdom replaces knowledge.

Never, *never* underestimate the power of  
ONE.

How could anyone deny the value of  
leadership within a home?

(Chapters are short; messages are clear and encouraging.)

*Carolyn Collins*

**Professors from the front page** - Second, profession alone does not do God's will. Profession alone is "a form of godliness, but denies the power thereof" (2 Tim. 2:5). This simply means that a person goes through all the forms of a religious life, yet he denies the power of godliness. God sent the Lord Jesus to die for our sins, to die so that through faith we might be counted free of sin's penalty, justified or counted perfectly righteous and acceptable to God because of Him. God sent the Lord Jesus to arise from the dead, to arise so that through faith, we might be counted as a new man in His resurrected life, acceptable in Him to live eternally with God.

Thirdly, profession alone acknowledges and honors self, not Christ. He is the One who is to be honored and praised. He is the Subject, the only Subject of redemption.


A person must do God's will in order to enter heaven. Heaven should be the final goal of every man. It should be the place every man seeks to enter. The people who wish to enter heaven must do the will of Him who is in heaven. The person who does God's will is the person who truly believes, obeys, and loves God's Son. John 14:21 tells us, *"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."*

The plea of false profession is works. There is all the difference in the world between a man who professes that his righteousness is the righteousness of Christ and the man who professes that his works please God and make him acceptable to God.

The first man believes that Christ died for his sins and rose again to give him life; he trusts God to count him forgiven and righteous "in Christ's death" and alive "in Christ's resurrection". This man works, yes, but he works because of the love of Christ. Christ has done so much for him by imputing righteousness and life to him that he surrenders his life in service to Christ. The second man works also, but he works to become acceptable to God. He believes his works please God; therefore he thinks God accepts him because he does good and lives righteously. This man has a formal religion, resting his destiny upon his good works. His confidence is in his own goodness and ability. Thereby Christ is not honored; the man is honored.

Works are wonderful, a tremendous help to mankind. But two things are wrong with the profession of their lives: they rest in their works and they embrace only half of the gospel. They have confidence in self. But they are deceived. Confidence in self is not God's way. God's way is confidence in Christ and His righteousness.

The rejection of false profession is for two reasons. Christ never knew the false professors--not personally. They do not acknowledge His redemption and their need for His redemption. They never come to Him for personal salvation and they only worked iniquity. The word iniquity (anomia) means lawlessness, wickedness. It is neglect of or opposition to the law of God. Substituting the will of self in the place of God's will (I John 3:4), looking to self or to the world instead of looking to God.

Are you a professor or a possessor? Don't be caught with a great gulf placed between being a professor only and the Lord's presence. 

## Off Campus Meet Up Group "West Chatham Set Free 4 Life"



Thursday's at 7pm  
Contact Joe Ortiz for current meeting location

Relationships are one of our most treasured commodities in our lives, even more important than wealth, power, or influence. Teens, Young adults, and older adults are falling victim to lies that ruin loving relationships. Come and join us

Visit: [www.meetup.com/West-Chatham-Set-Free-4-Life](http://www.meetup.com/West-Chatham-Set-Free-4-Life)



## Seed Sowers Outing Sunday, May 2 at 1:30 pm

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### *Did You Know Facts*

*Mothers Day, May 9<sup>th</sup> and Fathers Day, June 20<sup>th</sup>*

**Did you know** that the first official celebration of mothers in the United States took place in 1858? Anna Reeves Jarvis campaigned for a Mothers' Work Day in her home state of West Virginia to raise awareness about local sanitation issues. When Jarvis passed away in 1905, her daughter Anna pursued a national mother's day in honor of her own activist mom. Anna's efforts paid off when in 1914, Mother's Day was recognized as a national holiday by Presidential proclamation.

**Did you know** that nearly 96% of all Americans participate in Mother's Day celebrations in some way? For example, the holiday is the peak day for long distance carriers and one of the busiest days of the year for restaurants.

**Did you know** that the concept of Father's Day was first proposed in 1909 by Washingtonian native Mrs. John B. Dodd? Her inspiration for the holiday was to honor her own father, William Smart, a Civil War veteran and single dad, widowed when his wife died in childbirth with their sixth child.

**Did you know** that Americans aren't the only ones to celebrate their dads? In the United States and 52 other countries around the world, Father's Day is celebrated on the third Sunday in June. The first Sunday in June is when Lithuanian dads are honored; and on the second Sunday, dads in Austria and Belgium have their special day. 🇺🇸

7



# Vacation Bible School 2010 June 13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm nightly

**The Egypt File by AnswersinGenesis.org.** Answers in Genesis is an apologetics (i.e., Christianity-defending) ministry, dedicated to enabling Christians to defend their faith and to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ effectively. To read more about Answer In Genesis go to <http://www.answersingenesis.org/about/>

## What makes an Answers VBS program different from any other Vacation Bible School?

### Two Words: Real Life

In this day and age, it's vital that we teach our children that the Bible is more than just a dusty book of stories. We need to show them God's Word connects to every area of our lives and is as relevant today as it was thousands of years ago, so they will know its amazing message of salvation is true!

With *The Egypt File VBS*, children will learn where we came from; who we are; how we can know we'll spend eternity with our Creator; and how we should live.

### Answers Goal

If you asked the children of your church and community how they felt about the Bible, what would their response be? Would they consider the Word of God relevant to their lives and interesting to learn from? Or would it seem irrelevant and trumped by "science"?

A recent survey by America's Research Group revealed that an alarming number of young people are leaving the church after they graduate because their questions about the Bible had not been answered. Respondents indicated that Sunday School materials were shallow and irrelevant. Of those polled, 86% had begun to question the Bible by their high school years. Of those who said they did not believe all the accounts in the Bible are true, 82% cited doubts about the Bible's authority or its trustworthiness.

*[At Bloomingdale Alliance Church we strive to provide a well rounded curriculum that involve 12 Spiritual Growth Issues: that include Salvation, Bible Knowledge/Application, Bible Memory, Healthy Relationships, Worship, Prayer/Devotional Life, Spirit Fullness, Spiritual Gifts/Talents/Skills, Outreach, Stewardship, Christian Service, and Missions. We use DiscipleLand which offers curriculum that touches all of these spiritual growth needs of our children.]*

[AnswersInGenesis] trust that the Lord will use this VBS to help reverse this sad trend by equipping today's children with the answers they seek. [AnswersInGenesis] have designed The Egypt File to provide solid Bible-based teaching,

delivered in a fun and entertaining way, that counters the misinformation about the Bible and science that children encounter daily.