

Ajax Baptist Church

"Ministering the Changeless Christ in a Changing World."



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¹⁶When the wicked increase, transgression increases;
But the righteous will see their fall.

¹⁷Correct your son, and he will give you comfort;
He will also delight your soul.

¹⁸Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained,
But happy is he who keeps the law.

¹⁹A slave will not be instructed by words alone;

For though he understands, there will be no response"

Proverbs 29:16-19

Friends at Ajax Baptist Church;

For over 65 years Ajax Baptist Church has been ministering in our community! In other words, we are part of a Congregation that has been ministering longer than Ajax has been a town!

On the occasion of our 60th Anniversary, I wrote:

"Ajax Baptist Church has served as a vital part of your community since 1945, before the town was incorporated. For over six decades, we have seen many of the changes in both our community and the world at large.

As life in the 21st Century grows increasingly hectic with technological breakthroughs and resultant new ethical dilemmas, the challenges of life in such a world oftentimes leave us feeling overwhelmed and confused.

The Biblical Psalmist once asked;

"When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

As the very moral structure and fiber of our society is being challenged, we at Ajax continue to minister and proclaim the changeless eternal message of Jesus Christ, who is *"the same yesterday and today and forever"*, as the answer to the deepest longings of the human heart. At the same time, we encourage thoughtful reflection on issues that concern us today.

Join us as we worship and grow together in Christ within the context of a warm and caring Church family."

Whether you are new to Ajax Baptist Church or you have been here for many years, you are part of something special! As one of the oldest, if not the oldest Evangelical Church in Ajax ours is a history marked by faithfulness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I have had the great

privilege of serving as your Pastor since the summer of 2005. Together, we have rejoiced at God's Goodness in our midst; yet, we long for genuine spiritual renewal and growth.

As we stand at the brink of the second decade of this century, as your Pastor I invite you to join with me in making the Year **2011 – A year of Repentance, Return and Renewal**.

Repentance – We start by acknowledging that though we have much to thank God for in our midst; as Leaders and as the people of God, we have left much undone. All of us, whether we be mature in our faith or new to our walk with God, must acknowledge that we have at one time or another have failed to live up to even our own highest values and expectations. Whether by commission or omission we have failed to hearken to the voice of our God.

Return – Together, we as leaders and people acknowledge our shortcomings and God's gracious forgiveness in Jesus Christ. As the people of God, I you encourage to reach out to those who's absence we have noted, the struggling, the discouraged, the former members and those irregular in their attendance. Our goal being as put forth in the words of the Apostle: *"Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves."* Philippians 2:1-3

Renewal – Missionaries are coming to Ajax Baptist Church to assist us in our outreach! (See the attached GAP ministry proposal from SIM – to be presented in full at February's AGM)

As we continue to *"Minister the Changeless Christ in a Changing World"* I look forward to what our wonderful God will continue to do in our midst. I invite you to share both your vision and your burdens as we grow together in Christ. Be assured that you will always find my door open and inviting.

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully."

Yours Because His;

Philip C. Ralph (Rev)
Pastor