

**April 2008**  
**God Reaches the Heart**

**2<sup>nd</sup> qtr Bulletin Insert:**  
Reach Out



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A complimentary lunch for pastors and spouses, designed to refresh you from the every day issues you face and help you and your spouse network and fellowship with other local pastors. Are you connected with a ministerial association, local group of clergy or desire to get connected? Consider hosting a luncheon in your area.



Our vision is to impact and influence the African American family with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, specifically reaching out to the African American pastor, the church and the community with more intentional efforts.

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**God Reaches the Heart**

by Alex Person

The chosen people of God wanted to become like other nations and demanded, God appoint a king over them so they would be governed similar to surrounding nations. Unfortunately, the people of Israel had forgotten that the Lord was their only true king and deliverer. Initially, the judge Samuel anointed Saul as king over Israel. But Saul exhibits some qualities which were not acceptable to God. He wanted to do things his way and not God's way. Saul's primary problem was disobedience to God.

As a result God led Samuel once again to find a king for His people. Samuel went to Jesse's house and the Lord said he would find a king among the sons. Samuel received instructions: Do not look on the outward appearance of the sons. Sometimes, appearances do not clearly convey the intents of one's heart. Outward appearances may not necessarily describe the walk one has developed and nurtured with the Lord. The Lord's caution to Samuel was justified.

Words, what do yours say?:

- Pythagorean Theorem: 18 words.
- Pledge of Allegiance: 31 words.
- The Lord's Prayer: 52 words
- The 10 Commandments: 179 words.
- The Gettysburg address: 271 words.
- The Declaration of Independence: 1,338 words.
- Emancipation Proclamation: 1065
- The IRS Tax Code: approx. 7 million words.

After interviewing seven of the candidates (Jesse's sons), Samuel said none of these meet the criteria which the Lord has given me. ..."Are all the young men here? (I Samuel 16:11) The one whom God had chosen was not present because he was keeping the sheep. And upon his arrival, David was immediately anointed King of Israel by Samuel. Truly, the Lord saw the heart of this young man and reached out from heaven to make him king. God knows our thoughts and the intentions of our hearts. Perhaps, the Lord is challenging us today whether the motives of our hearts are in step with His will?

Alex Person  
Manager, African American Outreach  
Focus on the Family

**Traditional Family Alive & Well**

The traditional family is alive and well according to the latest report from the Census Bureau. Of the nation's 73 million children, nearly 45 million live with their biological parents. Another 19 million live with their unmarried biological mothers. According to the recent Census Survey of Income and Program Participation data, the intact family is strongest among Asian Americans, rising from 76.4 percent in 2001 to 80.5 percent in 2004. Other ethnic statistics show a negative trend. White American children living with married biological parents declined from 67.1 percent in 2001 to 65.9 percent in 2004. Hispanics are next at 57.1 percent (down from 58.2%) and African Americans are last at 28.2 percent (down from 29%), reported frc.org.

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