

What's the Word?/
DAVID
YARBOROUGH

Marriages
built on love
in spite of flaws

“Woman wasn’t made out of (the man’s) head to top him, nor his feet to be trampled upon by him, or his back to be behind him all the time. Woman was created out of his side, to be equal to Him, under his arm to be protected; and near his heart to be loved.” The following quote is from the late Matthew Henry, a well known biblical commentator. This quote speaks of the partnership God has called us to in marriage.

In speaking of marriage, the book of Genesis says, “And the two shall become one flesh” (Gen. 2:24). “One flesh” speaks of two separate people from separate families coming together to form an inseparable union. The idea of being “one flesh” literally spoke of the consummation that was to take place through sexual intimacy. The couple was to speak the vows with their lips, and then seal the vows with their bodies. This is a big part of the reason God has designed sexual intimacy exclusively for the marriage relationship. I know this is not the popular sentiment in our sex crazed culture, but sex was meant to be a gift from God to a couple to celebrate their oneness in the marriage covenant. It is not just a physical act, but it is also spiritual and emotional in nature.

In marriage, God wants us to become one in a very unique sense. This does not mean we lose our individual personalities. Nor does it mean we lose individual responsibility. There is a unique spiritual union, however, that takes place in marriage. A couple becomes one in an undeniable sense. I truly believe this is why divorce is so painful – it takes that which has become one and rips it apart at the seams. The tearing is painful emotionally and spiritually. It often takes years for people to fully recover and heal.

After stating the couple shall become one flesh, the Bibles then says, “The man and his wife were both naked and they felt no shame” (Gen. 2:25). This speaks obviously of the couple’s physical nakedness, but I think it alludes to much more than that. It says they felt no shame. This couple was free of guilt. Their relationship was a place of complete safety. Marriage was truly meant to be a safe place. Husbands should feel completely safe with their wives, and wives should feel that their man is safe.

This place of oneness and safety means we have nothing to hide. A couple can truly be “naked” in each other’s presence when they are honest, open, and transparent without fear. Imagine having someone in your life that you don’t have to pretend with, that you don’t have to hide from. We will never truly be intimate as long as we hide and keep hidden secrets in our hearts. If we cannot be truthful or honest with our mates, we are truly not experiencing a high level of intimacy.

We cannot be truly one if we are constantly scared of rejection or betrayal. We cannot truly be one if we cannot truly be ourselves. We cannot be one if we cannot fully disclose our hearts.

In marriage, you truly get to know someone. You know their strengths and their weaknesses, the good and the bad. You know your spouse’s flaws. And yet we are not supposed to reject each other. The home is meant to be the safest place on earth. Our relationships are meant to be transparent. We often get married “because of this and because of that.” We will stay married though “in spite of this and in spite of that.” You see, the beauty of marriage is that you know your spouses flaws and yet you love them anyway. And they feel the same way about you. And there is no greater power than unconditional love. There is no safer place than total and complete commitment to one another. Is your marriage truly a safe environment? Are you truly growing in oneness together? And that’s the Word.

The Rev. David Yarborough is pastor of St. Simons Community Church. Contact him at david@sscommunitychurch.com or 912-634-2960.



Bobby Haven/The Brunswick News photos

Members of the First Baptist Church cooking team begin preparation for Friday's lunch at Manna House.

Manna House marks 35 years, seeks more help

By LINDSEY ADKISON
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A line of people flowed out of 1408 G St. in Brunswick. The men and women assembled there have different backgrounds and stories, but there is one trait they all share — they’re hungry.

It’s a common scene outside of Manna House, an area soup kitchen, most days of the week. There, those who have nowhere else to turn are guaranteed to get a hot plate and a warm smile from those who volunteer to serve the lunch time meal.

It’s something that began back in September of 1983 when the sitting mayor, Reggie Holtzendorf, approached a number of area ministers from across the community, including the Rev. Jim Crandall and the Rev. Buzz Yarborough. They collectively founded the mission, with the support of the city, as a way to aid the homeless and needy population in the downtown area.

They first set-up next to the Salvation Army, moving over to the existing facility in 2002.

Since then, the organization has continued the goal of spreading love through service. Preston Kirkendall has been a part of the process for more than a decade. The member of St. James Lutheran Church in Brunswick first started working with the group as a volunteer with fellow parishioners.

“Our church had one of the days to serve and we started working there. Then I became the manager for the day we



Preston Kirkendall, left, and the Rev. Jim Crandall join the First Baptist Church cooking team to stocking shelves Friday at Manna House.

served. Then a number of people asked me to join the board ... one thing led to another, you know how that happens,” he said with a chuckle.

Today, things have led to Kirkendall heading up the organization’s board of directors. This month, the group marked a milestone — its 35th anniversary. Since the doors opened, Manna House has continued to feed countless in need while offering a source of service for many of those in the community seeking to give back.

“We have a lot of people who have to do community service who come in and help us. So we are also a place where they can do community service. Then, especially in the summer, we have churches coming down to do mission work. They will call and get the kids to help us serve one or two days a week while

they are here,” he said.

Kirkendall is hoping that more locals will be willing to volunteer. As it currently stands, Manna House is open most days with the exception of a few where there are no teams on the schedule to serve food.

“We basically have 35 teams and we are short three. We have about three days where we don’t have teams so we are always looking for new volunteers. All of the food is there if you want to use it or you can bring your own if you want to make something else,” he said.

“We get monetary donations from local churches to pay for the food and others like (Adam) Wainwright and charities donate. Grocery stores donate. People will also call us if they have an event with a lot of leftover food, then we will serve that the next day.”

From both the service and mission oriented angles, Manna House has proven to be an invaluable source of faith-based action and purpose, through the roughly 150 to 200 meals it serves each day. The organization’s legacy and mission is incredibly important to those it assists each day.

“We have a number of people who come in and this is the only meal they get. I don’t know how many that is ... but we have a number of people who I see that come in every day. There are other people who are homeless and are coming in because they are moving through the area,” Kirkendall said.

“Others are unemployed or living with someone else, maybe their car broke down and they don’t have any money ... there are just all kinds of people who come. They all just need a meal that day.”

That’s why, as the group marks its 35th year in operation, they hope to bring in fresh faces, happy hearts and giving spirits to move forward. Those that are interested can contact Kirkendall at 912-230-7487. He will take new volunteers through the process, noting that they too benefit from the experience nearly as much as those

“The Lord tells us to help those in need. All churches believe in helping those in need and doing what’s needed for them,” he said. “The people who come here for meals are very grateful. Almost every week someone is sticking their head in the kitchen where I am to thank us for doing it.”

Faith
MATTERS

Events and special services
Abyssinia Baptist Church, 2501 Albany St, Brunswick, will host its Family and Friends Day at 11 a.m. Sunday. Lunch will follow the service.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 3631 Community Road, Brunswick, will host a concert featuring the Lawson String Ensemble of Jacksonville at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 18 at the church. It is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served afterward with an opportunity to meet the musicians.
Fete for Haiti, a fundraiser sponsored by Helping Hugs for Haiti, will host an event at 6 p.m. Nov. 9 at Bennie’s Red Barn on St. Simons Island. Tickets are \$60 and include dinner and

a beverage. A cash bar will be available. For more information or to order tickets, visit <http://www.helpinghugsinc.org>.
First African Baptist Church, 1416 Amherst St., Brunswick, will celebrate the Rev. L.E. Williams’ 16th anniversary at 4 p.m. Oct. 14. The Rev. Norris Woods of St. Peter’s Missionary Baptist Church in Waycross will be the guest minister.
First Friendship Baptist Church will celebrate its Family and Friends Day at 11 a.m. Sunday. The Rev. Jeanette Brison will be the guest speaker.
First Bryant Baptist Church, 1100 F St., Brunswick, will celebrate its 140th church anniversary at 7:30 p.m. nightly from Oct. 15 to 17. Guest speakers and churches will be on hand each evening. Services will

culminate at 11 a.m. Oct. 21.
Hats and Sundresses on the Grounds: Sixth Annual event will be held at 11:30 a.m. today at 206 Anchor Dr., Brunswick. The theme will be Aligning Yourself for Purpose. A number of speakers will be on hand. There will be refreshments and door prizes. The cost is \$25. For more information, call Ann King at 912-230-0706 or visit www.hatsandsundresses.com.
Living World Worship Center International, 1010 Amherst St., Brunswick, will host the “I’m Still Saved Revival” at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. on today and 10:30 a.m. Sunday. The evangelist will be Bobbie J. Barney of the Apostolic Pentecostal Church in Chicago. For more information, call the Rev. Darren West at 912-267-1488.
Magnolia C.M.E., 4937 Hwy. 82, Brunswick, will host its Family and Friends Day at 11 a.m. Oct. 14. The church will also celebrate its new pastor, the Rev. Johnnie

Law.
Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church, 1926 Stonewall St., Brunswick, will host a banquet honoring the Rev. L. Carl Brown Jr.’s 20th anniversary. It will be held at 6 p.m. Oct. 6 at Embassy Suites Hotel in Brunswick. The cost is \$30 per person. The celebration will culminate at 11 a.m. Oct. 7. The Rev. Robert Marshall of Chicago will deliver the message. For more information, call Linda Wright at 912-264-9437 or Martha Brantley at 912-264-0039.
St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, 1120 Newcastle Street, Brunswick, hosts its non-denominational crafters guild from 6-9 p.m. Tuesdays in the St. Joseph Room in the church parish hall. No fees. Everyone is welcome. All types of crafts and ideas area shared. The guild provides hats for preemies and cancer patients, along with leg

Please see FAITH, 3C