



Worship portrait by Kerry Jackson

*April 28, 2009*

*“For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.” Acts 2:39*

**God** gives a promise to all who will repent and believe in His Son as the Christ. The promise is salvation. I find myself thinking more and more about the amazing gift of God’s salvation and grace. The astonishing fact is that He would want to save me or any of us, yet He loves us that much! Now, more than ever, believers in the Lord Jesus must share this great Good News of God. It is exciting for me to see people searching for answers, probably more than ever in my lifetime, and to understand clearly that I can share with them the truth of Jesus. I was born for such an hour and so were you! We have understood the promise of God and now we can point others to this saving knowledge. The Lord has placed River’s Edge in a great position to proclaim Jesus as “the Way, the Truth and the Life”. Nothing hinders us but a lack of faith and maybe a tinge of fear. Can I ask you, why are we here other than to share Jesus? What would our purpose in life really be about, if Christ is not our Promise from God? The Apostle Peter preached a simple and straightforward sermon to all the people in Jerusalem during the Feast of Pentecost just after the ascension of Jesus to heaven. Peter let the Holy Spirit speak through him and over 3000 people committed their lives to Christ that day. I believe we too can experience the Spirit’s power and leadership in our lives. Just believe in the salvation promise of God and

share the news! Remember that there are folks all around you who need to have their questions answered. Let God answer through you!

***Resurrection Sunday***, otherwise known as Easter, was a terrific day at River's Edge. We had our largest attendance ever as a church family and the spirit was phenomenal. In fact, the last two months have been a joy and blessing from God. Both in Bible Study and Worship the Lord is growing our numbers and an attitude of praise. I am so thankful for what the Lord is doing among us. The EKG Celebration Weekend was the best worship event in a long time and I appreciate both Danny Jones and Kerry Jackson for ministering to us in that special time.

***Rewind: Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing*** is my new sermon series each Sunday morning. I am going back to the original 7 messages that I preached when River's Edge began in 2004. This study in Acts 2 profiles a healthy church for us and prepares us for our next steps as a church family. Please pray for me as I prepare each week and come to church expecting God to act powerfully through His people.

***With growth***, comes changing needs and directions. Each week we have more and more children involved in Bible Study and Worship. This is wonderful and also a challenge. Our space needs are becoming apparent and we must continue to pray for God's leadership. Our neighbor, Mark Hunter, is finishing some rooms in his section of the building that he has already offered for our use. We are grateful to Mark for allowing us this opportunity and it will help us at least bridge the gap for a while. Please let Mark know of your thanks and also keep praying for more solutions. Our Lord knows exactly what we need and when we need it. He will always come through for us!

***Our growth*** is also a wake up call to support our present ministry. Many of us are sensing the need to expand the ministry of River's Edge by providing more space to grow within and function. This is a matter of prayer for the Lord's guidance, but it is also a **"giving matter."** Before we can consider an expansion or a move to another, larger location, we've got to support what is happening now. Supporting the ministry means giving an offering consistently. **Each family in the church needs to help with this act of worship.** Giving your financial offering needs to be just as

important as your presence in worship on Sunday, or your volunteer service to the Lord in ministry. For the Lord to use River's Edge in bigger things, we have to be found faithful in the smaller things! The Spirit is speaking to us right now concerning this issue and we need to act right now! Please listen carefully and make your giving an act of worship unto the Lord!

***Awana Awards Night*** is coming on **Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.** We will begin the night with a hotdog and hamburger meal and then inside for the special awards night celebration. Our kids have been outstanding this year and have accomplished amazing things. Our leaders are pretty amazing themselves and they also will be recognized. Don't miss this great night of praise to God for His blessings and an opportunity to see your children in spiritual action!

***Two important helping times.....this Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>:*** meet at the Bostic's home to load and haul debris at **8:30 am** and then on to the Herron's home to help them move to a new house on Kilgore Road in Buford. If you are available, please assist these families.

***Finally,*** we welcome the **Open Door Korean Baptist Church** to River's Edge for their first weekly Bible Study in our building on **Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup> from 5:30-7:30 pm.** Open Door is already meeting for worship in Hall County where the church will be planted, but they needed a weekly Bible Study opportunity in the Suwanee area. We will be their hosts as they get this study going. Be in prayer for our brothers and sisters in Christ and be a blessing to them as you meet them on Friday nights!

**I love you all and will see you Sunday!**

**Pastor Stephen**