



EBENEZER

United Methodist Church

www.ebenezerum-church.org

MARCH '11

Volume 7 Issue 3

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...” *Matthew 28:19*

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Sunday Services

- 8:30 a.m. *Worship Service (Contemporary)*
- 9:50 a.m. *Sunday School*
- 11:00 a.m. *Worship Service (Traditional)*
- 5:00 p.m. Jr. UMYF (grades 6, 7, 8)
- 6:00 p.m. UMYF (Grades 9-12)
- 6:00 p.m. *Adult Choir Practice*
- 7:00 p.m. *Every FOURTH SUNDAY United Methodist Women*



Pastor's Corner — Rev. Eric Lane



Dear Helpers,

Jimmy Stone, Larry Shook, Steve Miller, and myself served from February 18 until February 20 in a ministry called KARIOS. This is a ministry that brings us into a prison to share the love of God with men who may have never experienced the true meaning of love.

For Jimmy and myself this was not the first time there. For me, I thought I knew what to expect, and I thought I was prepared for what would take place. I did not go there expecting that there would be an earthquake, and the chains—or in this case—doors, fall open; and all that were there to be set free as with the story of Paul. No, these men had committed crimes; some of these crimes took the lives of innocent people, and they were there to pay for what they had done. They were guilty.

Yet, God still loves them; and, when most everyone in their lives has left them, when they feel empty, and that they are un-loveable, God still cares for them. So why was I there? I was there because God loves me, and I realized that there were times in my life and things that I had done in my life that made me un-loveable. No, I never took a person's life, but I have caused others pain, and there is no doubt that the sin that had separated me from God was just as real as the sin that they were dealing with. The difference was that along my way, there were people who continued to love me and nurtured me in real love—because God was a strong part of their life.

Well, I do not have paper enough or time enough to explain all that occurred. Like many of us who read the Scriptures, we pass those stories off as things that happened way back when, and fail to see them as real. But there was one participant out of the 42 who did not want to be there, who did not want to participate, who did not want to share. Yet, honestly, most of the men were there simply because it allowed them a certain amount of freedom—and because of the food that we shared together. One evening, they brought the meal out and one of the men simply sat there looking at his plate. I said to him, “Are you not hungry?” and his reply was, “I am just looking at this a moment. It has been at least 10 years since I have had real chicken.” I know you think, well, he was getting what he deserved. It is his fault. But his remark was not because of the prison food, but because he could not understand why anyone would do something for him. Besides, what if God gave us what we deserve?

(Continued on page 4)

TUESDAY ACTIVITIES

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer Meeting
- 3:00 p.m. Every Fourth Tuesday. Alzheimer's Support Group at Brockford Inn

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

- 6:00 p.m.—*New Life Rehearsal*
- 7:00 p.m. Bible Study—Adult, Children's.
- 7:00 p.m. Synago—(grades 9–12)

THURSDAY ACTIVITIES

- 7:00 p.m. Every First Thursday, Prayer Breakfast

Office Hours: Tues.-Fri.
8:30 AM—1:00 PM. 396-2214.



Meetings

United Methodist Women

The UMW meets at **7:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 27th**. Marilyn Kohnle is in charge of the program. Cinda McRary & Dawn Yount will supply refreshments.

Men's Prayer Breakfast

The Prayer Breakfast is on **Thursday, March 3rd at 7:00 p.m.** Come join us for an evening breakfast and a time of fellowship and prayer. All ages and genders are invited to attend. The men cook the food and clean up. Anyone can lift up a prayer concern, but no one is required to pray out loud.

Shepherds


Our church Shepherds are asked to attend a meeting on **Sunday, March 6 at 5:00 p.m.** We need new Shepherds and are looking for more volunteers. Please consider offering to help.

Ash Wednesday Services

There will be no Wednesday evening service at Ebenezer on **Ash Wednesday, March 9th** unless inclement weather moves the Habitat House kick-off ceremony to the church. See p. 6 for more information.

Church Council

The church council will meet on **March 13th at 4:30 p.m.** If you are on the council, please plan to attend. Chair persons of other committees are encouraged to present reports on their group's activities during the meeting.


 "The Spirit is not an influence. He is not a little fairy perched on our shoulders giving us hints on which way to turn. He is God."

Alzheimer's Support Group

Anyone dealing with a relative with Alzheimer's is welcome to attend. Meetings at Brockford Inn Resident Care Facility at 56 Highland Avenue in Granite Falls, NC. at **3:00 p.m. on the 4th Tuesday of each month**. Contact Bleaka Hollar for more information.

Something to Pray About

[Jesus said], "I will not leave you as orphans."
 —John 14:18 (NKJV) We are not orphans, so let's stop living as if we were—as if God has abandoned us.

"NOT ORPHANS"

By Cindy Sears

Although we humans are all God's creatures or created beings, we are not all His children. The Bible no where speaks of the "brotherhood of man," but only of the brotherhood or family of believers. The children of God are those who have accepted Jesus Christ, the ONE TRUE GOD's ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, as Lord and Savior.

And the ONE TRUE GOD is not an amorphous being spread throughout the things and beings of the universe. He is a transcendent God who lives outside of creation. He is not tied to the created world at all. His existence does not depend on the created world's existence. He did not have to make us at all. He did not need us at all, because the Three in ONE already possessed perfect love, perfect unity, perfect relationship.

Yet, He chose to create. And He chose to redeem when we fell. And the redeemed are now His children, a part of His family. And we are not alone. In John 14:18, Jesus declared that He would not leave us as orphans. Orphans have no father or mother to turn to in times of stress, or to ask for advice when making decisions, or for help when times are rough. So, why do we act and live as if we are orphans—as if we are fatherless and motherless? We are not orphans, so let's stop living as if we were—as if God, our Father, has abandoned us.

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you, and will be (or is) in you" (John 14:15-17).

Isn't it high time we remembered who lives in us? The Spirit is not an influence. He is not a little fairy perched on our shoulders giving us hints on which way to turn. He is God. He is a part of the Triune God, who now dwells in us. As Jesus said, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him" (John 14:23). The Holy Spirit is not just a little bit of God either—He is God. The Spirit of Truth is also our Father and our Brother, our Lord, living within us. But, do we really believe this?

"I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these; because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it" (John 14:12-14).

If the Spirit of Truth does live within us; if Christ will give us anything we ask for in His name that will glorify the Father—why don't we ask and ask boldly for big and glorious and awe inspiring things? The only question we need answer before asking for something in prayer is: will this glorify the Father? For example: instead of asking only for healing of a person's disease, why not also pray that the healing will lead to God's glory? Why not also ask that the healed person will use their regained health to work more for Christ and His kingdom? And why stop at physical healing? Why not ask for the person to be more willing to serve the Father by living more like the Son? When asking for support of a ministry we are engaged in, why not ask for more than we think we can get by our own power and effort? When giving to God, why not give more than a small portion within our comfort zone, but instead give above that which we think we are capable of doing—and watch God bless us beyond measure? And for those of us like me, who find it difficult to talk about Jesus to others outside the church, why not pray for boldness to speak up—and watch God work miracles?



Church Council Feb. 13, 2011

Council Members Present:

Ricky Baker, Warren Bumgarner, J. B. & Patty Coffey, Kim Ellis, Boyd Fairchild, James Farr, Barbara Frye, Jo Nell Harrison, Tom Harrison, Bleaka Hollar, Joanne Knepp, Jerry Kohnle, Eric Lane, Barbara Miller, Bob Sears, Cindy Sears, Jeff Smith, Heather Stone, plus Judy McCrary.

Bleaka Hollar called the meeting to order, because Gerald Frye was sick and could not attend. Tom Harrison opened with prayer.

We discussed the discrepancy in the amount owed by UMW and the Costa Rica Team for a box of biscuits. Jo Nell will correct the amount.

OLD BUSINESS

Heather Stone has volunteered and begun training in entering the contributions to help Cindy out.

The Nursery speakers are still having problems. Randy McRary will work with the young men who operate the board at 2nd service, and make sure they know how to set it, so that the nursery workers can hear the service.

Keith Bradford is checking to see if the old candles can be re-poured, for further usefulness. Bees wax candles are more expensive, but may burn better with less trimming.

Listening devices for those with need of assistant hearing were checked on by Eric. Kim asked if we should approach them to see if they will use them. Eric said that some have indicated that they would use them. The user can sit anywhere in the sanctuary and hear the service. The cost is \$750-1000 a set. Additional receivers cost \$100 a piece. First set comes with four receivers. Kim Ellis made a motion that we purchase a set. Jerry Kohnle seconded. Motion passed. Eric will buy and talk with the people who will be using them.

Ricky Baker reported that the youth will be able to finish paying off their debt to the church now.

Jo Nell reported on the financial records.

If we build the new building, our expenses will rise. J. B. Coffey has gone to two banks to discuss a building loan. No one would lock in an exact amount. The interest rate is coming in between 4.5 and 6.5 percent. This rate will need to be negotiated when ready to apply for the loan. Our portion will be \$450,000 plus interest while waiting on the Duke Endowment funds to come through in the next few years.

Jo Nell emphasized that we need valid receipts for anything that anyone purchases and wants to be reimbursed for. She has a form that people will need to fill out to receive the repayments. Jo Nell made a motion that Joanne not write a check until we have approval from someone in authority. Eric explained that this will help us to get the state sales tax back, which amounted to a couple thousand dollars last year. We need the receipts to be able to apply for these repayments. We also need to send out 1099 forms to people who do work for the church to avoid problems with the IRS. We need the receipts and the form filled out before we can reimburse the funds. Warren Bumgarner made a motion to implement the new procedures; J. B. Coffey seconded the motion. Motion approved that the new procedures be implemented as stated by Jo Nell.

Bleaka Hollar commended Jo Nell on her work on the finances.

Kim said the shelf was put in the storage building per her request at the last meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Yearly BBQ is scheduled for April 15 & 16. VBS is scheduled for June 20-24, 2011. It will begin on Monday night instead of on Sunday, because of Father's Day. The Mother's day banquet will be on May 7th.

PPR Committee met Feb 1st. Meeting was to get the church in compliance with the way we handle employees and contractors. Mrs. Dula has been given a written contract and she has signed it.

Jeff Smith proposed that we increase Cindy's hours from 18 hours a week to 20 hours. Tom Harrison made a motion to do so. There was some discussion on whether or not the increase will be

enough. Motion passed.

Trustees meeting reported: they closed out the safety deposit box at RBC. Minutes were included from the meeting.

J. B. Coffey said the banks were asking for a date for beginning the building. Eric said that we would need to have a church conference to show them what we have, what we are going to do, and what the financing will mean to our budget. After discussion, we would take a vote to move forward with it or not. Once that is done, as soon as we get the financing, we would be ready to go. We are now waiting for information on what we can expect to need and the possible financing cost. J. B. said it is hard to get a commitment from a bank without a firm date. Eric wants to make a decision about the building in the next month or so, and try to break ground in April or May of this year.

Warren Bumgarner asked when this building was built. Warren suggested that the church history be updated to the current year on the web site. At this point it only goes through 1974. Bleaka will get in touch with church historian, Glennie Sims, and try to get a more complete history written up.

Kim Ellis suggested that we buy another trash can. She will buy one in the near future if it looks like we need one.

Bleaka will speak at the services on Sunday, February 20th, while Eric is at the Kairos event. Eric requested that Bleaka set up a homecoming committee to determine speakers and music for homecoming and the revival.

Layman's Revival in May will go on again this year. Bleaka invited people to suggest music for the revival. It will be the first week in May. Bleaka closed the meeting in prayer.

Minutes by: Cindy Sears

**Food Donation Request
for March:
Canned Fruit or Desserts**



(Continued from page 1)

I could tell you story upon story and many may be thinking that on Monday, these men went back to living like they had before. Well, that is true of all of us. We can have an encounter with God, and we can allow that encounter to change us, or we can choose to return to our old ways. Whichever we choose to do, God still loves us.

“God touched the lives of many of those participants, and, no matter what, they will know that God loves them and will always love them.”

Sunday came, and, honestly, I doubt many of us had slept much over the weekend. It may have been the cookies, or the food, or the Holy Spirit, but we were all tired physically. We had arrived each morning at 6:45 a.m. to get into the prison and for many of us that meant we had to be up by 5:00 am. We left each night around 9:00 pm. Then we went home where many of us still had things to do. Yet, God provided us with the strength to press on.

God touched the lives of many of those participants, and, no matter what, they will know that God loves them and will always love them. They will know that God, through his son Jesus Christ, will forgive them, and that his promise is the same promise that he gave to all those who cried out, “Lord forgive me for I have sinned against you.” His promise is to remember us.

There was one participant that I will forever remember. His story is told within the Scriptures as found in Mark 1:21-28. There was a man who was possessed by an evil spirit. A spirit that caused him pain, suffering—that made him feel unloved, and caused him to not be able to speak. This participant wanted to leave after he was there that first night. He had come for the food, but did not want to encounter anything else. The evil spirit had caused him to be silent. In fact, we as a team, gathered that first night and prayed over his chair—that

God would intervene—and that he would not become a stumbling block to others; that God would work within him and work within us to share God’s love with him.

We were about to dismiss—they would go back to lock up, and we to our homes—when, suddenly, this man stood and asked to say something. The KARIOS team and even the Chaplin were in shock. This man had not participated in anything—not even to share his name. And then it happened, “Come out of him!” No, I did not hear those words spoken, but I saw it in his actions. If I were to say to you that I was not a little afraid, I would be lying. He began to shout and cry out of the pain that was inside him—the evil spirit that had such a hold of him was being broken down. Satan does not give up without a fight.

But it was what I witnessed next, that touched me. His very own brothers, those who were in prison uniforms, some who would have never given this man a second look before, stood up walked over to this man and embraced him, and loved him, prayed for him, and shared with him.

After that we left. I cannot tell you what is next for that man. I know that he has had an experience with God, and what he chooses to do with that is totally up to him. “Behold I stand at the door and knock.” It is the same with each of us. We encounter God everyday of our lives, and how we choose to deal with it and what we do with it, is totally up to us.

I want to say THANK YOU to all of you that allowed us to be used for the glory of God. It took each of you to make this weekend happen. I pray that you will continue to support the ministry of KARIOS and I hope that you will ask God to show us how we can be involved even more in this ministry. Whether we want to admit it or not, they are our neighbors.

God is real and God continues to work miracles if you don’t believe it, just give him a try sometime. The only thing that I have left to say is “WOW!”

Rev. Eric Lane

Lipstick in School (priceless)

A private school in Washington was recently faced with a unique problem. Some 12-year-old girls were beginning to use lipstick and would put it on in the bathroom. That was fine, but after they put on their lipstick, they would press their lips on the mirror leaving dozens of little lip prints. Every night the maintenance man would remove them, and the next day the girls would put them back. Finally, the principal decided something had to be done.

She called the girls to the bathroom and met them there with the maintenance man. She explained that these lip prints were causing a major problem for the

custodian who had to clean the mirrors every night (you can just imagine all the yawns from the little princesses). To demonstrate how difficult it had been



to clean the mirrors, she asked the man to show the girls how much effort was required. He took out a long-handled squeegee, dipped it in the toilet, and cleaned the mirror with it... Since then, there have been no lip prints on the mirror.

There are teachers. . . and then there are educators.

-copied-

Ham Biscuits! Yum! Yum!

We will be selling ham biscuits, along with sausage and egg ones again on **Thursday, March 17th**. We start at **6:00 a.m.** and stop when they are all gone. It doesn’t take long! So **call early or pre-order on Wednesday by calling:**

396-7924

396-9491

396-2214 (church office; 8:30-1:00 pm)

We deliver orders of 10 or more. Proceeds support our yearly mission trip to and work in Costa Rica.



March Celebrations



- 1st—Charlie Mullinax
- 3rd—Michael Smith
- 5th—Christine Teague
- 7th—Trena Kirby, Kim Knepp
- 8th—Kevin Lane, Judy Mccrary
- 10th—Kay Smith, Bryan Turner
- 12th—Margaret Smith
- Clair Gilbert, Andrew Sims
- 14th—Wayne Ellis, Jerry Helton
- 16th—Sarah Adams, Rachel Adams
- 17th—Jimmy Stone
- 18th—Angie Yount
- 20th—Tracy McRary
- 25th—Jordan Ellis
- 26th—Emily Kohnle, Cody Thompson
- 28th—Amanda McRary
- 29th—Rene Huffman, Cindy Sears
- 30th—Shawn Baker

Happy Anniversary!

- 10th—Darren & Carla McCrary
- 28th—Michael & Margaret Smith

Our Military



Kyle Blair
 Anthony Coffey
 Michael Crouse
 Ricky Garland
 Jason Gibson
 Trey Hefner
 Chris Kaisenski
 Ian Lawrence
 Shane McRary
 Eric Maynard
 Joey Moore
 Jason Nichol
 Christopher Satterwhite

Please pray for the men and women who protect our freedoms.



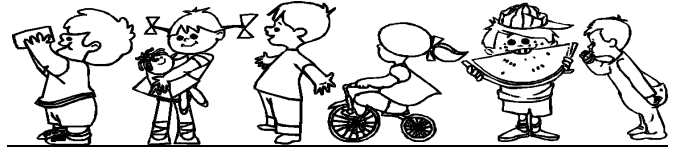
Acolyte Schedule - March

6th Samantha Stone

13th Molly Sims

20th Hannah Abernethy

27th Devin Lyda



Nursery Schedule - March

6th 8:30 Sherry Austin & Grace Bradford

11:00 Jerry & Loretta Helton

13th 8:30 Tammy Adams & Bleaka Hollar

11:00 Natasha Haas & Joanne Knepp

20th 8:30 Sonya Crouse & Cheryl Vosdingh

11:00 Wayne Ellis & Rosalind Kelley

27th 8:30 Missy Mullinax & Beth Lane

11:00 Annette Burson

8:30

11:00

Sunday School Classes & Leaders

Nursery — Nancy Sears, Frieda & Jim Farr, Missy Mullinax

Preschool—*Butterfly Class* — Natasha Haas, Sonya Crouse; Assistants: Jamie Smith, Jessica Haas

K, 1st, 2nd—*Explorers Class* — Marsha McRary; Assistants: Dawn Yount, Teresa Simmons

3rd, 4th, 5th—*Lighthouse Class* — Celeste Creasemen; Assistant: Warren Bumgarner

Middle School—*The Rock* — Kim Ellis; Assistants: Glennie Sims, Tammy Adams

High School—*Christ Driven Teens* — Joe Sims, Natasha Haas; Assistants: Steve Kohnle, Whitney Sims

Young Adults—*Under Grace*—David Abernethy

Adults—*Pairs and Spares* — Barbara Miller, Cindy Sears

Adults—*Rainbow Class* — Bleaka Hollar

Adults—*Women's Bible Class* — Susan Brown, Cathy Huffman, Barbara Ferguson, Mildred Tolbert

Adults—*Heavenly Sonlighters* — Bob Sears, Tom Harrison, Leonard Teague, Larry Shook

We have a Bible study class for you at Ebenezer!

Small group studies are also available. Just ask.

We have Wednesday evening classes, too.

Special Giving Projects Reports & Events

Habitat House Project

The fundraising is going strong for the next IMPACT project. Caldwell County United Methodist Churches will be building a house for a local family this spring in the Deal Mill Road area. Each participating church is raising money to help pay for the construction materials. We will also be sharing the work with volunteers from the churches and the community.

Ebenezer's fundraising goal is \$2000—which we met in full on Feb. 13th. Praise the Lord! We are continuing to collect for this project. The last date for giving will be Sunday, February 27th.

On Ash Wednesday, March 9th, there will be a special service for the project (see the box to the right). Then, construction will begin on March 10th and continue through April 16th. A dedication ceremony will be held on Palm Sunday, April 17th, and the keys will be handed over to the new owners.



Bolivia House Fund

Another project we are raising funds for is a house in Bolivia for a needy family. In 2010, our church members and other people helped pay for the materials to build a brick and tile house to replace a thatched roof/dirt floor house that an indigenous Bolivian family was living in. This was done in memory of Rev. Lane's father, Alvin R. Lane. We want to help build another house this year. Eric will be returning to Bolivia in June and hopes to take his family with him on this trip.

As of Sunday, February 20, 2011, our members and other friends of Eric have given \$2,393.75 towards the goal of \$3,500 for this project. We only need slightly over \$1,100 more!

We are grateful to everyone who has given so generously to this mission effort, and to the Habitat House project, too. Thank you for caring and being willing to share with those in need. May God bless you, and may we bless God's holy name as we step up and step out to do His will here and abroad in the coming year.

Bolivia Mission Team Special Fundraiser—March 26th

There will be a yard sale at First United Methodist of Hickory (church beside the library and science center) with all proceeds going to the medical and building team going to Bolivia. Make plans to be there on:

Saturday, March 26th,
7:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.



Lunch for Eric's Bolivia Trip

Pairs and Spares will prepare a chicken & dumpling lunch on **Sunday, March 13th**. Take-out will be available after Sunday school and take-out or eat-in after the 2nd worship service.

The class is requesting donations to help Eric pay for his family's trip to the Bolivia mission field with him in June.

Dimes, Dimes, Dimes

There are bottles in each Sunday School room, which we hope to see filled up with dimes in the next few months. This is part of the fundraiser for the Relay for Life cancer survivors' run that Missy Mullinax and other members of our church support

Habitat House Project Kickoff

On Ash Wednesday, March 9th at 7:00 p.m., there will be a joint worship service at the Habitat House building site on



Security Court in Hudson. The service will include the imposition of ashes and the celebration of communion. Music will be led by the FUMC Lenoir praise team with a brief message delivered by Eric Lane, Pastor of Ebenezer UMC.

Since parking is limited, we are asking folks to carpool (or ride your church van/bus) to the service and to park at Burns Wood Products, 4215 Lower Cedar Valley Rd., Hudson. Then you can ride a shuttle to the site. Shuttle service will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will continue until all have left at the conclusion of the service. Directions to the parking area are provided below:

From Highway 321, turn east onto Lower Cedar Valley Road. Follow Lower Cedar Valley Road .9 miles until you come to Burns Wood Products.

We encourage you to bring a lawn chair and flashlight to the service with you. In the event of inclement weather, the service will take place at Ebenezer UMC, 4948 Burns Rd., Granite Falls.

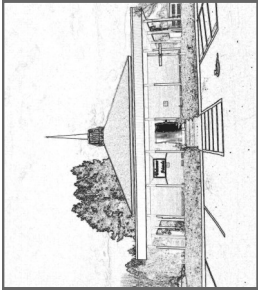
How do I hide God's word in my heart? Memorize it!

"Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

—Luke 12:33-34 NKJV

and participate in. Please save your dimes and give them to this worthy cause. Our goal is to raise \$800.





March 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship 9:50 a.m. Sunday school 11:00 a.m. Worship	See p. 5 for Nursery and Acolyte Lists.	1 9 am—Prayer Group	2 Every Wed.: 6 pm: Praise Band 7 pm: Adult, Children's, Young Adult Bible studies	3 7 pm—Prayer Breakfast, see p. 2	4	5
6 Shepherds Meeting—5 pm, p. 2	7	8 9 am—Prayer Group	9 Habitat House Kick-off, see p. 6 	10	11	12 Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday—don't forget to spring forward one hour!
13 Lunch by Pairs and Spares, see p. 6. Church Council—4:30 pm, p. 2	14	15 9 am—Prayer Group	16	17 Ham Biscuit Sale, see p. 4	18	19
20	21	22 9 am—Prayer Group 3 pm—Alzheimer's Support Group, Brockford Inn, see p.2	23	24	25	26
27 UMW—7 p.m., see p. 2	28	29 9 am—Prayer Group	30	31	 It won't be long now!	