

ROCK SPRINGS CHURCH
DEDICATION

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Dr. Benny Tate and the Rock Springs Congregational Methodist Church in Milner, Georgia.

Rock Springs dedicated a new sanctuary on August 15, 2004 with a seating capacity of 1,100. What makes this dedication so special is that Rock Springs is a rural church in Middle Georgia which in 1989 had an average attendance of less than 100. But as Dr. Benny Tate explains in his dedication sermon, "The Favor of God" is on Rock Springs Church.

In a day and age when more and more people are moving away from the founding principles of our nation and turning to secularism, I commend Dr. Tate and the congregation of Rock Springs Congregational Methodist Church for continuing to seek the lost, and walking in the Favor of God.

Without objection, I would like to enter into the RECORD Dr. Tate's sermon, "Walking in the FOG (Favor of God.)"

ROCK SPRINGS CHURCH—NEW BUILDING
DEDICATION, AUGUST 15, 2004

DR. BENNY TATE—WALKING IN THE FOG (FAVOR
OF GOD)

It is great to be in the Lord's house today and we appreciate you being here for our dedication service. It is an honor and privilege to have each and every one of you in attendance.

I invite you today to take your Bible if you would to the book of Acts chapter 2, verse 38 through 47. "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

I want you to notice verse 47. The scripture says "and having favour with all the people." I have been preaching a series of messages entitled 'Walking in the Fog.' An acrostic for the word Fog is the Favor of God. Today I want to talk to you about the favor of God on a church. It is amazing what happens when God's favor rests on a place. It is amazing what happened when the favor of God was on the early church. I think it is amazing now what happens when God's favor is on a church.

We need to understand the favor of God. We need to understand the prerequisites to

the favor of God. Many times we don't understand the favor of God. Why it is seemingly God's blessing is on one place and God's blessing is not on another place. Why does God choose to give favor as he did here in the second chapter of the book of Acts and maybe seemingly the favor of God is not on another place? I want to you give some pre requisites to the favor of God.

The first ingredient to the favor of God is to have a dream. We can have a lot of debates about God's spirit. Acts chapter 2, one of the indicators of being filled with God's spirit is young men shall see visions and old men shall dream dreams. It is so important that every church has a dream. It is so important that our church many years ago had a dream.

Philippians 2:13 says, "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." The Bible says in Proverbs 29:18, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." It is imperative; it is vital we have a dream.

I know scores of people in their personal lives, in their spiritual lives, in their occupational lives, that are stone blind. They don't have a dream! For the favor of God to rest on a place, we must have a dream. Not only getting a dream but also keeping a dream. Three Hundred Eighty years ago, a group of pilgrims had the courage, the tenacity, the adventurous spirit to cross land and sea to come to a land where they could have freedom, and worship God in spirit and in truth. The first year they were here these 102 pilgrims established a town. The second year they established a town council. The third year the town council proposed building a road out into the wilderness five miles. The fourth year, the people tried to impeach the town council because they said the road five miles out into the wilderness was a waste of funds. A few years before they could see across the ocean, but now they could not see five miles out into the wilderness!

It is so important that we get a dream. It is so important that we keep a dream. H. B. London of Focus on the Family, who is the Pastor to pastors, said, "Congregations, allow your pastors to dream." I am so grateful that I can say with affirmation, after being here working on my fifteenth year, the wonderful people at Rock Springs Church have always allowed me to dream. It may be insane to live life with a dream but it is madness to live life without one. What brought the favor of God on this place? It was because they had a dream.

They had dedication. Acts 2:42 says, "and they continued stedfastly;" dedication. Today is a culmination. We started in 1852 when a group of men, one of them being Absalom Ogletree, had the courage to leave an established denomination and walk out and tread new waters. They formed a denomination, the Congregational Methodist Church; Rock Springs Church being one of the charter churches. It took dedication for a handful of people on July 5, 1979 to watch their building burn to the ground. It took dedication for those people to say, "Our building may have burned, but the church is still here, and we'll build back." What brings the favor of God? Ladies and gentlemen, it is not only a dream, but also dedication to the dream.

The third ingredient to the favor of God is a "desire to reach others." It is woven in the scriptures in verse 38 and 39. "For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." See it would have been easy folks, to stay where we were. It would have been comfortable to stay where we were. I even said one time, "We don't have to do all this, we don't have to go through all this effort, we don't have to give

all this money—all we have to do is put on the marquis out front. Go to hell, we're full!" But God did not call us to comfort, God called us to a cross. See ladies and gentlemen, Rock Springs Church realizes, it is not about us, it's about them. What brings the favor of God is when we get our eyes off ourselves and realize it's not about what we want, it's about reaching men, women, boys and girls for Jesus Christ!

A young lady in our church gave me this: I remember the night during the sanctuary-building program when we made our pledges. I wondered how we would ever be able to give that much. Not equal gifts, but equal sacrifices, and we did. Then I remember the ground breaking when the preacher said, "We've never been this way before," and we all felt a sense of awe about what was becoming. I am overwhelmed by my feelings as I look throughout this sanctuary. Life has been breathed into this place by God Himself. For it is God who has ordained this place and God who built it. He could have used anyone, anywhere, but we were willing. Blessed are we His people who are chosen for such a time as this. Our blood, sweat, tears and prayers are in this building and oh, how small a cost. When I look at this sanctuary, I see the faces of my children growing up in the light of truth. The children I pray for daily. My youngest daughter will be saved and baptized in this building. I see the faces of my family members yet to be saved. My tears will stain the altar for them. I see the faces of those gone on. The sacrifices that brought us to this place. Truly their prayers built the foundation of this building. There once was a plum tree in the field next to the little church on Rock Springs Road. Now there is a new fruit tree growing of wood, brick, mortar and steel. Its branches shall never stop reaching forth, its fruit will always be in season, and it will last throughout all the generations.

For the favor of God, there has to be a desire to reach others.

The fourth and final ingredient is they demonstrated love toward each other. In verse 45 and verse 46 they literally sold their possessions because they cared about each other. A bell is not a bell till you ring it, a song is not a song till you sing it, love is not put in your heart to stay, and love is not love till you give it away. Our church loves one another. We love one another. When we weep, we weep together. When we rejoice, we rejoice together. People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. When we genuinely love one another like we love one another, that brings the favor of God and people are drawn to that!

The last prerequisite for the favor of God is to depend on supernatural power. It is in verse 43, the Bible says, "And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles." President Lyndon Johnson used to tell the story about a preacher who got up one Sunday morning and said, "This morning as I was getting ready for church, my dog ate my sermon notes. Today, I'll have to rely on the Holy Spirit, but I promise next week, I'll do better." We ought to be relying on the Holy Spirit every week and on the supernatural power of God. Last night was my first prayer service in here. I've been praying in the old sanctuary. I was praying a while back, and I wouldn't offend the Lord for anything, but I was somewhat overwhelmed and I said, "Lord, this sanctuary is so small and in just a few weeks we are going to go over there in that big one. Lord, I don't know how I am going to fill it." God spoke to me. People say, "How do you know it is God?" Well, if He ever speaks to you, you won't have to ask me that again. God said, "You didn't fill the one you're in now." It is God's house. It is

not my responsibility to fill it, it's God's responsibility to fill it and it looks like He is doing a pretty good job! See, the early church depended on the supernatural.

I close with this story. There was a little church up in Savannah, Tennessee getting ready for dedication day. The pastor looked over at his son about six weeks from dedication and said, "Son, I want you to write a song for dedication." The night before the dedication service, the father looked over at his nineteen year old son Jaron and said, "Jaron, have you written that song yet for dedication?" He said, "No, dad, but I am getting ready to sit down at the piano and I am going to write that song." Jaron said he sat down at the piano and said to himself, "What do I want to experience when I come into this place for the very first time?" He said, "God gave me these words. As I walked through the door I sensed His presence, and I knew this was the place where love abounds. For this is the temple, Jehovah God abides here, we are standing in His presence on holy ground." When I read Jaron Davis's answer, it so parallels how I feel today—"It blows me away that God will take a little country boy from the foothills of Tennessee and let him write a song as a teenager that would have the effect and impact that this one has had. It just kind of proves that little is much when God is in it."

There is no joy in easy sailing, when skies are clear and blue,
Nor is there joy in doing things, that anyone can do,
But there is some satisfaction, that's mighty sweet to take,
When you reach a destination, mama, I never thought I'd make.

CELEBRATING THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF SUTTON, MA

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to recognize the town of Sutton, MA on the occasion of its 300th anniversary. I am honored to represent Sutton and to have had the opportunity to help it celebrate this important milestone by participating in the Anniversary Parade on September 12, 2004.

Located in the beautiful Blackstone River Valley in central Massachusetts, it retains the rolling farmlands and wooded hills for which it has long been known, which it is committed to preserving as part of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. The Heritage Corridor and the Purgatory Chasm State Reservation, also located in Sutton, offer visitors a way to explore the natural beauty of Massachusetts.

Sutton's rich history began when the town was chartered in 1704. It was first settled in 1716 by the intrepid families of Benjamin Marsh, Elisha Johnson and Nathaniel Johnson, who braved the harsh winter of 1716–1717 in log cabins, which were sometimes entirely covered by the deep snows. These three families laid the groundwork for what is now a thriving community of more than eight thousand.

Today, tourists who come to the five villages of Sutton can visit the Eight Lots Schoolhouse, built in the 1780s, see blacksmithing demonstrations in the M.M. Sherman Blacksmith

Shop, and enjoy local candies and produce. They can also explore the history of the region through a trip to the Sutton Museum.

The rich culture and history of Sutton make it a wonderful addition to any region, and I am proud to represent it in the United States Congress. Once again, I would like to congratulate the town on its 300th anniversary and to say job well done to all the organizers who made the commemoration of this momentous occasion such a great success.

SMART FROM THE START PRE- SCHOOL EDUCATION FOR AMER- ICA ACT

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Smart from the Start Preschool Education for America Act. This bill would help more American families have access to high-quality, voluntary preschool education for their children.

Research tells us that a child's first five years are critical to their future development. Think of the young children you know—they are curious and inquisitive and eager to learn. A high quality preschool education can capitalize on children's curiosity and promote learning, enhance brain development and lead to future gains in higher education and employment. Children who attend preschool education programs are more likely to graduate from high school and to be employed in adulthood.

Given all that we know about the benefits of a preschool education, it is long past time that we start investing in preschool education as a Nation. I am proud that my home State of California has been a pioneer in the efforts to provide high-quality preschool education. I expect that in the years to come we will see that California's investment in early childhood education will pay off with stronger classrooms and schools and a well-prepared and educated workforce.

I think that California's investment should be a nationwide investment. That's why I am introducing the Smart from the Start Preschool Education for America Act. It is time for our Nation to have a serious investment in our most precious assets—our children. I urge my colleagues to support high-quality, voluntary preschool education—our Nation's future depends on it.

TRIBUTE TO PHILIP ROSEMAN

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a long time friend of mine, a great Tennessean, and an outstanding American, Philip Roseman. Phil recently celebrated his 86th Birthday on August 30th, in Nashville.

Philip Roseman was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to parents who had immigrated from the Ukraine and Romania. On that

day, August 30, 1918, the doctor that came to his parents' house to deliver the baby, forgot to register the birth for a month. The family has always celebrated his birthday on August 30th but official records indicate he was born on September 30th. It was only when he signed up to go into the military in 1942 that he discovered his "official" birthday.

As a youth, Phil attended local Cambridge schools and graduated from Cambridge High and Latin. For a while he played for the Boston Braves on their farm team but eventually went into the newspaper business. He became a sports reporter and advertising editor for a local Cambridge newspaper.

When the attack on Pearl Harbor occurred, he immediately volunteered for service and was sent to England as part of the Army Air Force, 834th Engineer Battalion. There he helped build a secret air base in a small hamlet called Matching Green. He also served as an aide to the colonel. Just before the invasion of Normandy, he was sent back to the United States. He stayed in Brooklyn and trained in intelligence surveillance. After mustering out of the service, Phil married Nettie Weiss of Brooklyn.

About this time, articles about the "sunbelt" captured the young man's imagination. Thinking of the prospects of plentiful energy and labor resources and the chance to start his own business, Phil climbed into his eleven-year-old Packard in 1948 and set a course south. He literally ran out of gas in Union City, Tennessee where he found genuinely friendly and helpful people. He knew right away the South was where he wanted to stay.

His plan was to start a garment factory making jackets. After asking around, he decided to approach the townfathers of tiny Trimble, Tennessee, population approximately 400. They listened to this young man from the North and showed their confidence in the spunky and likeable "New England Yankee" by pledging \$100,000 to finance a factory that would bring employment opportunities to this farming community.

Hard work and dedication soon led to success. By 1955, Phil had outgrown the original plant at Trimble and needed to relocate and expand. He again approached the townfathers but this time in Hickman, Kentucky and convinced them he had a viable industry that would offer townspeople employment. That plant, too, became very successful. Eventually he started a third plant in Ridgely, Tennessee. He also ran outlet stores in the region. During the Viet Nam War, his plants supplied military outerwear. In all, he employed over 700 people in the West Tennessee region.

Phil Roseman was successful not just in his business. He and his wife, Nettie, had three children who grew up to become successful professionals, one of whom is a nationally known doctor. His wife worked alongside him for fifty years building their business. She died shortly after their retirement and move to Nashville. He has recently remarried and lives in Nashville.

The greatest tributes to this man are the loving memories that family, friends and former employees are quick to share about his unlimited kindness, his gentle nature and his unfailing cheerful disposition. This is how I remember Phil Roseman and I know many others do also.