

## **Ole Miss FCA Weekly Devotional: 3/15/10**

*The Power and Passion of the Master Coach, Elliot Johnson*



### **Thought of the Week:**

God's Glory is Declared in His Name, Yahweh-Nissi, "The Lord, My Banner"

### **Verse of the Week:**

Moses built an altar and called it "The LORD is my Banner." Exodus 17:15

Anyone who has witnessed the opening ceremonies of the Olympic Games knows they are a glorious sight. The athletes of each nation appear, led by a flag-bearer carrying the banner of their country. It is with great pride that the athletes represent their home country as they march behind that banner!

The Israelites in the days of Moses were proud to represent their nation and their Lord, too. God had just freed them from slavery and provided for their needs in the wilderness. He was proving Himself to be an awesome God. Moved by fear and jealousy of the recently liberated nation, the Amalekites launched a bitter attack against Israel. It was the first war in Israel's young history. As leader of the nation, Moses chose Joshua to be the general of the "armed forces," an ill-equipped, ill-disciplined, and inexperienced group at best. Joshua was to lead the counterattack against a well-armed and experienced enemy. As the armies fought, Moses went to a hill overlooking the battle and prayed. He held his hands high, lifting the rod that God had given him to display miracles to Pharaoh in Egypt, to part the Red Sea, and to close the sea on the Egyptian army. During the battle, when his arms became weary and fell, Israel was pushed back. So, Aaron and Hur held his arms high again, and Israel succeeded! What a picture! When it was over, Moses built an altar by which to remember the victory. He named it Yahweh-Nissi: The Lord is my Banner.

In ancient times, a banner was not necessarily a flag as we know it today. It was often a pole with a shiny ornament which glistened in the sun. It meant a standard, and it stood for God's cause in battle. It was a sign of His overwhelming victory over sin and the enemies of the Lord.

What banner has God given us today? He has given us the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ! The cross is our banner of victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil. It was on the cross that Jesus shed His blood for our redemption! God gave us a great banner of victory when He sent Jesus to die on that cross.

We cannot win on our own. As Israel only triumphed when Moses raised the banner, so we are saved and walk in victory only in the power of the empty cross. Our confidence is in the power of the risen Christ. Yahweh-Nissi Himself has become our banner! "Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57).

Time Out:

- (1) What is the "banner" of America?
- (2) How would a close friend describe a "banner" over your life?
- (3) In what ways can you carry the "banner" of Christ:
  - In your workplace?
  - In your home?
  - With your friends?

- In your community?