

Blue Ridge Bible Church

The Good News Banner

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Thoughts from the Pastor

by Jack Gill

Several years back when Karen and I lived in Hawaii, I was driving to work at my normal time. My drive was very short—mostly on straight roads that shot through sugar cane fields. There was one small stretch of the journey in which I had to go through the town of Ewa (pronounced Ev'-a). As I came through, there was a very long line of cars all waiting at a gas station. The line was long—about 12-15 cars in length—and it had backed traffic to a standstill for a little while. I wondered, "What in the world is going on with the gas?" I wondered if someone was giving out some free prize for buying fuel—but I could not figure out any reason why today! The sun was out (like it always was!) and the trade winds were blowing, and it was just another perfect day in paradise—that is, until I got to work. As it turned out, there was a hurricane several hundred miles away to the south, and during the night what had been tracking in a different direction was now headed straight for our island! Now it all made sense (though I still wonder why you buy gasoline when you live on an island that's about to be submerged!!) I was caught completely off guard. I hadn't watched the news to find out that this thing was now headed straight for us! Everyone was doing all that they could to prepare both their offices, and then their homes, for this cataclysmic event. After all of that, the hurricane wound up missing our island, giving us only a lot of rain and gusty winds. Whew!

Speaking of getting caught by surprise, I was reminded of this event when I saw on our calendar this year that Easter is in the month of March!! I almost always think of it in the heart of springtime—somewhere in the middle of April when the flowers and trees are just coming into bloom, and the temperature is beginning to rise ever so slightly. As I saw it on the calendar, it surprised me, and I wondered, "Will it be a weekend that will snow? Will it be cold? Will folks remember? Will it coincide with spring break, or is that off as well?"

That being said, this month's quick Easter arrival and surprise has caused me to wonder about the surprise that the very *first* Easter must have had on everyone that was there! Can you imagine

being there after that wrenching emotional roller coaster of Calvary? Everything must have seemed so final when that dead corpse came down from the cross, and then the lifeless body of Jesus was placed in the tomb. I doubt anything could have prepared anyone for the shock and surprise on that Easter morning! How surprised were they? Well, Scripture says that the guards who were at the tomb shook and fainted, that the first women left with fear and great joy (in fact, they were trembling). John and Peter made a sprint to go and see what they *didn't* expect. Thomas *wouldn't* believe unless he could see and touch Jesus, and the travelers on the road to Emmaus were perplexed as to what happened to Jesus' body, not realizing that they were talking to Him at that moment! John writes of Peter and the apostles,

"For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead." (Jn 20:9)

Doesn't that sort of sound like today in our culture? Yes, many folks have heard of Easter. They've received a four day holiday in many cases because of it, or they've heard of an Easter bunny...but how many know and understand what Jesus did—that *He rose from the dead*? That's quite a message—and a shock! And yet, that's a reason to celebrate! Jesus was a sacrifice—but one that came back from the gates of death itself—and He is called the "first-fruits" of the resurrection. Because He has risen, we too know that as believers in Him we will also come back from death into eternal life! How's that for a shocker?

Have you been caught "off-guard" by that message? Or, maybe you've heard and known and believed, but just have sort of forgotten what that means. This month, spend some time really reflecting on the startling discovery revealed on that Easter morning—Jesus has come back from the dead. He's alive, and as such, we too will live—forever with Him—and nothing can hinder that!

Not even a long line at the gas station!

Women of Faith



Thank you to all Awana parents for your patience and understanding when we have to cancel due to power outages. Because of building code, we are not at liberty to use the church facilities without power. We make every effort to make the call about canceling by 5 pm at the very latest. We are coming down to the wire on nights available for recitation. Clubbers, keep hiding God's Word in your heart!

March 14th - Come join us for a fun Irish Celebration. We will have prizes for the ladies who wear the most green. Cecilia Gleason will be sharing with the group and we will have a special little guest leprechaun. You'll have to come to see who it is. Don't forget to reserve spots with Kim Chambers for childcare if you have children. If you have any questions about what Women of Faith is all about please email Regina Gossage at Gossagefam@aol.com.

April 11th - Wear a hat to our April Women of Faith meeting because that will be our theme for the month. Patti Gregory will be sharing about all the hats she has had to wear during her life.

May 10th - SPECIAL SATURDAY WOMEN OF FAITH. We will be hosting a Mother's Day Brunch from 9:30-11:30. Look for more details next month. Childcare will not be provided at this special Saturday WOF.

Back by popular demand is Crazy Hair Night on March 2! Be creative. You don't want to miss this night! March 16 is Fish 'n Ships Night as we salute water heroes from the Bible. Dress for the beach for a night of rollicking fun. The Five Sections Night is a challenge to each clubber. For every clubber who recites five sections on March 30th ONLY, there will be a special prize!! Work hard to get those verses memorized!

A special thank you to our JV Directors and Leaders. They faithfully come each week and work with our 13 to 15 year old clubbers. They have established a mentor relationship with this group and work to come alongside them and point them to Christ. We are blessed to have them minister with us.



If you have the gift or skill for singing or playing an instrument then Tom Gossage wants you to come and be a part of our Praise Choir or Praise Orchestra!

Both groups rehearse on Wednesday nights; choir from 7:30-9pm and orchestra from 6:15-7:30pm in the sanctuary.



Nathan Hall, Bradley Roy, Leah Garber, Frank Pugh.
Not pictured: Kara Holthaus, Erin Pradia

BRBC Attendance

	2/3	2/10	2/17	2/24
Sunday School				
Adults	125	103	126	72
Children	106	134	135	118
Total	231	237	261	190
Worship				
Auditorium	426	431	434	344
Classes	55	61	60	33
Total	481	492	494	462*

* Total includes 85 at Women's Retreat

March Awana Dates:

March 2	Crazy Hair Night
March 9	3 rd quarter club attendance
March 16	Fish 'n Ships Night
March 23	NO AWANA (Easter)
March 30	5 Sections Night



Missions Report

By Leah Garber

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."...The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water." – John 4:10, 15

Everyone knows that water is necessary for life. In many parts of Africa, women trudge for miles to bring the life-giving liquid to their families. But what happens when they walk for miles to their traditional water sources...and the water isn't there?

This is the situation faced by thousands of families across northern Ghana as a result of the flooding last summer (you may recall that Stephen Aputara told us about this situation during his visit last fall). Ironically, the overwhelming rains have intensified the current drought, as raging floods washed out existing dams and reservoirs. Wells are not a solution for this region, not only because of the expense, but because many of them end up being depleted during the dry season.

It's easy to become overwhelmed by the problem; but our missionary Johnson Asare had the vision for a solution. A tanker-truck could transport water from Lake Volta, a man-made reservoir some twenty miles south of Johnson's center of operations in Tamale. Not only would this provide water to those who are literally dying of thirst, but it would open doors to share the Good News of the Living Water that quenches eternal thirst. Johnson would be quick to point out that this, like so many of his outreaches, will build a bridge for Muslims to walk across to Christ.

Don and Phoebe Darling, Bill Wilcox, and Holly Fontaine comprised a team that recently went to Ghana and saw the need for water first-hand. They came back with a determination to raise the funds for the water truck...even though the price tag was approximately \$50,000! Amazingly, the money was raised in a mere 2½ months! Smyrna Ministries has a remarkable story to share about God's provision and God's timing. Our brothers and sisters in Africa will get the water they need for survival, and many Muslims will see the love of Christ in action. Praise God!

Has your interest in Ghana been piqued as you've watched what God's been doing over the last few months? Have you wished you could meet Johnson Asare in person and hear his incredible vision and reports first-hand? If so, you'll be glad to hear that he and his wife Lydia will be coming to our church in April! Watch future bulletins and emails for information on special events related to their visit.

The Asares' visit will mark the third mini Mission Conference we've had in the last year related to missionaries' visits, the first two being in conjunction with Stephen Aputara in September and Adi and Lavi Dreana in December. The mission committee is planning to transition from one large annual Mission Conference to several mini Mission Conferences throughout the year. Please let us know your thoughts as we work to keep missions in the forefront year-round.

Getting To Know You: The Smith Family

By Breana Paist

I don't know about you, but I seem to have trouble just sitting on a horse, let alone trying to perform nifty maneuvers on it! For the Smith family the question of balance is no problem, as many of them are involved in the sport, "vaulting." It's really quite amazing: the art of gymnastics and dancing on the back of a moving horse. "Vaulting is a small sport in the U.S. so we often get asked about it...the horse is controlled on the ground by a longeur and the vaulters run up to the horse and leap on. It's a beautiful sport put to music, allowing the vaulters to creatively express themselves as they choose their own music and choreography," Patrice Smith explains. "All of our children do some vaulting, some more serious than others.



Mark and Patrice homeschool their six children, who all enjoy several other hobbies along with vaulting: Evelyn, or Evie, is 14 and likes drama, and all aspects of film making – writing, directing, acting, and editing. She also likes crocheting and horseback riding, just not at the same time! Liam, 11, is an aspiring artist and enjoys cartooning, claymation, and legomation. He is also really enjoying Boy Scouts at BRBC. Wesley, who is 8 years old, likes rock collecting and vaulting, while seven-year-old Jaden likes to play with and collect Legos, as well as sword fighting with his brothers. Sisters Lydia and Petra, 5 and 3, like to vault and groom their pony, and enjoy each other's company. Their mom says this is great, since they now share a room.

The Smith family moved from Aldie to Bluemont this past September after looking to find the right house for about eight years! They were praying and keeping tabs on houses for sale but weren't finding much, as there were many requirements needed for their new home. They had even been looking in other counties, not much considering staying in Loudoun. "Finally, we pulled up to an open house on Bridgestone Lane and for the first time said to each other, 'This could work.' Creeks and woods and stone wall and homeschool friends for my kids; it got my heart before I saw the inside of the house. The owners would not take a contingent offer, and after prayer Mark felt led to go ahead and make it non-contingent. Our

offer was accepted and we put our old house on the market. Nothing short of a miracle in the recent housing market, our place sold in three weeks with only three lookers. Praise the Lord!"

"One lesson I think we've learned lately is to just wait on the Lord," she continues. "Sometimes we have our own agendas and we want what we want now, but how much sweeter are God's blessings when they come in His timing. One thing that has taught us that is waiting for His timing to move. There were years of waiting and hoping for a new place to live and for a new church home, but the doors were closed for a long time. It's so amazing to wait for something and then see God unfold circumstances far better than you could ever arrange for yourself." Once living in Bluemont, the Smith family started looking for a church in their new community. They found BRBC and liked the teaching, the music, how their children made friends easily, and that there are so many amazing, yet humble people. "Okay," Patrice admits, "and it didn't hurt to have all the homeschoolers. We have been somewhat starved for the fellowship of other homeschoolers." Since becoming BRBC members in the fall, Mark is involved on the worship team, Evie is in the children's choir, and Patrice is substituting in the children's ministry. They also are co-leading a small group for the whole family, which began in February on the 1st and 3rd Thursday night, and meets at their house.

Now we are going to jump back to before Mark and Patrice had bought their very first house, or had any children, or were even married! Mark grew up as an Army brat – those are their words,



not mine, so you can't sue – born in California, living all over including Hawaii and Japan, but New Mexico is the family home. Mark grew up in a Christian home and then became a Christian himself and was baptized at the age of 9 while living in Japan. Patrice grew up right here in Virginia, also in a Christian family. She was saved while visiting relatives in Tennessee at the age of 14. But now, you ask, how did those two meet? I'll let Patrice answer.

"We both started attending the Fairfax Church of Christ the same month when we were teenagers. But, Mark was older and we were in different youth classes. We didn't get to know each other well until Mark came back from Abilene Christian College a few years later to attend GMU. We were both going to school at GMU and were the only college students at church. Mark's parents were back in Japan. Over two years before our first date, my

mom told my grandmother that the young man up there leading singing was her future son-in-law." Two years later Patrice's mother's prediction came true and they were married on August 11, 1990.

Back again to the present, which is where Mark enjoys singing, playing various instruments, racquetball, and acting. Patrice loves horses, riding, acting, and dramas. She's also the longeur for the Virginia Vaulters team. Mark has his own database programming business he runs out of the house, and occasionally goes to clients' sites. As a family the Smiths like to go hiking and watch good, clean movies—*The Lord of the Rings* being one of their favorites. Also as a family the Smiths have taken two short-term mission trips to Ireland. "[We grew] so much in our walk with God because of them. We are planning another trip for this summer to Wexford, Ireland, where it looks like God will again let us use our gifts and experiences. The plans right now are to teach a creation-based drama camp for kids where we make a gospel-based video that the kids can keep and share. In conjunction, we're planning a movie premier night and creation workshop for families. We also plan to travel to Belfast and teach on purity at a multi-church program called Worship 24/7."

In closing, the Smiths say that God has been so good to them. We agree wholeheartedly with the apostle John when he says, 'From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another.' (John 1:16) We want to be good stewards of the riches God has showered on us, and we hope to preserve and equip our family in order to be vessels God can more fully use for His purposes."

Clothing Exchange

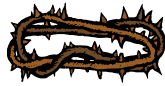

The Clothing Exchange is here!



It is being organized this year by Erin Landavere and Courtney Shipe. You can come by the church Monday, March 31 through Friday, April 4 to donate any clean, gently used clothes of all types and sizes, for men, women and children. We will also accept accessories such as shoes and purses, linens and large baby items like strollers. All items are free for the taking. The hours for drop-off and "shopping" are 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. each day. On Saturday, April 5, we will open to the public until noon and then anything left will be donated to charity. We need help Monday through Saturday (March 31 to April 5) with sorting clothes, babysitting, and clean up.

To volunteer to help, or for more information, please contact Erin at 703-771-4023 or erin@dullesinsurance.com.

March 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Men's Breakfast & Study Shipe Small Group
2 worship Practice Elders' Prayer Awana Newcomers Lunch	3 American Heritage Girls Scouts	4 Fontaine Small Group	5 Praise Groups & Worship Practices Children's Choirs Youth Group (@ Tigges') Wilcox Small Group	6 Smith/Berry Small Group	7 Fernandes Small Group	8 Men's Breakfast & Study Shipe Small Group
9 Daylight Savings Begins worship Practice Baptism Sunday Elders' Prayer Awana	10 Scouts/American Heritage Girls Family Dinner	11 Fontaine Small Group	12 Praise Groups & Worship Practices Children's Choirs Missions Committee Youth Group Wilcox & Van der Vaart Small Groups	13 Baby Shower (Cox/DeFazio) Garber Small Group	14 Women of Faith Fernandes & Mickahail Small Groups	15 Men's Breakfast & Study Shipe Small Group AHG Outing Scouts Campout Newsletter Deadline
16 Palm Sunday worship Practice Elders' Prayer Women's Ministry Committee Awana	17 St. Patrick's Day Scouts	18 Fontaine Small Group	19 Praise Groups & Worship Practices Children's Choirs Youth Group Wilcox Small Group	20 Smith/Berry Small Group	21  Good Friday Service (7:00 p.m.)	22 Men's Breakfast & Study Shipe Small Group
23  worship Practice Elders' Prayer No Awana	24	25 Deacons Fontaine Small Group	26 Praise Groups & Worship Practices Children's Choirs Youth Group Wilcox & Van der Vaart Small Groups	27 Garber Small Group	28 Ladies' Fellowship & Bible Study	29
30 worship Practice Elders' Prayer Communion Awana	31 Clothing Exchange Begins Scouts PLC					

Happy Birthday to...

1 Rebekah Mickahail
1 Kent Mottice
1 Greg Kendall
2 Bob Mottice
3 Todd Reynolds
4 Emma Scott
4 Sue Houchins
6 Janice Jessberger
8 Joe Garber

8 Gabriel Lukasiak
9 Emily Peacock
10 Margo Lassiter
11 Randy Baer
11 David McKenzie
12 Brian Lants
12 Laurie Paist
12 Daniel Blevins
12 Sharon Zareva

13 Cori Dowden
13 Elias Cox
13 Jonathan Blevins
14 Geoff Edling
14 Grant Strickland
14 Mary Ellen Tedrow
15 Christa Garvis
15 Abby Parker
15 Anna Parker
15 Benjamin Simpson
18 Tom Gossage
19 Melissa Garvis

19 Stan Watson
19 Marisa Dillmuth
20 Todd Metzgar
20 Brooke Smith
20 Michael Lung
21 Callie MacKay
21 Bill Parker
22 Laurie Peacock
22 Annaliese Johnson
22 Abigail Thomas
22 Samuel Lung
24 Suzannah Bozarth

24 Philip van der Hoek
25 Ruth Kim
26 Daniel van der Hoek
27 Erin Watson
27 Bijan Gilanshah
28 Nathan Cook
29 Peter Farris
29 Lydia
Lydia Gilanshah
31 Laura Ness





Blue Ridge

Bible Church

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As we celebrate His Resurrection this month, let's review...Who is Jesus?

In chemistry, He turned water to wine.
In biology, He was born without the normal conception;
In physics, He disapproved the law of gravity when He ascended into heaven;
In economics, He disapproved the law of diminishing return by feeding 5000 men with two fishes & 5 loaves of bread;
In medicine, He cured the sick and the blind without administering a single dose of drugs,
In history, He is the beginning and the end; In government, He said that he shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace;
In religion, He said no one comes to the Father except through him;

So..... Who is He? He is Jesus!

The Greatest Man in History
Jesus had no servants, yet they called Him Master.
Had no degree, yet they called Him Teacher.
Had no medicines, yet they called Him Healer.
He had no army, yet kings feared Him.
He won no military battles, yet He conquered the world.
He committed no crime, yet they crucified Him.
He was buried in a tomb, yet He lives today.