

The Good News Banner

Volume 6, Issue 10

October 2008

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Thoughts from the Pastor

by Jack Gill

Northern Virginia is unlike any other place that I have ever lived!

First, Northern Virginia has incredible beauty. The mountains and the fields and farms are quite a sight to behold.

In addition, there's a lot of tremendous history in this area. Living close to Washington, DC is to live close to where things have happened – and will continue to do so! From Gettysburg to Yorktown, and the Eastern Coast to the mountains of West Virginia, we have a lot we can see and do!

Finally, there is another unique characteristic to this region...and that is the homes. I've never lived anywhere that wasn't predominantly ranch style houses. Here, we have two-story homes with basements – and they are usually BIG homes!

I enjoy looking at so many of them. I especially like to see various designs and creative elements in them. They just look fun to live in and experience. A home is a blessing in that we need shelter. We need a place to keep dry...and warm...and to have fellowship with our families and guests. It is a place in which we can eat together, and sit by the fire on a cold winter's day...

However, there's a downside to owning your own home too! Homes are indeed a blessing, but they can be a curse too! We live in a day that is difficult for many homeowners. Most of us know of at least one person that has had to undergo the

experience of the loss of a house. Others have struggled just to keep the payments going in order to keep their house. Others have dealt with something very different from that, but very stressful nonetheless – home improvements that went bad! And no matter who you are, you have to deal with maintenance and the affairs of daily life – from termites, rotting wood, and even mold (I recently found a leak from our shower that I will have to deal with!) In home ownership, you get the joys of living in one – as well as the trials.

In reading from Matthew, Jesus gives us a picture of a NEW place in which we will live: *All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'* (Mt 25:32-34, NASB)

One day, we will enter into another kingdom and another home – and it will be magnificent! We will have the blessings it brings – and none of the curses!

This month, while you're working on that home, or repairing it, or searching for a new one, or you're just taking the time to enjoy living in the one you have, take a moment to reflect on that home waiting for **you**, and thank God that you have an incredible forwarding address one day in the future!



Administratively Speaking

by Debbie Stevenson

The rush of September is over. We offered tons of opportunities for everyone to get involved, get connected, and get-to-work, and trust that you took advantage of things that were offered. It's the "get-to-work" things I once again want to bring to your attention. We are in desperate – and that's not too big a word – need for children's Sunday school workers and Levite Team members.

In preparing the Fall rotation schedule for Sunday school and worship, our pre-school coordinators were able to squeak by with the majority of the slots filled, but not all, and it required numerous people working way too often. And it's almost time to start working on the Winter quarter schedule. Our church has been blessed with a lot of children. They could easily win a take-over just in numbers alone. However, those children are dropped off every Sunday looking for fun and exciting classes with teachers and helpers to instruct them and care for them. Please consider volunteering to care for your children and other children from families just like you. Contact Shelly Farley (soaringhigh@mac.com) to get your name on our rotation schedules.

The Levite Team is really hurting for people who can faithfully come and keep our church building clean. The primary cleaning times are Sunday evenings during Awana, but there are other times during the week when things can be done if that better fits your schedule. It's not required to show up every week in order to be counted on the team, so if you can come twice a month or once a month, we need to hear from you. If we had a great turnout every week, the cleaning could easily be done in the two hours of Awana with no burden on any one person. Contact Jeff Stocker (jeffrey.e.stocker@aero.org) if you want to join the team!

These two areas of need are not optional and are not going away. They can only be done by you. Only requirement – a servant's heart.

Also, mark your calendars for our Fall Work Day, November 1st, 8:00 a.m. To 2 p.m. There will be many tasks to do for all ages and abilities, inside and outside, to keep our church looking great.

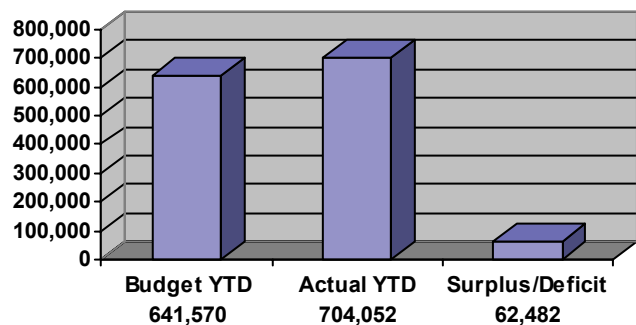
HOLD THE DATE!

2009 BRBC Women's Retreat

March 20_22, 2009
 Rocky Gap Resort
 Cumberland, Maryland
 Speaker: Margaret Ashmore

More details will follow later this year, but for now, hold the date!

Actual & Budgeted Offerings as of 9/28/08



BRBC Attendance

	9/7	9/14	9/21	9/28
Sunday School				
Adults	111	103	112	106
Children	133	146	141	116
Total	244	249	253	222
Worship				
Auditorium	404	380	372	397
Classes	36	47	44	41
Total	440	427	416	438*

*Including 45 at men's retreat



Missions Report

Ireland Recap

By: Patrice Smith

Slan Abhaile!

Pronounced slan (a as in father) abwallya, at least as best I remember from what me Irish friend Ruth told me. In Irish it means "safe home." You often see it written on signs as you are leaving a town. It got me thinking that in evangelizing, we are reaching out to people with God's message of salvation through His Son Jesus, so that people can have eternal life, and so that they will make it safely Home to Heaven.



We left July 9 for Ireland. The Lord answered all our prayers for safe travel and health for all of us. On July 10 we arrived, drove from Dublin down to Boolavouge, County Wexford and began planning the craft camp with the Redmonds. Besides continuing the planning, the weekend was spent meeting the pastors and spending time with them, teaching the Sunday School class at the new church plant in Gorey, and doing a bit of touring. On Sunday evening, we drove an hour and a half to Waterford for a church service. Pastor Jonathan's car broke down on the way home (at least it wasn't on the way there, so he got to preach). We all tried to help fix the car but to no avail. After a long night with ten mostly very young children and six adults on the side of the pitch black roads, we all made it home at 1:30 am. It was an adventure and a time to all learn patience and remember that any mission work has its trials. In the words of C.T. Studd, we were challenged not to be "chocolate soldiers."

Monday morning we were up bright and early (though not that crack of dawn I'll admit, since in Ireland in summer, that's 4 a.m.!). We went into Gorey and set up the hall for camp and welcomed 13 children to craft camp. Following days brought more children, with 25 by the end of the week, 11 of which had no connection to the church. That may be small numbers by American standards, but it's considered HUGE in Ireland and our friends felt very encouraged by the turnout. We were able to share the gospel with the children each day through puppet ministry. The children were wonderful and their parents so appreciative, bringing us very unexpected gifts at the end of the week. Mark went to a



midweek Bible study where he gave a testimony and later in the week had a woman who had heard him, tell him that his testimony had challenged her to make some needed changes in her life. We met an elderly widow named Kathleen with whom we have kept in some contact through email. There are many stories that would take a lot of words to write.

We found very cheap flights (try \$20 a ticket) to England and spent a few amazing days there (but that's another story). Then we flew back to Ireland for one more day before home. We were able to meet our

friends, Peter and Ruth for dinner and Ruth asked if we were ready to go home. I paused, said, "Um," and smiled. She said, "Wow! That's a really good sign!" I think it's the first trip in my whole life in which I would have been just as happy to stay. After this, our third trip to Ireland, it almost feels like a second home.



Our friend, Ruth Redmond, lost her mom to cancer not long after we left. Please keep her family in prayer as things are very tense right now, especially with her unsaved relatives. Please pray for the church plant, Gorey Christian Fellowship, as it is growing into weekly services, and for Jonathan, now the head pastor of the original church in Wexford, and his wife Hazel and family.

Blue Ridge Bible Church Presents:

A **H**alloween **O**ption **E**vent

for the whole family

Come to the H.O.E. DOWN!!

Date: October 31st
Time: The fun begins at 6:00 p.m.
Where: The Tigges "Estate" (16652 Mandaleigh Lane, Hamilton)
Cost: \$5.00 per car

The event includes:

- Children's youth and family games
- Hot dogs, drinks & s'mores
- Costume contest (creative...not spooky)
- Outdoor showing of the Peanuts Classic, "It's The Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown"
- Live band performance from DuNorth (an outreach rock band from BRBC)
- Glow-in-the-dark Frisbee game
- Contest for the best game led by a BRBC family
- Prizes awarded for the various contests & games

How you can participate:

- Volunteer to help
- Volunteer to host a family-led game
- Bring your own chairs or blankets
- Bring bags of candy to church on October 26 to be used for the event

If you would like to volunteer to help or sign up to host a game, contact Jon Tigges at jon@tiggesfamily.net or the Gossages at gossagefam@aol.com.



Awana is off to a roaring start! We have over 160+ hungry kids and 55 enthusiastic leaders striving to help feed the hunger for God's Word. It is exciting to see kids wanting to know God better and serve Him more.

A special congratulations to the clubbers who completed the summer memory challenge: Ben Garber, Joe Garber, David Garber, Jonathan Garber, Abby Stocker, Ben Babst, Thomas Garber, Josh Kamakawiwoole, Timothy van der Hoek, Peter van der Hoek, Philip van der Hoek, Jackson Babst, Drew Chambers, Rachele van der Hoek, Bethany Gicker, Sarah Porter, and Leah Garber.

We have some fun dynamic theme nights planned for October. Saddle up for a rootin' tootin' fun time at the Dude Ranch. Wrangle your friends and don your cowboy hat for a night of round-up fun. A real pilot will speak to us on Flying High Night! God's way is always straight and true!

The clubbers who have finished two discoveries or two jewels by October 19th will receive a bookmark! We want to help clubbers pace themselves through their books and have come up with some more incentives to challenge them throughout the year.

October 26th is our hygiene night and the kick-off for our Operation Christmas Child drive. Every clubber is asked to bring a hygiene item to add to our Operation Christmas Child boxes. Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love. People of all ages can be involved in this simple, hands-on missions project while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas – Jesus Christ. You won't want to miss this night to be involved in reaching boys and girls all over the world with the gospel of Christ!

Awana October Calendar

October 5	Dude Ranch
October 12	Flying High Night
October 19	1st Quarter Club Attendance, Book Mark Challenge
October 26	Hygiene Night, Shoebox Kick-off



CLOTHING EXCHANGE

October 20-25, 2008

For the first time, we are having a clothing exchange during the fall season. Just as we have done in our spring clothing exchange, the purpose is to clothe our corporate church body and bless one another with items we no longer need but which can be of good use to others. Everyone is encouraged to be looking through your closets to find those "special" items which your family has outgrown, but could still have many more years of use for other families. Volunteer help and shopping will be open during the entire week (see hours below). We want others outside our church to be blessed as well, so although we will advertise to the community to come on Saturday, October 25, folks are welcome to come at any time we are open and take clothes or other items (see categories of accepted items below).



The fun begins with set up on Sunday night, October 19, starting at 8:00 p.m. at the end of Awana. MUCH MANPOWER is needed to transform the auditorium into our "store."

- Hours for drop-off, sorting & shopping: Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Evening hours for shopping only: Wednesday & Friday, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Clothing accepted through Thursday only
- Shopping is open to the community on Saturday morning, 8:00 to Noon

Everyone who drops off clothes is asked to distribute their clothes into the proper categories before shopping. We will accept clothes from all contributors as long as the clothes are put out by the person(s) bringing them.

We will have day/week supervisors in each of the following areas: men, women, children, baby, household and Toyland (run by American Heritage Girls). The supervisor will be responsible for the daily clean up and maintenance of their areas. Sign-ups to help will be available on the church website. Watch for an announcement soon!

In order to keep children occupied so that parents can volunteer and shop, enrichment classes will be offered Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Cost will be \$8 per child per period. Classes are for Kindergarten through 5th grade (or ages 5 to 10). Older kids are encouraged to help with the clothing exchange. Parents MUST BE ON SITE AT ALL TIMES! Registration for the classes will open in mid-October. Classes are:

- Monday** – Music
- Tuesday** – Mime (Beth Newton)
- Wednesday** – Drama (Sara Watson and Patrice Smith)
- Thursday** – Art (Emily Hall)
- Friday** – Science (Seth Berry)

More details will be available online and in the bulletin. For additional information, contact Geni Hall (genihall@aol.com).

October 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Brotherhood Men's Study Children's Choirs Praise Groups Play Practice Youth Group Wilcox SG	2 Baby Shower worship Practice	3	4 Brotherhood Men's Breakfast Shipe Small Group
5 Worship Practice Elders' Prayer Awana Newcomers Lunch	6 Scouts American Heritage Girls	7 Youth Shelter Outreach Group Fontaine Small Group	8 Brotherhood Men's Study Missions Committee Children's Choirs Praise Groups Play Practice Youth Group wilcox/Van der Vaart SGs	9 Smith Small Group Garber Small Group worship Practice	10 Women of Faith	11 Brotherhood Men's Breakfast Shipe Small Group
12 Worship Practice Elders' Prayer Baptism Sunday Awana	13 Scouts American Heritage Girls	14 Youth Shelter Outreach Group Fontaine Small Group Women's Regional Fellowships	15 Newsletter Deadline Brotherhood Men's Study Children's Choirs Praise Groups Play Practice Youth Group wilcox SG	16 Baby Shower (Shipe) worship Practice	17	18 Brotherhood Men's Breakfast Shipe Small Group
19 Worship Practice Elders' Prayer Awana Mini-Missions Potluck (Rudes)	20 Scouts American Heritage Girls Clothing Exchange	21 Youth Shelter Outreach Group Fontaine Small Group	22 Brotherhood Men's Study Children's Choirs Praise Groups Play Practice Youth Group wilcox/Van der Vaart SGs	23 worship Practice Smith Small Group Garber Small Group	24 Heidorn Small Group	25 Brotherhood Men's Breakfast Shipe Small Group
26 Worship Practice Elders' Prayer Communion Awana	27 Scouts Deacons	28 Youth Shelter Outreach Group Fontaine Small Group Deacons' Meeting	29 Brotherhood Men's Study Children's Choirs Praise Groups Play Practice Youth Group wilcox SG	30 worship Practice	31 H.O.E. Down Festival Ladies' Fellowship/Bible Study	

Happy Birthday to...

1 Gianna DeFazio
 2 Cate Dowden
 3 Carminda Fernandes
 3 Garrett Jones
 3 Mallory Oswald
 4 Iain Mottice
 4 Kelly Yost
 4 Chap Gleason
 5 Paul LaRock
 6 Zachery Lukasiak

6 Jennie Oswald
 6 Rachel Zareva
 6 Rebecca Zareva
 7 Lydia Smith
 8 Joshua Kim
 8 Jillian Thornburgh
 10 Anita Siecker
 11 LaVerna Bowen
 11 Elizabeth Strickland
 11 Pam Barnes

12 Trisha Dowden
 12 Emma Rogan
 13 Elena Marshall
 15 Joshua Brown
 16 Sean Dunn Jr.
 16 Brandon Eskew
 17 T.J. Reynolds
 18 Robert Crosen
 20 Robert Brown
 20 Keith Jones
 20 Kenna Gossage
 21 Chris Tigges

22 Phil Peacock
 22 Luke Thornburgh
 23 Laura LaRock
 25 Kate Kim
 26 Amber MacKay
 26 Tabitha McHale
 26 Christie McKenzie
 26 Jayme Metzgar
 26 Russell Reymann
 27 Steve Garvis
 27 Beth Newton
 27 Sadie Thornburgh

27 Lochlan Armstrong
 28 Ken Gicker
 28 Diana Ness
 30 Seth Richardson
 31 Marina Wilson
 31 John Casserino





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Kids Interpret The Bible....

LOT'S WIFE

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted. "My Mommy looked back once, while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, "and she turned into a telephone pole!"

GOOD SAMARITAN

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan, in which a man was beaten, robbed and left for dead. She described the situation in vivid detail so her students would catch the drama. Then, she asked the class, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?" A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, "I think I'd throw up."

DID NOAH FISH?

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?" "No," replied David J. "How could he, with just two worms."

MOSES & THE RED SEA

Nine-year-old Joey, was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday school. "Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then, he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved." "Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked. "Well, no, Mom. But, if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"