

the *Good News* banner

Thoughts from the Pastor

by Jack Gill

I'm sure most of us remember the presidential election of 2000—specifically regarding Florida, and the weeks of waiting for the results, the recounts, and finally hanging chads! Within the Christian community, the stakes were high—as we sought and prayed that God would give us a president who would represent truth... and righteousness...and life...for *everyone*. I can remember the vigils of prayer that were carried out privately and publicly, and how we all felt a sense of wanting to *continue* in prayer for our nation, and its leaders when the results were announced.

Now we are at a different time. This election was not a long and drawn out affair, but was rather quick and decisive. Once again, the stakes are still the same, and most of us have been concerned about the exact same issues, as well as other issues (such as marriage and family)—and the areas in which our current president has expressed a differing stance from the Scripture in many moral areas. So what are we to do?

First, we are to remember that as Christians we are citizens of a heavenly kingdom. The followers of Christ know no ultimate allegiance of rank to any government or earthly authority. Yet, the Bible clearly teaches that God has given us the gifts of law, government, and ruling authorities for our good.

Second, the Scriptures are clear: we are to pray for our President and our leaders. Look at what Paul told Timothy:

¹ *First of all, then, I urge that requests, prayers, intercessions, and thanks be of-*

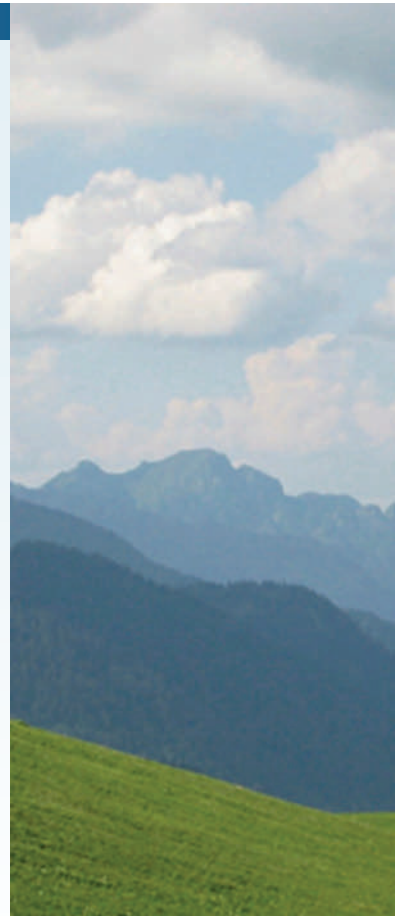
ferred on behalf of all people,² even for kings and all who are in authority, [emphasis mine] that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.³ Such prayer for all is good and welcomed before God our Savior,⁴ since he wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.⁵ For there is one God and one intermediary between God and humanity, Christ Jesus, himself human,⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all, revealing God's purpose at his appointed time. (1 Ti 2:1-6 NET)

As our country embarks upon a voyage under a new leadership and presidency, I would encourage each one of us to *continue* to pray for our leaders.

I am confident that in many ways and in many areas we will face hard days ahead – and there will be times in which we find ourselves required by conscience to oppose this leadership's philosophies and decisions. However, we must always do so within the bounds of our roles as citizens. It will be imperative to ensure that we are all being led according to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, keeping a proper demeanor while making biblical, persuasive arguments.

Finally, let us be encouraged. The Bible shows us men (and women) of influence on countries and kings: Joseph, Daniel, Moses, Esther, and Nehemiah for example. The apostle Paul was able to speak to leaders of government as well. We can be encouraged in that our country affords us the opportunity to speak out against injustice, to worship, and even to express our opinion. These are great gifts from God—so let us be encouraged and use them appropriately, never taking them for granted.

May God bless us as we seek to do His will, and may He bless our country too!



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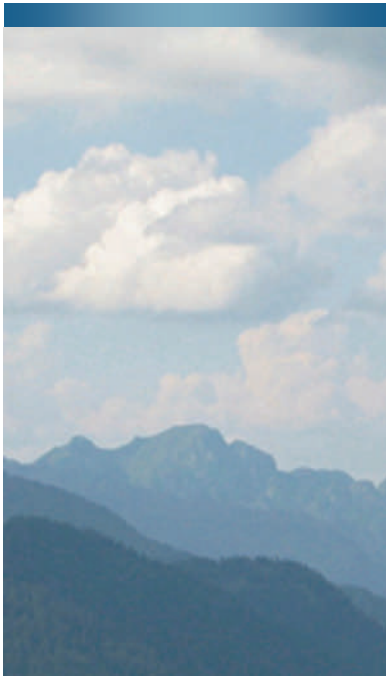
Jack Gill - Pastor

Rich Shipe - Associate Pastor

Tom Gossage - Worship Pastor

Debbie Stevenson - Administrator

Ryan Mottice - Layout, Design, & Editor



Administratively Speaking

by Debbie Stevenson

Just a few items for your trivia storehouses –

Did you know that our website is the number one way that new people find us? It's also one of the best ways for you to stay current on what's happening at BRBC, as well as download the latest sermon from Jack. Check it out at www.br bible.org.

Did you know that we have a church library located in Room 104 in the lower level? It's full of really great books for Bible study, for children, for help on marriages or finances or relationships, or for fun fiction-reading. Stop by any time the church is open and check out a book or two. And it's free with no penalties!

Did you know that we are always looking for creative writers and articles for the monthly newsletter? The intent of the Good News Banner is to report on BRBC happenings, as well as what's happening in the lives of the BRBC family members. We would appreciate hearing from people about how the Lord is working in their lives, reports on personal ministries outside of BRBC, or even good stories written by kids for kids.

Did you know that BRBC turned 20 years old in December 2008? It's first official Sunday meeting was in December 1988 at Lincoln Elementary School, but soon moved to Blue Ridge Middle School where it met until 2005. Our first worship service in our first church building was Christmas Day 2005.

Attendance

	1/4	1/11	1/18	1/25
Sunday School				
Adults	80	88	74	92
Children	103	114	111	117
Total	183	202	185	209
Worship				
Auditorium	406	365	383	393
Classes	42	37	36	36
Total	448	402	419	429

Opportunity to Serve

In 2008 Ryan Mottice served us very well as the graphics designer of our church newsletter, *The Good News Banner*. THANK YOU, RYAN!! He has decided that he needs to step down from this ministry. Although we wish he could continue, this means there's a BIG OPPORTUNITY for someone else to use their skills to serve our church body. The primary need is for someone to take the already edited text and make it look great like Ryan did. If you have graphics skills, particularly using Publisher/Acrobat/InDesign (although not required), please contact Debbie Stevenson (debbie@brbible.org) immediately.

BRBC Women's Retreat

When: March 20-22, 2009

Where: Rocky Gap Resort

Speaker: Margaret Ashmore

Registration Deadline: February 15

Come and join us for a wonderful weekend of excellent teaching from God's Word, wholehearted worship of our Lord, great fellowship with other ladies, and plenty of opportunities for relaxation. Those who have attended past retreats know Blue Ridge retreats are fun and inspirational. Those who are new or have not yet been able to experience the luxurious accommodations, relaxation, great teaching and fellowship REALLY NEED to sign up and join us. This year's retreat is March 20-22 at Rocky Gap Resort near Cumberland, Maryland (just two hours from Purcellville!). Our speaker is the much-sought-after and loved Margaret Ashmore. We have heard Margaret several other times and the Lord always uses her to minister to our ladies with just the right messages. The titles of Margaret's three sessions are: *The Gifts of the Magi – On Worship and Service*; *The Agony and The Ecstasy – The Seven Last Words of Christ*; and *The Thicket of the Jordan*.

For general questions about the retreat, contact our retreat committee chairperson, Heidi Berry (540-338-9711 or heidi@kinsmanfarm.net).

For more information AND to register online, check out the church web site (www.brbbible.org). Please note that although you can register online, payment must be made to our registration coordinator, Mary Anne Armstrong. A registration table in the church foyer will be available on February 1, 8 and 15 to answer questions, and to take registrations and payments. You may also contact Mary Anne with any registration questions (maa@bskb.com). The deadline to register is February 15!

If you would like to contribute to a scholarship fund, please contact Mary Anne Armstrong at maa@bskb.com. Donations are being accepted for any amount and will be used to underwrite the costs for women who would not otherwise be able to attend.

BRBC Home School Support Group

HUGE thanks and appreciation to Vickie Farris for her insightful sharing at our January meeting. It was well attended with many of us needing the shot-in-the-arm winter encouragement. Vickie's encouragement to have a fresh vision, not be a perfectionist, and to keep the right priorities was well received. Awesome stuff!

February's meeting is on Tuesday, the 10th at 7:00 p.m. Come and share your words of refreshment and encourage other homeschoolers in the church. This is an excellent opportunity to network together. Contact Geni Hall (genihall@aol.com) with any questions.



By Geni Hall

We start our February Awana nights on February 1st with a special meeting time FOR THAT NIGHT ONLY because of the Super Bowl. We want to help facilitate families watching the game together so we will meet from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. All leaders and clubbers are encouraged to come dressed in their favorite sports memorabilia.

Aye, Matey! We be a meetin' fer some swashbuckling fun on Pirate Night on the 8th. Grab yer pirate garb and come decked to the teeth! Surprise Pirate visitor will also be joinin' us!

On the 22nd we celebrate chocolate night. For every section passed, clubbers will receive *bona fide* chocolate prizes! Yummy! You won't want to miss this! Keep memorizing scripture and hiding God's Word in your heart!!

Awana February Calendar

2/1/09

Super Bowl Sports Night (Special time 3-5 p.m.)

2/8/09

Pirate Night

2/15/09

NO AWANA (President's Day)

2/22/09

Chocolate Night

Missions Report

by Leah Garber

Did you know that only 2% of Christians share their faith on a regular basis? Where do you fall in this statistic? Do you want to be a witness for Christ, but just aren't sure where and when that's possible?

If you'd like to share your faith on a more regular basis, consider participating in BRBC's weekly Bible Study at the Loudoun County Youth Shelter (LCYS). This outreach study lets troubled youth know that someone cares for them, and just might give you the chance to share the Gospel with a kid who's never before heard it!

LCYS, located in Leesburg, houses kids in crisis between the ages of 12 and 18. Some end up there as a result of their own wrongdoing (e.g. drugs, petty crime), some as a result of their parents' neglect (e.g. abuse, abandonment). Regardless of the reason, the residents are hurting and in need of love, attention, and God.

I'm blessed to currently be part of the group that BRBC sends to hold this study every Tuesday night. Jonathan Esposito leads our team, and Amanda Taylor rounds it out. Sometimes none of the residents are interested in attending...and that can be discouraging. Over and over again God rewards faithfulness in the times of discouragement with times of incredible encouragement, when we can see Him at work in kids' lives.


In the three years that we have been involved in the studies, Amanda and I have seen seven

young people come to Christ. We've seen the message that "God loves and forgives you no matter what" transform even the most sullen countenance. We've laughed, cried, and fallen in love with so many of these kids.

And we've certainly been stretched as we've dealt with questions ranging from "Why is Jesus always pictured as a white guy?" to "How can God be good and loving and let my parents reject me all at the same time?" Do we always have the answers? No! But God does. Often He's arranged for us to have just read the answer in our daily quiet time that morning (or in the LCYS parking lot as we wait for the rest of the team to arrive). Or we can admit that we haven't studied a particular point deeply, but can research it during the week, or refer an inquirer to a source for answers. In the process, we're forced to come face-to-face with challenging questions and discover answers we'd never sought before.

This would be the perfect time to find out what it's all about, as Amanda and I will be phasing out our involvement over the next few weeks. The Bible Study is a special ministry, and touches so many dear lives. If you're part of that 98% of Christians who rarely or never share their faith, and you'd like to change this fact, the LCYS Bible Study might be a perfect place for you! Please speak with Jonathan Esposito, Amanda Taylor, Rich Shipe, or me if you would like to get involved. It's a commitment you won't regret!

February 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Worship Practice Elders' Prayer Awana (Starts at 3:00) NFL Super Bowl	2 American Heritage Girls Scouts	3 Youth Shelter Out- reach Group Fontaine Small Group Deacons	4 Children's Choirs Praise & worship Practices Youth Group Wilcox SG Men's Bible Study	5 Outreach Committee	6 Fernandes Small Group	7 Brotherhood Men's Breakfast Shipe Small Group
8 Worship Practice Elders' Prayer Baptism Sunday Awana	9 American Heritage Girls Scouts	10 Home School Support Group Youth Shelter Out- reach Group Fontaine Small Group	11 Children's Choirs Praise & worship Practices Youth Group Wilcox/Van der Vaart SGS Men's Bible Study Missions Committee	12 Smith Small Group	13 Women of Faith Fernandes Small Group	14  Brotherhood Men's Breakfast Shipe Small Group
15 Worship Practice Elders' Prayer No Awana	16 Newsletter Deadline American Heritage Girls Scouts	17 Youth Shelter out- reach Group Fontaine Small Group	18 Children's Choirs Praise & Worship Practices Youth Group Wilcox SG Men's Bible Study	19	20 Fernandes Small Group	21 Brotherhood Men's Breakfast Shipe Small Group
22 Worship Practice Elders' Prayer Communion Women's Ministry Committee Awana	23	24 Youth Shelter Out- reach Group Fontaine Small Group	25 Children's Choirs Praise & worship Practices Youth Group Wilcox/Van der Vaart SGS Men's Bible Study	26 Smith Small Group	27 Ladies' Fellowship and Bible Study Fernandes Small Group	28 Brotherhood Men's Breakfast Shipe Small Group

Happy Birthday to...

2 Grange Newton
 2 Caroline Thomas
 3 Angie Farris
 4 Jessi Lassiter
 4 Andria Donnelly
 6 Nathan Hall
 6 Jordan Hall
 6 Kenny Reynolds
 7 Adam Hall
 7 Rachel Soltis
 7 Shelby Jones
 7 Caleb Blevins

12 Nancy McHale
 12 Janine Jenkins
 13 Chung Kim
 14 Aviel Gilanshah
 15 Cori Metzgar
 16 Jonathan Garber
 16 Rebekah Watson
 16 Nancy Ziemnick
 16 Matthew Schulman
 19 Micaela Brown
 20 Olga Garber
 20 Maddie Farley

20 Kindle Gossage
 22 Kim Chambers
 23 Michael Soltis
 23 Evan Stocker
 24 Kenyon Gossage
 25 Will Shipe
 25 Steven Heidorn
 26 Clayton Stocker
 26 Abby Dillmuth
 26 Corrie Bozarth
 27 Benjamin Strickland
 27 Kyle Ziemnick

28 Phoebe Darling
 28 Jason Yost

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Blue Ridge Bible Church

...helping people know God better
and love him more!

From God's Perfect "Valentine"...



*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God;
and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.*

1 John 4:7-8

*Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves
the Father loves the child born of Him. By this we know that we love the chil-
dren of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. 1 John 5:1-2*

Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.
John 15:13

*I will give thanks to You, O Lord my god, with all my heart, and will glorify
Your name forever, for your lovingkindness toward me is great, and You have
delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol. Psalm 86:12-13*

*For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son that whoever
believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16*