

# the *Good News* banner

## Thoughts from the Pastor

By Jack Gill

For anyone involved in aviation to any degree, there is a key word that is very much a part of what is required in order to have a safe and enjoyable flight; that is “preflight.”

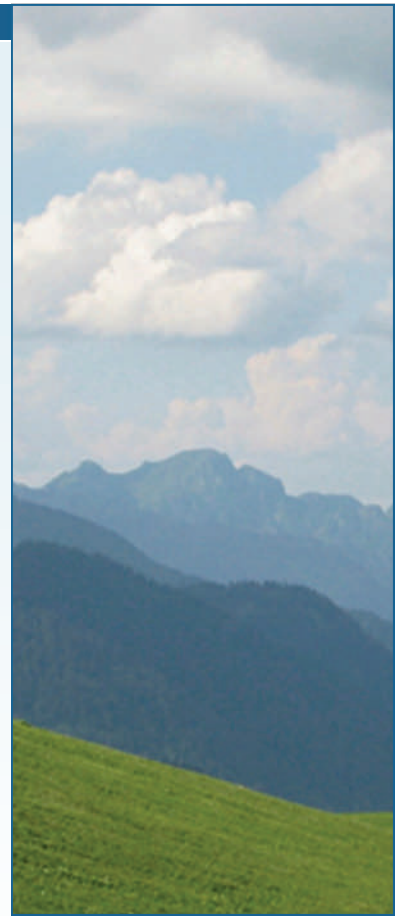
Preflight is your preparation before flying. You have to plan and fill out a flight plan if you’re going to travel anywhere. Also, you need to know the weather, so you must receive a weather briefing. You need to look over your aircraft in order to observe if anything is wrong or could potentially be a problem. You want to be as thoroughly prepared as you can be before becoming airborne. (There’s an old saying, ‘I’d rather be on the ground wishing I was in the air, than in the air wishing I was on the ground.’) Being prepared makes for a more enjoyable time of flying.

Last month we talked about having a God-centered family worship, and how we want to encourage each family to participate in a way that is suitable to where they are in life – without excluding anyone. One of the keys to this is being prepared for worship. You’ve got to have a worship “preflight!” It is an area in which we need to be strategic in our thinking. Let me give you a few ideas for consideration using the acronym P.R.E.P.A.R.E.

**P**ray. During the week, find a time together as a family to pray specifically about our corporate time of worship. This could also be done on Sunday morning – perhaps around the table over breakfast. Not breakfast people? You could do this as you drive to church together. Take some time to ask God to get your hearts ready for worship and time in the Word, as well as for the hearts of others that are coming.

**R**ead. Usually, since the sermons are expositional, you can spend some time in the week reading the upcoming chapter. And what if the sermon is NOT based on the next chapter, but something else? That’s usually the exception, and not the rule – but there’s no harm done either way! “ALL Scripture is inspired by God...” (2 Tim. 3:16). Read through the text and begin to prepare everyone’s hearts—including yours!

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## April Attendance

	5	12	19	26
<b>Sunday School</b>				
Adults	158	141	108	99
Children	118	116	123	121
Total	276	257	230	220
<b>Worship</b>				
Auditorium	454	546	412	424
Classes	42	44	42	44
Total	496	590	454	468



## Who's Graduating?

It's hard to believe that another school year is coming to a close. As is our tradition, we honor our graduates on a Sunday in June with recognition and a gift. If you are going to be a high school or college graduate this year or you have one in your family, please provide the name, school, and future plans of your graduate to Debbie Stevenson by May 11 (debbie@brbible.org).

## Homeschool Support Group

Mark your calendars for Tea Time with Elizabeth Smith, wife of HSLDA President Mike Smith and Director of Development of the Home School Foundation, on Tuesday, May 12 at 7 p.m. at BRBC. Elizabeth will motivate you to keep going and finish strong. Come be encouraged and share a cup of tea with fellow homeschoolers at our church. Contact Geni Hall (genihall@aol.com) with any questions.

## Sign Up Now For Photo Shoot!

For our next church directory, we are using Life-Touch professional photographers. We need every family "unit" to participate. Go immediately to <https://www.appointment-plus3.com/ap/blueridgebiblechurch/index.php?page=10> to schedule your photo appointment during June 3-6. It's easy to do online but we will also schedule appointments after worship services until May 17. Each family will receive a free directory and a free 8x10 photo, with opportunity to order additional photos.

## Save The Dates

### Vacation Bible School

August 3-7...A Whole Week of Fun!

9:00 a.m. to Noon

For kids, kindergarten to completed 5th grade

**E**xplain. I've seen small children show up on Sunday morning thinking that they are going to AWANA. Sometimes, especially with small children, it's good to tell them that you are going to church – and not assume that they know that. Explain to them what it is that they will be doing, and (for those with younger children) it's good to talk to them in advance as to what you expect of their behavior. Give them specific instructions as to your expectations (possibly even warning them as to what will take them out of the service). This is also a good time to talk of discipline, as well as reward for good behavior!

**P**urpose to set the day apart. Make Sundays an extra-special day, and let those in your home know it from the beginning of the day. Perhaps this would be a day in which you fix that favorite breakfast. If so, then live it up! Go all out! Build the anticipation as to how Sunday is a different day! Change the routine from other days of the week, so that kids will be excited! In our home, we used to set aside Sundays as a day in which we would have a special dessert in the afternoon. Everyone anticipated "Sunday treat," and they KNEW when Sunday was coming, and that it was a different day.

**A**cquire a means to serve. Is there a way in which you could serve on Sundays as a family? Obtain an "ownership" for your family so that they know they aren't just receiving on Sundays, but they can participate and give as well! Helping to set up classes, touch-up cleaning, greeting, etc. can be a great way to plug in to a deeper level of participation, and to give your children a vested interest.

**R**etire to bed at a decent hour on Saturday. How energized can you be on Sunday if you go to bed at 2:00 am? I sure can't. This is especially the case for those with small children. If they can get to bed at a decent hour, they will come refreshed on Sundays! And so will you.

**E**xpect great things! Come with anticipation! Come ready for God to speak to you! Come ready to sing and exalt Jesus Christ! Come ready to serve our God and one another! Come ready to fellowship with your brothers and sisters!

Does all of this sound like too much? Keep in mind – these are just ideas, and not a checklist. You might come up with your own ideas that are better suited to you and your family. **The point is to be strategic about your worship – especially as a family.** Don't just let things passively happen on Sunday mornings. Get your preflight done, and then come ready to fly high together on Sunday morning!

## Administratively Speaking

by Debbie Stevenson

We have a lot of new people and perhaps some “old” people who are looking for ways to connect, get involved and serve here at Blue Ridge. The following, set out in just brief bullets, are a few ways and places where we could use some help. These are great opportunities to meet people, to bond together in your productivity and service, and for families to minister together. Skills, time commitment, and scheduling are flexible, so don't let anything stop you from inquiring.

For more information or to volunteer, you can contact me ([debbie@brbible.org](mailto:debbie@brbible.org)) and I will be glad to direct you to the right people.

## Looking For Ways To Connect?

### Summer Teachers & Helpers In Children's Classes

- 13 Sundays (June 7 to August 30)
- Toddlers up through 12th grade Sunday school classes
- Must be a BRBC member to teach & 13 years or older to help

### Greeters

- Friendly & smiling
- 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. every Sunday for one summer month
- Prior knowledge of “everyone in the church” not required

### Landscape Maintenance

- Mowing, weedwacking, weeding and watering!
- Starts now and is a constant and weekly need, possibly until November
- Tools available from church: one riding mower, one weedwacker, plenty of hoses

### Keeping The Church In Order (AKA Levite Ministry)

- Can be done evenings or daytime in teams or families
- Emptying trashcans every week; vacuuming and cleaning restrooms every other week
- Not a “life-time” commitment; just give us a summer month or two



*Mothers,  
You are cordially invited to a*

# Mother's Day Brunch



*In your honor*



*Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009*

*10 am–Noon*

*At Blue Ridge Bible Church*



Join us for an encouraging  
message on motherhood by our  
own *Phoebe Darling*.  
In addition, there will be music,

Cost \$10 per person, \$5 per guest (neighbor, friend, family member)  
CASH ONLY PLEASE

Sign up and pay in the foyer after the worship service or contact  
Sandy Jenkins (sandrajenkins80@gmail.com) by Sunday May 3rd.



## Getting To Know You: The Jenkins Family

By Breana Paist

Russ Jenkins grew up in Northern Virginia, coming from a Christian home where he received Christ as his Savior when he was six years old. Sandy also grew up in a Christian home in Northern Virginia. Her parents worked with American Rescue Workers and cared for men who were homeless or suffering from addictions. "Growing up in the mission gave me great insight to just how many lost people there are who have the need of Jesus Christ. But I realized it wasn't just the homeless or those with addictions [who needed Jesus], it was also people like me thinking they were saved because their parents were believers." As a pastor's child, Sandy assumed she must be a Christian, but as she grew older, "I realized that what I had was not Jesus Christ, but the false assumption that because my parents were Christians that I must be a Christian, too." After attending some revival services, Sandy became convicted, realizing her own need for salvation and, at the age of 14, gave her life to Christ.

Jumping forward in both of their lives, we come to the time when Russ and Sandy met—which was on a construction site! Russ's company was building an administrative/dormitory/staff housing facility for her father's mission. Their first date was at the end of July, they became engaged at the end of October, and were married the following May! "Almost ten months from first date to our wedding day," Sandy remembers.

After being married, Russ and Sandy moved to Sterling and lived there for the next 20 years, raising their four children. Due to the quick growth in Eastern Loudoun, however, they longed for a more rural area, and five years ago they found it here in Purcellville. The Jenkins now live on seven acres in a house that Russ designed—him being an architect and all—just two miles away from Blue Ridge Bible Church. Three out of their four children, Christina, 27, Rusty and his wife Crystal, both 26, and Brandon, 24, have moved out of the house and are working full time. Brittany, 18, is still living at home but working full time here in Purcellville.

The fact that her children are now grown up and moving on is teaching Sandy how to "Let Go and Let God." "As each child has become an adult and moves out on their own it is difficult to let go of them and to fully trust God to take over," Sandy says. "The mom in me wants to speak up and step in when I should be turning it over to God and allowing Him to lead each of them. I know God loves them more than me and He wants the best for them, so I am trying daily to 'Let Go and Let God!'" It makes sense then, why special



highlights for Sandy each year are a recently begun tradition of the whole family enjoying a week together at the Outer Banks, and their family dinner nights every week.

As mentioned before, Russ is an architect, as well as a general contractor. The company he now runs with his brother primarily deals with insurance work—restoring homes damaged by fire, water, and wind. Up until last August, Sandy also worked for the company, but now enjoys spending the extra time with her parents, who recently moved to the area from Pennsylvania. Outside of work, Russ enjoys hunting, and Sandy loves photography and entertaining. (The BRBC Youth Group has been blessed by her hospitality on several different occasions!) Russ has been a part of several mission trips over the years, and they each have become an important experience that stands out to him in his Christian life. These trips include Fiji, Africa, and Bolivia and have influenced his spiritual growth to a large degree as he comes home from each one changed. Sandy says that Russ has a tender heart for those on the mission field, and even years after a trip he will continue to correspond with people he has met and pray for the different fields to which he has traveled.

The Jenkins family came to BRBC after moving to Purcellville, and became members three years ago. Russ has been involved in assisting with the stage and sets for plays, while Sandy volunteers with the women's retreat and helps with the load of work in the church office.

A favorite chapter of the Bible is found in Psalm 139. Sandy shares that she loves how the psalmist beautifully depicts in this passage of scripture the fact that God knows and loves each of us so intimately.



By Geni Hall

Our last regular club meeting will be May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Each club will have a party to celebrate the last night. Clubbers are asked to bring some goodies to share. This is the last night clubbers can recite verses!

May 17<sup>th</sup> is our 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Ceremony and Ice Cream Social. Plan to attend and see the amazing amount of God's Word hidden in clubber's hearts! This is an exciting night of celebration as we honor all the hard work clubbers have put into finishing their books. EVERYONE (not just those involved in AWANA) is invited to join us! An old fashion ice cream social will immediately follow the ceremony. Clubbers are asked to bring their favorite toppings. All ice cream will be provided.

### Awana May Calendar

**5/3/09**

4th quarter club attendance, Club Party Night

**5/10/09**

NO AWANA (Mother's Day)

**5/17/09**

12th Annual Award Ceremony and Ice Cream Social

## Missions Update

By Bob Mottice

"You cannot love what you do not know." St. Augustine applied this insight to the commandment to wholeheartedly love God. But it also applies broadly to our neighbors, and specifically to the missionaries Blue Ridge supports.

The Missions Committee has worked to enhance the section of the BRBC website ([brbible.org](http://brbible.org)) so that we can know our missionaries better – and love them more. Our specific goals are to build our familiarity with them personally as well as with their ministries. And as we develop closer relationships with them, our prayer support will be increased and enriched. As we better assist them spiritually, we may even find that our willingness to increase their financial support will follow.

The new BRBC website missions section is still a work in progress, but we've recently unveiled the first phase, and we encourage you to explore it. What will you find? Go to <http://brbible.org/missions/brbc-missionaries> and you will see a list of our missionaries – from the Aputaras to the Wilcoxes – and a list of highlighted "special missionary needs." Since our missionaries are on the front lines, they sometimes have special needs – in some cases, urgent needs – both prayer and financial. Look for reports on these prayer or financial needs at this location, as they will be listed there regularly.

Click on the link to an individual missionary and you will be taken to a profile page that gives you "one stop shopping" access to lots of information about their ministries, including a link to their email address, and their website if they have one. In many cases you will also see links to blogs, newsletters, email updates, and current prayer requests. There are even links to online giving.

You will also find the name of each missionary "champion" – a BRBC member who is the primary liaison between the church and the missionary. If you have a question about that missionary that is not answered by the website, the missionary champion is an excellent source of information. A little further down the page is a capsule summary that displays the essentials of the ministry, including how their relationship with BRBC came about and how much BRBC's financial support represents of their ministry's overall support.

In a couple of instances you can link to additional information that identifies the ministry vision, short-term goals, key constraints, and financial circumstances, and much more. In general, however, this will be a part of the second phase of development of these mission pages. Stay tuned.

One issue to bear in mind is online security. Some of our missionaries serve in dangerous parts of the world. Information about their work needs to be held more closely than it might for those in freer countries. As we extend these web pages we will therefore need to protect some of the content behind a password. When that happens, the password will be made known to the congregation only.

# May 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Parker Home Group Tigges Home Group Fernandes Home Group	2 Shipe/Stocker Home Group Men's Breakfast/Study
3 Awana Mini-Missions Potluck (Richardson)	4 Scouts American Heritage Girls	5 Fontaine Home Group Jenkins Home Group Youth Shelter	6 Children's Choir Worship Practice Youth Group Wilcox Home Group Brotherhood Study	7 National Day of Prayer Outreach Committee	8 Parker Home Group Tigges Home Group Fernandes Home Group	9 Mother's Day Brunch Shipe/Stocker Home Group Men's Breakfast/Study
10 Mother's Day Baptism	11 Scouts American Heritage Girls	12 Home School Support Group Fontaine Home Group Jenkins Home Group Youth Shelter	13 Children's Choir Worship Practice Youth Group Missions Committee Wilcox Home Group Brotherhood Study	14 Newsletter Deadline Smith Home Group	15 Parker Home Group Tigges Home Group Fernandes Home Group	16 Shipe/Stocker Home Group Men's Breakfast/Study
17 Awana 12th Annual Awards Ceremony Larry Home Group	18 Scouts American Heritage Girls Moms In Prayer	19 Fontaine Home Group Jenkins Home Group Youth Shelter	20 Children's Choir Worship Practice Youth Group Wilcox Home Group Brotherhood Study	21	22 Parker Home Group Tigges Home Group Fernandes Home Group	23 Shipe/Stocker Home Group Men's Breakfast/Study
24 Communion 31	25 Memorial Day	26 Deacons Fontaine Home Group Jenkins Home Group Youth Shelter	27 Worship Practice Youth Group Wilcox Home Group Brotherhood Study	28 Smith Home Group	29 Ladies' Fellowship & Bible Study Parker Home Group Tigges Home Group Fernandes Home Group	30 Shipe/Stocker Home Group Men's Breakfast/Study

## Happy Birthday to...

1 Ivan Edling	8 Jett Reynolds	17 Lance Warren	22 Lisa Yost	27 Lindsey Rogan
1 Drew Essex	9 Dean Willett	18 Chloe Chambers	23 Brett Miller	27 Katarina Esposito
1 Marion Esposito	10 Axel Edling	18 Winfield Wilson	24 Thomas Garber	27 Lindsay Willett
2 Chris Rogan	11 Whitney Lassiter	19 Claudine Jenkins	24 Rachel Shipe	28 Joshua Lassiter
4 Adina Baer	13 Ken Shipe	20 Maddy Essex	24 Kristen Lung	30 Dave LaRock
4 Catherine Fernandes	15 Linda Brown	20 Anna Gicker	25 Terri Stocker	30 Sarah Mehrens
4 Molly Virts	16 Emily Farris	20 Cari Peacock	25 Chase Farley	30 Courtney Shipe
4 Emily Hall	16 Caleb Jones	20 Hope Lukasiak	25 Nuriya Reynolds	
5 Natalie Garvis	16 Alicia Hinkle	21 Sarah Mickahail	25 Amelie Kirkwood	
8 Lauren Garvis	17 Clara Davidson	21 Emma Shipe	26 Sara Watson	

## Blue Ridge Bible Church

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Purcellville, VA 20132

Phone: 540-338-2299  
www.brbbible.org

### Blue Ridge Bible Church

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

## Happy Mother's Day!! The Meanest Mother in the World

We had the meanest mother in the whole world! While other kids ate candy for breakfast, we had to have cereal, eggs, and toast. When others had a Pepsi and a Twinkie for lunch, we had to eat sandwiches. And you can guess our mother fixed us a dinner that was different from other kids, too.

Mother insisted on knowing where we were at all times. You'd think we were convicts in a prison. She had to know who our friends were, and what we were doing with them. She insisted that if we said we would be gone for an hour, we would be gone for an hour or less.

We were ashamed to admit it, but she had the nerve to break the Child Labor Laws by making us work. We had to wash the dishes, make the beds, learn to cook, vacuum the floor, do laundry, and all sorts of cruel jobs. I think she would lie awake at night thinking of more things for us to do. She always insisted on us telling the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

By the time we were teenagers, she could read our minds. Then, life was really tough! Mother wouldn't let our friends just honk the horn when they drove up. They had to come up to the door so she could meet them. While everyone else could date when they were 12 or 13, we had to wait until we were 16.

Because of our mother, we missed out on lots of things other kids experienced. None of us have ever been caught shoplifting, vandalizing other's property, or ever arrested for any crime. It was all her fault. We never got drunk, took up smoking, stayed out all night, or a million other things, other kids did. Sundays were reserved for church, and we never missed once. We knew better than to ask to spend the night with a friend on Saturdays.

Now that we have left home, we are all God-fearing, educated, honest adults. And we are doing our best to be mean parents just like Mom was. I think that's what is wrong with the world today. It just doesn't have enough mean moms anymore.

Source unknown (quoted from Bible.org)