

the *Good News* banner

Thoughts from the Pastor

By Jack Gill

I heard the story recently of a man that was invited to speak at a church. He showed up for an evening service – a little early – in order to make sure that he didn’t get lost in finding the facility. The building was locked, so he went back to his car in order to wait. A little while later, a little boy came to the door, tried to open it, and he too found it locked. The little boy ran to the back of the building, and in a few moments emerged from the front door of the church. This speaker then went into the church and waited. More and more people came in, but there was no pastor and no elder present.

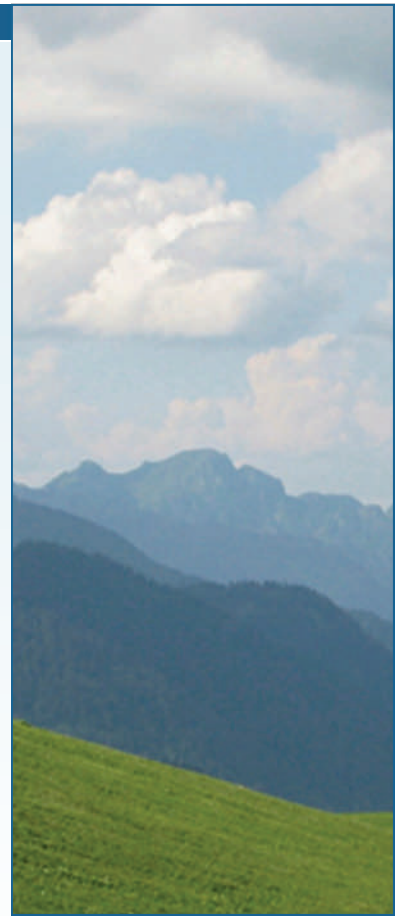
At about one minute before the service was supposed to begin, the pastor showed up – breathless! He found this speaker, invited him to a back room, hurriedly told him when he would speak in the program, and then left to begin the service. This pastor then said that he had not found time to plan on any worship songs, so he would just take hymn requests and the church would volunteer their favorite choices. After a few songs and an impromptu introduction, the speaker was brought before the congregation to deliver his sermon.

The speaker was furious! It wasn’t that he felt that he didn’t get a good introduction, but rather it was the carelessness and apparent indifference that the pastor had demonstrated in leading a worship service.

In the book of Malachi, God gave several accusations against the Israelites, priests and Levites. In the preparation of the sacrifices, the people were bringing their lamest and sickliest animals. The priests and Levites had gotten lazy and indifferent in their duties. They merely took what was brought in, and complained about the effort they were having to exert in slaughtering the sacrifice and removing its remains. Listen to God’s words to them:

“... you are profaning [My Name], in that you say, ‘The table of the Lord is defiled, and as for its fruit, its food is to be despised.’ “You also say, ‘My, how tiresome it is!’ And you disdainfully sniff at it,” says the Lord of hosts, “and you bring what was taken by robbery and what is lame or sick; so you bring the offering! Should I receive that from your hand?” says the Lord. (Mal 1:12-13).

God’s complaint was simply this: the people did not see their work, service, and sacrifices as being given to a Holy God. They lost a proper perspective – and God noticed. What a convicting point! How do you and I see our service to God? Do we perform it as unto a Holy God, or are we breathlessly



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- Jack Gill - Pastor
 - Rich Shipe - Associate Pastor
 - Tom Gossage - Worship Pastor
 - Debbie Stevenson - Administrator
 - Chris George - Layout & Editor



October Attendance

	4	11	18	25
Sunday School				
Adults	128	124	118	113
Children	122	150	157	115
Total	250	274	275	228
Worship				
Auditorium	417	566	492	454
Men's Retreat	20			
Classes	32	38	32	35
Total	469	604	524	489

Ladies Mark Your Calendars

2010 Women's Retreat

February 26-28, 2010

Rocky Gap, Maryland

Speaker: Margaret Ashmore

Registrations will be taken in January

Night of Thanks

On Friday, November 20, at 7:00 p.m., The Worship Arts Ministry of Blue Ridge Bible Church invites everyone to give God a special "Night of Thanks". Come join us as we gather together to give praise and thanks to God for His many blessings. The BRBC Children's Choir, under the direction of Christy Shipe, will perform the musical "The Lighthouse Fire Station" by Celeste Clydesdale. Other highlights are performances by the Delta Mime Team, all of our worship bands will lead us in praise, and our own "World Vision" Men's Quartet will join in too. "Night Of Thanks" is an opportunity for the whole BRBC family to come together and thank God corporately for who He is and what He has done!

performing a work, merely "taking care of business" with no thought as to doing our works unto the Lord?

Think back in *your* life. How many Sunday school classes could you tell were thrown together at the last minute? How many sermons were clearly "Saturday night specials?" How many greeters were more interested in talking with their friends instead of greeting both new guests as well as members? How many mission trips were thrown together with inadequate prayer and preparation? To do so is to be no different than Israel with their sacrifices.

As you go forth doing the work of the ministry, there will be days in which you too are tired – that is inevitable. However, we cannot lose focus and allow the ministry that God has called us to do, to fall into a procedure that we do. Let's not lose perspective. Instead, let's be a people who see our ministries as part of our being living sacrifices! Let's give God not a lame service, but our very best! And let's watch Him be glorified through our best efforts.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord. (1 Cor. 15:58).

ADMINISTRATIVELY SPEAKING

by Debbie Stevenson

FOR A CLEAN AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT...

We have an ongoing need of behind-the-scenes help in keeping our church building clean and well maintained. Our deacons oversee both of these needs. We have a professional cleaning company which comes every other week to do deeper cleaner (which does not include trash pick-up or emptying wastebaskets). However, every Sunday evening, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., help from volunteers is needed. On the weeks that the professional cleaners are coming, the volunteers just pick up trash and empty wastebaskets. But on the "off" weeks, more volunteers are needed for cleaning, vacuuming, and emptying wastebaskets.

The deacons who come every week would greatly appreciate volunteers' help to do that cleaning, so that they are freed up for building maintenance, rug cleaning, wall cleaning, or other projects.

Here are some things for you to consider: 1) Do you individually have one Sunday night a month to help from 6 to 8 p.m.? 2) Could your family or your home group come and work as a team one Sunday evening a month? 3) Do you have other small blocks of time during the week to come and just clean glass doors and mirrors? 4) Do you have teens who are in need of service hours and/or a place to expend energy? 5) With flu season upon us, consider coming just to do some extra duty disinfecting toys, tables and railings?

Please contact Jeff Stocker (jeffrey.e.stocker@aero.org) to help on Sunday evenings or just show up at the building and look for Jeff or ask Geni Hall (sitting at the receptionist area during AWANA) where the cleaners are. It would be especially helpful to pre-coordinate with Jeff if you plan to bring your home group or family so that you can come on the Sundays when full cleaning is being done. If you have a little time to help with other cleaning projects during church office hours, contact Debbie Stevenson (debbie@brbible.org).

Missions - Why Missions?

by Steve Gregory

This question was posed in a recent Sunday school class at BRBC. We can begin to answer it by asking another question. What has motivated the missionaries that we know to give their lives for service in foreign missions? What would motivate five men to give their lives in 1956 on the banks of the Curaray River in Ecuador at the hands of the Auca Indians? Why do the Cutherells, missionaries whom BRBC supports, continue to return to Pakistan term after term? Why would our former pastor and his family of 12 pack up and head to Bolivia to serve in less than ideal conditions? What motivated the apostle Paul to single-mindedly carry the gospel all over the then-known world and state in Romans 15:20, "And thus I aspired to preach the gospel, not where Christ was already named, so that I would not build on another man's foundation; but as it is written, They who had no news of Him shall see, and they who have not heard shall understand." If you were to ask these people why they are involved in missions I think they would reply for the following reasons.

We do it in obedience to the last command of Christ.

John 20:20, "So Jesus said to them again, Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And further in Matthew 28: 18-20, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

It is our Lord's own passion and heartbeat.

In Christianity and the Nations, Robert Speer states, "It is in the very being and character of God that the deepest ground of the missionary enterprise is to be found. We cannot think of God except in terms which necessitate the missionary idea." The whole of Scripture is a missionary book. From cover-to-cover we read of God's desire to see all nations come to Him in repentance and receive forgiveness.

We understand that the needs are great.

World evangelism and missions begins with a study of needs. Matthew 9:36-37, "Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

God has chosen to use us.

We are His ambassadors. An "ambassador" is the highest level appointed official of state sent to another land to affect reconciliation between two states. This is what we are assigned to do. It is our Christian office. II Cor. 5:18-20.

We have the words of eternal life.

John 6:68, "Simon Peter answered Him, Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

If we don't tell them, they may never hear.

Romans 10:14-15, "How will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent?"

We have an example in Jesus.

Missions is what Jesus' life was all about. This is why He came and gave His life. His earthly ministry revolved around proclaiming repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

For all of these reasons our church is involved in missions. Carrying the message of the cross around the globe is each of our responsibility as believers. It is not for the chosen few. How are you involved? And are you passing Christ's vision and mission of the church to reach the lost around the world on to your family?

Home School Support Group

On Tuesday November 10, 7:00 p.m., the topic is "home school high school and tackling transcripts". Come and see some sample transcripts and hear wisdom of how to create one. And this is always a time together to be refreshed and encouraged! Mark your calendars and don't miss it! Contact Geni Hall (genihall@aol.com) with any questions.

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19 NKJV)

A Special Thank you

Dear Blue Ridge family,

I wish I could write to each of you personally to thank you for both the prayers so many of you have offered on my behalf as well as the encouraging cards and notes so many of you have sent to me. I'm going to have to do the second best thing, however, and just say a big THANK YOU! to you altogether – my wonderful, sweet church family. Thank you all so much for the love you have shown to me and to our family. God has used so many of you to bless and encourage and help us during this challenging time.

I would appreciate your continued prayers for wisdom and for healing. I am definitely doing better, but I am not yet pain-free and there's a long way to go. Despite the fact that doctors say interstitial cystitis is incurable, I have both talked to and read about people who have recovered from this. It's complicated, however, and I'm still trying to figure things out – thus the request for wisdom.

God has been so good through all of this, and I am convinced that "as for God, His way is blameless" (Psalm 18:30). He has encouraged me in so many ways, and His love has been poured out to me through His Word, His Spirit, and through all of you!

Thank you again so much for your support, love, and prayers.

Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, Who alone works wonders.

(Psalm 72:18)

Vickie Farris

CHRISTMAS TIME WITH GRACE

The Worship Arts Ministry is ramping up for another wonderful production of the Christmas musical called "Christmas Time With Grace", December 11, 12 and 13 at 7:00 p.m. each night. Last year's performance focused on Purcellville's Centennial, covering 100 years of the Claiborne family. This year the focus will be narrowed to the first 21 years of this imaginary family and early life in Purcellville. Under the direction of Mark and Patrice Smith, the drama team is preparing diligently for this outreach to the community. We have the opportunity to invest in the success of the musical this year by buying tickets for the event. Tickets go on sale in November, at a cost of \$5.00 each; children 12 and under are free. You will be able to buy tickets online and at the BRBC church office.



AWANA

by Geni Hall

We kick off November with Hygiene Night. Clubbers are asked to bring a hygiene item (toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.) for our Operation Christmas Child Shoebox. We will be handing out boxes for each clubber to take home and fill and bring back on Collection Night, November 15. The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. For more information, check out www.samaritanspurse.org

November 8 is Crazy Sock night, always a fun time to wear wild socks all evening! On November 22, Bakes-giving is back by popular demand. DADS and clubbers are asked to bake a dessert item for club. Each club will have prizes awarded to the top dessert. The categories are Best Tasting, Most Creative, and Best Decorated. Each entry is eligible for one prize. If you have more than one clubber in different clubs, dads can make multiple desserts too. This is a highly anticipated night for both clubbers and dads. Please be aware we ask for no nuts to be in any of the baking for both the Cubbies and Sparks clubs.

Keep memorizing Scripture! The best part of Awana is all the verses the Lord is hiding away in your heart.

November 1	Hygiene Night, Shoebox Kick-off
November 8	Crazy Sock Night
November 15	Shoebox Collection
November 22	Bakes-giving Night
November 29	NO AWANA (Thanksgiving)

November 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 AWANA Tigges Home Group	2 Scouts & Cub Scouts AHG	3 Shipe Women's Group	4 Children's Choir Worship Practice Youth Group Garvis Women's Study Tigges Men's Study Wilcox Home Group	5 Fontaine Home Group	6 Berry/MacKay Home Group Reynolds Home Group	7 Men's Breakfast
8 Baptism AWANA Tigges Home Group	9 Scouts & Cub Scouts AHG Mom's In Prayer	10 Homeschool Support Group Shipe Women's Group	11 Veteran's Day Missions Committee Children's Choir Worship Practice Youth Group Garvis Women's Study Tigges Men's Study Wilcox Home Group	12 Fontaine Home Group	13 Berry/MacKay Home Group Reynolds Home Group	14 Men's Breakfast
15 Newsletter Deadline AWANA Tigges Home Group College And Career Home Group	16 Scouts & Cub Scouts AHG	17 Shipe Women's Group	18 Children's Choir Worship Practice Youth Group Garvis Women's Study Tigges Men's Study	19 Fontaine Home Group	20 Night of Praise and Children's Choir Musical	21 Men's Breakfast
Operation Christmas Child Drop-off						
22 AWANA Tigges Home Group	23 Scouts & Cub Scouts Mom's In Prayer	24 Deacons Shipe Women's Group Youth Shelter	25 Children's Choir Worship Practice Youth Group Garvis Women's Study Tigges Men's Study Wilcox Home Group	26 Thanksgiving	27 Berry/MacKay Home Group Refuge Home Group	28 Men's Breakfast
29 Communion Tigges Home Group	30					

Happy Birthday to...

1 Beto Berry
1 Stuart Davidson
1 Holly Hontaine
1 Grace Rogan
4 Lisa Sraders
4 Jeff Lung
4 Christian Kirkwood
4 Daniel Strickland
5 Don Darling
5 Timothy Stocker
5 Joel Tigges

5 Victoria Thomas
6 Kendell Taylor
7 Justin Cefalu
8 Lea Ann Reynolds
8 John Ghaffari
9 Andy Jessberger
9 Will Koleszar
11 Benjamin Garber
11 Rachel Parker
11 Leslie Warren
13 Anna Davidson

16 Johanna Mickahail
16 Riley Phillips
17 Donna Gicker
17 Sandy Jenkins
17 Chelli Monroe
18 Eric Lassiter
19 Harry Newton
19 Olivia Maldonado
21 Joshua Mickahail
21 Ellen Sraders
21 Zach Bozarth

22 Evelyn Smith
23 Tekla Dorsey
23 Caleb Gilanshah
24 Gloria Baer
24 Vickie Farris
24 Kyle Siecker
24 Morgan Smith
24 Keagan Penzien
25 Terry Schulman
26 Trudy Wright
26 Patty Richardson

27 Emily Tigges
27 Neal Dorsey
27 Jaden Smith
28 Stephen Garvis
28 Maria MacKay
30 Jonathan Lants
30 Catherine Jessberger
30 Mahvash Ghaffari
30 Mya Sullivan

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Blue Ridge Bible Church

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



O come, let us sing for joy to the Lord,
Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation.
Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving,
Let us shout joyfully to Him with Psalms.
For the Lord is a great God
And a great King above all gods,
In whose hand are the depths of the earth,
the peaks of the mountains are His also.
The sea is His, for it was He who made it
And His hands formed the dry land.
Psalm 95:1-5