

the *Good News* banner

Thoughts from the Pastor

By Jack Gill

When it's Christmas at my house, one of my favorite times of the holiday is the mealtime! The food is incredible – turkey, a ham, a salad, bread, sweet potato casserole, etc. etc. It is sooo good!

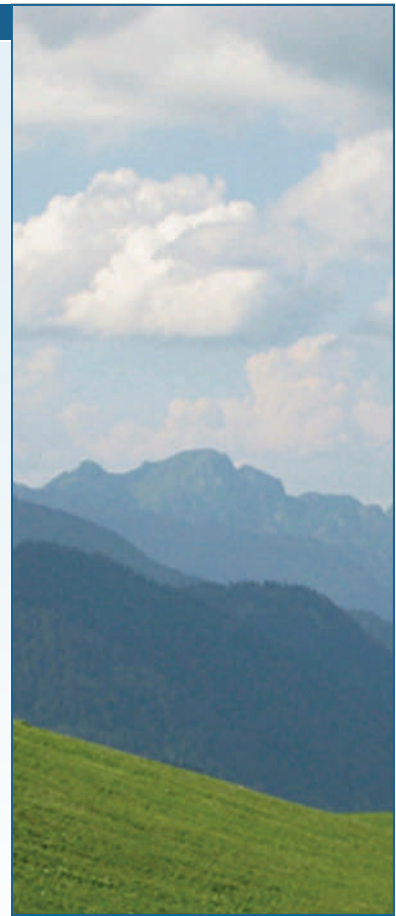
However, when we have this meal, my wife usually makes it a point to really set the stage. She'll get out the best tablecloth, as well as the fine china. Sometimes she will even set out candles. The house will have the wonderful smell of the food also. Finally, when it's time to eat, you have been prepared to really enjoy this meal! Every one of your senses has been touched before you take one bite. Karen wants to really establish the setting. This meal is different. It's not just about the food, but this is a special event, and the setting is everything.

The setting is important. What goes for our mealtime also goes for your home when guests arrive. You want things nice and ready. You insure that there are enough chairs in the room, or glasses to provide drinks. If you were to show up to a home that would not adequately hold the number of guests invited, then your host would have not thought things through very well. So it is with church.

This past month, the SLT (Strategic Leadership Team) spent some time thinking about *our* church setting, also known as our facilities. If we are going to faithfully share the gospel, as well as faithfully train up disciples, then how will we prepare our setting (the church building) in order to do so?

One of the major challenges we face is our parking. It is estimated that an average church needs one parking spot for every 2.5 people in attendance. If that's the case, then we are short! However, we have worked out an arrangement with the Carver Center next door in order to utilize many of their spaces. Regardless, we will be working on a strategy of getting more places to park cars.

(Continued on page 2)



Inside this issue

Attendance	2
Administratively Speaking	2
Awana.....	5
Missions Update.....	4
October Calendar	7

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

September Attendance

9/5/10

Sunday School		
Adults		116
Children		133
Total		249
Worship		
Auditorium		502
Classes		48
Total		550

9/12/10

Sunday School		
Adults		120
Children		114
Total		234
Worship		
Auditorium		463
Classes		38
Total		501

9/19/10

Sunday School		
Adults		109
Children		118
Total		227
Worship		
Auditorium		471
Classes		40
Total		511

9/26/10

Sunday School		
Adults		110
Children		131
Total		241
Worship		
Auditorium		478
Classes		47
Total		525

Another issue for us is the number of seats we can have. Currently, our church allows for approximately 700 people to be in it at one time. However, the church *feels* full when you hit the 70-80% mark. That means that on a Sunday morning in our sanctuary, about 560 in attendance would mean we need to provide more seating – or another service. (Currently we have been at about 490-520.) So we have to make a plan to do something *very soon!*

Finally, another issue for us is our future plan. If God continues to bless us with more people in attendance as well as more new believers, then what will we do in the future? THAT is a major component of what the SLT is working on – a plan to move forward and to solve these kinds of problems.

For some, these might seem like very daunting questions. They imply change. However, aren't these good questions to be asking? Wouldn't you rather be concerned about the problem of not enough seats in the sanctuary, as opposed to wondering if we would have to close our doors for good? Don't you like having to deal with limited parking instead of asking how we can get just 40 cars here on a Sunday morning? Don't you like wondering how we will handle the growth God has been giving us, instead of wondering how we might dissolve the church? I sure do.

Our location needs a lot of thinking behind it. We need a strategy about how we'll deal with tomorrow's people, not merely today's people. Do you see yourself as having the ability to help this church solve some of these challenges? If so, then we need you! Please contact either myself or Bill Wilcox, and let us know how you want to enable us to work through our growing pains.

I think we need to remember a very important fact. One of the reasons that we all come to this church is because we have been loved and accepted. The people of this church have received **you**. You and I both want to give that same reception and acceptance that we have received to every person that comes through our doors. We want to make them feel welcome! We want to make them feel as though we have established room just for them! We want them to feel that we *want* them to come – because we do. While that ultimately is a heart attitude, that "welcome message" gets communicated through parking places...and chairs...and spaces to sit together as a family...and through a people who are friendly and accepting.

Let's set the stage...and be ready to roll out the red carpet, so that people can come here to learn more about Christ, to be built up in their love and knowledge of Him, and to be sent out to our world to help them to do the same!

Administratively Speaking

by Debbie Stevenson

In this month's pastor's article, Jack sets out the need we have for "setting the stage" as more people come here, making them feel welcome, introducing or reacquainting them to Jesus, and showing we want them to become a part of God's family and BRBC. New people are definitely coming. We get visitors every week. We also hope you are making relationships and bringing people too. But what do they see or experience when they get here? What did you see when you first came to BRBC? What helped you decide to stay?

Typically, in my monthly column, I point out the places where we need people to serve. As our SLT implementation teams start working on their projects, the team leaders will be looking for team members. As Jack said in his column, contact Bill Wilcox if you would like more information on these implementation teams or possibly joining one. The complete list and descriptions can be found on the church website at "strategic planning" on the home page.

But there are things we can do individually right now to make our "setting" pleasing and ready to receive new people. Is our building welcoming? Are people warmly received? Here are just a few ways:

Welcome – We ask our entire congregation to be a friendly face to those who come, regular attenders or new people. As we grow, it's sometimes hard to know just who is new and who isn't. Next time you see someone you don't know say "I don't believe I've met you yet." There's only about a one percent chance that you have met them and just forgot, but there's a 99 percent chance that you will show God's love to that "stranger." Also, we are always looking for people with big smiles and good handshakes to serve on our Welcome Team rotation. Each set of 8-10 people work one month per quarter, but if we had just eight more people we could make that rotation just once every four months. Please contact me for more information on the Welcome Team ministry.

Parking – You may be noticing that there are fewer and fewer obvious parking spaces on Sunday mornings. Some of our worship and leadership people have begun using the Carver Center parking lot. Everyone is encouraged to limit the number of cars your family brings on Sundays, and everyone as able is welcome to use the Carver Center parking lot. BUT we could better utilize our parking lot AND provide a warm greeting before people even get out of their cars IF we had a parking team welcoming everyone, inviting visitors to our visitor spaces, and directing everyone to open parking spaces. If you are interested in joining the parking team ministry, please contact me.

Filling the Seats – Is it getting more challenging for your family to find space to sit together unless you arrive early and save seats? Everyone can help by using up the entire row first, not just the edges. You can also help by taking your seats quickly when you hear the music start. But as we continue to grow, we will need more help from our ushers. Our friendly and efficient ushering team is available to "part the sea" and help new people or latecomers find the open seats in the crowd. Your cooperation in moving over to free up seats is much appreciated. Gil Paist (glpaist1901@hotmail.com) is heading up this ministry and would greatly appreciate getting more people on his team.

So do you see yourself either helping individually or on a team in any of these areas? I hope so. As always, families – even church families – which work together, stay together...and bless others in the process.

Missions - Bring Me Hope China 2010

by Jon Lung

This year's Bring Me Hope camps were filled with changed lives, powerful experiences and great memories! We had nine locations scattered across China, three that were foreign-led and six that were led by Chinese students who have caught a vision to help orphans. It is so exciting to be a part of God's work there and the expansion of this ministry!

I spent the first five weeks of my trip in a smaller city outside of Yan'tai. We brought in kids from several different orphanages from up to four hours away and ran four weeks of camps. The purpose of these camps is to just pour into these kids for the five days that we have with them. We try to bond with them, love them, build them up, and show them their incredible worth. We want to show them that they are all precious creations of the Father and that they are loved by Him even if their earthly parents have abandoned them or are unable to care for them. Many of them have never experienced this type of love and have spent their entire lives just waiting for someone to come along and sincerely care for them. With the help of Chinese college student translators and volunteers from around the world, who are paired with the kids, we are able to extend Christ's love to them.

The summer was filled with great memories with the kids, happy, sad and hope-filled. One girl who came to camp was disabled. She was about eight or nine years old and had one of her feet amputated and could not walk. She rode around on a little cart. For the first few days, she kept trying to leave the buildings that we were in and would wander away from the group. We thought she was just being mischievous until we learned more about her. At the orphanage, she lived on the second floor of her building and because she was in a cart, she was NEVER taken outside. No one wanted to carry her down the stairs! She was just so happy to be outside and wanted to see everything that she possibly could! When we took her to the ocean one day, she loved crawling in the sand and water. The joy on her face is something that I will never forget. Such simple things that you and I take for granted everyday, brought her such delight.

Another great aspect of this ministry is the incredible witnessing opportunity that we have with the translators who come. They come for an experience to practice their English, but gain so much more. They get a chance to give of themselves and pour into another life. So much of their mindset is to achieve for themselves, get through college and get a good job. But these young students really end up bonding with the kids and get a chance to experience God's love as well! Over the course of the summer, around 15 translators gave their lives to Christ and many more seeds were planted. One girl named Emma has been working with us at BMH for five years now. She had heard the gospel over and over and people had been praying for her for years. During the first week of camp this summer, she finally made the decision to follow Christ! After witnessing His love over the years, she finally said, "I know that I need to trust Him." It is such a testimony of how God works in people's hearts and lives even when we think that it will never happen. Ministry is so fresh there in China and the harvest is plentiful! So many need to hear!





The Ladies Monthly Birthday Club

Happy Birthday to you! Happy Birthday to you! Happy Birthday dear Aviel, Sally, Margie, Kathy, Suzanne, Sylvia, Linda, Olivia, Laurie, and Amanda! We are celebrating YOU! Every BRBC lady is invited to our first Ladies Birthday Club celebrating our September birthdays on Tuesday, October 12 at 7 p.m. at the Halls' house. For complete details on this new offering of fellowship for our BRBC women, see the September newsletter. We will have birthday cake and share encouraging words on how these precious ladies have blessed our lives. This will be a wonderful time together with your BRBC sisters. You won't want to miss it! If you have any further questions or wish to help make the birthday cards, please contact Geni Hall (genihall@aol.com).

Men's Retreat

By Bill Wilcox

The annual BRBC Men's Retreat is Friday and Saturday, November 12 and 13 at the Skycroft Conference Center in Middletown, Maryland. Mark your calendars and register for the retreat with Bill Wilcox, Rich Shipe, Kelly Reynolds, Bob Ness or Allen Bozarth.

We have reserved 14 two-man motel rooms and one cabin that is two separate rooms and sleeps 20. Register and pay early and save. Pay no later than October 3rd and motel rooms are \$100 and cabin \$85; after October 3rd, motel rooms are \$115 and cabin is \$100. Cost includes Friday evening dinner and Saturday's breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks. Registration ends October 24. Make checks payable to BRBC. For additional information, contact Allen Bozarth (allen_bozarth@hotmail.com) or Bill Wilcox (billwilcox@rstartmail.com).

AWANA

By Geni Hall

Awana is fantastic! We have over 50+ families and over 150+ clubbers!! It is NOT too late to still join us!! We have several engaging theme nights planned for October...

October 3 is Wild West Night. Dress in your best cowboy duds and come hear how God's Word will change your life.

October 10 is High Seas Adventure Night. Feel sea spray on your face as you and your crew experience the deep rolling waters of God's love. Dress the part!

October 17 is our All Star Night. Dress in your favorite sport jersey and come cheer for God. **October 24** is going to be unBelizeable! We will have our Belize mission's team present the gospel during council time in a dynamic play. You don't want to miss this!

October 31 is Super Hero Night! Dress as your favorite Super Hero and come hear about the BEST hero of all! We are having Awana earlier that day (3:00 p.m.) so all clubbers can go to the H.O.E. Down Fall Festival at the Tigges home. More details will follow. Mark your calendar today.

October 3	Wild West Night
October 10	High Seas Adventure
October 17	All Star Night
October 24	unBelizeable night, 1st quarter club attendance
October 31	Super Hero Night ***Special Time 3 to 5 p.m.***



Clothing Exchange – October 24-30, 2010

Want to get rid of those lothes your kids have outgrown? Or a portion of your husband's t-shirt collection which he hasn't worn in a while? How about those shoes which just never did fit right? Or are you in need of winter coats for your kids? Or looking for clothes for that toddler or pre-teen son who out-grow clothes as soon as you bring it home from the store? Come to the clothing exchange to minister to others with the stuff you want to get rid of and be blessed by the stuff others are donating!!



When? Drop-off & Shopping Hours:

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please note that the doors will close each day promptly at 1:00 p.m.

Evening shopping hours (ADULTS only): Wednesday & Friday, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

It is opened to the community as an outreach on Saturday morning from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

What? The clothing exchange is meant to benefit our church Body and to minister to others by passing on or receiving slightly used clothing for you and everyone in your family

Where? BRBC auditorium gets absolutely filled with free clothes!

Why? BRBC has been a part of a clothing exchange for over 15 years. It started long ago as an opportunity to exchange clothes in ministry to one another and to the community. We have not lost that vision!

How? Everyone who drops off clothes is asked to distribute their clothes into the proper categories before shopping. We will accept clothes from all contributors. Extra hands will be available to help you distribute the clothes.

Who? Workers are needed each day to help sort, fold, and organize each area. Children are welcome to help with their parents but moms are responsible for their kids at all times. Young adult help is welcome any time.

If you have questions please contact Geni Hall (genihall@aol.com) or Courtney Shipe (allshipesandsizes@gmail.com).

October 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Refuge College and Career Home Group (7.30 p.m.—9.30 p.m.) Reynolds Home Group (7.00 p.m.) Tigges Home Group (6.30 p.m.)	2 Men's Breakfast (7.00 a.m.—8.30 a.m.)
3 AWANA (6.00p.m.—8.00p.m.)	4 Scouts & Cub Scouts AHG	5 Paist/Schneider Women's Study (7.00 p.m.—9.00 p.m.)	6 Band of Brothers (6.30a.m.) Children's Choir (7.00 p.m.—8.30 p.m.) Worship Practice Youth Group (7.00 p.m.—8.45 p.m.) Wilcox Home Group (7.00 p.m.—8.30 p.m.) Donnelly Women's Study (7.00 p.m.—8.30 p.m.)	7 Berry Home Group (7.00 p.m.)	8 Refuge College and Career Home Group (7.30 p.m.—9.30 p.m.) Reynolds Home Group (7.00 p.m.) Tigges Home Group (6.30 p.m.)	9 Men's Breakfast (7.00 a.m.—8.30 a.m.) Romania Reborn Tag Sale (8.00 a.m.)
10 Newcomers Class (3.00p.m.—5.00p.m.) AWANA (6.00p.m.—8.00p.m.)	11 Columbus Day	12 Paist/Schneider Women's Study (7.00 p.m.—9.00 p.m.) Ladies Birthday Club (7.00 p.m.)	13 Band of Brothers (6.30a.m.) Children's Choir (7.00 p.m.—8.30 p.m.) Worship Practice Missions Committee Youth Group (7.00 p.m.—8.45 p.m.) Wilcox Home Group (7.00 p.m.—8.30 p.m.) Donnelly Women's Study (7.00 p.m.—8.30 p.m.)	14 Berry Home Group (7.00 p.m.)	15 Refuge College and Career Home Group (7.30 p.m.—9.30 p.m.) Reynolds Home Group (7.00 p.m.) Tigges Home Group (6.30 p.m.) Newsletter Deadline	16 Men's Breakfast (7.00 a.m.—8.30 a.m.)
17 Newcomers Class (3.00p.m.—5.00p.m.) Baptism AWANA (6.00p.m.—8.00p.m.) Singles Sunday Home Group (1.15 p.m.)	18 Scouts & Cub Scouts AHG Moms In Prayer (9.30 a.m.—11. a.m.)	19 Paist/Schneider Women's Study (7.00 p.m.—9.00 p.m.)	20 Band of Brothers (6.30a.m.) Children's Choir (7.00 p.m.—8.30 p.m.) Worship Practice Youth Group (7.00 p.m.—8.45 p.m.) Wilcox Home Group (7.00 p.m.—8.30 p.m.) Donnelly Women's Study (7.00 p.m.—8.30 p.m.)	21 Berry Home Group (7.00 p.m.)	22 Refuge College and Career Home Group (7.30 p.m.—9.30 p.m.) Tigges Home Group (6.30 p.m.)	23 Men's Breakfast (7.00 a.m.—8.30 a.m.)
24 AWANA (6.00p.m.—8.00p.m.) 31 AWANA (3.00p.m.—5.00p.m.) H.O.E. Down Fall Festival (5.00p.m.) Communion	25 Moms In Prayer (9.30 a.m.—11. a.m.)	26 Paist/Schneider Women's Study (7.00 p.m.—9.00 p.m.)	27 Band of Brothers (6.30a.m.) Children's Choir (7.00 p.m.—8.30 p.m.) Worship Practice Youth Group (7.00 p.m.—8.45 p.m.) Wilcox Home Group (7.00 p.m.—8.30 p.m.) Donnelly Women's Study (7.00 p.m.—8.30 p.m.)	28 Berry Home Group (7.00 p.m.)	29 Refuge College and Career Home Group (7.30 p.m.—9.30 p.m.) Tigges Home Group (6.30 p.m.) Strategic Leadership Team (6.00 p.m.—9.00 p.m.)	30 Strategic Leadership Team (8.00 a.m.—Noon)
Clothing Exchange						

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Blue Ridge Bible Church

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

Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord, Praise the name of the Lord.

Blessed be the name of the Lord, From this time forth and forever. From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised.

The Lord is high above all nations; His glory is above the heavens.

Psalm 113:1-4

