

the *Good News* banner

Thoughts from the Pastor

By Jack Gill

Have you ever heard this expression? "Practice makes perfect."

While it sounds like a great adage, it is not necessarily true. Practice doesn't always make you perfect. In fact, sometimes it can make you worse! Try learning to execute a better golf swing entirely on your own. How does it work without a coach? Usually, you just reinforce bad habits.

Maybe you took a high school or even a college course from a terrible teacher. How badly did you wish that he would have asked for a performance review? Surely, it would have been good for him to have had better instruction!

I think that we ought to adopt a better adage, like the following: "*Evaluated* practice can make you better."

It is not necessarily what you do over and over again that helps you to improve. Instead, it is the process of evaluation that really helps you. It is good to have a time in which someone can come along and ask those simple and yet painful questions that you ought to be asking, like:

"Why are you doing what you are doing...and why are you doing it *that way*?"

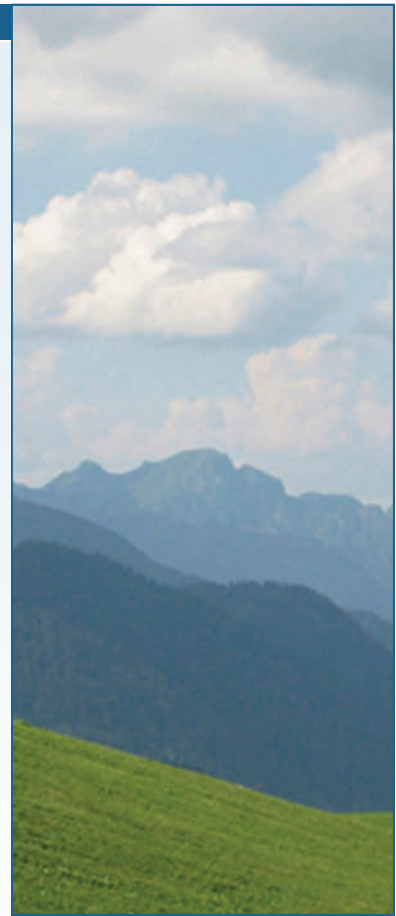
"What is the *purpose* behind what you are doing?"

"What goals did you establish, and did you achieve them?"

"Did you accomplish what you wanted to accomplish?"

That was the essence of our last church ministry strategy team. It was about evaluating what it is that we are striving to accomplish. We need to constantly be asking the questions, "How are we doing?"

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

October Attendance

10/3/10

Sunday School	
Adults	99
Children	122
Total	221
Worship	
Auditorium	496
Classes	50
Total	546

10/10/10

Sunday School	
Adults	101
Children	114
Total	215
Worship	
Auditorium	454
Classes	41
Total	495

10/17/10

Sunday School	
Adults	98
Children	97
Total	195
Worship	
Auditorium	498
Classes	37
Total	535

10/24/10

Sunday School	
Adults	111
Children	133
Total	244
Worship	
Auditorium	545
Classes	54
Total	589

Are we reaching the goal we established? Is it the right goal? Could we do it better?"

If you shoot an arrow at a target, the only way you know how accurate you are is by examining how close it came to the bull's eye – and so it is with us. We want to ensure that we "hit the mark" of what Christ is calling this church to do for His glory.

For many of you, the idea of being evaluated scares you to death. Maybe it goes back to "test anxiety!" However, an evaluation is not like a test. A test seeks to determine how much information you retained, or whether or not you understood a concept or thought. An evaluation is not merely trying to determine your level of understanding as much as it helps you to *become better!*

It is through an evaluation that we can find out whether we as a church are:

Making mature disciples	vs.	making frequent attendees
Sharing the gospel accurately	vs.	making false converts
Teaching to change lives	vs.	teaching to feed information
Fostering deep fellowship	vs.	facilitating frequent meetings
Equipping families to minister	vs.	getting families ostracized

Remember, we don't just want to *do things*. Instead, we want to *do them effectively!*

Do you have a knack for evaluation? Do you know how to establish goals, and then to measure them? If you do, then we need you! Russ Berry will be overseeing our team of people whose goal is to help us determine what we want to measure, to ensure we hit our mark! Please let us know if you would like to be a part of helping our ministries to succeed through this plan.

Administratively Speaking

by Debbie Stevenson

Thanksgiving, in my opinion, is a better holiday than Christmas. Gifts are not the focus. God is the focus. Well, okay favorite foods are important too. It's the one day of the year when we, especially Christians, stop and take time to be thankful. To praise God for ALL He has done. How come we do not do it every day? How come we do not practice the habit of "being thankful in all things"? Here's an idea – Take your November calendar and write on each day "Thanksgiving" instead of just the one provided by the calendar company on November 25. Make a daily "appointment" with God for thanksgiving every day. Spend just a few minutes every day, thanking Him for His forgiveness, His gift of salvation, His love, His sovereignty, His abundant provisions, His will for your life...your spouse, your kids, your job, your house, your health and abilities, your friends, your salvation, your church, your spiritual sensitivity and growth, your challenges and sufferings. There truly is so much to be thankful for that there is no way we should limit the focus to one day a year! I guarantee you that those few minutes will change your life!!

National Orphan Awareness Month

Our own Reflections Adoption Ministry is once again highlighting the plight of orphans during the November's National Orphan Awareness month. We will have an information table set up in the foyer on November 7 and 21. We will be running our yearly "Change For Orphans" campaign on both Sundays as well as a bake sale on Sunday, November 21. That is the Sunday before Thanksgiving so come ready to pick up some holiday goodies and gather all your loose change for the donation bottles. For those of you who are new to BRBC, Reflections is a ministry created to increase awareness of the worldwide orphan crisis. We also help raise funds to be given as grants to BRBC families who are following God's calling to adopt, providing information and encouragement before and during the long and often very challenging journey of adoption. God is moving the hearts of many BRBC families to reach out to these precious children with His love and compassion. Come by our table to find out the many ways you can get involved. For more information contact Kelly and Lea Ann Reynolds (reflectionministries@gmail.com).

Getting To Know You

by Breana Paste

One Sunday morning during this summer my sister, Brittany, and I were at a 10-K race with Chrissy Schneider. Brittany and I, however, did not run in the race. We sat on a park bench sipping chai teas while watching everyone else run in the race – and thoroughly enjoyed it. After the race was finished and we had found Chrissy, the three of us slowly wound our way through an exhilarated, albeit breathless, crowd. All of a sudden, we bumped into Brian Miller and his daughters, Rachel and Kayleen! It was an unexpected surprise: Who would know that before the Millers dress up in their Sunday-best for church, they are out in their athletic-best running races!

Allow me to introduce the Miller bunch: Brian and Brijet, and their children, Rachel, Kayleen, Keston, and Brett (plus a baby-on-the-way!). The Millers first came to Blue Ridge Bible Church in October of 2008. They initially heard about BRBC long ago from the Parker family when both they and the Millers (although young and unmarried at the time) attended McLean Bible Church. Brijet says that she actually babysat some of the Parker kids back in the day! The Millers became members of our BRBC church family earlier this year. One of the things Brian and Brijet appreciate most about BRBC is the family-integrated worship. "We attended a church that met in homes for 12 years so we really appreciate worshiping together as a family," Brian says. "We also appreciate the God-honoring and Bible-centered church that BRBC is."

Now let's get some background on these folks. Brian lived in McLean, Virginia, for much of his young life, actually growing up in the same house his parents still live in now! Although Brian was raised Catholic by his mother, his father attended a Bible-believing church. It was at this church that Brian heard the gospel and, during his freshman year at high school, accepted Christ as his Savior. Brijet lived in Maryland until the age of 11, when she and her family moved to Virginia. Although she was not raised in a Christian home that did not mean God was not pursuing her! He was working in her life even as a friend invited her to a church youth event where Brijet heard the gospel and accepted Christ. From this point of salvation onward, Brian and Brijet say they have both overarchingly learned that "God's ways are the best ways, and He never fails."

It was at a church retreat with McLean Bible that Brian and Brijet met as teenagers. While Brian was in college, Brijet was in the working world. After his graduation, they were married on June 12, 1992. They first lived in Florida for a short time, but after many moves within Northern Virginia, the Millers settled in Ashburn one and a half years ago. Brian currently works in Reston as a software developer for a small company, while Brijet spends her time as a homemaker and homeschooling mom. Brijet says that they homeschooled their children right from the beginning, starting with now-17-year-old Rachel.

Rachel enjoys hot, fun days at the beach. She loves music, and enjoys playing the piano as well as learning to play the guitar. Rachel also has a strong interest in interior design as well as politics. Her 15-year-old sister Kayleen enjoys drawing, reading, and running. Kayleen is good at being disciplined – whether it is in keeping a tidy room, or sticking with a "Read through the Bible in a Year" program. Keston, 12, has a great interest in baseball and has played the sport for many seasons. Despite this, his interest has increasingly shifted towards playing the drums

since receiving a drum kit this past year. Brett, the soon-to-not-be-youngest, is seven years old. He too loves baseball and "can't wait to play the next season!" Although seeing Brett in his suit and tie at church might fool you into thinking he is a calm, reserved chap, his dad says that he is actually the clown of the family and likes to talk his head off.

The Millers enjoy doing most everything together as a family, but in particular they like to watch movies, go for hikes, or just hang out together. They also love the shore and spending time at Brian's parents beach house in Duck, NC. Last year at the Outer Banks, Brian and his daughters all ran in a half-marathon together. Although Brian's favorite sport growing up was basketball, he now likes to run regularly and has finished several of those half-marathons. Brijet, on the other hand, loves rubber stamping. She has a huge collection which she enjoys using in various craft and card-making projects.

Although each of the Millers has their individual interests and activities, the family strives to "not overload their schedules with too many activities that don't make much difference in the long run," Brian says. "Having an eternal perspective is what matters most; we hope each one of us believes and then continually grows in our relationship with Jesus." A favorite verse which mirrors this family principle is found in 2 Corinthians 4:18, "While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal." One of the family's favorite hymns is, "And Can It Be," because it "tells such an incredible story of a sinner trying to comprehend God's great love and the gift of eternal life." Personally, I think this hymn goes along quite nicely with their family principle. Though none of us are able to fully understand God's great love, we will never even learn the things which He longs to teach us if we don't sit still every now and then. Amen, Millers!



Missions

Short-Term Missions Gestalt

By Bob Mottice



Thinking about leading or participating in a short-term mission trip? Since these commonly occur in the late spring/summer/early fall, now is the time to plan for a mission trip – an experience that is almost a lock to generate enormous blessing to all involved, and especially to you.

What’s a good early step in the planning process? Come talk to the Missions Committee! There are lots of good reasons, but let me toss one on the table you might not have considered before.

Think about a short-term mission as a *gestalt* experience. Now, psychologists may roll their eyes and shake their heads at my usage of this two-dollar word in a missions context. But here’s what I mean:

Gestalt is basically the notion that “whole is greater than the sum of its parts.” Paul describes this condition extensively and eloquently in 1 Corinthians 12-27 where he describes each member of the church with different gifts and functions, but acting powerfully in concert with Christ as the head of the body. Christ leverages each one of us through our acting in harmony with one another. I might argue that Christ’s Church on earth is the ultimate *gestalt* experience.

When we take our gifts or talents – though most importantly, our hearts – and apply them where the Lord is working in the mission field, He blesses all involved in a way that far exceeds the value we could produce with our own independent efforts.

The two fundamental aspects of short-term missions are, of course, service to the sponsored/visited missionary, and a changed life in the short-term mission participant. Short-term missions are always a two-way street as God works in the hearts of both the served and the server. Indeed, He *leverages* the work of the server to produce both of these results.

Similarly, this leverage principle applies to the short-term missions planning process as well. How? Think of the Missions Committee as your planning process “lever.” We can help you identify opportunities, avoid pitfalls, enhance your prayer support, and generally increase the level of engagement the congregation has with your trip.

Need advice about a trip where a BRBC member(s) is “in charge” of another member(s), including youth? We can help. Want insight into organizing your trip? We have lots of insight. Looking for promotion of your trip on the church website? That’s our bag. Need help figuring out how to raise funds for your trip? We have that information too.

In short, the Missions Committee can facilitate — can *leverage* — many of your efforts in building a God-honoring short-term mission trip.

Note that there are currently two broad categories of short-term missions trips emerging from BRBC:

- **Family-led or individual trips that are primarily self-directed (Mark and Patrice Smith will be leading a class on this soon – stay tuned for details); and**
- **BRBC sponsored trips where: a) a church member leads others (non-family); b) support funds may pass through BRBC to individual trip participants; or c) BRBC retains some legal or other liability for trip participants.**

Trips in each category benefit from Missions Committee leverage, and in the second instance, cannot effectively move forward without Missions Committee participation.

Lastly, if you’ve got a short-term mission trip in mind, get the Missions Committee involved early in the process. The sooner you leverage the Missions Committee, the quicker we can get this *gestalt* thing goin’.



The Ladies Monthly Birthday Club

Happy Birthday to our October birthday ladies:

Carminda Fernandes, Amy Koleszar, Kimberly Gleason, Anita Siecker, Laverna Bowen, Sylvia Case, Pam Barnes, Heather Frommack, Trisha Dowden, Katrina Safford, Chris Tigges, Kate Kim, Christie McKenzie, Jayme Metzgar, Beth Newton, Diana Ness, and Laura Kotrosa. We want to celebrate with YOU! Come join us as we honor these ladies and the beautiful blessing they are to our lives on Tuesday, November 9th from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the Halls' home. Watch your email for a personal invite. NO GIFTS PLEASE! We will celebrate with words of encouragement honoring each October birthday lady. Please contact Geni Hall (genihall@aol.com) with any questions.

AWANA

By Geni Hall

Psalm 119:103 – “How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!” We reward clubbers with candy when they recite scripture each week. Many clubbers recite multiple sections and leave with a fist full of candy at the end of the night!

On November 7, we will help the clubbers redeem that candy in “Treating Others Night”. We will be collecting candy to send with our shoeboxes for Operation Christmas

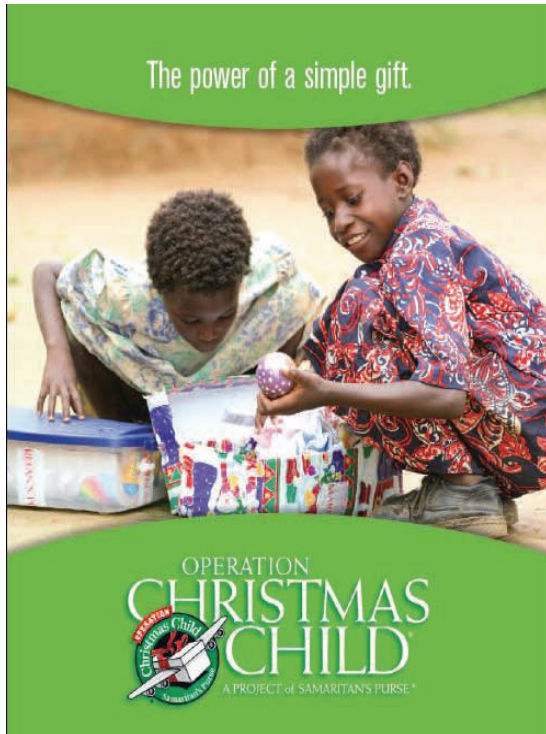
Child. We want to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world and share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Packing a shoebox is easy! Check out this handy website: http://www.samaritanspurse.org/index.php/OCC/Pack_A_Shoe_Box. We're asking each clubber to pack a shoebox and bring them back to club on November 21. Help us make an impact for His kingdom all over the world!

Patriotic Night (November 14) will celebrate our military and the sacrifices they make on our behalf. We will have a special council time message from a war veteran. We want to recognize the sacrifices these brave men and women make on our behalf for our freedom.

Bakesgiving Night (November 21) is back by popular demand! Clubbers and dads are asked to bake a creation and bring it to club. Each club will have winners in three categories: Best Tasting, Best Decorated, Most Creative. If dads have kids in multiple clubs, decide which club to contribute your creation or do one creation per club! This brings out the competitive side of dads and gives them a chance to bake with their kids before celebrating Thanksgiving with family. Please remember to bring back your filled shoeboxes that night too!

November 7	Shoebox Kick-off, Treating Others Night
November 14	Patriotic Night
November 21	Shoebox Collection, Bakes-giving Night
November 28	NO AWANA (Thanksgiving)





Operation Christmas Child

by Courtney Shipe

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. Last year our local area sent over 27,000 shoe boxes to children all around the world. Blue Ridge Bible Church collected over 1500 of that number. If you have never participated in Operation Christmas Child before, here are some basic instructions for packing a shoe box gift.

1. BOX GIFT IDEAS

TOYS – small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch®, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky®, etc.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES – pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

HYGIENE ITEMS – toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.

OTHER – Hard candy and lollipops (please double bag all candy), mints, gum, T-shirts, socks, ball caps; sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries)

A PERSONAL NOTE – In a separate envelope, you may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. If you include your name and address, the child may write back.

DO NOT INCLUDE – Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; out-of-date candy; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow-globes or glass containers; aerosol cans

Use an empty shoe box (standard size, please) or a small plastic container. You can wrap the box (lid separately), but wrapping is not required. Most importantly, pray for the child who will receive your gift.

2. BOY OR GIRL?

Determine whether your gift will be for a boy or a girl, and the child's age category: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. Print out the appropriate boy/girl label by downloading the artwork to the right. Mark the correct age category on the label, and tape the label to the top of your box.

3. FILL WITH GIFTS

Fill the box with a variety of gifts that will bring delight to a child.

4. INCLUDE YOUR DONATION

Please donate \$7 or more for each shoe box you prepare to help cover shipping and other project costs. If you or your family are preparing more than one shoe box, please make one combined donation. You can also give online at Samaritan'sPurse.org/OCC and print out a barcode that will tell you exactly where your box is sent!

5. DROP OFF

November 15-21 you can bring your boxes to the church sanctuary, Monday through Friday 4-8pm, Saturday 9-12, and Sunday during church or Awana.

We are so excited to see how God will use YOU in this ministry this year!

November 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 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.) Christmas Play Rehearsal (7:00pm)	4	5 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.)	6 Men's Breakfast (7.00 a.m.—8.30 a.m.)
7 AWANA (6.00p.m.—8.00p.m.) Women's Ministry Committee	8 Scouts & Cub Scouts AHG Moms In Prayer (9.30 a.m.—11 a.m.)	9 Paist/Schneider Women's Study (7.00 p.m.—9.00 p.m.) Ladies Birthday Club (7.00 p.m.)	10 Band of Brothers (6.30a.m.) Missions Committee 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.) Christmas Play Rehearsal	11 Veteran's Day Berry Home Group (7.00 p.m.)	12 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.)	13 Men's Breakfast (7.00 a.m.—8.30 a.m.) Tag Sale (8.00 a.m.)
					Men's Retreat	
14 AWANA (6.00p.m.—8.00p.m.)	15 Scouts & Cub Scouts AHG Newsletter Deadline	16 Paist/Schneider Women's Study (7.00 p.m.—9.00 p.m.)	17 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.) Christmas Play Rehearsal (7:00pm)	18 Berry Home Group (7.00 p.m.)	19 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	20 Men's Breakfast (7.00 a.m.—8.30 a.m.)
Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Drop-off						
21 AWANA (6.00p.m.—8.00p.m.) Singles Sunday Home Group (1.15 p.m.) Town Hall Meeting (12:30pm)	22 Moms In Prayer (9.30 a.m.—11 a.m.)	23	24	25 Thanksgiving	26 Refuge College and Career Home Group (7.30 p.m.—9.30 p.m.) Tigges Home Group (6.30 p.m.)	27 Men's Breakfast (7.00 a.m.—8.30 a.m.)
Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Drop-off						
28 Communion	29	30				

Blue Ridge Bible Church

770 South 20th St.
Purcellville, VA 20132

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

Blue Ridge Bible Church

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



Psalm 105:1-3 – Oh give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples. Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; speak of all His wonders, glory in His holy name; let the heart of those who seek the Lord be glad.

Psalm 106:1 – Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His loving kindness is everlasting.

Psalm 107:1-2a – O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His loving kindness is everlasting. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so.

Psalm 108:3-4 – I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the peoples, and I will sing praises to You among the nations. For Your loving kindness is great above the heavens, and Your truth reaches to the skies.

Psalm 109:30 – With my mouth I will give thanks abundantly to the Lord; and in the midst of many I will praise Him.