

the *Good News* banner

Thoughts from the Pastor

By Jack Gill

Don't you love the competition that comes with a great big game of tug-of-war?

You are an active participant in a struggle...to pull your adversaries towards you. However, the task is too big for you to do alone. You have to work alongside others, who are also pulling along with you. Each one *strains* at the rope. One person might call a cadence of "Pull! Pull! Pull!" to concert your pulling "tug." One person is the anchor at the end of the rope. If an individual slips or falls during the effort, the others pull even harder until he or she can get back in position. Sometimes, you wonder if all of your pulling makes one iota of a difference! Each tug feels like it contributes so little, but nevertheless each one must pull...and pull...and pull.

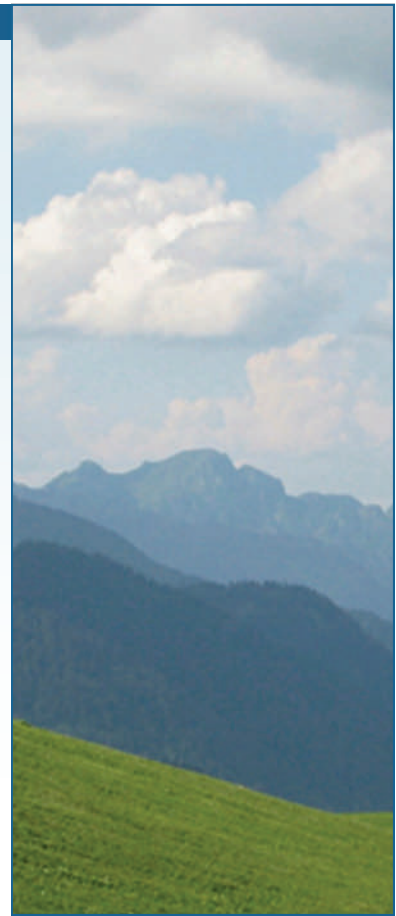
Then comes the victory! Each one can celebrate, though none can really take credit for the win. No one really knows to what degree they helped—they just know that they *did* contribute.

Just as in a tug-of-war, so we as a church are to function as well—only there are a few more things to consider. First, as a church we are to engage in a variety of ways. God has given each person a spiritual gift, and we are to discover that gift, develop it, and simultaneously deploy it.

As a church we are going to strive to help each person to discover that gift first. Then we are going to both call and encourage you to use it—for the glory of God. The church's role is to equip you to serve. This is one of our six core values. Read carefully over how we have articulated this:

We value the ministry service of our people, believing that the body of Christ is built up to maturity when we all work together, using our God-given gifts. (Ephesians 4:11-16) Therefore, we are committed to encouraging, exhorting and equipping each person to actively serve God and one another, both inside and outside the church walls, following the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Equip. Exhort. Encourage. This is what we will do with you—and then your role is to Employ what has been invested in you, under the Spirit of God's guidance.



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March Attendance

3/6/11

Sunday School

Adults	131
Children	152
Total	283

Worship

Auditorium	505
Classes	37
Total	542

3/13/11

Sunday School

Adults	117
Children	132
Total	249

Worship

Auditorium	479
Classes	48
Total	527

3/20/11

Sunday School

Adults	88
Children	137
Total	225

Worship

Auditorium	460
Classes	39
Total	499

(+ 83 women at retreat)

3/27/11

Sunday School

Adults	112
Children	117
Total	229

Worship

Auditorium	442
Classes	51
Total	493

Are you ready to discover your spiritual gift?

Are you ready to develop your abilities?

Are you ready to grab onto the "rope," and pull with all your might for the glory of God?

Are you ready to engage in those tasks that God has given to the church?

We need administrators (remember, the "train of ministry runs on the rails of administration!) ...we need teachers... we need people who will help to finance the goals through their giving...and we need people who will help us to wisely discern a course of action. We need communicators...and shepherds and leaders...gracious and merciful people...and future pastors and musicians...and encouragers...and motivators!

We also need people who are technologically savvy. We need people who have new ideas...and folks who can put shoe leather to those ideas through their service and work—enabling us to pull them off.

We now have a team that will help us in this effort called the ***Congregational Mobilization team***, currently headed by Kelly Reynolds. This team will be working hard to help us discover, record, and make readily available every person who can take their gifts and talents and help this church to become more effective in communicating Christ, in building believers, and in sending those servants out!

So where are you? It's time to get engaged. After all, I hear the saints all yelling in cadence, "Pull! Pull! Pull!" Will YOU pull with us?

Great News!

God is continuing to entrust to us more and more lives and families for His kingdom! While that is a truly exciting development, if you've ever been late to a Sunday morning service, you know that it can present a series of dilemmas as well. For example, trying to find a parking place after 11:05 might be very hard—but not as hard as trying to find a way to seat your entire family together in the sanctuary when you arrive.

As a result, we will begin offering a second Sunday morning service so that we can accommodate more people. So...mark your calendars!

Blue Ridge Bible Church will be offering two services beginning Palm Sunday, April 17th.

Here is our new schedule:

8:30 Worship service

- Only Nursery (0 to 24 months) will be provided.

9:45 Sunday school

11:00 Worship Service

- All regular children's worship classes (ages 0 to 5 years) will be provided.

Administratively Speaking

By Debbie Stevenson

Emergencies! Help! We certainly have seen enough of them lately within our own congregation and of course around the world. Much as been said in the media about being prepared for numerous types of emergencies or even evacuations.

Here at church, sometimes it may just be an emergency need for helpers in our pre-school classes or for a parent to come and see how a child could be comforted. You periodically may have seen numbers on the projection screens during the service. In case you were wondering because you don't have children in the pre-school classes, those are either a child's number and we are calling the parents, or they are an emergency number (usually in the thousands, i.e. 2000 means 2s/3s class) and it means "Help! We have reached capacity and need more workers...now...before the children take over!!" So if you would like to be considered one of those "first responders", just let Shelly Farley (soaringhigh@mac.com) know your availability.

Another type of emergency, may be in case of a fire in the building. Although we have never had the need to evacuate the building while events are going on here, it's always good to be prepared. Please review the following with all members of your family so that we will be ready in case an emergency arises on a Sunday morning or "wherever two or three are gathered."

Blue Ridge Bible Church Emergency Evacuation

When you hear an alarm:

- Do not assume it is a false alarm.
- Parents must not attempt to personally retrieve their children from other locations from within the building
- Take all practical steps to reduce personal injury.
- Additional evacuation instructions may come from the Emergency Evacuation Team consisting of pastors, elders, deacons, church staff or other designated team members.

The lower parking lot (near the playground) is the **designated rendezvous area**. Families will reunite at the rendezvous area. Once in the parking lot, parents will locate their children. **Under no circumstances will anyone re-enter the building.**

Continued on Page 4

Ladies Birthday Club

Come celebrate our March birthday ladies :

- Julie Dodson
- Janice Jessberger
- Margo Lassiter
- Jean Koshy
- Sharon Zareva
- Laurie Paist
- Mary Ellen Tedrow
- Joann Wicks
- Carrie Althouse
- Laurie Peacock
- Brittani Benedict
- April Abdo



We will gather on Thursday, April 14 at 7 pm at the garage apartment behind 1250 Hirst Road, Purcellville. This is an excellent time of encouragement, fellowship and laughter. You won't want to miss this! No gifts!

For more information or directions, contact Geni Hall (genihall@aol.com).

Teacher Responsibilities

- Each teacher must be familiar with this Emergency Evacuation and Safety Plan.
- Each teacher must already be acquainted with at least three options for exiting the building from their classroom.
- When the alarm sounds, teachers must escort their classes to the nearest safe exit by following the lighted exit signs in the hallways. They will continue to the lower parking lot.
- If necessary, teachers may recruit **known individuals** to assist with evacuation.
- Teachers will stay with their students at the designated rendezvous area (near the playground) until each child has been reunited with his/her parents.
- It is very important that children are handed directly to a family member (or other trusted person) at the rendezvous area.

Everyone's Responsibilities

- Exit signs should remain lit and lead you to the nearest exit. Everyone must evacuate quickly and in an orderly fashion. If the closest exit is blocked, then a secondary exit should be used. Someone will direct you to the best exit.
- People on the balcony level will exit through the two side stairwells and proceed to the main level exit.
- Children in the worship service must be escorted outside by their parents and older siblings.
- Children in class will be escorted by their teachers to the playground rendezvous area.
- To avoid confusion and risk, parents must not attempt to personally retrieve their children from other locations from within the building.

It is very important that **parents do not attempt to personally retrieve their children** from other locations within the building. It is not physically possible to go to many locations in an emergency and may place others in danger.

AWANA

By Geni Hall

In honor of Awana's 60th year of ministry, we are having a memory challenge for the entire club during the month of April. Each club will have a grand prize for the clubber who memorizes the most sections for the three weeks leading up to Easter. This will help motivate kids to finish their book and hide God's Word in their hearts! Memorizing scripture is the backbone of Awana. It is incredible to see the hundreds of verses that clubbers commit to memory each year.



Awana began in 1950 as a weekly local church program in Chicago. Gray shirts were sewn from Chicago's Police Department uniforms. Within 20 years, 500 churches were running Awana programs with over 52,000 clubbers memorizing scripture. Ten years later, the number of U.S. churches jumps to 3,000 with 20 missionaries sent to other countries around the world. In the 1990's, Awana added its 10,000th registered church and was operating in over 75 countries worldwide!

Blue Ridge Bible Church began our Awana club in the fall of 1997 with 35 registered clubbers. We join more than 19,000 churches worldwide who are now using Awana to minister to 1.5 million children and youth in 100 countries in a given week. Awana impacts clubber's lives. Among alumni who participated in Awana programs for at least six years, 92.7 percent still attend church weekly or more frequently as adults.

- April 3 - 60th Awana year memory challenge
- April 10 - 60th Awana year memory challenge
- April 17 - 60th Awana year memory challenge ends
- April 24 - NO AWANA (Easter)

God At Work Among Us

By Clint and Melissa Thomas

God has a plan. Ever doubt that? If you've lived more than a few years on this Earth you probably have. We certainly have. It's clear to me that what God has brought Melissa and I through the last five-six years is preparing us for something. (To keep this short – you can read more about it at www.intimategod.com)

We all have trials and experiences in our life – “good” and “bad”. I put those words in quotations because we tend to define good and bad in human terms – not God's viewpoint. Our experiences have changed us – for the better. It's left us with a hunger for seeing marriages put back on solid ground and for seeing people come to Christ. Nothing else really matters in life except that people come to Christ.

Part of our ministry to those around us has recently involved becoming LIFE Group leaders. What a blessing it has been to make new friends and start building relationships as we seek together to become the mature, effective, outreach-minded followers of Christ that we're meant to be. It's awesome!

In our LIFE Group, we've prayed on a regular basis for those around us who need Christ -- our family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and those God hasn't yet directed to cross our path. As a group, being prompted by the Holy Spirit, we're starting to see God open doors and provide opportunities to have a conversation about faith and spiritual matters with people in our lives. Some have invited co-workers over for get-togethers, others have started thinking about that neighbor across the street – it's amazing to watch – and it's FUN!

Melissa and I have recently been praying for several families we know. We found out this week that one of them has accepted Christ! What's even more amazing is the transformation that's taken place in this family in such a short time period. It was just about a year ago when the relationship between this family and ours was really strained for a time due to various circumstances I won't go into. I am amazed to see how effective and real the power of prayer and the Holy Spirit is! Any heart can be changed through the power of Christ!

What's even more amazing is how this family came to Christ. It was definitely a team effort involving a lot of people and the Holy Spirit – not just us. Praise the Lord! It doesn't matter how good/bad your week has gone, hearing about the salvation of someone you've been praying for overshadows anything else in your life! There is real joy in hearing about someone's salvation. It changes eternity!

I encourage us as believers to pray for three “O's” as we seek to become more effective at outreach:

- Opportunities** – If we ask God to give us opportunities to share our faith, He'll do it! Beware – this prayer works!
- Open hearts** – Pray that the person you're talking with has an open heart and is seeking to fill that God-shaped void in their life.
- Open mouths** – Pray for God's boldness in opening our mouths to share the Gospel when the opportunity presents itself.

In closing, please be in prayer for us as a family. Melissa continues to endure chemotherapy treatments each week. Pray that the Lord continues to give us strength and endurance and a focus on things from God's perspective. There are more people God is bringing across our path including a family we're friends with right here in Purcellville. We learned this week the husband and wife have actually been separated for a year and a half now and no one knew it. Living in different houses not more than a quarter mile from each other. There is real pain right around us. Real people with real problems who need the hope of Christ!

I encourage you to please seek out a LIFE Group around you if you're not already part of one. God is working through LIFE Groups...don't miss out!

Church Wide Work Day

Come one, come all. It's time to gather together and take care of the church building, inside and out. On Saturday, April 16, we encourage everyone, men, women, youth, and children to come to church from 8:30 a.m. to approximately 1:00 p.m. There are many tasks for all abilities and ages. We will be spreading mountains of mulch, so bring rakes, shovels, and gloves for that. We will be removing some dead shrubs and trimming others too, so bring shovels, clippers, pruners. On the inside of the building, we really need lots of hands to clean walls, door frames, windows, blinds, tables, chairs. This is a great job for moms and kids. The church will supply buckets, cleaners, and rags. You can stay for some or all of the morning. Any amount of help is appreciated. Contact Jeff Stocker (540-338-8543) for more information and especially if you have special equipment or talents to offer. Lunch will be provided for those who let us know you are coming by April 10.

Missions Update

By Breana Paist

But how can people call for help if they don't know who to trust? And how can they know who to trust if they haven't heard of the One who can be trusted? And how can they hear if nobody tells them? And how is anyone going to tell them, unless someone is sent to do it? That's why Scripture exclaims, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news!"

Romans 10:14-16



There are five of us planning on going to Ghana this summer: Laura LaRock, David Parker, Janelle Gregory, Mark Cockerill, and myself. What I think is neat is that this trip didn't come around as a "one-of-us-decided-to-go-to-Africa-and-then-started-asking-others-to-go-with-them" type thing. It was more like God individually laid it on our hearts and *then* we semi-randomly found out that each of us hoped to serve our Heavenly Father in the same way this summer.

So Lord providing, we'll be off June 5th to serve with Johnson and Lydia Asares and Stephen and Mercy Aputara, our BRBC missionaries, until August 13th! We're plan to teach in schools and visit Muslims in hospitals. We plan to be really hot and sweaty. We're looking forward to loving on kids and giving them hugs and playing games with them. The guys will probably also do manly things that require hammers and nails and stuff.

It's our desire to encourage and spur on these missionaries who are faithfully serving their country of Ghana. With our words and deeds we will share with the precious people of Navrango and Tamale the hope that comes from knowing Jesus. We will be laborers in a truly "ripe harvest," shouting from the rooftops what God has whispered in our ears – forgiveness if freely offered and repentance is truly necessary.



Before we leave, each of us has to raise around \$4,000. The massiveness of this amount is definitely daunting at times. The fact that we've already had to face many obstacles (financial ones and just plain discouragement), however, has really been a tool that God has used to unify us in Him as a team.

This has sort of become a theme for our trip – unity with each other in God. When we came across John 17 (the chapter where Jesus prays for all the believers) a couple weeks ago, this idea of unity really became evident to the five of us. In 17:21, He says, "That all of them may be one, Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

Basically, not only do we have unity with God and strive to have unity with each other, we also pursue unity *for a purpose*. Our purpose here is to impact the world, so that the world may believe.

PS: Janelle, Mark, David, Laura, and I all dearly treasure support from the body (the words-of-encouragement, financial, or prayer type). Visit ghanaimpactone.tumblr.com to find more information regarding how you can support us and to keep yourself up-to-date on Ghana trip!

April 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 LIFE - Smith (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Stocker (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Reynolds (7:00 p.m.) Refuge/College & Career Group (7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.)	2 Men's Breakfast (7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.)
3 AWANA (6.00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)	4 Scouts & Cub Scouts AHG	5 LIFE - Shipe (7:00 p.m.)	6 The Brotherhood Study (6:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.) Youth Group (7:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.) Worship Practice Children's Choir (7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.) LIFE - Larry (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Wilcox (7:00 p.m.)	7 LIFE - Thomas (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Sraders (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Casserino (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Richardson (7:00 p.m.)	8 LIFE - Smith (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Stocker (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Reynolds (7:00 p.m.) Refuge/College & Career Group (7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.)	9 Men's Breakfast (7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.)
10 AWANA (6.00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)	11 Scouts & Cub Scouts AHG Moms in Prayer	12 LIFE - Shipe (7:00 p.m.)	13 The Brotherhood Study (6:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.) Youth Group (7:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.) Worship Practice Children's Choir (7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.) LIFE - Larry (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Wilcox (7:00 p.m.) Missions Committee	14 LIFE - Thomas (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Sraders (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Casserino (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Richardson (7:00 p.m.) Ladies Birthday Club (7:00 p.m.)	15 LIFE - Smith (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Stocker (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Reynolds (7:00 p.m.) Refuge/College & Career Group (7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.) Newsletter Deadline	16 Men's Breakfast (7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.) Saturday Sports Church Work Day (8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.) 
17 AWANA (6.00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.) Singles Sunday (College/Career) Fellowship (1:30 p.m.) Palm Sunday (Worship 8:30, 11:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m.)	18 Scouts & Cub Scouts AHG	19 LIFE - Shipe (7:00 p.m.) Baby Shower (7:00 p.m.)	20 The Brotherhood Study (6:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.) Youth Group (7:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.) Worship Practice Children's Choir (7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.) LIFE - Larry (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Wilcox (7:00 p.m.)	21 LIFE - Thomas (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Sraders (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Casserino (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Richardson (7:00 p.m.)	22 Good Friday Service (7:00 p.m.)	23 Men's Breakfast (7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.) Saturday Sports
24 Easter Worship 8:30, 11:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:45 a.m.) 	25 Moms in Prayer	26 LIFE - Shipe (7:00 p.m.)	27 The Brotherhood Study (6:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.) Youth Group (7:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.) Worship Practice Children's Choir (7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.) LIFE - Larry (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Wilcox (7:00 p.m.)	28 LIFE - Thomas (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Sraders (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Casserino (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Richardson (7:00 p.m.)	29 LIFE - Smith (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Stocker (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Reynolds (7:00 p.m.) Refuge/College & Career Group (7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.)	30 Men's Breakfast (7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.) Saturday Sports

Blue Ridge Bible Church

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

Blue Ridge Bible Church

Communicating Christ,
Building Believers,
Sending Servants.

**Come Celebrate Jesus
with Us!**

**Palm Sunday, April 17
Easter Sunday, April 24**

Worship Services
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School
9:45 a.m.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve...Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.

I Corinthians 15:3-5, 12-14.

