

the *Good News* banner

Thoughts from the Pastor

By Jack Gill

What is the worst punishment you could inflict upon someone?

For a small child, I'm sure a spanking would probably hit the top of the list. But there is another method of punishment—called a "time out." No child likes to have to go sit in the corner alone. Probably one of the most effective ways to give instruction through chastening is by "grounding" a teenager. It takes away his freedoms, but more significantly it takes away his social life—which can be horrific!

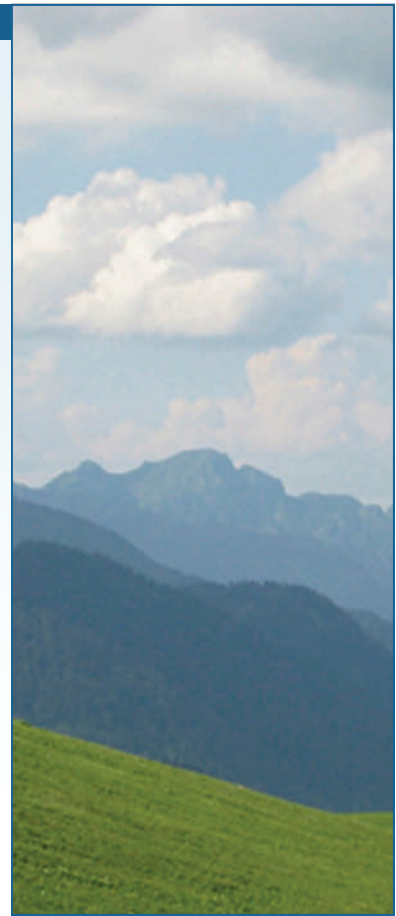
Too often as adults, we will inflict upon ourselves a punishment. It is a "self-grounding." By that I mean that we can easily cut ourselves off from those who are around us. We can get by ourselves...and then live life *alone*.

This past year as our SLT was meeting and discussing what kinds of values we hold as a church we began to think about and discuss this. How are we characterized as a church when it comes to fellowship? We felt that we do a pretty good job of embracing and welcoming people as they come into the door. But what happens after they have been here six weeks and the "new" of the church has worn off? On more than one occasion I have seen people leave not because of what the church does not offer them, but because they did not feel that they could break through into the body at a deeper level.

That's why we did not feel that we could call fellowship a deep seated value that characterized our church, but instead it is an *aspirational value*. We aspire to change. We desire to give God glory through seeking to really get deep with others, and to provide a way for anyone to assimilate into our body. Here's how we have defined what the value of "fellowship" would look like:

We aspire to be a church characterized by vibrant, Christ-centered fellowship, gladly sharing our time, possessions, hearts, and lives with one another as the earliest Christians did. (Acts 2:42-45) Therefore we will set aside pretension, pride, and self-sufficiency and become transparent, humble, and mutually dependent upon one another, caring for and loving each other as members of one family. (Romans 12:10- 13)

There is a word that makes people uncomfortable—but defines what must happen before we begin to change our church culture in this area. That word is *vulnerable*. Our lives must be like a house with open windows—that allow others to see what really goes on behind the walls. We cannot live life with



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Jack Gill
Pastor

Rich Shipe
Associate Pastor

Tom Gossage
Worship Pastor

Debbie Stevenson
Administrator & Editor

Chris and Amy George
Layout & Design

April Attendance

4/3/11

Sunday School		
Adults	119	
Children	123	
Total	233	
Worship		
Auditorium	530	
Classes	46	
Total	576	

4/10/11

Sunday School		
Adults	112	
Children	121	
Total	233	
Worship		
Auditorium	457	
Classes	46	
Total	503	

4/17/11

Sunday School		
Adults	144	
Children	150	
Total	294	
Worship		
Auditorium		
1 st service	186	
2 nd service	325	
Classes		
1 st service	4	
2 nd service	28	
Total	543	

4/22/11

Good Friday	278	
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4/24/11 EASTER

Sunday School		
Adults	117	
Children	122	
Total	239	
Worship		
Auditorium		
1 st service	207	
2 nd service	409	
Classes		
1 st service	19	
2 nd service	38	
Total	673	

tinted windows and closed doors with a nice façade that betrays what really lies under the surface. Before we can be open and accepting of others, we have to be ready to be vulnerable with them. That **demands** that we allow ourselves to be fully grounded upon the truth of the gospel. We must be a people that seek to have deep fellowship with the Triune God first and foremost—and then we will easily be able to be vulnerable to others!

“...what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.” (1 Jn. 1:3)

Fellowship is not an option in the church. It is the hallmark of what a disciple must be—living with others in love and being open with them. Jesus said it is how the world will know that we are His disciples. (Jn. 13:35) Fellowship—by God’s grace, it’s what we will aspire to truly have with one another!

Administratively Speaking

By Debbie Stevenson

One of the questions which followed the presentation of the Blue Ridge Bible Church vision asked, “Just how many people worked on this strategy project or are working on it?” Great question with an ongoing answer just like the strategy project is ongoing. Listed below are the people who served on the Strategic Leadership Team during the initial process in 2010. Those people plus many others are now implementing the strategic plan through Strategic Implementation Teams. These implementation teams will continue in their work and in their need for additional help. So check it out and see if perhaps the Lord may be calling you and your gifts to serve our church body by joining one of these teams. Feel free to contact Bill Wilcox or any of the team leaders below for further information.

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP TEAM (elders, deacons, staff, ministry leaders)

- Russ Berry
- Kurt Dowden
- Carter Farley
- Shelly Farley
- Tom Geyer
- Jack Gill
- Karen Gill
- Tom Gossage
- Earl Hall
- Geni Hall
- Eric Lassiter
- Bill Parker
- Kelly Reynolds
- Christy Shipe
- Ken Shipe
- Rich Shipe
- Suzanne Stephens
- Debbie Stevenson
- Jeff Stocker
- Allen Thornburgh
- Bill Wilcox
- John Zareva

IMPLEMENTATION TEAMS

Lead Implementation Team

- Carri Casserino
- Bob Mottice
- Bill Wilcox*

Intercessory Prayer

- Joanne LaRock
- Suzanne Larry
- Tom Larry
- Eric Lassiter*
- Betty Luckabaugh
- Nancy Wilcox
- Sherri Wilson

Congregational Communications

- Suzanne Stephens*
- Jayme Metzgar
- Todd Metzgar
- Christy Shipe
- David Siecker
- Jeff Stocker
- Kim Walker
- Debbie Stevenson

Local Missions

- Shelly Farley
- Geni Hall
- Nathan Hall
- Bob Ness
- Brittany Paist
- Jeff Stocker
- Allen Thornburgh*

World Missions

- Mark Benedict
- Leah Garber
- Tom Geyer
- Steve Gregory
- Patti Gregory
- Aviel Mickahail
- Bob Mottice
- Gil Paist

Disciple-making/ LIFE Groups

- Rich Shipe*

Congregational Mobilization

- Regina Gossage
- Kelly Reynolds*
- David Thomasson
- Nancy Ziemnick

Staffing

- Earl Hall*
- Debbie Stevenson

Facilities & Location

- Danielle Carter
- David Carter
- Sean Dunn
- Claudine Jenkins
- Russell Jenkins
- Steven Jessberger*

Finance/Stewardship

- Kurt Dowden
- Steve Heidorn
- Todd Metzgar
- John Zareva*

Evaluation

- Russ Berry*
- Steve Heidorn
- Andy Knight

Creativity & Innovation

- Carter Farley
- Regina Gossage
- Tom Gossage*
- Beth Newton
- Andis Sraders

Leadership Development

- MaryAnne Armstrong
- Tom Geyer
- Geni Hall
- Bill Wilcox*

(*team leaders)

Ladies Birthday Club

Come celebrate our April birthday ladies :

- Debbi Knight
- Brijet Miller
- Diana Thornburgh
- Deborah Black
- April Caswell
- Kay Shipe
- Melissa Thomas
- Trish Garvis
- Kim Walker
- Chrissy Schneider
- Becca Ryun.

All BRBC women are encouraged to gather on Tuesday, May 17, at 7:00 p.m. at the garage apartment behind the Halls' house in Purcellville. This is an excellent time of encouragement, fellowship and laughter. You won't want to miss this! No gifts please!

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



AWANA

By Geni Hall

This is our last month of Awana in 2011! It has been an incredible year with tons of memorized verses hidden in clubber's hearts. Our prayer is God would use these verses to make a difference in the world for Him. Our goal is to teach boys and girls the Gospel of Christ and train them to serve Him.

We start the month off with Meet the Pastor Night. Our own Pastor Jack Gill will be joining us for an exciting night of club on May 1st. Plan to attend and see how God has used this incredibly gifted man to reach others for Christ.

We have a special treat on May 15th! In celebration of Awana's 60th year, we have reserved the Purcellville Skating Rink. Instead of meeting at BRBC, we will have a family roller skating party for all Awana families at the Purcellville Roller Rink from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The cost is \$3 per skating person over the age of 3. Plan to attend for this wonderful night of fellowship and fun!

Our 14th Annual Award Ceremony and Ice Cream Social will be on May 22nd from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Ice cream will be provided. Please bring a topping to share.

May 1	Meet the Pastor Night
May 8	NO AWANA (Mother's Day)
May 15	4 th quarter club attendance, Club Party Night at Skating Rink
May 22	14 th Annual Award Ceremony and Ice Cream Social



God At Work Among Us

By Russ Berry

"Friend, I am doing you no wrong."
(Matthew 20:1-16 – Jesus' parable of the laborers in the vineyard)

God's timing is perfect! He is never late and He is never early. I recently had the privilege of praying with a neighbor as he received Christ. This man suffered a stroke 20 years ago and with only a couple exceptions, he was at home in bed all that time. His personal caregiver has been diligently praying for his salvation; she has been his angel for all these years and has served him well. She will receive a just reward for her devoted service to her afflicted friend.

Fenton died in mid-April and I am confident that he is with Christ in glory. He has received what is only God's to give – grace that brings eternal peace with God. He is no longer stuck in his earthly vessel.

What a picture! In the eleventh hour, Fenton was set free from the spiritual bondage of sin and isolation from God. And just a few days later he was freed from the physical pain of his broken body. "Free at last! Free at last!"

Fenton received what he did not earn. It was a gift from God. Some of the hirelings complained to the landowner because they expected to receive more than those who were hired in the last hour. Mary rejoiced at Fenton's funeral. She knows that her reward is still waiting. Her personal burden has been lifted. But even more significantly, she rejoices because of God's generosity and grace that was extended to Fenton in the eleventh hour.

I want to always be aware of the fact that God's timing is perfect. As a Christian, I have already been hired by the Master. Even so, in too many instances I have stood around idly and have not immediately gone to work for Him in His vineyard. But isn't it marvelous to know that He is willing to extend grace, even when I am so slow to respond to His invitation to work?

At Fenton's funeral, Mary told me that her brother is a diabetic with serious complications. She plans on becoming his caretaker now, with no hesitation.

Take what is yours and go, but I wish to give to this last man the same as to you. "Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with what is my own? Or is your eye envious because I am generous? So the last shall be first, and the first last."

2011 Women's retreat Recap

By Heidi Berry

The women's retreat held at Rocky Gap Resort on March 18-20 was a huge success. Our speaker, Becky Johnson from Denton Bible Church in Denton Texas, encouraged the women to have "An All-Consuming Passion For Christ." She started with her testimony encouraging all of us that God truly has a plan for our lives based on Jeremiah: 29:11 which says, *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

Our next session focused on that all-consuming passion for Christ as expressed in Psalm 42:1, *As the deer pants for the streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God.* We have a thirst which either can drive us to our Lord or we can let it drive us to extreme distress when we try to satisfy the thirst by being filled with things in the world. She reminded us that our past does not have to rule our present service to God. Becky encouraged each of us to ask God to give us this aching in our hearts towards God like the Psalmist had. This passion for Jesus can cause us "to poke holes in the darkness of our world."

Becky then encouraged us to journal and to use scripture in our prayer time. For example, praying this for yourself and others – Ephesians 1:17, *I keep asking that the God our of Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that you may know Him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints and His incomparably great power for us who believe.*

In between all of this great teaching we had some wonderful free time, great chances to fellowship and get to know people on a deeper level, scrumptious food, deluxe accommodations and beautiful views. For the past several years, we have broken into smaller discussion groups and these are well received. As God's people become more transparent with each other, and more willing to let their guards down and "be real" with each other, He truly blesses. Friendships were made, admonishments given, praises sang out to the Lord, and encouragements offered, all the while pointing people back to THE ONE who has all the answers.



*Blue Ridge Bible Church
Mother's Day Brunch
Just for Mothers
Saturday, May 7th, 2011
10am to Noon*

Please join us for a delicious brunch,
special music and an inspiring message on
motherhood from our very own
Linda Parker. Bring a guest!*

*Cost is \$10 per person-Cash only, please
Sign up to reserve your space by May 1st.
See MaryAnne Armstrong or Terry
Schulman at the table in the foyer to register.*

**Gluten-free selections will be available*

Missions Update

By David Parker

Johnson Asare is a missionary from Ghana supported by BRBC. He is a man whose faith and love for God is truly inspiring. After giving Don Darling the honor of breaking ground on a new building project, Don asked Reverend Asare how much money he had raised thus far for the project. Johnson smiled and replied “none.” Just two years later, however, Don Darling and Joe Holman were back in Ghana to dedicate the completed *Radach Memorial Centre*, which had cost 6 million dollars to build.

This is one of the stories that really stood out as an excellent example of how God can manifest himself through the child-like faith of His humble servants. As I sat and listened to this man speak to the small crowd that had gathered in the auditorium at BRBC during Johnson’s recent visit, I was inspired by the amazing vision he was sharing with us.

God has made it clear to Johnson that He wants to set up a university in Tamale, Ghana from which students will be taught God’s truth and useful vocations so that they can be market place missionaries throughout Africa. According to the Radach University website: “Half the population here [in Ghana] is under 18. Yet 60% of high school graduates cannot go to college.” In a place that is in desperate need of spiritual and economic revival, the vision God has given Johnson for the university fits perfectly with how He wants to stir a renewing change and bring hope for Africa.

“I don’t know where the money is going to come from, but I know this is what God wants, and I know it will come,” Johnson said to us. Whether you or I give him a big check or not, God is going to make this happen. Johnson is simply giving Blue Ridge Bible Church the opportunity to be a part of the amazing work that God is doing. After asking a couple questions about what was on his agenda while in the States, it became evident that his top priority was to raise prayer support. To him, our prayers are of more significance than our money.

“The Lord is coming back very soon. So wake up!” Reverend Asare repeated this several times while he spoke that Friday night. God is doing some amazing works in Ghana and around the world. This begs the questions: what are we doing here? Are we investing our time and energy in His Kingdom or ours?

1 Corinthians 1:26-29 says, “Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.”

Please join with me in praying for the church in Ghana and for Johnson Asare so that we too can partake in God’s work and see His glory revealed through it.

Editor’s note: David Parker and four other young people from BRBC have committed themselves to serving in Ghana for two months this summer with the Asares and our other supported missionaries, Stephen and Mercy Aputara. Please remember these young servants in prayer as they make preparations to go and raise funds – David Parker, Breana Paist, Laura LaRock, Mark Cockerill and Janelle Gregory.

Young Men’s Purity Seminar

May 6, 2011
7:00 – 9:30 p.m. at BRBC Room 106

How can a young man keep his way pure? Psalm 119:9

There is a battle waging today for the hearts of young men; they face challenges that didn’t even exist a generation ago. Blue Ridge Bible Church invites teens (14+), young adults, and fathers to an evening focused on sexual integrity for young men. Fathers are encouraged to contact Mark Smith (mark.smith@datamarksystems.com) or moms, contact Patrice Smith (patrice@datamarksystems.com) for additional information or to provide permission for a son under 18 to attend if the father cannot be present.

Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the well-spring of life. Proverbs 4:23

May 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Worship Services (8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.) Sunday School (9:45 a.m.)	2 Scouts & Cub Scouts Moms in Prayer	3 LIFE - Shipe (7:00 p.m.)	4 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.)	5 National Day of Prayer	6 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.) Young Men's Purity Seminar (7:00 p.m.)	7 Men's Breakfast (7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.) Mother's Day Brunch (10 a.m.— Noon)
8 Mother's Day Worship Services (8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.) Sunday School (9:45 a.m.) No AWANA	9 Scouts & Cub Scouts AHG	10 LIFE - Shipe (7:00 p.m.)	11 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.)	12 LIFE - Thomas (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Sraders (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Casserino (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Richardson (7:00 p.m.)	13 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.)	14 Men's Breakfast (7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.)
15 Worship Services (8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.) Sunday School (9:45 a.m.) AWANA (at Skating Rink) (6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)	16 Scouts & Cub Scouts AHG Moms in Prayer Newsletter Deadline	17 LIFE - Shipe (7:00 p.m.) Ladies Birthday Club (7:00 p.m.)	18 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.)	19 LIFE - Thomas (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Sraders (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Casserino (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Richardson (7:00 p.m.)	20 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.)	21 Men's Breakfast (7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.) Saturday Sports
22 Worship Services (8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.) Sunday School (9:45 a.m.) AWANA Awards Ceremony & Ice Cream Social (6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.) Women's Ministry Committee	23	24 LIFE - Shipe (7:00 p.m.)	25 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.)	26 LIFE - Thomas (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Sraders (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Casserino (7:00 p.m.) LIFE - Richardson (7:00 p.m.)	27 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.)	28 Men's Breakfast (7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.) Saturday Sports
29 Worship Services (8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.) Sunday School (9:45 a.m.) Communion	30 Memorial Day	31				

Blue Ridge Bible Church

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Blue Ridge Bible Church

Communicating Christ,
Building Believers,
Sending Servants.

A Mother's Precious Jewels

By Beulah Kitzmiller (all rights reserved)

Some may hold as greatest treasures,
Jewels of diamonds, gold, and pearls
But a mother's priceless jewels
Are her precious boys and girls. (Psalms
127:3)

She will guard each precious jewel
Seek to lead each darling one,
By the counsel of the Bible
To salvation through God's son.
(Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 2:8,9)

She will bathe her precious jewels
With much love and fervent prayer
And place each one within the circle
Of the Father's tender care.

When the world around lies sleeping
She'll remember them each day;
Asking God to watch and keep them
Lest their footsteps go astray.

Apart from God the Father's love
There's no greater love on earth
Than the love of a true Mother,
Her love is of priceless worth.

Tonight the lights will shine brightly
From the windowpanes everywhere
And millions will be remembered
In a loving mother's prayer.

Happy Mother's Day

