

the *Good News* banner

Thoughts from the Pastor

By Jack Gill

When I was in training to become a First Officer at United Airlines flying the 737, I went through about a seven-week program that included ground school, systems training, emergency procedures, and flying skills on the simulator. My program went from Monday through Friday, with Saturdays and Sundays off. I was paired up with a new captain who had flown the airplane before. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting him and learning from his experiences as well.

On the weekends, United would fly us home to spend our two days off to be with our family. One of the “nuggets of wisdom” my captain told me at the beginning of our training together was this point: “When it is the weekend—go home. Don’t study. Take time to rest and relax. Come back refreshed and ready to hit the ground running.”

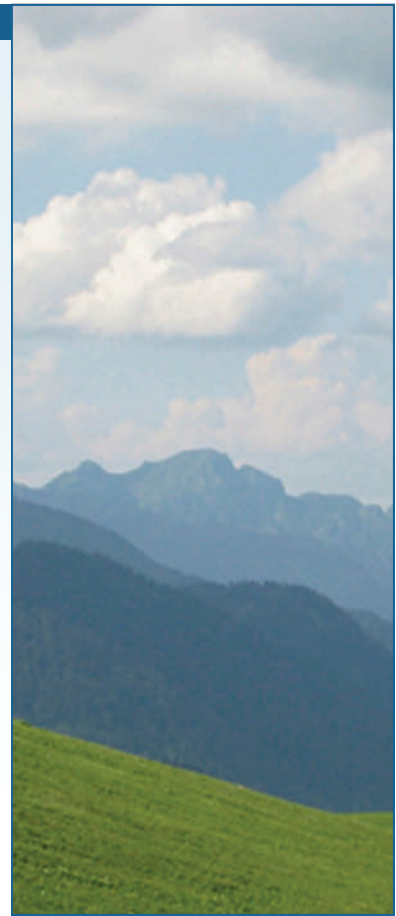
I followed that advice until about the fourth week of training. It was at this point that I began to feel like I was getting behind. I stayed in Denver that weekend and studied constantly. Then Monday morning came. My captain and I had a simulator ride, and it was probably the worst execution of procedures that I had ever done. I felt horrible. I not only had disappointed the instructor, but I had let my captain down as well.

After the flight, my captain pulled me aside and asked me one question: “Did you stay here this weekend, or did you go home?” I told him that I had stayed and studied, and he then said “Never do that again. I think you see why I told you not to do that. You are fatigued, and in aviation that will do you the most harm. Next weekend, get away and rest.” And I did—every weekend—from that point on.

We all need moments of rest. We need a break. Look what Genesis has to say about *God and rest*:

“By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.” (Genesis 2:2)

We need to take a few moments to recharge our batteries and to build up our energy again. It hasn’t been that long since we looked on a Sunday morning at a text on the Sabbath—or a time of “ceasing.” In the Old Testament, God established one day out of the week so that Israel would rest—to cease from labor in order that they would find time to have a restful time in order to reflect on who God is, what He had created, and to worship Him as both the Creator and Redeemer. (Deuteronomy 5:15)



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April Attendance

5/1/11

Sunday School	
Adults	109
Children	101
Total	210
Worship	
Auditorium	
1st service	110
2nd service	349
Classes	
1st service	0
2nd service	35
Total	494

5/8/11

Sunday School	
Adults	116
Children	106
Total	222
Worship	
Auditorium	
1st service	101
2nd service	412
Classes	
1st service/Nursery	0
2nd service	39
Total	552

5/15/11

Sunday School	
Adults	85
Children	127
Total	212
Worship	
Auditorium	
1st service	94
2nd service	416
Classes	
1st service/Nursery	0
2nd service	39
Total	549

5/22/11

Sunday School	
Adults	97
Children	97
Total	194
Worship	
Auditorium	
1st service	98
2nd service	394
Classes	
1st service	5
2nd service	34
Total	521

5/29/11

Sunday School	
Adults	60
Children	79
Total	139
Worship	
Auditorium	
1st service	90
2nd service	268
Classes	
1st service	5
2nd service	29
Total	392

One thing we don't do too well as a culture is rest. We work so hard to accomplish more, become efficient, have no "dead" time, make more phone calls, communicate constantly, and accomplish more tasks to the degree that to rest is almost akin to laziness. (Certainly, one can be lazy and call it rest—but generally speaking, I see the pendulum having swung too far towards more work!)

During this past year, Blue Ridge has certainly done quite a bit of labor. We not only continued to run our normal ministries and programs, but we instituted a Strategic Planning team, and we worked towards establishing not only our vision, but a process whereby we might also continually seek to accomplish what God has called our church to accomplish. We began numerous Implementation Teams that have and will continue to help us to execute the vision. We began LIFE groups. We now have two services for worship, and have seen an increase of need in parking and greeting help. It has been a time of growth and change—but it has required a lot of WORK.

Now, it is time to rest.

So much work and labor and time have gone into just establishing the vision. I have seen and heard of how so many have done so much, but at the same time of how tired everyone is from the strong push we have seen in getting us where we are. Now that we have discovered God's vision for us, we don't want to "crush" the congregation by not recognizing that rest is needed. As a church we want to use the summer months to get re-energized.

Here's how we will do so. We are going to take a break from many of the ministries we have. The summer was already a time in which we were going to take a break from AWANA, children's choir, and LIFE groups—but we are going to also take a break from Sunday school. The youth group will meet until mid-summer, and then they will take a break for the second half. It is time to rest.

There are some ministries that will utilize that time between worship services. We will have an opportunity to conduct a Newcomers class. We will also be calling upon the Implementation Teams to do what is necessary to get ready for the fall launch of their ministries. There may also be some leadership training classes. We will continue to have two services on Sunday at the same times. However, we are encouraging everyone to really purpose to take time to relax a little, to recharge their batteries—and to rest from activities throughout the week.

For some of us, this will be hard. Many almost have to have someone give them permission to rest—and as leaders in the church we desire to give you that opportunity! While we continually feel a sense of urgency when it comes to God's work, this time is not a period of laziness, but one of investment. To get ready! Like my United captain helped me to understand—there is a time to rest—so what when we get ready to work and minister as a church in September we can do so with great energy, zeal, and focus.

So...take this summer to look back, reflect, and worship. God has given us a great vision, and much has gone into discovering it and starting it. Let's utilize this period of rest while we pray and reflect on what He has done for us as a body this past year, and let's thank Him for all that we've seen Him accomplish. Let's not utilize the summer to get busier in other areas of our lives, but to rest and focus on just a few areas of preparation for the fall. Then, at the end of summer, let's come ready to worship God through our FULL execution of the vision He has given us!

Looking For Tech Team Recruits

The Worship Tech Team is in immediate need of additional volunteers who serve the BRBC body by providing audio, video, and media support to BRBC ministries. The Tech Team plays a critical role in worship services and provides much needed support to all groups using the church facilities. Only prerequisite is a willingness to serve behind the scenes, no specific music or technical knowledge required. Contact Carter Farley (carterfarley@mac.com) for more details.

Heartland 4s & 5s Ministry Volunteers

We have a wonderful group of children in need of teachers and helpers. This is a monthly rotation during the second worship service, so you would be volunteering for only one Sunday out of the month. If you believe this is something God is asking of you please stop by Heartland this Sunday for more information. Let us encourage one another, "...doing good on the Sabbath" Matt 12:12. These children are the teens of tomorrow and the adults of our future, so let's come along side of them and instruct them in the way they should go. If you would like to sign-up via email feel free to email me (Shelly Farley) at: soaringhigh@mac.com.

Meals Ministry

Occasionally, families and individuals in our congregation are in need of the blessing of meals being provided to them while going through a hospitalization or birth of a baby. If you would like to be available to meet this need in the future, please contact our meals coordinator, Terry Schulman (terrerschulman@gmail.com).

Needed ASAP: Individuals to Make Food Deliveries

The Worship Tech Team is in immediate need of additional volunteers who serve the BRBC body by providing audio, video, and media support to BRBC ministries. The Tech Team plays a critical role in worship services and provides much needed support to all groups using the church facilities. Only prerequisite is a willingness to serve behind the scenes, no specific music or technical knowledge required. Contact Carter Farley (carterfarley@mac.com) for more details.

Children's Choir Spring Musical

This spring, bring the whole family out to enjoy "Acorns to Oaks," a fun-filled musical about spiritual growth. The Blue Ridge Children's Choir is performing this production on Friday, June 10th at 7:00 p.m. at the church. This would be a great opportunity to invite neighbors and friends, especially those with children, to see a production that teaches the truth of the gospel in a winsome and understandable way.

The musical is set on a farm, where Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald help their farm hands learn about being planted, rooted, and growing in Christ through the parable of the sower and the seed. Kids will love to watch the nasty crows and sneaky rumor weeds try to snatch the seed away! And in the end, the farm hands learn to be the kind of land God's Word can grow on so they can reap a spiritual harvest. As part of the "harvest," we will be taking donations of canned goods for the local Tree of Life Food Pantry. Suggested non-perishable food items to donate are: cereals, peanut butter, pasta, rice, canned vegetables, beans and fruit, spaghetti sauce, and crackers.

You won't want to miss this exciting event! Postcards advertising the play are available in the church auditorium to hand out to invite friends and family to the musical.

Moms In Prayer Cook-Out

The Mom's in Prayer group is having a cookout to share and fellowship with the whole family on June 12. Our group meets twice monthly to share concerns, prayer, needs with each other concerning our children in public or private school. Any family with children in public or private school is welcome to attend, whether or not you have been able to attend the monthly prayer times. The cookout starts at 4:00 p.m. at the Casserinos' home in Philomont, and we ask each family to bring a side dish to share. Please contact Carri Casserino (cncasser@ganil.com or 540-338-8035) to RSVP and for directions.

AWANA

By Geni Hall

Thank you to all of our Directors, Leaders and Clubbers who worked so hard to make this a successful Awana year! We had 59 dedicated leaders who tirelessly came each week to listen to verses and model consistent godly character to the clubbers. Club nights could not run without their service. Please take a moment to thank each of them. Special thank you to our dedicated Directors who go above and beyond to make sure records are kept and awards are received. They take time each week outside of club to do all the leg work that ensures clubbers are rewarded. Kudos to Courtney Shipe, Shelly Farley, Leah Garber, Priscilla Kamakawiwoole, Chrissy Schneider, Jon Garber, Kyle Niewoehner, Tom and Chelli Monroe, Jordan Hall, and Todd Harris.

Special recognition to the clubbers who achieved the Timothy, Meritorious and Citation Awards—

Timothy Award is the completion of four books, which includes over 432 verses memorized! Winners this year are: Clara Blevins, Beto Berry, Drew Stocker, Peter van der Hoek, and Amanda Garvis.

Meritorious Award is for the completion of six books, which includes over 625 verses memorized! Winners this year are: Gwen Nuss, Liliana Nuss, Abby Stocker, Felicity Harris, Matt Holdridge, Joel Monroe, Thomas Garber, Vincent Escobar, and Timothy van der Hoek.

Our Citation Award is the most coveted accomplishment representing the completion of 10 books and over 1,000 verses memorized, plus reading through the entire Bible and summarizing each book. This award also requires service and missions projects along the way. We have only awarded 6 Citation awards in our 14 years of running Awana at Blue Ridge Bible Church. This year's awards recipients are: Jonathan Monroe and Breana Paist.

Congratulations to all our clubbers who memorized God's Word. Our goal is to reach boys and girls with the Gospel of Christ and train them to serve Him. Please consider joining us again on September 11th when we begin our 15th year of Awana.

Women's Mini-Retreat

Attention Blue Ridge Women! Do we have a treat for you! Mark your calendars for June 18th.

If you have ever answered YES to any of these questions then you won't want to miss BRBC's One-Day Retreat.

1. Do you sometimes think the three-day retreat is too expensive?
2. Do you ever wish the retreat was closer?
3. Have you ever longed for physical and mental rest?
4. Do you ever wish you could get to know more of our women?
5. Have you ever wanted to have a deeper walk with your Lord?
6. Have you ever thought, "I wish I knew Denise Holman better?"
7. Have you realized that soon Denise will be gone back to Bolivia and you wished you had spent more time with her?
8. Do you long to hear more testimonies from your fellow sisters?
9. Do you ever think you could use a laugh or two to brighten your day?
10. Do you ever wish you could learn how to live RADICALLY?

If you answered YES to any of the above then this one-day retreat IS DESIGNED JUST FOR YOU! On Saturday, June 18 from 9:00 to 4:00, you can have all the fun of the three-day retreat in ONE day: small groups, testimonies, inspiring messages, lunch, and more.

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Denise Holman, wife of our former pastor Joe Holman, will speak on "Radical Living." Denise says, "I will talk about hearing the Holy Spirit and then responding to that by walking and leaping by faith, living a life like real disciples do. When someone really does follow God, their life looks much different than what many people call a 'normal Christian life'. Like Watchman Nee says....So many people live sub-normal Christian lives that when someone does live a normal Christian life most people think it is an extraordinary Christian life (not a direct quote....but the idea behind his book The Normal Christian Life)."

We hope to see you here, at Blue Ridge, on June 18. For more information, email Heidi Berry (Heidi@kinsmanfarm.net). Registrations will be taken in the foyer on June 5 and June 12. For registration information, email MaryAnne Armstrong (maa@bskb.com). The cost is only \$18 and includes a Panera Bread lunch (sandwiches and salad).

2011 Graduates

Congratulate our terrific young people...



High School

- Johnna Ehlert – plans to attend Liberty University Online while she continues to work at the Purcellville Children’s Academy. She will pursue a Bachelor of Science in Education degree. She ultimately hopes to become a teacher that will help improve children’s education in the public school system.
- Matthew Farley – East Gate High School, attending Lord Fairfax Community College
- Joe Farris – going to Patrick Henry College, with hopes of medical school in the future
- J.T. Gill – going to NOVA
- Nathan Lants – going to Grove City College
- Whitney Lassiter – continuing at Lord Fairfax Nursing School
- Laura Virginia LaRock — graduating from high school and also graduating summa cum laude from Lord Fairfax Community College with an Associate of Arts and Science degree in Liberal Arts; plans to spend the summer working alongside missionaries in Ghana, and in the future she hopes to pursue a degree in International Relations/Foreign Policy.
- Keegan Newton – leaves for VA Tech in August, School of Biological Sciences & Air Force Corp of Cadets
- Kendall Newton – has also been going to Lord Fairfax Community College, and will go to Virginia Tech University in the fall
- Reed Rogan – This summer interning in a medical practice for a time, and then working in a law firm. Following this, he will be attending classes at Lord Fairfax.
- Evie Smith – continuing taking classes at Patrick Henry College
- Rachel Warren – finishing 1st year of Liberty University online

College

- Joshua Brown – Bridgewater College, Magna cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Sociology. He will be attending graduate school at George Mason in the fall in the Psychology program with a concentration in human factors and applied cognition.
- Michael Farris – Patrick Henry College, and recently began working at Home School Legal Defense Association in the Communications Department
- Melissa Garvis – University of Virginia on May 23. She is living in Charlottesville and is employed by UVA's Darden School of Business. She would like to get a different position with them, or with another employer, that would let her use her English degree in copy writing or editing.
- Jessi Lassiter – Lord Fairfax Nursing program; will soon be certified as an RN and is looking for jobs while continuing to work at Loudoun Hospital
- Abby Parker – Associates Degree from Lord Fairfax Community College; desires to use her gifts to serve the Lord in culinary arts or catering
- Rachel Parker – Bachelor of Arts from George Mason University; is looking for the Lord's leading to apply her degree in Graphic Art and Visual Technology.

Missions

By Janelle Gregory

To You, Lord, Whom I love as much as I know how, and without Whom I would have no reason to live, I give the rest of my life. I go on from this day knowing that in the words of Jim Elliot, "I am as sure of His direction, as I am of His salvation."

I came across this while cleaning my room after school ended; it is part of my graduation speech that I delivered exactly a year and a day from when this year I, along with four other friends, will be on a plane to Africa! The thing is, a year ago I had no thoughts toward going on a short-term missions trip in the not-so-distant future. So how did it all work out then? Three words: God's Purposeful Lead.

This particular portion of my speech above really caught my attention as I read it and God revealed something I hadn't really thought about before. You can say things very easily, but it is an entirely different thing when you take action to make the words of your mouth match your actions. I felt God saying: "Do you see this is all part of my plan for you? You said you would give Me the rest of your life; well, I am asking for you to live up to the words you speak...starting right now, by giving Me your summer; I will teach you more about how to give your life away to Me through it. Can you now see my direction over this past year?" Once God put it out so plainly before me, I did think over this past year and see all the ways His provision and direction had been leading me. A night talking to my friend after youth group, life schedules lining up for three girls, a strong beautiful Christian woman named Leah Garber coming back from a year of service in Ghana, a little brother who reminds me of Africa daily, four other young people wanting to LIVE for their savior, and the list goes on and on.

This got me to thinking about God's provision more, and how He is literally in every detail of everything that seems to just "happen." He is the great orchestrator directing everything to go according to His will. Believe it or not, He is WITH US! I'll give you one example: one of the biggest obstacles that God completely provided through this trip was the ability to raise \$20,000.00 in literally a little over two months!!! Honestly, I doubted, speculated, worried, and stressed over even the possibility of being able to raise this money. What did God do in response? He provided the money a month before we would even leave, and provided over that amount in the month of May!

Through this, God basically showed me and the rest of the team that He was with us, and that He would be with us in Ghana. I know we should know that already, and on some level I did think, yes, God will be with us in Africa; but honestly, when God shows Himself so fully as He did with the money and many other things in preparation over the past months, your faith becomes so much more real because you are physically relying on Him the way He wants you to! If you take the risk to really rely on Him for something, then you are giving Him the opportunity to prove Himself true and real to you! I believe that all the hard things we have had to deal with in preparing for Ghana was all part of God getting us ready for when we will physically have to rely on Him daily in Ghana.

It is more than exciting to think by the time you read this, the rest of the team and I will most likely already be in Africa, being the hands and feet of our Savior, reaching out to the lost in Ghana! I want to thank all of you that have helped support this trip with your time, money, and prayers! You have had a great impact on my life: just seeing the generosity you have shared with us has challenged me in my giving to others as well! So I thank you for that! As you read this, I would appreciate it so much if you would just take a moment to pray for us right now, and pray for the hearts in Ghana that God will bring us in contact with over the next couple months. Please keep our team of Breana Paist, David Parker, Mark Cockerill, Laura LaRock and me in your prayers this summer! And we will keep you updated on all that God is doing in Ghana! J

Proverbs 3:5-6 says: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your path." God's plan for you is real, His lead is purposeful, His provision is steadfast, and His direction is sure. So trust in it, wherever it takes you this summer, whatever He is calling you to give up or take up—run to His call for you! I promise it will be more than worth it!

June 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Youth Group (7:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.) Worship Practice	2	3	4 Men's Breakfast (7 a.m.)
5 Worship Services (8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.) Honoring High School Graduates	6 Scouts	7	8 Youth Group (7:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.) Worship Practice	9	10 Children's Choir Musical (7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)	11 Men's Breakfast (7 a.m.)
12 Worship Services (8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.) Moms in Prayer End of Year Cook-out (4:00 p.m.)	13 Scouts	14 Women's Study—Ashburn (Lies) (7:00 p.m.)	15 Youth Group (7:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.) Worship Practice Newsletter Deadline	16 Women's Study—Church (Lies) (7:00 p.m.)	17	18 Women's Mini-Retreat (9a.m.—4p.m.)
19 Father's Day Worship Services (8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.)	20	21 Young Women's Study - (Lies) (10:00 a.m.) Women's Study—Ashburn (Lies) (7:00 p.m.)	22 Youth Group (7:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.) Worship Practice	23 Women's Study—Church (Lies) (7:00 p.m.)	24	25 Men's Breakfast (7 a.m.)
Scout camp 19th—25th						
26 Worship Services (8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.) Communion	27	28 Young Women's Study (Lies) (10:00 a.m.) Women's Study—Ashburn (Lies) (7:00 p.m.)	29 Youth Group (7:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.) Worship Practice	30		

Blue Ridge Bible Church

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Blue Ridge Bible Church

Communicating Christ,
Building Believers,
Sending Servants.

Happy Father's Day

Praise the Lord! How blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments. His descendants will be mighty on earth; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever. Light arises in the darkness for the upright; He is gracious and compassionate and righteous. It is well with the man who is gracious and lends; He will maintain his cause in judgment. For he will never be shaken; the righteous will be remembered forever. Psalm 112:1-6

