

the *Good News* banner

Thoughts from the Pastor

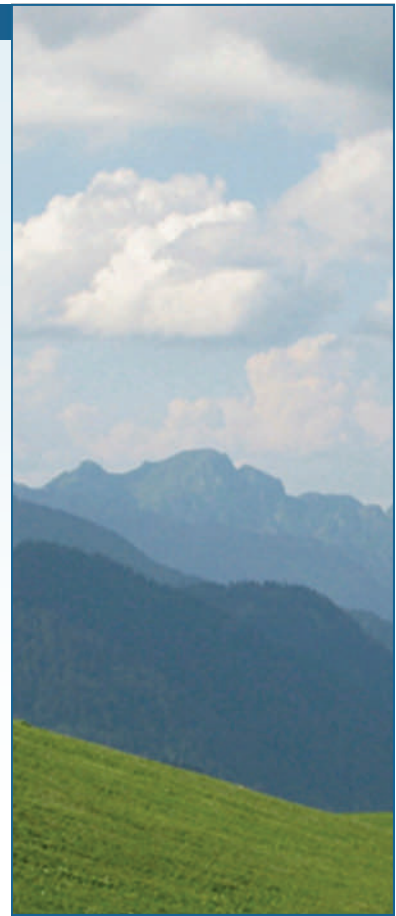
By Jack Gill

As many of you know, for most of June and July I am attending Dallas Theological Seminary to continue working towards a greater growth and understanding of the Scriptures. I have always considered it a wonderful privilege that the elders, as well as the church as a whole, have supported this learning opportunity in every way. I am truly grateful that the church has modeled the part of our vision – “Building Believers” – by first building in me, your pastor.

Perhaps one of the greatest surprises I have found has been in meeting the various people that are attending the seminary. They are incredibly diverse. At least half of those in my classes are in “second careers,” having either retired from the military, sold a business, or just left their place of employment to pursue God’s call on their lives. In addition, the seminary has really found an opening among the Chinese, teaching many and equipping them to go back to their native land to take the gospel and minister there. Also, there are students from Korea, Haiti, and India who attend the seminary.

I have come to discover too that most have a very strong passion for God’s role for the family in the church as well. Rather than seeking to fracture the home for the mission of the church, they want to enable the family to function in its proper role as the first line of discipleship.

It has been wonderful to find that nearly 100 percent of those attending are already serving in so many positions of leadership in their local churches and ministries! I find that so encouraging. In a day in which we hear too many headlines of spiritual leaders and pastors that are eliminated from the ministry, or churches that have bought into heresies or have been derailed from the gospel, it has been wonderful to find that the church is very



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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

6/5/11

Sunday School

None for the Summer

Worship

Auditorium	
1st service	97
2nd service	426
Classes	
1st service/Nursery	4
2nd service	34
Total	557

6/12/11

Worship

Auditorium	
1st service	116
2nd service	347
Classes	
1st service/Nursery	6
2nd service	32
Total	495

6/19/11

Worship

Auditorium	
1st service	85
2nd service	307
Classes	
1st service/Nursery	2
2nd service	39
Total	433

6/26/11

Worship

Auditorium	
1st service	120
2nd service	355
Classes	
1st service	8
2nd service	37
Total	520

much alive and well! We often don't hear about what God is doing outside of our own church, and we need to remember that He is accomplishing His mission in our nation – and the world. It makes me think of the passage in which Jesus made this declaration to those first disciples:

“And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.” (Matthew 16:18)

Did you catch that? Christ's church will not be overpowered! He is the victor, and He is *still* leading His church forward!

As we move forward in our mission and vision, let us never forget that we are one of many of Christ's local churches. Some of our friends, children, and neighbors will move or relocate at times. Some of our own people will be called to minister in other places in our nation and in the world. As we train them here, let us never be discouraged when God calls them to serve elsewhere. Remember we are equipping the *church at large* and not *merely* Blue Ridge!

As you prepare for the ways that you will minister in the fall, I think it's healthy to think about who you are equipping, and what they might one day be doing for God's church here or abroad...and how and where they will serve Christ tomorrow.

Finally, my time away has reminded me that we must pray for those other churches and their leaders even as we pray for our church and the missionaries that we support. Our God is not as small as our region. He is big...and His church is too!

Administratively Speaking

by Debbie Stevenson

It's summer and time to look for ways to relax, re-group, and even re-prioritize our lives. On one of these summer nights, when it's too hot to go outside and all that's on TV is reruns, I suggest we all take time to pray more. I know I never do it enough. There is always someone or something somewhere else which could use more prayer. Here are some ideas: Your staff, elders and deacons and their families; our missionaries by name; the strategic plan implementation; your personal and family needs, schedule and priorities; and your involvement in our church family.

Missions

by Mark Cockerill

Greetings from Ghana! We arrived in Ghana on Monday, June 6, and we have been blown away by the generosity of the Ghanaian people. All five of us were met at the airport in Accra (the capitol) by Pastor Stephen Aputara and another pastor who took us to the Bible Church of Africa missionary house. We then left Wednesday morning to head to Navrongo, the city in northern Ghana where we will spend four of our ten weeks.



On our way to Navrongo we stopped at an organic mango farm in which one of Pastor Stephen's friends worked. It was incredible to see how by building a business in Ghana you can provide for people's physical needs while opening the many doors to witness to people both inside the company and in the surrounding community.

Once we arrived we were introduced to Pastor Stephen's wonderful family. His sons have become especially encouraging and uplifting friends to the whole team. Pastor Stephen has been especially thoughtful and is always asking if we need anything and making sure we get enough rest. We are living just a couple hundred yards from Pastor Stephen's home with one of his friends. The lady (Momma Gertrude) has been very hospitable and she gave us fans for our rooms.

The first day in Navrongo we visited one of the schools where we have been teaching called "Burden Bearers", located about 13 miles from our house. The school is divided up into five classes and over 250 students attend. We were introduced to the teachers and the students. Each team member has been assigned a specific class to teach. The following day we visited the other school that Pastor Stephen runs. This school is only a mile and a half from our house and not as big. We met the staff at the school as well as some of the children.

All the children are pretty young but they are separated into grade levels. We have been teaching them different subjects such as English, science, creative art, religion, math and moral studies. School supplies for the children are limited, with only a few beaten up notebooks and a pencil. Teachers only get chalkboards and some school books for their curriculum base. Despite this the children are very intelligent and happy. We have enjoyed playing with the kids and teaching them Bible songs. There is nothing like hearing 100 Ghanaian children singing "This Little Light of Mine."

Missions

(continued)

In the evenings and on the weekends we have gone to some of the churches where Pastor Stephen ministers. One of them started in his house with just one woman and now has over 350 in the congregation. They are very passionate about their faith here and it is so encouraging to see so many believers excited and serious about their spiritual growth. Pastor Stephen has many outreach opportunities planned for us, including witnessing in some of the public schools in the area and door-to-door evangelism.

We have faced sickness and spiritual attack but God has brought us closer to Him through it. We are so excited for the ministry opportunities that we have coming up. God is going to do incredible things – He already is! Please continue to pray for us.

~Matthew 4:19~

Until the nets are full, the Ghana team

AWANA

By Geni Hall

September 11th is our first Awana meeting for the year. We will have a special 10 year remembrance of "9/11" during our first kick-off night. Be watching the bulletin for further details on leadership training this summer and be praying how God can use you to reach the next generation for Christ!



July 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Men's Breakfast (7 a.m.)
3 Worship Services (8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.)	4 Independence Day	5 Young Women's Study - (Lies) (10:00 a.m.) Women's Study—Ashburn (Lies) (7:00 p.m.)	6 Youth Group—Pool Party (7:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.) Worship Practice	7 Women's Study—Church (Lies) (7:00 p.m.)	8	9 Men's Breakfast (7 a.m.)
10 Worship Services (8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.)	11 Scouts	12 Young Women's Study - (Lies) (10:00 a.m.) Women's Study—Ashburn (Lies) (7:00 p.m.)	13 Youth Group (7:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.) Worship Practice	14 Women's Study—Church (Lies) (7:00 p.m.)	15 Newsletter Deadline	16 Men's Breakfast (7 a.m.)
17 Worship Services (8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.)	18 Scouts	19 Young Women's Study - (Lies) (10:00 a.m.) Women's Study—Ashburn (Lies) (7:00 p.m.)	20 Worship Practice	21 Women's Study—Church (Lies) (7:00 p.m.)	22	23 Men's Breakfast (7 a.m.)
24 Worship Services (8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.)	25	26 Young Women's Study (Lies) (10:00 a.m.) Women's Study—Ashburn (Lies) (7:00 p.m.)	27 Worship Practice	28 Women's Study—Church (Lies) (7:00 p.m.)	29	30 Men's Breakfast (7 a.m.)
31 Worship Services (8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.) Communion						

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Blue Ridge Bible Church

Communicating Christ,
Building Believers,
Sending Servants.

WHO IS JESUS?

In chemistry, He turned water to wine.
In biology, He was born without the normal conception;
In physics, He disproved the law of gravity when He ascended into heaven;
In economics, He disproved the law of diminishing return by feeding 5000 men with two fishes and five loaves of bread;
In medicine, He cured the sick and the blind without administering a single dose of drugs,
In history, He is the beginning and the end;
In government, He said that he shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace;
In religion, He said no one comes to the Father except through him;
So..... Who is He? He is Jesus!
The Greatest Man in History
Jesus had no servants, yet they called Him Master.
Had no degree, yet they called Him Teacher.
Had no medicines, yet they called Him Healer.
He had no army, yet kings feared Him.
He won no military battles, yet He conquered the world.
He committed no crime, yet they crucified Him.
He was buried in a tomb, yet He lives today.

Hebrews 12:1-2 – There, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith**, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.