

the *Good News* banner

Thoughts from the Pastor

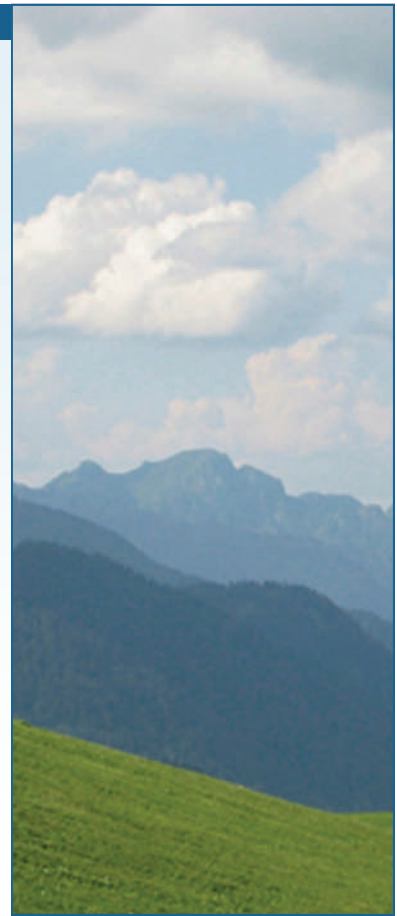
By Jack Gill

I have many wonderful memories from my youth. Probably the most significant one was the great blessing of having grown up in the church. I experienced so many wonderful blessings from that—as a “home” that taught me love and obedience, provided strong and God-fearing peers, fun youth events like ski trips and Christian camps, and the great adventures and encouragement that went with those. However, there is one more thing that stands out significantly.

I was the oldest son in my family with no older brother. Perhaps the greatest blessing in my life, apart from my parents, was a 19 year old youth group leader named Ron. When I was just 13, our church hired Ron to lead the youth. I still remember the night in which he appeared before the congregation, and the ensuing vote to bring him on staff! Over the next five years of my life Ron led Sunday school, Tuesday night discipleship meetings, and Wednesday night youth group. When I was in high school, he would take me out to lunch on many occasions and we would just talk about God, the Bible, life at home, school, what we were learning in our personal devotions, and even girls! Whatever I was dealing with in life that was what we would investigate and talk about through a study of Scripture. I can hardly remember many of Ron’s teaching sessions, save one—a multi-week discovery into our own spiritual gifts, which seemed to go on *forever!* I can’t even remember any of his sermons when he preached. However, what I specifically remember is the time he spent with me...discipling and encouraging me, and showing me Christ’s love.

I know that for many people today, youth group can be a four-letter word! Their youth group experiences may not have been as great. However, my experience was life-changing. In fact, much of what shaped me to become what I am today I trace back to that period in my life—when a lanky, awkward, silly young boy began to wrestle with his faith, and had two men in his life to look up to—his father, and Ron Keck.

This is what I desire for our own youth. While we never want to usurp the role of the parents in the lives of our youth, we *do* want to ally with them! What’s more, if we begin to really reach out to our community, I believe God will bring some youth to Himself *before* He



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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

July Attendance

7/3/11

Sunday School

None for the Summer

Worship

Auditorium	
1st service	91
2nd service	335
Classes	
1st service/Nursery	6
2nd service	30
Total	462

7/10/11

Worship

Auditorium	
1st service	79
2nd service	324
Classes	
1st service/Nursery	5
2nd service	36
Total	444

7/17/11

Worship

Auditorium	
1st service	106
2nd service	330
Classes	
1st service/Nursery	5
2nd service	33
Total	474

7/24/11

Worship

Auditorium	
1st service	100
2nd service	358
Classes	
1st service	4
2nd service	25
Total	487

brings their parents to faith. I see before us a tremendous opportunity to reach the adults while we reach their children—and specifically their teenagers. I know I speak for the elder board when I say that we see and recognize a real need today for someone who can help us as a church to bridge that gap.

For the last year and a half, we have had three tremendous blessings in ministry to our youth. The first has been the faithful service of Lance and Leslie Warren, who have sought to teach our children through the Word, offering counsel, and even sharing life together in some outside events. Another blessing has come to us through Mary Parker, who consistently has been engaged as well, spending time with them and leading them in games and fun social events. Finally, Tom Gossage has been investing in some young people by equipping them to lead the youth worship time. Each of these people have been used by God to help shape tomorrow’s leaders in Christianity!

However, now we are on the brink of change. The Warrens have come to a place in which they must step down from this ministry. We have so appreciated the tremendous time and personal sacrifice they have invested for over a year. Thank you, Lance and Leslie!! We have all been blessed as a result of your service to our church and our Lord.

Today though, we all recognize that our church is at a new level. We want to look for a leader for the youth who can assist in making these formative years for our young people some of the best, through equipping them for the work of the ministry. In short, it’s time to look for the next leader of youth. Someone who not only can assist and encourage them, but also work towards becoming a great ally in helping to grow and encourage their families, as well as the youth during this season in the families’ lives. What’s more, when we begin reaching more people for Christ, what if it is their youth who come to Christ first? We could have a great opportunity to disciple them, as well as reach their parents with God’s love and Truth.

Please consider three things at this time:

First, whenever you see Lance and Leslie, please give them a great big thank you for their past service! You don’t have to stop there either... because you can give one to Mary Parker and Tom Gossage as well! Let them all know how much you appreciate their ministry to our youth.

Next, pray for your elders, as they diligently begin a search to find that person whom God would have help us to minister in this area in the unique ways we see Him leading our church.

Finally, please pray for our youth. Pray that they might continue to grow, but also that we as a church would do a faithful and effective job in considering them, developing them, encouraging them, and exhorting them in the various ways in which they can serve and minister to others.

Administratively Speaking

By Debbie Stevenson

No admin-type stuff from me this month. Instead I wanted to pass on some wisdom for life from a book which some of us women are studying this summer, *Lies Women Believe* by Nancy Leigh DeMoss. Each week we have been examining the subtle ways we deceive ourselves in various areas of our lives. At the back of the book (yes, I wanted to see how it ended), she leaves us with a list of 22 truths on which to focus instead of the lies. They are simple but profound truths for all of us to remember:

1. God is good (Psalm 119:78; 136:1).
2. God loves me and wants me to have His best (Romans 8:32, 38-39).
3. I am complete and accepted in Christ (Ephesians 1:4-6).
4. God is enough (Psalm 23:1).
5. God can be trusted (Isaiah 28:16).
6. God doesn't make any mistakes (Isaiah 46:10).
7. God's grace is sufficient for me (2 Cor. 12:9).
8. The blood of Christ is sufficient to cover all my sin (I John 1:7).
9. The cross of Christ is sufficient to conquer my sinful flesh (Romans 6:6-7).
10. My past does not have to plague me (I Cor. 6:9-11).
11. God's Word is sufficient to lead me, teach me, and heal me (Psalms 19:7, 107:20, 119:105).
12. Through the power of His Holy Spirit, God will enable me to do anything He commands me to do (I Thess. 5:24; Philippians 2:13).
13. I am responsible before God for my behavior, responses and choices (Ezekiel 18:19-22).
14. I will reap whatever I sow (Gal. 6:7-8).
15. The pathway to true joy is to relinquish control (Matt. 16:25; Luke 1:38; I Peter 5:7).
16. The greatest freedom I can experience is found through submission to God-ordained authority (Ephesians 5:21).
17. In the will of God, there is no higher, holier calling than to be a wife and mother (Titus 2:4-5).
18. Personal holiness is more important than temporal happiness (Ephesians 5:26-27).
19. God is more concerned about changing me and glorifying Himself than about solving my problems (Romans 8:29).
20. It is impossible to be godly without suffering (I Peter 5:10).
21. My suffering will not last forever (2 Cor. 4:17-18).
22. It's not about me; it's all about Him (Col. 1:16-18; Rev. 4:11).

JUST FOR SUMMER FUN

The following quotes are said to have actually appeared in church bulletins. It's a very old list, passed around for years, and challenging the reputations of many church secretaries, but still brings a laugh or two.

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

God At Work Among Us

By Cori Dowden (age 13)

Two years ago in the summer before I began middle school, I started a Bible study with my friends. We would meet every Wednesday at my house. We each had a devotional book that was generously purchased by my mom. We would do a couple of the devotions together and then talk about them. After we understood the message, we prayed together, and then individually.

I led this Bible study because I was noticing that the Gospel wasn't being shared throughout my school. After this Bible study, one of my friends who wasn't saved became saved. This Bible study has really affected my life positively because I have become much more involved in my relationship with God.

Now that I have told you the bare bones of the get-together, I would like to explain my main focus. I invited one of my best friends because I was worried about her. She didn't grow up in a Christian home, and she didn't have a Christian role model to look up to. I was worried that she was confusing what the Bible says with her own personal beliefs. Every once in a while I would just sit down and talk with her about the Gospel. She always acted like she was listening but then wouldn't practice the words of the Bible. That was when I decided I couldn't wait any longer to put off sharing the whole Word with her.

One day when we were hanging out I thought of a way to share the Gospel with her. We were figuring out what we wanted to do when I asked her a question I will never forget, "Do you believe that Jesus died on the cross for you?" She said she didn't know. After that I shared the Gospel with her. That was the day she became a believer.

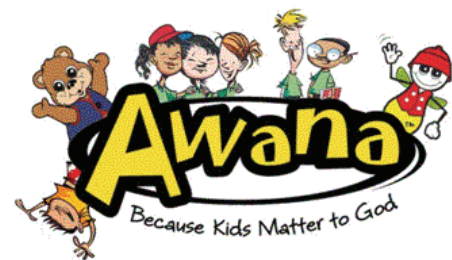
Still today, my friend has challenges that put her to the test of just how strong she trusts in the Lord. She is regularly attending a Baptist church, along with her family. Every once and a while she will tell me how the Lord is really working in her life.

I have discovered that yes, it is important to share the Gospel, but if you don't follow up with your previous teachings then you aren't being a good teacher. I am very thankful that God has blessed me with a heart that can reach out to others in their times of need. I believe that different people have different ways of trusting the Lord. For some people, giving their heart to God is relief. To others it is a struggle accepting the fact that they have a sin nature. I highly encourage you to join a Bible study group, or even start one by yourself if you have not already done so.

AWANA

By Geni Hall

Awana begins on Sunday, September 11th. This will be the start of our 15th year of Awana at Blue Ridge Bible Church. **NOTE THE NEW TIME: 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. each Sunday!!** There are several reasons for the time change, including families getting back their evenings together AND allowing kids to get to bed early for their school week ahead. Adventure waits as delightful theme nights are planned and inspiring council time messages heard. Mark your calendar today and join us as we reach boys and girls with the Gospel of Christ!



In addition, clubbers often struggle with inviting friends and neighbors to join us at Awana. Our focus is outreach. We **do** want to reach our neighbors for Christ. Our goal is to lovingly open our doors and share the Good News about Christ to the lost. Because of that, we plan to do a literature drop in Purcellville neighborhoods advertising our Awana program with doorknob hangers. For the Awana clubbers *in uniform* who join us to help, this will count as one visitor requirement in their book. The outreach event is planned for Labor Day, Monday, September 5th. Watch the bulletin for further details.

Leadership training will take place the end of August! Be praying how God can use you in this dynamic ministry. Positions fill up fast so contact us today! Contact Earl and Geni Hall for further information (earlwmhall@aol.com, genihall@aol.com).

Missions - Ghana Team Report

By Breana Paist

I am currently eating a slice of possibly the best sugar bread I've ever had in my life. Just to let you know. Oh yeah, I'm also in Ghana, partnering with BRBC's missionaries for what may be the coolest summer of my life. Laura, Janelle, and I just bought the bread in this rural village we've been living in for the past six weeks. Today is Market Day (happens every third day of the week, so I'm told), and the village is packed with Africans selling and buying all sort of food, clothes, and animals. Anyway, so now Laura and Janelle are making lunch for our team of five as I sit here eating my bread and writing this article. Although trying to synthesize the experience of living in a foreign country for 2 1/2 months with four very good friends into an article can be tricky. So don't mind me as I flit around from thought to thought about our time here in Ghana.

Our main job here in Navrongo has been teaching in two different schools. I remember the first day Pastor Aputara took us to "Burden Bearer's Academy" (the school he started) and told us that in no time we'd know all the children's names. As I looked out at the sea of dark little faces crowding in around us I thought, "Fat chance." He was right, though. It has been the most fun thing to not only see the same faces day after day, but begin to know their names as well. There are fifty-some precious little children in my preschool class and I can call each of them by name. And I know it's the same for David, Janelle, Mark and Laura and their classes.

Every morning for the past month we've woken up and left for the schools around 7:30 a.m. We teach and sing songs and hang out with the other teachers and play futbol and teach some more, and then we get home around 2 p.m. Afternoons have been our down time—good for resting, reading the Bible, making food, or even dancing to "Madagascar" songs on Janelle's iPod. Some nights we go to church for a prayer meeting or Bible study, other nights the Aputaras invite us over for dinner (dude, Mama Mercy makes fried plantains like nobody's business). Or sometimes we just sit up on our roof, singing songs to God and watching for shooting stars.

There are two lessons that I feel God has repeatedly taught me since we arrived in early June. The first is that He wants me to trust Him and not fear. From day to day I can let so many fears paralyze me—even little things like just not knowing what to teach my kids that day as we drive to school. But every evening comes along just the same; I enjoyed the day and God was still faithful. It's like God is saying, "Don't you remember yesterday? What I did for you? Will I change and not provide for you today? Simply trust Me. All your fears will vanish as you obey." The second thing I learned is something Pastor Aputara has told us so many times: We shouldn't expect to see immediate fruit. "You'll just get frustrated," he says. "Though you won't see the fruit right now, your stay here will impact generations to come. The children go home from school and tell their mothers the things their white teachers taught them about Jesus that day. You just never know how God will use you."

It is really cool, though, when we do get to see God work in miraculous ways and answer His peoples' prayers. The second weekend we were here, Pastor's son drove us to Naaga, a village 40 minutes away. It's really rural there, even more so than here in Navrongo. The church leader there, Pastor Charles, took us to pray with or evangelize several different families. We talked with one family about the Gospel for some time. Pastor Charles said that they had tried to talk to the father before, but he was stubborn and didn't want to hear about Jesus. His son was crippled and he had been incapable of walking for the past three years. The father had tried everything to help his son get better, but nothing worked. This was the reason he wouldn't surrender his life to God. After talking with him for a while, though, the father and crippled son both gave their lives to Christ. The REALLY cool part is that we just went back to see the family this past week, and the once-crippled son is WALKING! Praise the God of the universe from whom ALL blessings flow! Not only does He pardon our iniquities, but He heals of our diseases!

So, by the time you read this we will be in Tamale to partner with the Johnson Asare for four weeks before leaving for America. The funny thing is that it seems like we're about to start a whole new trip. It seems like we're leaving our families all over again, because the Aputaras and our new friends here really have become our family. We're headed into another big mystery, because we have no idea what to expect in Tamale. The great thing about God, however, is that He doesn't change. He was faithful to us here, and He'll be faithful to us there. Continue to pray for us—strength and genuine love and wisdom!

Reach Your Local Mission Field: THE FOOD PANTRY

Thanks to all who have stepped up and started making weekly or periodic food deliveries with the food pantry branch of Tree of Life Ministries!! The goal is for BRBC to begin providing 5-10 delivery teams and to completely “own” the weekly Saturday @ 10am deliveries. We could still use more folks to help take food deliveries to needy individuals in Western Loudoun County! This is a great outreach opportunity for families.



If you have expressed interest, but have not yet attended a brief Volunteer Orientation meeting or ridden along on a delivery, please contact Brittany Paist at brittany.paist@gmail.com or (703) 975-8039.

Other ways to volunteer:

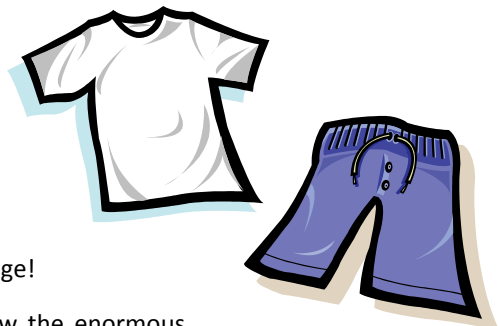
1. **Pray** for Tree of Life Ministries, a multi-church effort that ministers to the materially needy.
2. **Donate** a non-perishable item or bag of food to help stock the pantry. As of mid-July, the pantry was low on pasta, canned items, cereal bars, and juices.
3. **Organize** a food drive at a local area store to benefit the food pantry—perfect for a LIFE group!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS & SORT THOSE CLOTHES!!!

BRBC ANNUAL CLOTHING EXCHANGE OUTREACH

October 9 - 15

As you are cleaning out those closets in your annual summer reorganization projects, put aside the clothes you or your children have outgrown and bring them to our Annual Clothing Exchange!



This year it will be October 9 -15th! These dates immediately follow the enormous Purcellville Town Wide Tag Sale. We will have business cards for those in our congregation who shop the Tag Sale to advertise our acceptance of donations of leftover clothes on Sunday night immediately following the conclusion of the Tag Sale. This will give ample “seed” clothes to begin our outreach week AND advertise our clothing exchange to those in our community. It’s a perfect opportunity for all shoppers at the Tag Sale to engage our community for Christ!

More details about the Clothing Exchange will follow in the September and October newsletters. Basically, this exchange is an opportunity to clothe our corporate Body and bless one another by sharing those items which we no longer need with someone who does. Also, we want to be able to give back to our community when the event ends on Saturday morning with the free clothing give away. If you have any questions or wish to volunteer to help, please contact Geni Hall (genihall@aol.com) or Courtney Shipe (allshipesandsizes@gmail.com).

August 2011

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

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Blue Ridge Bible Church

Communicating Christ,
Building Believers,
Sending Servants.

In a sermon, Bill Parker recently challenged us to learn to pray deeper for each other using Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:14-21:

"For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen."

To God Be the Glory!!

