

the *Good News* banner

Thoughts from the Pastor

By Jack Gill

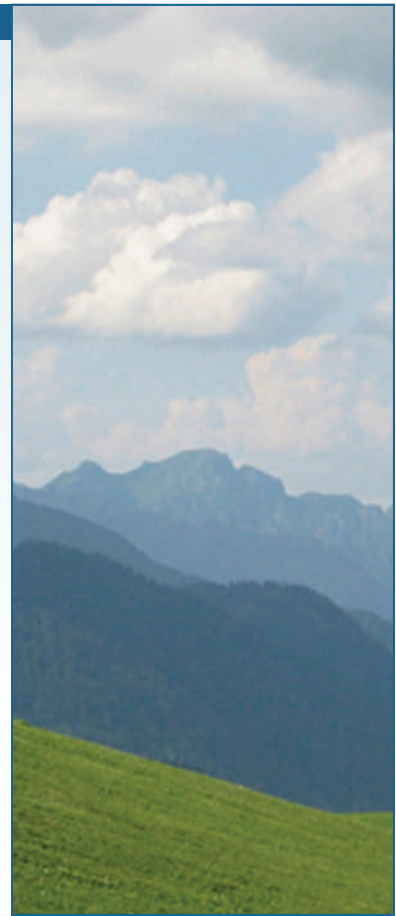
The Christian and Suffering—Part I

Since having started seminary, I have never felt that any of my assignments were “busy work.” Every single one of them has been very practically oriented, dealing with life and faith issues that we all face daily. This past summer I took a class on the book of Acts and the Pauline epistles. Of the several papers that I had to write for it, I was given a list of choices to pick from, and one was on a Pauline perspective on suffering for the Christian. As soon as I saw it, it was my first choice!

The reason I chose it first was because I am aware of a number of our members that are currently enduring suffering—some very intensely. There are also different varieties in which people are suffering too, such as illnesses, financial distress, persecution, and even home foreclosures. Due to the significant nature of it for so many, I want to address this topic in the next few months’ newsletter articles, and I’m going to do it by giving you a modification of that paper in segments. Having done this study, it has helped me in my biblical understanding, and I want to pass that on to you. (So...if you’re wondering why it sounds so formal at times, now you know why!)

One thing that all of humanity has in common is suffering. It has been a part of the human experience ever since Adam chose to sin in the Garden of Eden. Since then, mankind has sought deliverance from it. Because it is associated with the fall of man, often it can bewilder Christians as we wonder why those who are now redeemed from sin and adopted into God’s family must still endure suffering. If God loves us, then *must* we suffer, and why?

The apostle Paul could probably be aptly termed “the suffering apostle.” In his own experiences as well as in his epistles, he addressed this topic often as he encouraged other believers to expect suffering. Frequently he used himself as an example. This month, let’s examine a brief overview of the suffering of Jesus and Paul from the book of Acts, and then consider how this instruction ought to shape our theology about it today.



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Jack Gill
Pastor

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Associate Pastor

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Administrator & Editor

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August Attendance

8/7/11

Worship		
Auditorium		
1st service	110	
2nd service	333	
Classes		
1st service	5	
2nd service	24	
Total	472	

8/14/11

Worship		
Auditorium		
1st service	111	
2nd service	256	
Classes		
1st service	0	
2nd service	9	
Total	376	

8/21/11

Worship		
Auditorium		
1st service	102	
2nd service	342	
Classes		
1st service	3	
2nd service	20	
Total	467	

8/28/11

Worship		
Auditorium		
1st service	76	
2nd service	386	
Classes		
1st service	3	
2nd service	37	
Total	502	

Jesus and Suffering in the Book of Acts


Jesus appeared to his disciples at His resurrection after having been killed upon the cross. However, rather than referring to his death as the crucifixion, the book of Acts defines this as the period of *his suffering* (Acts 1:3). Luke made it a point to address the fact that the Old Testament had predicted that Jesus would suffer in Acts 3:18. The cross was a shameful way to die for a Gentile, and to the Jew it was a sign of someone who was under the curse of God (Deut. 21:23; Gal 3:13). Luke wanted to ensure to his readers continuity between Old Testament prophecy and the events that occurred after the resurrection. The Roman Empire had its many gods, and would not really consider a religion that was too new and did not have ancient roots.¹ Thus he recorded in Acts 3:18, "But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled."

Paul then anchored the truth of Christ's suffering in the Scriptures in his defense speeches in order to communicate not only that Jesus had to suffer, but that it was part of the original plan of God. Finally, he also used this truth of Jesus' suffering as his basis for explaining the significance of the resurrection. Acts 17:2-3 records that, "...according to Paul's custom, he went to them...explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and *saying*, 'This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ.'" Acts 26:23 states that, "The Christ was to suffer, and that by reason of His resurrection from the dead He would be the first to proclaim light both to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles." Luke records that Paul purposely tied Jesus' suffering as a means of identifying who He was to his listeners.

Thus, what we discover is that the Messiah was meant to have to endure suffering, and it was a truth that any hearer would have to understand in order to recognize the prophecies concerning Him. Jesus did not come to rise above suffering, but instead it was something that would identify Him as the Messiah.

Paul and Suffering in the Book of Acts

When the Lord appeared to Ananias to give him instruction regarding Paul's commissioning, He stated, "...I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake" (Acts 9:16). Paul had inflicted great suffering on Christians before he had become a Christian himself, and God let Ananias know that Paul would have much suffering to endure for the sake of the name of Jesus, which he did.² He had to flee for his life (Acts 9:24-25, 29-30), was stoned and left for dead (14:19), beaten with rods (16:22), imprisoned (16:23), had to leave his friends (20:36-38), was falsely accused (24:2-9), shipwrecked (27:43), and even bitten by a viper (28:3). Luke ensured that no reader could deny that the apostle Paul was not above suffering, but instead it helped to identify and authenticate his message rather than discredit it. Anyone that would read the book of Acts would find that the disciples were travelling like their Savior, by the way of the cross.³



As Jesus' ambassadors on this earth, how can we think that we should be any different? Jesus said, "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master" (Matthew 10:24). God accomplished much because of Jesus' suffering, as well as through Paul's. We get the advantage of being able to look back upon Christ's and Paul's suffering and see this—but we don't get that same advantage when we are *currently* suffering. That is when we must have faith that God is who He is, and He knows what He is doing, and He will use our suffering to accomplish His ends.

Are you suffering? Are you troubled? Are you struggling? I would propose to you that for those who are looking on at your plight, your endurance *might at times* give a greater testimony than your success. While we might be tempted to think that a release from suffering would always enable us to do more or be more effective, sometimes God's purposes will show themselves higher and more distinctly *through* our endurance of suffering, and not our release from it.

Perhaps King David's greatest spiritual growth occurred during his time of being hunted down by Saul. Sitting in caves and on the run he was frustrated, fearful, and tired—but some of the greatest Psalms we have were penned by him during this time of suffering. It wasn't until David was a successful king and living a life of ease in Jerusalem while his armies were away that he fell into adultery.

Let us learn to embrace what God has for us through our suffering before we so quickly strive to run from it!

Footnotes:

1. Ben Witherington III, *The Acts of the Apostles : A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998), 109.
2. F. F. Bruce, *The Book of the Acts*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1988), 187.
3. *Ibid*, 280.

Administratively Speaking

By Debbie Stevenson

This month celebrates the second year of our Welcome Team ministry. In addition to saying "Good morning" to our church family each Sunday, our faithful teams have served over 100 visiting individuals or families this year. Through feedback from newcomers, we continue to hear that they felt thoroughly greeted and that Blue Ridge is a friendly place.

Our Welcome Center is a great place for you to bring your own guests, or to direct someone you met during the worship service. We hope that our entire congregation will help us help others get to know us in this way. Next time you see someone you don't know say "I don't believe I've met you yet." There's only about a one percent chance that you have met them and just forgot, but that means there's a 99 percent chance that you will show God's love to that "stranger."

With the growing need for additional help from ushers and parking teams, we are now calling this The Hospitality Team ministry, and we are always looking for new Team members. Maybe one of the reasons you stayed here at BRBC was because of the warm welcome you received? Please consider joining our team and being that big smile and handshake for someone else. Each greeting team of 8-10 serves one month on a three-month schedule. We are currently looking for additional parking and usher volunteers to serve monthly too.

For more information on our Hospitality Team or to volunteer, please contact me at debbie@brbible.org or 540-338-2299, Monday through Thursday.

Did You Know...?

BRBC's library has a dedicated mission section, full of fascinating stories and resources. Here are a few titles that have made an impact on my life. Who knows, they might challenge you too.

The End of the Spear – Steve Saint's story, which was turned into a movie by the same name, is a stirring tale of forgiveness, as well as a quick look at some challenges that arise when an isolated people group is brought into contact with the outside world.

Coffee on the Terrace – This story of how God's Word was translated into a remote Filipino tongue is fast-paced and has an unexpected conclusion.

In Search of the Source – Do you like to read about weird foods eaten by people in other cultures? Then this book is definitely for you! It's the account of a family seeking the best words to convey Biblical truths in a tongue that has never before been written.

I encourage you to check out the selection (literally!), learn more about missions as you read...and thank our behind-the-scenes church librarian, Kim Walker, for her dedication!

Missions

by Leah Garber

Most of us can probably recite the Great Commission at the drop of a hat; but take a moment to ponder these words carefully and ask "What do they really mean?"

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." ~ Matthew 28:18-20

Have you ever considered that these verses are meant to apply to every believer...including you? Our church has a World Missions program, not because that's what churches do, or because it looks good to have a missions section in the church budget, but because we are a Bible church, and we try to obey God's Word in every area of life.

So how do you fit into the Great Commission? Do you ever find yourself saying any of the following?

I've just graduated...I'm thankful for any work I can get in this economy, and between work and a lack of life experience – and well, I really don't know what I have to contribute to missions.

I'm a college student: and if there's one thing college students have in common, it's a shortage of time and money.

I'm a busy mom; I don't have a lot of spare time, but I do want to give my children a heart for missions.

I work full-time...I really don't have the time or skills to be involved in missions.

I'll be retiring in just a few years; my priorities right now are to finish my work years well and focus on my family.

I pray for and give to missions (though now that I think about it, I don't get much praying in...but I do give to the church, and the church supports missions, so that counts, right?).

Guess what? If you've identified with one of the above statements, then our church's World Missions Sunday School class this fall is for you! Our elders consider your participation in this class to be so important that it's the only adult class offered this semester. You'll get to hear our church's vision related to World Missions, which will be brought to life each week through stories from individuals and families in a variety of life stages and situations.

Please check the bulletin announcement each week and plan to attend this exciting Sunday school class!

LIFE Groups

If you are looking for a place to develop deeper relationships within the church and receive the encouragement you need to follow after Christ, consider joining one of our LIFE Groups. The acronym LIFE stands for groups who Live the Word, Inspire “works of ministry,” Foster love, and Encourage intimacy. Our LIFE Groups ministry is getting ready to start back up during the week of September 11 after a summer break, so now is a good time to consider joining a group. There are three sessions from September through May and each session lasts 10 weeks. Some of the groups are adults only and many others include childcare by our trained and paid childcare teen girls.

Here’s are some comments from a few people who attended the spring session...

Leigh Riese, who was a member of a LIFE Group last year, said that LIFE Group means “spending time with like-minded believers, learning from their walk with Christ and sharing my own with the expectation that Jesus is active. Through our combined perspectives we see that more clearly.”

Another member described LIFE Groups as "a place were we can come together to share our lives and lift our spirits together. We are all going through something and we need to know that there is someone who cares. We now have a much larger family who cares about us deeply and prays for us fervently.”

If you’d like to join a LIFE Group, check out the list below. Contact Associate Pastor Rich Shipe at rich@brbible.org for exact locations or more information. Space is limited, but we are always looking to start to new groups! If you are interested in either hosting or leading a group in your area, talk to Rich Shipe.

- Shipe/Farley - Berryville - Tuesdays at 7pm
- Smith - Bluemont - Tuesdays at 7pm
- Wilcox - Round Hill - Wednesdays at 7pm (adults)
- Larry - Purcellville - Wednesdays at 7pm (adults)
- Paist - Purcellville - Wednesdays at 7pm (adults)
- Casserino - Philomont - Thursdays at 7pm
- Sraders - Round Hill - Thursdays at 7pm
- Richardson - Lovettsville - Thursdays at 7pm
- Stocker - Round Hill - Fridays at 7pm
- Reynolds - Bluemont - Fridays at 7pm



AWANA

By Geni Hall

Some exciting changes are happening as we begin our 15th Awana year here at Blue Ridge. The biggest change is the TIME! **Awana will now meet from 4:00 to 5:30 each Sunday night!!** This allows families to have their Sunday evenings free and gives kids a chance to be in bed on time for their school week.



Awana is exciting! Clubbers from age 3 to 15 come together to memorize God's Word, play high energy games, and hear the Gospel presented and related to their lives.

ALSO NEW THIS YEAR – Registration will be \$40 per clubber per year (or you may opt to pay \$20 per clubber per semester.) This is still less than \$2 per night!

If you feel called to participate as a leader, there is still time to join in. Our final leaders training will take place on Friday, September 9 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. We anticipate a dynamic year. Won't you pray about how the Lord will use you in training boys and girls to serve Him?

Awana is open to all children ages 3 to 14. We have several different clubs to meet your children's needs.

Cubbies are for the energetic three and four year olds. Cubbies are fun and exciting! Cubbies come alongside the parents in helping clubbers memorize Scripture. Cubbies learn basic truths about the Christian faith. They also have tons of fun playing games, hearing Bible stories, doing crafts and having snacks!

Sparks is for five, six and seven year olds who enjoy the engaging Spark curriculum, activities and group interactions used to teach kids the Bible. In three years, a Spark will learn and review **150 verses**, many of which cover salvation and key Christian doctrine. Boys and girls in the early elementary years are a mission field that is ripe for harvest. Perhaps more than any other age group, these youngsters have malleable hearts that are ready to respond in faith to the good news of Jesus Christ.

Truth & Training (T&T) club reflects the passion of Awana to teach third through sixth grade boys and girls with the truth of God's Word and to train them to follow Christ in their daily lives. T&T is the program that trains the leaders of tomorrow – today. Through weekly club meetings, we expose children to the gospel message, Scripture memory, Bible study, awards, team-oriented games and gut-busting fun! The Bible-centered curriculum helps kids build a firm foundation for their faith, hide God's Word in their hearts and apply the truths of Scripture to their daily lives.

Evangelism and discipleship is the bread and butter of T&T. By the time a clubber has completed T&T, he/she will have learned and reviewed **423 verses**, studied dozens of passages from the Bible, regularly heard and read the gospel message, discovered the Bible's response to questions like "How does God want me to live my life?" and memorized verses to back up the answers, plus completed optional missions projects that help him/her see the world through God's eyes.

Trek is aimed at seventh and eighth graders and provides solid biblical teaching with relevant, contemporary applications. The new, exciting curriculum is designed to help clubbers learn how to respond to God's faithfulness by studying key figures from the Bible in the first year. The second year is designed to take the clubber from Genesis to Revelation. The third year study deals with trials, temptations and tough times of the Christian life. No one escapes these difficult times. How do students respond when life comes crashing down around them? Trek helps the middle school student prepare for what lies ahead. At the end of the clubbers' three years in Trek, they can recite over **400 verses!**

Ask any Awana clubber, game time is FUN! Each club competes as a team in circle games. Cheering and encouraging one another is an integral part of games. It gets LOUD during game time with cheering, laughter and lots of energy being released! Game time keeps clubbers coming back to Awana for more.

A unique aspect of Blue Ridge's Awana program is our council time. We get all clubbers ages 5 to 14 together to hear a gospel message aimed at helping them know and love God more, and how to share it with others. Council time messages often go hand-in-hand with the theme night focus.

Leaders-in-Training is for clubbers age 14 to 18. We have an LIT program that trains tomorrow's leaders today. The LIT's will engage as leaders, modeling their Christian walk to younger clubbers. In addition, the LIT's are required to complete the 24/7 Bible curriculum with helps keep the LIT's grounded in prayer, Bible memorization and daily Scripture reading. This is an excellent program for the older teens who feel called to lead the next generation in their spiritual training. **Attendance at the leaders training meeting on September 9 is required to participate.**

Please contact Earl and Geni Hall to volunteer or if you have any questions (earlwmhall@aol.com or GeniHall@aol.com).

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| September 11 | Opening Night, 9/11 remembrance |
| September 18 | Awana Color Night |
| September 25 | Gate Test Challenge Ends, chew chew night |



Now is the time to start preparing for our very first "Neighbor Outreach Weekend" at Blue Ridge, coming up on October 22 & 23. On Saturday evening, you'll have the opportunity to invite your non-Christian friends to a "Dinner with Friends." Then, Sunday morning you'll learn more about how to clearly and winsomely present the Gospel to your friends and neighbors.

We're letting you know about this outreach in advance so you can prepare now. Think through the people God has placed in your life who need to hear the Good News. Whom might you consider inviting to the Dinner with Friends? We encourage you to start strengthening your relationship with that person *today*.

Prayer Groups

Moms in Prayer

We have a group of moms who meet twice monthly to pray for their children who attend public or private schools, including prayer for all of the students, teachers, and the school leadership, and to enjoy fellowship together.

The first meetings of the new school year will be September 12 and 26, 9:30 a.m.

It meets at the home of Carri Casserino (36986 Wellington Drive, Purcellville VA 20132).

Please call Carri for further information ([540-338-8035](tel:540-338-8035)).

Monthly Women's Prayer Group

Are you a prayer warrior who would love to spend time praying for people who need prayer? Do you have a burden that you would like to lay before the Lord with our support? Do you feel like you need more time spent in prayer?

If you answered any of these questions with a yes, please join to the Women's Prayer Group which meets at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Monday of every month at Canyon Lukasiak's home.

The next meeting is September 26. We use praise, confession, thanksgiving, and intercession during our time devoted to prayer. Anything shared within the circle of prayer stays within the circle. Please contact Andria Donnelly for any further information at tdonn32761@verizon.net.

BRBC Annual Clothing Exchange Outreach October 9-15

By Geni Hall

Clean those closets and save those clothes! Our annual clothing exchange will be October 9 through 15! 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 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. This is a perfect opportunity for all shopping the Tag Sale to engage our community for Christ!



What is the Annual Clothing Exchange, you ask? Basically, this exchange is an opportunity to clothe our church family 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. For the entire week, families drop off this lovingly used clothing, volunteer to help sort and display it, and shop while they are volunteering. Amazingly the entire auditorium fills with these "treasures" that will go to new homes. Then on Saturday morning, as advertised throughout our community, the doors are open for anyone to come in and take what they need. Anything left at the end of Saturday is taken to local ministries or thrift stores.

So, want to get rid of those clothes your kids have outgrown? Or a selection of your husband's t-shirt collection which he hasn't worn in a while? How about those shoes which just never did fit right? Or are you in need of winter coats for your kids? Or looking for clothes for that toddler or pre-teen son who outgrow clothes as soon as you bring it home from the store? Come to the clothing exchange to minister to others with the stuff you want to get rid of and be blessed by the stuff others are donating!!

The hours for drop-off and volunteering are:

Sunday, October 9: stack auditorium chairs & set up tables, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Monday-Friday, October 10-14: 9:00 to 1:00 p.m., drop-off, volunteering & shopping

Wednesday & Friday evenings, October 12 & 14: Shopping hours only (no drop-off), 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 15: 9:00 to Noon for the community to "shop"

Please note: October 15th is the same day as the 73rd Annual Ladies Board Rummage Sale at Morven Park. We are aware of this conflict but feel we are targeting a different community for our free give away.

For more information or to volunteer to help during that week, please contact Geni Hall (genihall@aol.com) or Courtney Shipe (allshipesandsizes@gmail.com).

September 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 Men's Breakfast (7.00 a.m.—8.30 a.m.)
4 Worship Services (8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.)	5 Labor Day	6	7 Children's Choir (7.00 p.m.—8.00 p.m.) Worship Practice Youth Group (7.00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.)	8	9 Refuge College and Career Home Group (7.30 p.m.—9.30 p.m.)	10 Men's Breakfast (7.00 a.m.—8.30 a.m.)
11 Worship Services (8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.) Sunday School (9:45 a.m.) AWANA (4.00p.m.—5.30p.m.)	12 Scouts & Cub Scouts AHG Moms in Prayer (9:30 a.m.)	13 Shipe/ Farley LIFE Group (7.00 p.m.) Smith LIFE Group (7.00 p.m.)	14 Children's Choir (7.00 p.m.—8.30 p.m.) Worship Practice Youth Group (7.00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.) Wilcox LIFE Group (7.00 p.m.) Larry LIFE Group (7.00 p.m.) Paist LIFE Group (7.00 p.m.)	15 Casserino LIFE Group (7.00 p.m.) Sraders LIFE Group (7.00 p.m.) Richardson LIFE Group (7.00 p.m.) Newsletter Deadline	16 Refuge College and Career Home Group (7.30 p.m.—9.30 p.m.) Stocker LIFE Group (7.00 p.m.) Reynolds LIFE Group (7.00 p.m.)	17 Men's Breakfast (7.00 a.m.—8.30 a.m.)
18 Worship Services (8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.) Sunday School (9:45 a.m.) AWANA (4.00p.m.—5.30p.m.)	19 Scouts & Cub Scouts AHG	20 Shipe/ Farley LIFE Group (7.00 p.m.) Smith LIFE Group (7.00 p.m.)	21 Children's Choir (7.00 p.m.—8.30 p.m.) Worship Practice Youth Group (7.00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.) Wilcox LIFE Group (7.00 p.m.) Larry LIFE Group (7.00 p.m.) Paist LIFE Group (7.00 p.m.)	22 Casserino LIFE Group (7.00 p.m.) Sraders LIFE Group (7.00 p.m.) Richardson LIFE Group (7.00 p.m.)	23 Refuge College and Career Home Group (7.30 p.m.—9.30 p.m.) Stocker LIFE Group (7.00 p.m.) Reynolds LIFE Group (7.00 p.m.)	24 Men's Breakfast (7.00 a.m.—8.30 a.m.) Annual Business Meeting & dessert (6:15 p.m.)
25 Worship Services (8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.) Sunday School (9:45 a.m.) Communion AWANA (4.00p.m.—5.30p.m.)	26 Scouts & Cub Scouts Moms in Prayer (9:30 a.m.) Women's Prayer Group (7.00 p.m.)	27 Shipe/ Farley LIFE Group (7.00 p.m.) Smith LIFE Group (7.00 p.m.)	28 Children's Choir (7.00 p.m.—8.30 p.m.) Worship Practice Youth Group (7.00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.) Wilcox LIFE Group (7.00 p.m.) Larry LIFE Group (7.00 p.m.) Paist LIFE Group (7.00 p.m.)	29 Casserino LIFE Group (7.00 p.m.) Sraders LIFE Group (7.00 p.m.) Richardson LIFE Group (7.00 p.m.)	30 Refuge College and Career Home Group (7.30 p.m.—9.30 p.m.) Stocker LIFE Group (7.00 p.m.) Reynolds LIFE Group (7.00 p.m.)	

Blue Ridge Bible Church

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www.brbbible.org

Blue Ridge Bible Church

Communicating Christ,
Building Believers,
Sending Servants.

We serve an amazing God who promises to be with us at ALL times in ALL challenges, with ALL blessings besides. Here are just some of God's promises as reminders of His faithfulness:

2 Peter 1:4 – And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.

Jeremiah 29:11 – For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

Matthew 11:28-29 – Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Philippians 4:19 – And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:37-39 – But in all things overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow — not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below — indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 14:27 – I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.

Romans 6:23 – For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.