



THE FBC FAMILY NEWSLETTER

PROCLAIMING GOD'S TRUTH.
INSPIRING A PASSION FOR GOD'S GLORY.

THE JOYS OF A PASTOR

Tom Buck

There are certain things that bring joy to my heart as a pastor, which I see as signs of health in our church. One was the recent trip our students took to Costa Rica. It was so exciting to hear their report on Sunday evening, July 24. What was so joyful to me was to hear how they talked about their experience. I have seen students come back from a mission trip merely impacted by the culture shock and heard them talk about how thankful they are that they live in America with all the physical comforts it affords them. But these were not the kind of reports that came from our students. The things of which they spoke were in relation to the great need that people have to hear the gospel. What weighed upon them as they looked at the culture of Costa Rica was not what the people there lacked materially, but what they desperately needed spiritually. To have our students see the world the way Christ sees it should cause us to rejoice.

But one of the greatest signs of a healthy church for me is when God raises up people in our church to devote their lives to the spread of the Gospel around the world. It was wonderful to hear one of our students share about his future plans. He lamented that his future plans had been centered on himself. But after return-

ing from Costa Rica his perspective had entirely changed. His plans are now centered upon how he can use his life to spread the Gospel. This is the sort of radical change of perspective that I pray for in our church and rejoice when I see.

God has also stirred the hearts of [names removed] to devote their lives to Kingdom work. They are a wonderful young couple in our congregation who are willing to leave family, friends, and the luxuries of this culture in order to bring the good news of Christ to unreached people groups in Central Asia. Our hearts should be thrilled when we see God at work like this in our church.

I encourage you to look around and see this wonderful spiritual fruit in our church. Pray for [names removed] as they make their final preparations to go to the mission field. They not only need our prayer support, but they also need more monthly financial support before they can leave for Central Asia. Perhaps God would lead you to help in this way as well.

Pray that God will continue to cause all of us at FBC to have a passion for the spread of his gospel in this world.

DATES OF INTEREST

CHURCH COUNCIL
AUGUST 2, 6:00 PM

FATHER/SON GAME NIGHT
AUGUST 5, 7:00 PM

MEN'S BREAKFAST
AUGUST 6, 7:30 AM

5TH & 6TH GRADE GAME/
MOVIE NIGHT
AUGUST 18, 6:00 PM

SENIOR ADULT PLAYDAY
AUGUST 25, 9:30 AM

PROMOTION SUNDAY
AUGUST 28

MEMBERS MEETING
AUGUST 28, 6:00 PM

MEN'S BREAKFAST
SEPTEMBER 3, 7:30 AM

CHURCHWIDE LABOR DAY
PICNIC AT FAULKNER PARK
SEPTEMBER 4, 5:00 PM

OFFICE CLOSED
SEPTEMBER 5

CHURCH COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 6, 6:00 PM

MOMS2MOMS BEGINS
SEPTEMBER 7, 9:00 AM

SENIOR ADULT CHOIR
AND LUNCHEON
SEPTEMBER 8, 10:30 AM

AWANA BEGINS
SEPTEMBER 11, 5:30 PM

WOMENS BIBLE STUDY
BEGINS
SEPTEMBER 13, 9:00 AM

SENIOR ADULT PLAYDAY
SEPTEMBER 22, 9:30 AM



THE ROCK CHILDREN'S MINISTRY Vernon Hughes

If we truly desire to be an accurate reflection of who God is, then we need to consider all that God's word has to say about who He is. It's easy for us to think about God's mercy and grace since we are so dependant on that for our salvation. But we often forget that God is just, and that His justice is consistent with His grace and mercy. Maybe it's because that side of God doesn't seem so "warm and fuzzy." We have to be like Paul in Acts 20:27, not shrinking from proclaiming the whole counsel of God.

Our children recently finished our third year in a three-year-long curriculum for Sunday School. The last couple of weeks dealt with God's Judgment in the book of Revelation. As I'm sure you can imagine, that's not always an easy conversation to have with children, but we teach what God's word teaches. Please know that one of the reasons we chose this particular curriculum was because we felt it was the most honoring to God and His Word. We want to make sure that our children understand and hear the whole counsel of God's word. Please be in prayer for our Sunday School teachers as they share God's word with our children.

NOTES OF THANKS

I would like to say thank you to all of you for your prayers and all your expressions of love and caring for us these past several years throughout Mike's illness and his passing from this life on earth to his eternal home with Jesus. We have been very blessed by our Church family and we are very thankful for each one of you.

Love in Christ,
Dorthy Greb and family

Thank you, church family, for your prayers, visits, cards and calls during my recent surgery and continued recovery. We are blessed by having your support. Pat and I appreciate you so much.

Larry Blanchard

NOTE TO THE CHURCH

First Baptist Family,

We hope and pray that you are doing well and not baking in the Texas heat! We are doing well in the midst of our rainy season with all it's mud and mold. We are so excited about some doors that God seems to be opening to minister in the more rural bush areas. There are still some tribes that have not had a lot of exposure to the Gospel. This would mean huge changes for our ministry and our family. Please pray for wisdom and guidance. Thank you so much for your faithful prayers and support.

God bless,
Ben, Nat, Annie and Myriam Colby

P.S. Thanks so much for the sermon tapes. We have so enjoyed being spiritually fed across the ocean!

PASTORS' Q&A

Q "I recently read an interesting book. Wanted to know if you have seen it and what your opinion was. The book is called *Heaven is for Real*."

A A few brief thoughts:

- 1) While the Bible tells of several people dying and coming back to life, none tell tales of heaven.
- 2) The only person in the Bible who was given a glimpse of heaven (Paul in 2 Corinthians 12) was forbidden to speak of it [note: John's vision of the end of time should not be confused with the place believers go immediately after dying].
- 3) The story of Lazarus and the rich man (Luke 16:19-31) seems to indicate that the dead coming back and telling tales of the afterlife is contrary to God's plan.
- 4) From what I can glean, the boy's vision of heaven has more in common with contemporary "pop Christianity's" view of heaven (e.g. we have wings, halos, literal pearly gates, etc.) than the Bible's (compare to Alcorn's book "Heaven").
- 5) We must maintain that the Bible's promise that "heaven is for real" should be much more convincing and comforting than the tales of a toddler who had a near-death experience.

I hope that helps.

Email your questions to james@fbclindale.com

GODLY CONTENTMENT

PHILIPPIANS 4:11

Ronnie Stribble

The Bible says, "For I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content." Someone early in my life said to me, "Experience is a good teacher, but it is a costly teacher." That is true, but that is the way most of us learn how to handle life's situations. Paul had suffered much, but he said he had learned to be content. Many have misinterpreted this verse of scripture. It does not mean that when the conflicts of life come we are simply to accept them and be satisfied. It does not mean when you are sick not to go to the doctor, or when you are hungry not to try and get food, or when you lose your job not to go and look for another one, or when your house burns down not to try and find another one. What the apostle Paul means is that we are not to be satisfied with the problems we face in life, but we are not to be controlled by those problems. It means we are to act independently of them. As someone has said, "If life serves you lemons, then make lemonade out of them." Paul realized that as a believer in Christ, he had an inner strength and power to rely upon. That is why he says later, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." With Christ, we do not have to be controlled by our problems, but we can take control of our problems in Him.

In so doing, we truly find GODLY CONTENTMENT.



CHOOSEY PARENTS CHOOSE

Ryan Taber

Going out to eat in the Taber household is quite an experience. With a three year old, a five year old and a seven year old, trying to decide on a restaurant can be more than a little daunting. Jennifer and I have realized that if we are going to make any progress, that we have to make the decision for our family. The kids would always pick somewhere that is really fun but usually overpriced and with terrible food (no offense, Chuck E.). We realize that it is in our family's best interest to pick a place where our entire family can be fed, have an enjoyable experience, and not break the budget.

Sadly enough many families all over town wake up each Sunday morning and ask the kids, "Where do you want to go to church today?" We believe firmly that families should be worshipping together and that often times children would choose a church on the same criteria that they would choose a restaurant; they would choose a church that had a fun atmosphere but served sub-par food spiritually speaking. I want to encourage the parents of our church to challenge those parents that are making decisions this way to take their responsibility seriously as the spiritual leaders in the home, and choose a church for their family where they will be nourished well and commit to regularly participating in the life of that church as a family.

HOW TO MAKE A LASTING IMPACT

James Seward

I want to challenge you to imitate Dorothy and Byrum Gray.

Let me explain. I recently had the honor of presiding at Mike Greb's memorial service. Through that process I learned the beautiful story of how Mike and Dorothy came to know Christ. As newlyweds living in a new place with few avenues for stability and support, Dorothy and Byrum Gray "adopted" the Grebs. They shared life with them, walked alongside them, invested in them, and modeled Christ to them. Sharing Christ was not a one-and-done deal for the Grays; it was a lifelong investment.

This set my mind in motion. What would it look like if every believer reached out to someone in this way? What would happen if every believer in our church found someone in need of a solid friendship and befriended, evangelized and disciplined that person? Perhaps it will be a new or baby Christian struggling to walk with Christ. Perhaps it's a new neighbor, a grocery store clerk, or the friend of one of your grandchildren. Maybe it's a child that you pick up and bring to church faithfully, or a single mom that you invite into your home for a weekly meal.

Already I see the impact of people within our church who live like this. I pray that God would raise up more and more of us to step out of our comfort zones and make an impact for Christ in the lives of the people around us.

Will you pray about who you should "adopt"?

INSPIRED MUSIC

Andrew Pressley

Some songs just stand out of the crowd. Whether it's a memorable melody, a poignant lyric, or a moving accompaniment, some songs just demand to be heard, internalized, and allowed to stir our spirits. Why is this? You've probably heard some people say things like, "God gave me this song," or "God inspired this song," or "The Holy Spirit just spoke the words of this song to me." What exactly do these statements mean? It seems like this would account for why certain songs stir our souls. But does God really inspire songs such that we communicate exactly what He wants us to say?

As a songwriter, this is an appealing concept. I'd love to be carried along by the Spirit, composing precise and profound truth with effortless ease. It'd make my job much easier. However, if by "inspiration" I mean new divine revelation from God for His people, this cannot be so.

We mustn't minimize what it means for God to speak. This is the stuff of the Scriptures, and we simply cannot place any new ideas on the same level of Scripture. The canon of God's revelation to us, the Bible, is closed. The closing verses of the book of Revelation apply this idea to its content: "I warn every one who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if any one adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if any one takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will

take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book."

Hebrews 12:1-2 tells us this: "Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world." Jesus has ascended; his eyewitness apostles have died. God has communicated to us EVERYTHING we need to know about our Christian lives, and even the best of our innovative lyrics today cannot compare to the accuracy and veracity of Scripture.

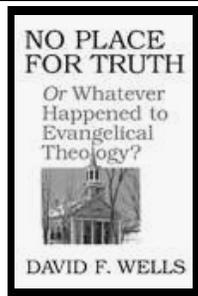
Now, if by "inspired" we mean that God motivated or prompted the artist to write truth wholly consistent with His Word, I can rest comfortably with that notion. God is active in His people, and the Holy Spirit certainly brings to mind truth that God has clearly communicated in His Word. Anything else that someone claims to be inspired by God, however, must be thoroughly tested to be sure it neither adds to nor takes away from Scripture. I'll write more on this process next time.

Claiming that God inspired a song isn't a way to get off the hook. A song cannot contain new divine revelation until Christ returns. Too often, artists use this "inspiration" claim as a trump card, throwing up a guard against biblical critique. Here's how you can tell if a song is inspired by God: if it accurately communicates the truths of the Bible. Praise God for making inspired truth available not just to a select group, but to all of us!

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AVAILABLE IN OUR LIBRARY: *NO PLACE FOR TRUTH (DAVID WELLS)*

Wells provides a jarring analysis of modern culture's influence on evangelical Christianity. In so doing, he encourages us to embrace thoughtful, careful biblical thinking as the antidote to the eroding of the American church. While not a light read, this book is eye-opening and provocative.



LIBRARY HOURS:

SUNDAYS
9:00-9:45 AM & 10:30-11:15 AM

WEDNESDAYS
10:00-12:00 PM & 5:30-6:00 PM

IF YOU BELIEVE WHAT YOU LIKE IN THE GOSPELS, AND REJECT
WHAT YOU DON'T LIKE, IT IS NOT THE GOSPEL YOU BELIEVE,
BUT YOURSELF.

-AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO



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