

# The FBC Family CONNECTION

June 2009



## Notes from the Pastor

Memorial Day 2009 has come and gone but the memory of soldiers sacrificing lives for America's freedoms will remain with us as forever. Let us continue to pray for US leaders and the coalition troops who daily risk their lives in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world, regardless of our views about our military's presence in these places. If you are a Christian, the Bible clearly teaches that you possess dual citizenship. You live in this world as a civilian citizen and are urged to engage the world as a responsible member of society (Acts 21:39; 22:28). You are also a citizen of heaven (Phil. 3:20). As such, we submit ourselves to both the governing authorities of the land in which we live and to the Lord Jesus whom we worship and serve (1 Pet. 2:13-17).

Due to the fact that we live in a democratic society and can speak freely about what's on our minds and hearts, views and opinions are expressed daily by people with whom we have a right to disagree politically, socially, and spiritually. In America, individuals have liberty, within the law, to express and persuade citizens to hear and heed their viewpoints. Eloquent speakers, whose intentions are simply to rally support for their views, often convey their assorted perspectives using various platforms and media. We encourage the dialogue and debate. However, those who choose to respectfully listen to such rhetoric are faced with a more important question: Whose agenda is right? What standards and perspectives should we endorse? Whom should we obey?

The believer is called to love and live by the Law of God (Psa. 119:163-165), to elevate its truth above the laws of man. Where man's laws and God's laws conflict, the Bible is clear, "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). As we consider the validity of various opinions and viewpoints regarding the issues of war and peace, we must not forget that God has spoken to us in His Word about the "right" way to think and about how to construct a proper worldview regarding these issues. The God who created life is not silent regarding how we should live as we encounter evil and evildoers along the way.

As individual citizens, living among the nations, the Bible teaches that we are to pursue peace with all men and seek to live as "peacemakers" in a world rife with hostility, harm, and hate. Romans 12:14ff says, "Bless those who persecute you; bless

and do not curse...If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men...Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." The many voices crying for "peace" are actually expressing God's will for every citizen who lives in a world of wickedness. We are not to take our own revenge toward those who practice evil against us (Psa. 34:14; Rom. 14:19; 2 Tim. 2:22; Heb. 12:14; 1 Pet. 3:11), but must leave room for the wrath of God (Rom. 12:19). In God's providence, the Lord will avenge and judge all wrongs according to the means He has decreed for mankind (2 Tim. 4:1; 1 Pet. 4:5; Hebrews 10:30). As citizens, however, we are to pursue peace. This is God's will for every person created in the image and likeness of God.

The problem we have executing God's will for peace in this world is due to sin. Sinful man is incapable of loving his neighbor and living with him in perfect harmony, apart from the presence and power of Jesus Christ. The Psalmist writes, "The Lord has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one" (Psa. 14:2-3). The prophet Isaiah adds, "All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way" (Isa. 53:6). In Romans 3, Paul reaffirmed this truth. "There is none righteous, not even one; there is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God; all have turned aside, together they have become useless; there is none who does good, there is not even one. Their throat is an open grave, with their tongues they keep deceiving, the poison of asps is under their lips; whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness; their feet are swift to shed blood, destruction and misery are in their paths, and the path of peace they have not known... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:10-23).

While many men and women have not "acted out" evil or wickedness to the same degree as terrorist regimes, God tells us that the seed that produces such hate is within every human heart. For example, in Matthew 5, Jesus equated hatred in the heart with murder. "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'You shall not commit murder' and 'whoever commits

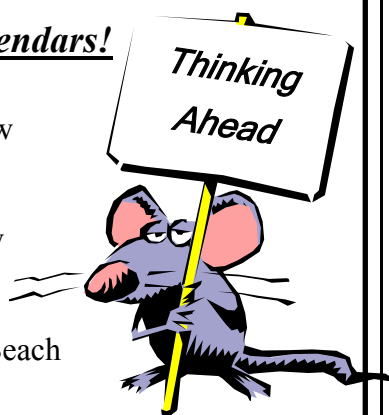
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# Church Happenin's

- Monday, June 1 Council Meetings, 7 PM—If you would like to participate in the ministries at FBC, please join us. Elders & Deacons meet at 6:30.
- Wednesday, June 3 Upward Bound Share-A-Dish, 11:30 AM at 1404 Dillon Rd.
- Sunday, June 7 Evening Fellowship Service, 6 PM
- June 8, 10, & 12 FISH Food Bank duty
- Sunday, June 14 Gene & Linda Fisher to speak, No-host lunch at China Gorge following the service.
- Monday, June 15 Elder Meeting, 6:30 PM
- Wednesday, June 17 Upward Bound Trip— The McLoughlin House, Portland
- Saturday, June 20 Men's Breakfast, 8am, @ FBC
- Sunday, June 21 Father's Day
- Sunday, June 28 All-Church Picnic & BBQ

## Be Sure to Mark Your Calendars!

- August 14th - 16th  
Family Camp at Camp Morrow
- October 23rd - 25th  
Men's Camp at Camp Morrow
- Oct. 30th - Nov. 1st  
Women's Retreat at Cannon Beach



## FISH FOOD BANK DUTY

June 8, 10 & 12

For more information, please contact Julie Clark at 541-354-1972.



# BIRTHDAYS!

Mary Ann Holloway	June 1
Stephanie Clarke	June 4
Bruce Parker	June 5
Kent Ueland	June 5
Darold Arrington	June 7
Trisha Silva	June 7
Carol Yates	June 8
Anita Kaye Rutledge	June 11
Charlene MacKinnon	June 14
Kathy Hodson	June 20
Katey (Wildish) Forster	June 21
Grace Su	June 22



\*\* If your birthday doesn't appear on the list, that means we have no record of it. Please let Lora know in the Church Office, and we will

## Well Done!

I would like to send a special Thank You to all the ladies who made our "Becoming Titus 2 Women" ladies retreat possible. I especially want to thank Tamera Sampson for coordinating all our workers, Debbie DeHaven for coordinating our wonderful meals, Brenda Thompson for putting together the music, Becky Sandercock for keeping track of the finances, and Joan Kulper for delivering an excellent time of teaching on the topic of depression. There are so many other volunteers involved that I know I cannot name them all.

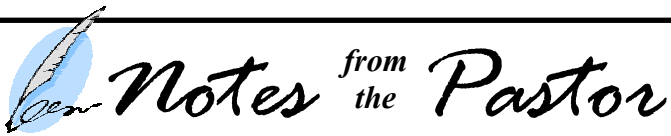
I look forward to the fall as we begin planning our October Women's Retreat in Cannon Beach!

~ Lora Weatherly



## Men's Breakfast

Saturday, June 20th, 8 AM.  
Meeting in the Fellowship Hall.



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*murder shall be liable to the court.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.*" James spoke to the same truth when he wrote, *"For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all"* (James 2:10). Many of our own US demonstrations for "peace" prove this point. How many "peace-promoting" participants have chosen violent means to achieve their solution? How many have broken "laws" to advance their own personal agenda for peace? Tragically, sin has damaged the human condition to the degree that we are unable to bring about the peace we long to enjoy in a peaceful way. Jesus is our only hope for peace and, one day, the Prince of Peace will, indeed, bring a government of peace to earth (Isa. 9:7; Luke 2:14; John 16:13).

In the meantime, God has ordained human government to restrain evil and reward those who do what is right in this world. He has given to nations the power to rule so that sinners might not destroy themselves and/or their neighbors with sin. Following Paul's admonition to individual Christians in Romans 12, he pens Romans 13 to address God's plan for the nations to protect its citizens from evil and evildoers. Beginning in verse 1, the apostle writes, *"Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil."* (Rom. 13:1-4)

God has given the agency of government to protect society from itself and the nations who would seek to destroy it. War is a necessary and righteous means when evil empires and wicked individuals attack our national and civil liberties. The Lord has authorized government to defend a nation from its enemies and to use military might against those who would threaten the lives of its citizens. Paul's reference to government using the "sword" (Rom. 13:4) is God's approval of its use to employ weapons that kill those who would seek to kill us. War is NOT evil in and of itself, despite the protests of ignorant civilians around the world. In fact, when Israel was once ruled theocratically, God Himself chose war to wipe out evil empires and to discipline or judge His own people's disregard for God's righteous rule in Israel (Exo. 17:16; Numb. 1:2-3; Josh. 8:1-3; 1 Chr. 12:23; Psa. 144:1; Isa. 42:13; Jer. 49:2; Rev. 17:14).

In the Romans 13 passage, Paul not only exhorts believers to submit to "governing authorities," he warns those who choose to rebel or resist this ordinance that their disobedience will lead to their own destruction and condemnation. While such a decision would be physically and spiritually unprofitable, a decision that only a "fool" would make, many have chosen to challenge the government's God-given authority ... to their own condemnation. Some will argue, "But governments are not perfect. They make mistakes, too. What if their decisions are wrong about war? Are we to passively submit?"

Peter addresses the issue of submission to authority in his first letter. In chapter 2, verse 13, he urges his readers to do the following: *"Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God. Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king."* (1 Peter 2:13-17)

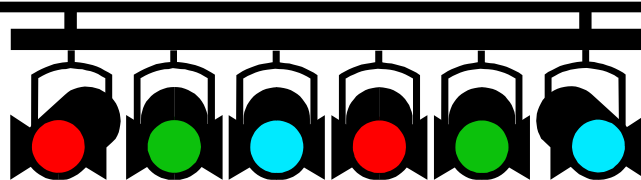
While Peter does not speak to the issue of "imperfect governments," in the same context he does urge his readers to submit to "unreasonable" masters (2:18) who at times treat their servants "harshly" (vs. 20). He further equates enduring such hostilities with the sufferings of Christ (vss. 21-23) who died at the hands of ruthless men for our sin. In chapter 3, Peter urges wives to submit to ungodly husbands without being frightened by fear (vss. 1-6), indicating that submission to imperfect sinners to advance the cause of Christ, is the right decision, though it does bring risk. Should we die in the process, glory will be our gain (Phil. 1:21), which the apostle says is far "better" (vs. 23).

What about "submission" to an evil regime, such as the ones we are fighting against? Is it OK for civilians in Afghanistan or Iraq to resist the tyranny of the Ayatollah or Sadaam's successors? Are these citizens violating Scripture for resisting the "governing authorities" the Lord has "ordained" for them? Is it righteous to fight an evil empire with the "sword" of its citizens by rising up against its own leaders? Well, the biblical answer is "no," "yes," "no," which is the reason why we must support the war overseas and do everything we can to free the Iraqi and Afghani people from such terrorism. God permits nations to fight nations and to protect its innocent from their own evil empires, but it is never God's will for an individual citizen to rise up in anarchy against its own government, UNLESS, of course, the government asks its citizens to do something expressly forbidden in Scripture. Then, WE MUST OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN (Acts 5:29).

Please know, however, that if you truly believe that you are obeying God by opposing government, be ready to endure whatever consequences may come your way; be prepared to even die for your faith. And, if you die a martyr, it had better be because you were following the Lord and His Word and not the world or your flesh. The documents of history remind us that most all who died for their faith died preaching the

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# Spotlight on missions



## Gene & Linda Fisher

*Teaching Missionary kids in  
Chiang Mai, Thailand*

Gene and Linda Fisher work at Grace International School in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Gene works with the band students, while Linda is the Principal for the secondary age-group. Students from Grace share their music and love for Christ in local area Thai schools. Please pray for the Thai people to accept Jesus. Please also pray for the School, which needs more teachers, especially in the area of computers and PE.

**Prayer Requests:**

- For God to provide just the right teachers
- For the Fisher's financial needs. They are short \$927 a month to cover their needs

The Fishers will be providing us an update on their work in Thailand on Sunday, June 14th. There will be a No-host lunch at the China Gorge following the morning service.

## Short-Term Missions

Becky Sandercock left for Mansa Zambia on May 24th. She is part of a team working on building projects at a mission station such as: a new orphanage, a learning resource center, finishing the missionaries house, and helping to complete a retreat center for other missionaries.



**Prayer Requests:**

- For unity and love among members of the mission team.
- That God would prepare the hearts of the Zambian people to receive Christ.
- For Becky that she would have good health, and stamina.

## Child Evangelism 5-Day Clubs



*A Five-Day Club meets for one hour each day for five consecutive days in backyards or other suitable locations to hear Bible stories, learn Bible verses, listen to a missionary story and hear the Gospel presented.*

Do you see a need to evangelize your community or have a burden to reach spiritually lost boys and girls? You can help by hosting and/or praying for a club.

We have teenagers available that have been trained at Christian Youth in Action, held recently at Camp Morrow. They will also be receiving further training at the State Christian Youth in Action at Aldersgate Camp in Turner, Oregon.

If you would like to host a club in your home or backyard, please contact the Child Evangelism Fellowship office at 541-296-9544. We would love to use these teenagers in your community to reach boys and girls with the Gospel of Christ. For the safety of the children you will need to fill out some forms and background check information. When this is complete, we would love to sit down and discuss times and schedules that might work for this summer outreach.



## Check it out!

- by Marian Warrenka

A great way book by Charles Swindoll is "The Bride" (242.19) Renewing our passion for the Church.

James Dobson has written several books on marriage and the family (246): "Love for a Lifetime" Building a marriage that will go the distance; "Straight Talk to Men and Their Wives."; "Night Light," a devotional book for couples.

Charles Stanley has written a fantastic book on "How to Keep you Kids on Your Team" (247). It's not what you think that will impact your child, it's what you communicate.

Be sure and sign the card in the back of the book and put the card in the blue box by the library door. Relax and enjoy a good book, and be sure to **Check it Out!**

FIDELIS

NOTES

By Doris Kahler

Fidelis Missionary/Pastoral Supply is a designated fund in our Church budget, totally dependent on free-will offerings. Our group makes items requested by mission hospitals and our local nursing homes, and collects various items needed by missionaries, Christian schools, and other Christian organizations. We also raise funds and collect items to assist with local area ministries such as the Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC), Child Evangelism, and Columbia Gorge Young Life.

### We use:

- Lots of old, part-cotton sheets of any color or design for roller bandages and wipes for mission hospitals.
- New or good used baby clothing and blankets for the PRC and mission hospitals.
- Fabrics for making clothing protectors, wheelchair arm bags, neck pillows, therapy cubes, and walker bags for nursing homes.
- Health care items such as cotton balls or rolls, sterile and non-sterile exam gloves, 4"x4" gauze pads, and adhesive tape for mission hospitals.
- Cancelled stamps, which will be sent where they can be sold to collectors to raise funds for missions.
  - Christian literature, such as daily devotionals, magazines (please no *Guide Posts*), biographies, books, teaching materials, Bibles and Concordances. These will be sent to Christian Resources International, which will distribute them to missionaries all over the world.
- Monetary Donations. (Please make any checks out to First Baptist Church, and mark any funds for Fidelis.)

Praise the Lord we were able to send a box to a new hospital in Guinea, West Africa with 254 blank notebooks with covers made from greeting cards. These notebooks are used for memory verse work with children and have been in our supply cupboard for at least 10 years! Also in this shipment were medical supplies that the Geary's couldn't use. We are so thankful that these items can be used by another mission hospital rather than being left in storage.

Thank you for your Faithful Support!

If you have any questions about our work, or would like to find out how you can help, please contact Doris Kahler at 541-386-5388.

*Pen Notes* from the Pastor

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gospel of Jesus Christ, and not trying to preserve or protect one's own personal agenda. As Christians, we live or die for the glory of God! "For if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's." (Rom. 14:8)

In closing, I want God's people to know that God is concerned about peace, so much so that he sent His one and only son Jesus Christ into the world to bring ultimate peace. However, the peace Jesus brings to our world today is not political, social or judicial, but spiritual. In the gospel of John, Jesus was speaking to His disciples about returning to the Father in heaven and sending the Holy Spirit in His place. He speaks, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful" (John 14:27). Earthly peace is temporal. Spiritual peace is eternal. Philippians 4:6-7 tells us that the "peace of God" is wonderful and surpasses all understanding. Such peace, however, can only dwell in the heart of man through faith in Jesus Christ.

The "peace" God gives to sinners comes into the heart when we are reconciled to God through faith in Messiah. Romans 5:1, says, "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Spiritual peace awaits only those who come to Christ through faith, believing that He is the Son of God, the Savior of the world (Matt. 1:21). Jesus is "the way, the truth and the life, and no man comes to the Father except through Him" (John 14:6). As God's enemies, we must first make peace with God before we can experience the peace of God in our daily lives. Will you trust the Lord Jesus to atone for your sin and receive His gift of salvation today? Will you know God's peace in the midst of earthly wars?

The photo below is of a real baptism in the desert of Iraq. The men and women promoting freedom in Iraq are not only engaged in a physical war against an evil regime but a spiritual war as well. Satan would love company in hell. He fights for the souls of men, everyday. Those who inevitably join him are not just the evil forces in a terrorist regime but also every member of the coalition who has not embraced Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Facing death in the desert should cause every soldier to consider eternal outcomes. Some members of the military have humbled their hearts and prayed to receive Christ and the forgiveness He offers for sin to those willing to surrender to Him. This baptism is a public declaration of their new-found faith in Jesus.



# First Baptist Church

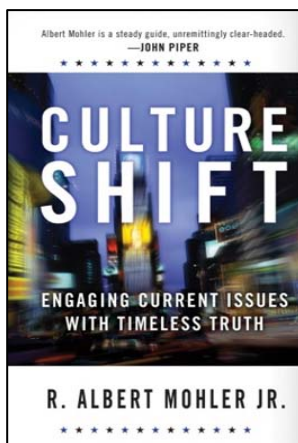
1889 Belmont Dr.  
Hood River, OR 97031



## Book of the Month

By R. Albert Mohler, Jr.

*Culture Shift* is a book that engages current issues with Scripture's timeless truths. It teaches Christians how they should think about such issues. Dr. Mohler is one of the church's foremost cultural commentators and is well-qualified to write such a book. Through his blog, through his radio program and through his media appearances, he has proven that he can combine theological acumen with spiritual discernment as he addresses the issues that affect the church in our culture. The essays in this book will help equip Christians to understand the culture in which we find ourselves so that we can reach into it and engage with it for the glory of God.



## Church Cookbook

Ladies, and Gentlemen, we are putting together a cookbook to raise funds for our Women's Ministry Fund to provide scholarships and supplies for our ladies' retreats and activities.



Please send or bring your favorite recipes in all categories as soon as possible! Typed recipes would be great (please email to Lora at [fbhoodriver@gorge.net](mailto:fbhoodriver@gorge.net)), but hand-written or photocopied recipes are also fine. Recipes can be placed in the drop box in the foyer, given to Debbie DeHaven or left in the office with Lora. Bring as many as you like from any or all categories! Thank you in advance for your help toward this endeavor!

**Copyright questions?** - If you have a recipe from a published cookbook or magazine, but have changed it in any way, then that recipe becomes your own and is no longer under copyright. We all tweak our recipes a little, so just tell us how you have spruced it up and feel free to submit these favorites as well!