

The FBC Family CONNECTION

September 2009



Notes from the Pastor

I am grateful to God for the recent visits our church has received from missionaries serving the Lord overseas (I will not put their names in print to protect their identities and their ministries from any unnecessary conflict). I am also thankful that a few of our own members were able to take short-term trips to visit third-world countries where the gospel and social reform are welcome. The reports I have heard from these individuals are very encouraging. The Lord is indeed at work! Jesus is being proclaimed ... and lives are being changed (including missionaries' lives) for the glory of God!

The work of missions is vital to the church. I believe it is the reason why the church remains on earth. When Jesus returned to the right-hand of the Father, He left His disciples on earth to complete the work of seeking and saving the lost. We are among the followers God has left behind to carry out the Great Commission; to fulfill the ministry Jesus began almost 2000 years ago. As co-laborers with Christ, it is a privilege to be involved in reaching God's elect with the gospel, and to participate with other missionaries, local and worldwide, as "fishers of men." The apostle Paul understood the privilege and was willing to endure the worst of circumstances to proclaim Christ. *"For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory"* (2 Tim. 2:10).

Scripture states that the role of the apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastor/teachers is to "equip the saints to do the work of the ministry" (Eph. 4:11-12). While certainly the work we do as pastors involves the spiritual maturity of saints and the administration of the local church, the primary focus of God's workman in equipping saints is to build the body of Christ (1 Cor. 3:9). Every day "living stones" are being added to the spiritual house God is building worldwide through the work of missions. Throughout the history of the church, the Lord has given ordinary men and women an extraordinary witness to reach sinners with the gospel of eternal hope, and to build the church Jesus promised to complete (Matt. 16:18; 28:19-20). The work of missions is a "great work" because sinners are being saved from the wrath to come to experience the supreme greatness of God, forgiveness of sin, and the hope of eternal life! (Jn. 14:12)

However, one misconception often perpetuated about the work

of missions is that it is a calling reserved for a privileged few; that, somehow, missionaries are a special class of people willing to abandon all creaturely comforts to bring the gospel to some far away place whose people need to hear about Jesus (we have also made the same erroneous distinction with pastors, elevating them above the laity in the church). Interestingly, although the word missionary is never used in the Bible, the concept is everywhere. Terms like "witness," "messenger," "ambassador," "apostle," "evangelist," and "herald" are all used interchangeably to speak about the individuals God uses to speak to others about Jesus Christ. Did you read your name in that list?

While every believer has been gifted in unique ways, to one degree or another, all Christians *are* missionaries. God has saved and sent us into the world to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to the nations, including our own Hood River County. The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) is God's directive to the church; a work that began locally (Jerusalem) and spread to include the whole world (the remotest part of the earth). If you are born-again then you are a missionary sent from God to reach the lost, both at home and abroad. Since all Christians have been commanded to go (literally, the Greek expression is ... *"as you go"*), the believer's mission field *is* the particular place God has called you to serve. Therefore, as we go about our daily enterprise we must keep our residency in Hood River in proper focus. God saved us for the purpose of witness (Acts 1:8). For most of us, Hood River is the mission field to which we have been sent by the Lord Jesus. For others, it might be Honduras, Vienna, or Bangladesh. We are God's messengers, commissioned for the purpose of proclaiming Christ (Col. 1:28), and when we fail to understand our mission we usually undervalue the "fields white unto harvest."

The Holman Bible Dictionary defines a missionary as "a person charged with the task of spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ to people to whom God has sent." That includes us! Although my gift is that of Pastor/Teacher, my mission is also the field of Hood River. Those of us who live in this community must remember that our circumstances in moving here were orchestrated by the sovereign power of God to accomplish His purpose for our area. God has placed His saints in Hood River to

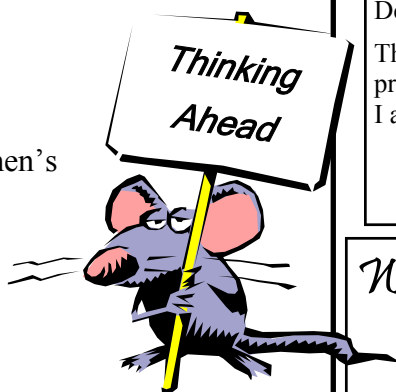
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Church Happenin's

- Wednesday, Sept 2 Upward Bound Share-A-Dish,
11:30 AM at 1404 Dillon Rd
- Thursday, Sept 3 VBS Wrap-up Meeting, 7 PM at
the Church.
- Monday, Sept. 7 Labor Day—Church Office Closed
- Thursday, Sept 10 Baby Shower for Krisha Nicklaus,
6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.
Soup-supper to start.
- Sunday, Sept 13 Dinner Bunch Meeting, briefly after
the Church Service
Evening Service, 6 PM
- Monday, Sept 14 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, Sept 16 Upward Bound Trip to Mount
St. Helens
- September 18 to 26 Church Secretary out on vacation
- Saturday, Sept 19 Men's Breakfast, 8 AM
- Monday, Sept 28 Elder Meeting, 6:30 PM

Mark Your Calendars!

- October 16th & 17th
Columbia Gorge Christian Women's
Conference, hosted by Grace
Baptist in White Salmon, WA.
Keynote Speaker: Muriel Cook
- October 23rd - 25th
Men's Camp at Camp Morrow
- Oct. 30th - Nov. 1st
Women's Retreat at Cannon Beach



BIRTHDAYS!

Floyd Branson	September 2
Liz Heacock	September 2
Irene Duniphin	September 5
Luke Hansen	September 8
Hannah Kempf	September 8
Robert Rutledge	September 11
McKenna Aldrich	September 12
Sherry Bryan	September 14
Betty Green	September 14
Jeff Bardin	September 16
Florence Frederick	September 16
Ken Swager	September 16
Julie Clark	September 17
Helen Stenberg	September 19
Wanda Gilliland	September 21
Kathryn Stenberg	September 26
Kevin Clark	September 27



** 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 add you to our lists.

A Note to the Family

Dear Church Family

Thank you for all the lovely cards, phone calls, prayers, and plants. You have shown such kindness. I am recovering very well.

- Hazel Pearson

Women's Community Bible Study

Thursdays, Beginning September 10th

Childcare available for Nursery and Preschool. Meeting at FBC at 8:30 AM to carpool to Calvary Baptist in The Dalles. Cost: \$25, scholarships available. Studying through the book of *Luke* this year.

Please see Marian Warrenka (386-1913) for details.

Notes from the Pastor

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advance His kingdom and build His church in this unique town. As believers, our decision to live here was not some arbitrary choice or desire, but a decision that was ultimately governed by the mighty hand of God working all things “after the counsel of His will” (Eph 1:11). Yes, the snow-covered mountains may have been the physical attraction, but the ministry of missions is the divine call. How are we doing?

If statistics tell only half the story, as American Christians we are not doing well. Just a few decades ago, the United States led the world in the advancement of foreign missions. Today, more foreign missionaries are coming to America to evangelize the lost because the American church has lost her way ... and her mission. *Christianity Today* recently quoted an Anglican Pastor in the US, saying, “We (America) have become the mission field.” Another ominous note, sounded by Oscar Muriu, Senior Pastor of Nairobi Chapel in Kenya, named *America* “the third largest mission field and the third largest pagan country in the world.”

Last year, in a published article for *Christian Post Reporter* (a member of the Evangelical Press Association) entitled “America Takes On Humility in Changing Global Mission Landscape,” the editor noted that two-thirds of the world’s believers “realize that the church in the West is on the decline and the majority of Christians are now found in Africa, Asia and Latin America.” Christian author, Philip Jenkins, thinks the problem in America is exacerbated by narcissism and apathy, and believes we “suffer from a perceived lack of relevance of Christianity to lives based on materialism.”

To counter the Me-centered generation occupying most of America’s pews, many mission organizations are sponsoring short-term trips to economically underdeveloped nations, praying that US Christians will awaken from their complacency to see the work God is doing around the world and the spiritual relevance of the gospel to these underprivileged nations. Some of our own FBC missionaries have recently shared reports of how readily the gospel of Jesus is being received on these foreign fields, yet meeting much resistance to the message of hope among the peoples of the United States.

My purpose for writing about missions in this month’s newsletter is to encourage FBC believers not to lose hope. Though the harvest does not seem to be plentiful here in the United States, the God of Scripture has still called us to faithfully sow His seed, beginning in Hood River and extending to the nations. Remember, while God has commissioned us to do the planting and watering (1 Cor. 3:6) it is the Lord who saves sinners and builds His church. His program is right on schedule! The promise of Jesus is sure: “That of all that He (the Father) has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day” (Jn. 6:39).

My own eschatological conviction is that we are in the last of the “Last Days” when deception is rampant, apostasy on the

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Men’s Breakfast

Saturday, September 19, 8 AM
Meeting in the Fellowship Hall.

Upward Bound



Sept. 2nd

Share-A-Dish

Meeting at 11:30 AM at the home of Gary and Dee Dillon (1404 Dillon Rd.)

Sept. 16th

Upward Bound Trip to Mt. St. Helens

Meeting at the Church at 9:30 AM. Please let Gary know you’re coming.

For more information on these or other summer events, please contact Gary & Dee Dillon at 490-4602.

HELPERS NEEDED

Our Worship Team is looking for musicians who would be interested in participating on the team either on a fill-in or regular basis. We are also looking for volunteers who could help run the music slides on Sunday morning on a fill-in basis. Please see Ken Swager if you would like to participate.



Well Done!

Thank you to everyone who helped with our summer VBS. Thank you especially to Trisha Silva & Marian Warrenka, who both did such a marvelous job in coordinating the event. Thank to all those who taught classes, helped out with snacks and the Thursday night potluck, or were simply available to fulfill all those tasks that make these events possible. It was truly a blessed time!

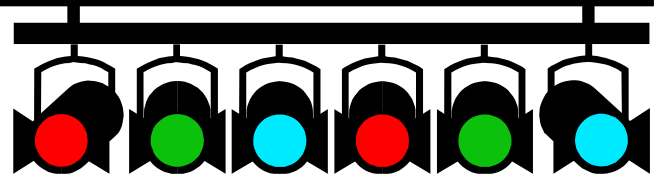
~ Lora Weatherly

Bible Based Counseling

Pastor Bruce Parker and Joan Kulper offer biblically based counseling, free of charge, in the areas of: individual, family, marriage, and pre-marriage. If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office or Joan Kulper at (509) 493-3901.



Spotlight on Missions



Radha &
Samen
Manickam

*In Partnership with Missions Door,
Working with Cambodians in Seattle and abroad*

Radha and Samen work with the Cambodian people, both in Cambodia and here in the United States. Radha's ministry is based in Seattle, WA, where he discipless men in leadership training. Radha has written 5 books on basic Christian doctrine in the Cambodian language.

In Cambodia, Radha is supervising the building of a leadership training center. The mission also has other ministries, such as digging wells and providing water filtration for the poor, building homes and food, and now a cow & goat project to provide income for native Cambodians. Radha will be returning to Cambodia October 24th, and will be staying until November 14th.

Prayer Needs:

- They are short \$2,448 in monthly support
- The mission needs \$100,000 to finish the first floor of the leadership training center
- Travel mercies for the upcoming trip
- Growth & unity in the Cambodian church
- Openness to the gospel at government levels
- Salvation among the Cambodian people.



Child Evangelism
Fellowship

Child Evangelism is preparing to begin Release-Time programs in our local elementary schools this fall. In order to do this, they need parent signatures and student interest. Please pray for openness and support of this ministry.

Short-Term Mission Opportunity



Looking for a new way to serve the Lord? Asking the Lord is He has more of a ministry for you? Need to gain a heart for missions? Consider serving in the Dominican Republic December 4-14, 2009 and gaining a first-hand vision of how God is working around the world.

- The Fountain of Life school was founded by missionaries Paul & Linda McMillan in the village of Juan Tomas, Santo Domingo. Juan Tomas is a very primitive village of about 7000-8000 people. See [www. partnersnchrist.org](http://www.partnersnchrist.org) for additional information.
- Needs and service opportunities include: presenting the Gospel through various avenues (at English classes, in homes, etc.), much-needed painting at the local mission compound, various carpentry and construction projects, teaching specialized classes in the school (i.e. science lessons, crafts, healthcare topics, etc.). Whatever your skill, or lack thereof, we can find a way for you to serve. Open to all ages: elderly through youth. Couples, singles, and families are all welcome.
- Minimum health requirements: able to stand on level ground and paint or able to sit and work with children. Healthcare facilities available within a 40 minute drive. Although the villagers usually live in huts and obtain water from a local well, the mission compound is blessed with running water, flushing toilets, and cold showers.

For more information, contact Heather Judson (of First Baptist Church, Hood River) at 386-9544.

Cost per person is approximately \$1,250.
Registration deadline: September 15

Is the Lord calling you?

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding." ~ Proverbs 3:5

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! We were able to make a supply of walker bags from donated fabrics. These bags attach to walkers used by those in retirement communities.

Please save your well-used old sheets for us to tear into strips to make roller bandages. The sheets can be any color or size. Our collection box is on the bottom shelf under the window in the Church Office.

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.

Doris Kahler



Book of the Month

By Greg Dutcher

In *You Are the Treasure That I Seek*, Pastor Greg Dutcher takes a new look at an old problem with witty and relevant insights to help you identify idolatry in this modern world. Commenting on the book, Dr. Ray Pritchard writes, "The book first frightens, then entrances, then liberates. It frightens as it lays bare the hidden idols of the heart. It entrances with the promise of a treasure worth more than all our idols put together. And ultimately, it liberates with a vision of Christ, so compelling and so powerful that the reader says, "O Lord, set me free and I will be free indeed." It's easy to make people feel guilty about their idols. Greg Dutcher inspires us to set aside our trinkets in pursuit of the Ultimate Treasure."

YOU are the
treasure
that I seek



GREG DUTCHER

Pen Notes from the Pastor

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rise, and lukewarm attendees permeate the church (Rev. 3:16). We live in the day when many who call Jesus "Lord" are disingenuous (Matt. 7:21-23) and the approved are often made manifest through division and strife (1 Cor. 11:17-19). Our study of Peter's first letter to the persecuted could not be more relevant in a day when all is tolerated, except the mission and the message we have been commanded to proclaim. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:19-20).

As we "go," please keep in mind our Lord's final words, "And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." I would be perfectly content if the Lord had simply said, "I am with you always." Why, then, did He add the phrase, "even to the end of the age?" Could it be that Jesus knew how difficult the "mission" would be toward the end of the age? That He understood the challenges and obstacles we would encounter in a world hostile to Christianity? He certainly must have known that we might be tempted to give up, not go, or just flat-out quit when resistance and rejection dominate. However, since the Lord is on our side we must persevere in faith, fulfill His mission, and rest in His grace.

I close with comforting words from the pen of Isaiah. "Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." (Is. 41:10)

I'll be praying that your missionary journey, home or abroad, will bear much fruit for the kingdom and that we will persevere until the "fullness of the Gentiles has come in." (Rom. 11:25).

Serving the Savior! -Pastor Bruce

First Baptist Church

1889 Belmont Dr.
Hood River, OR 97031



Fall Dinner Bunch

New Dinner Bunch groups are forming!
There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer. We
will meet briefly after church on
September 13th to select our new groups.

Dinner Bunch consists of groups of 8 people who gather
together once a month for fellowship. Please see Elaine
Hardman (386-4782) for more information.

You're invited to a...

BABY SHOWER

Thursday, September 10th, 6:30 PM



We will be having a Soup-Supper prior to the activities.
Krisha and Darrel Nicklaus will be having a boy, Landon.
They have a good start on clothes, but could really use some
of the everyday sorts of items (i.e. diapers, wipes, etc.). Gift
cards are much appreciated, or you can check out her online
registry at *Babys 'R' Us* for more details on specific needs.

Please see Brenda Thompson for more information.

Church Cookbook

Ladies, and Gentlemen, we are
putting together a cookbook to
raise funds for our Women's
Ministry Fund to provide scholar-
ships 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), 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!