

# The Beacon



## Valley Baptist Church Newsletter March 2007

### From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

I thank God for allowing me to serve here at Valley Baptist Church as His under-shepherd. I have so enjoyed getting to know you. You have been so kind to my family. My children look forward to church days so they can see you all, young and old.

### **Let's win....together!**

On Sunday evenings we have been working our way through the book of Joshua. God led His people across the Jordan and into victory in the promised land. Let us, too, follow the Lord to His victory..... together. Below are some of the opportunities we have to win together.

Investing in Tomorrow. I have mentioned to many of you that I am very reluctant to lead a church into any kind of debt. However, it did seem a blessing from the Lord to purchase the new parsonage across the street, freeing up the land the old parsonage sits on for future parking lot expansion. Having said that, let's see how fast we can pay off the mortgage for the new parsonage and begin saving to pay cash for future projects. I look forward to watching that loan shrink month to month with you.

Vacation Bible School. June 25-29 will find our facilities swarming with children who need to know our Savior. Join me as we pray for and help with Vacation Bible School. We are blessed to have a volunteer group coming from Texas to aid in this outreach.

Door-to-Door Extravaganza. Coming soon in April or May, we will be going in teams door-to-door in the church's neighborhood and maybe another neighborhood or two, introducing our church to the community and sharing the Gospel whenever possible.

Mike Jamison, IMB Missionary to the most populated nation on earth.. I hope you will join us on the evening of March 18 at 6:30pm to hear the exciting report from "Mike Jamison" (not his real name). I look forward to seeing our church sending groups around the world to help spread the Gospel.

This past week our staff met together for our monthly staff meeting. It was exciting to talk and pray about all that is coming up in the life of our church. I thank the Lord for the privilege to work with these two men.

Join me as we cross over to victory.....together.

Your pastor,

Ronny

❖ ***Discipleship Training***

Sixteen people were enrolled in the study "Overview of Church History" class which met the last seven weeks. Eleven of them attended every class and three only missed 1 class.

The following classes are scheduled for March:

- March 4 - The Moravian Revival
- March 11 - Overview of Southern Baptists Today
- March 18 - The First Great Awakening in America
- March 25 - The Second Great Awakening in America

Classes will meet at **9:30 AM** and repeat at **5:00 PM**

## **How are you doing in the Spiritual Discipline Of? “Witness To The World”**

**The following is true in my life;**

**Never – 1 / Seldom – 2 / Occasionally – 3 / Frequently – 4 / Always - 5**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ I share my faith in Christ with non-believers.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ I regularly pray for non-believers I know.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ I make my faith known to my neighbors and/or fellow employees.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ I intentionally maintain relationships with non-believers in order to share my testimony.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ When confronted about my faith, I remain consistent and firm in my testimony.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ I help others understand how to effectively share a personal testimony.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ I make sure the people I witness to get the follow-up and support needed to grow in Christ.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ I encourage my church and friends to support mission efforts.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ I am prepared to share my testimony at any time.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ My actions demonstrate a belief in and commitment to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).

\_\_\_\_\_ **Witness To The World Total**

### **❖ Music Notes: John Gamble**

Have you ever asked why we sing hymns as a part of our worship services?

The following is quoted from publication from Convention Press titled “*The Volunteer/Bivocational Music Leader*” written by Danny R. Jones. Mr. Jones explains it this way.

“Music has often been called a language of worship. Henry van Dyke described music as ‘worship putting on her garments of praise.’ Generally, music for the congregation is the hymn – the backbone of church music. Hymn singing likely is the only chance the congregation has for active musical participation in the service. The congregation is the most important music group in the church.” It just happens that I fully agree with Mr. Jones’ assessment.

He goes on to write: “James Rawlings Sydnor, in *Hymns and Their Uses*, lists five values of hymn singing. “Through hymn singing,’ Sydnor writes, Christians:

1. Express their feelings and ideas...
2. Tell others what they believe...
3. Are bound in closer fellowship...
4. Are instructed in the fundamentals of their faith...
5. Are sustained in daily life.”

Now, that list of values is certainly thought provoking. All these thoughts give us insight for why we sing. I like to think of songs as a way to be constantly in communication with our Lord Jesus. Along with this comes a serious responsibility to aware of the words and message in the hymns as well as the melody.

Fanny Crosby’s favorite motto was, “*I think life is not too long, and therefore I determine that many people will read a song who would not read a sermon.*”

In Galatians 5:18 and 19 we are instructed to “*be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord...*”

Special music is planned for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. This music is focused on the specific fact that we serve a Savior who is alive! I pray that His house will be full to hear this message. Sing Praise!

# INVESTING IN TOMORROW

*Potluck Fellowship March 4, 2007 Following the Morning Service, 12:30 pm  
Join us as we kickoff our Debt Retirement Program*

God has blessed us as we continue to develop our facilities. With the arrival of our new pastor and his family in December of 2006, and God’s grace in providing us with a new parsonage adjacent to our church property, we are now able to share in the retirement of a new debt, consisting of 2 loans to complete the purchase of that parsonage. The smaller loan already reduced to \$42,500 is to payoff the down payment portion of the new parsonage. The larger loan of \$198,000.00, will pay off the remaining balance on the new parsonage.

“...Now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel.” As we cross over together into the future, I believe many exciting times await us. In preparation for the future it is important that we pay off our debt for the parsonage and even go beyond in order to build future buildings with cash in hand. I look forward to what God will do as we are committed to being debt free and preparing for the future.

Pastor Ronny

## THE SECRET OF GIVING

Paul said, “Remember this: *Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*”

II Corinthians 9:6-8

❖ **Minister of Students**

After reading this article, and thinking about my own marriage which is only a few days away, I am reminded that one of the greatest, if not the greatest, things we can give our children is a healthy, Godly marriage. I pray this article encourages you, and it might even help you grow closer to your spouse.

### ***Prayer: The Secret to a Lasting Marriage*** by Dennis Rainey

Maybe you've had a similar experience with your own spouse:

One night, my wife Barbara and I ended up in bed facing in opposite directions. Since early in our marriage, we have prayed together each night before we go to bed. But that night, I didn't want to pray with her. In my conscience, however, Jesus Christ was asking me, "Are you going to pray with her?"

"I don't like her tonight, Lord," I replied.

"I know you don't," He said. "But you're the one who tells people that you pray with your wife all the time." Slowly, the Lord turned me over, and I said, "Sweetheart, will you forgive me?" And Barbara and I talked and prayed.

I thank God for that tradition of prayer He has helped us build early in our marriage. I am not exaggerating when I say that Barbara and I might not still be married had it not been for daily prayer.

If there is one simple ritual I would urge couples to begin adopting in their marriages, it is this one -- the habit of praying together every day.

When I was still a newlywed in 1972, I asked my boss and mentor, Carl Wilson, for his single best piece of marital advice. He and his wife had been married 25 years and had four children.

"Denny, that's easy," he said. "Pray daily together. Every night for 25 years we have prayed together as a couple."

Since that day nearly three decades ago, Barbara and I have missed daily prayer fewer than a dozen times. That discipline has helped resolve conflicts, kept communication flowing, and, most importantly, acknowledged our utter dependence upon Jesus Christ as the Lord and Builder of our family.

Surveys at our FamilyLife Marriage Conferences indicate that less than 8 percent of all couples pray together on a regular basis. I suspect that less than 5 percent of all Christian couples pray together daily.

Let's bring back a popular slogan from the 1950s: "The family that prays together stays together." I believe that if every Christian couple would pray together regularly, our nation would experience a spiritual renewal of historical proportions, including a dramatic drop in the Christian community's divorce rate.

And when the divorce rate drops within the church, we will see a spiritual and moral awakening in America.

I want to challenge you to something today: to commit to praying with your spouse for one week before you go to bed each night.

Please don't say you're too busy for this. Don't let time in front of the TV watching a ball game or a sitcom keep you from praying together. The average American adult watches 30 hours of television a week-and there has to be a little time in there to pray!

By the same token, don't let hobbies, singing in the choir, or working at the church keep you from praying together. It's easy to get busy-we all have a lot going on in our lives. But don't get so busy that you can't make the time to pray together with your spouse. Avoid living independently of one another. God gave you your spouse, and your marriage is the single most important relationship you have on this earth.

Of course, you'll have interruptions when you pray together. Anyone with a telephone, children, or even pets can be guaranteed of that! But I encourage you to go past the interruptions. Time for devotion and prayer with your wife or husband is just too important.

When you pray together, you multiply your joys, divide your sorrows, add to your experiences with God together, and help subtract your haunting past from your life. During the rugged times of your marriage, you can share your burdens. Prayer can also take away the desire to get even and replace it with a willingness to work things out.

I urge you to make this commitment with your spouse. You may be afraid to start, and let me assure you, you are not alone. Many people are hesitant to start praying with their spouses. If this is the case, try saying this prayer: "Lord, teach me how to pray with my spouse. I'm afraid."

I can promise you; it will be one of the most rewarding things you will ever do for your marriage and for your family.

Dennis Rainey is the president of FamilyLife, a subsidiary of Campus Crusade for Christ.  
Family Life website; [www.familylife.com](http://www.familylife.com)

Bible Study for All Ages, formerly Family Bible Study, is a new name we are trying. Let me know what you think about the change. We are still open to suggestions.

- Potluck: Bible Study for All Ages is sponsoring a Potluck  
**Sunday, March 18**  
We are going to Alterra with Richard and Linda Reed at **3:00 pm** and then will return to the church to **eat, hopefully around 4:00 pm**  
Bring some food and come join us!

Bobby

### ❖ *Men's Ministry*

Men's Ministry Summit 2007 "*Search for Authentic Manhood*", March 16-17, 2007  
Registration \$40 before March 10, includes conference materials, snacks and lunch  
NW Baptist Center, 3200 NE 109<sup>th</sup> Ave. Vancouver, WA  
See brochure on the bulletin board in the foyer. For more information contact Ed Stephenson.

- Men's Ministry Breakfast March 10, 8:00 am

### ❖ *Women's Ministries*

On Saturday, March 31st, the women will be assembling care packages for family members serving in the military. Please let Carrol Bowerman know if someone in your family is currently serving our country so they can be included. (503-474-1083)

Ladies, plan to join us on the 31st at 10 a.m. in the church kitchen. Bring your favorite cookie dough - a variety that will travel well - and we will bake and package cookies so they will be as fresh as possible.

A special thank you to the ladies and children who participated in our February outreach project. We were able to deliver 7 Valentine gifts which blessed the receivers as well as the ones who delivered them. Also, I want to thank the men for allowing the women to join them for breakfast.

### ❖ Greetings From the Hostess Committee

This past month we hosted a Bridal Shower for Priscilla Richmond. We had a wonderful time of fellowship. (devotion presented by Kathy Cooksey, eating and Priscilla opening her gifts).

Next Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm we will be hosting a potluck Fellowship to kickoff our Debt Retirement Program, "**Investing in Tomorrow**". We invite all of you to attend.

### ❖ *Wednesday Night Meal*

We are discussing the possibility of restarting our Wednesday Night Meal. If you are interested in taking responsibility of this weekly meal, please see Ronny. Those who participate in this meal will pay a small fee and a portion of those receipts will go to the one(s) preparing the meal.

# DAVIDICUT SAVINGS TIME

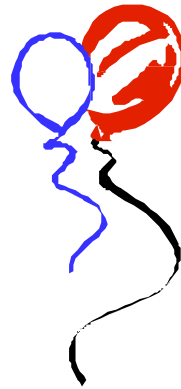
Is Next Sunday March 11<sup>th</sup>  
Turn Your Clocks Forward 1 Hour

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**\*March Birthday's and Anniversaries\***

Have a GREAT "*Jesus Loves You*" special day!!!!

March 10	Theresa Hammersmith Sherri Nauman
March 12	Kelly Camp
March 13	Bethany Cooksey Dean Wegner
March 16	Richard Chandler
March 17	John Gamble
March 18	Laurie Berry
March 24	Ray Heyer
March 27	Adrian Nauman
March 30	Bobby Johnson
March 31	Onan Hill



If we have omitted anyone, please let us know, so that we may recognize your birthday and/or anniversary in future newsletters. If you are a newcomer, please let the church office know, so that we can be sure to recognize your birthday and/or anniversary as well.



**Has your home address, phone number, or  
your e-mail address changed?  
PLEASE keep us posted!**

If you have items for the newsletter, please submit them to the church office by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. [\*macvalleybc@yahoo.com\*](mailto:macvalleybc@yahoo.com)

***Be sure and take a look at our updated church website:  
[www.macvalleybaptist.org](http://www.macvalleybaptist.org) or [www.macvalleybaptist.com](http://www.macvalleybaptist.com)***