

May
2011

Focus on FAITH

BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

Taking on a Tough Chapter—Why Bother?

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I have been wrestling, or as my wife's family in Georgia would say, "rasslin'" this week with my next preaching assignment, Romans 7. It's a challenge in several ways. How to break the chapter up into three messages. How to develop each section without being overly repetitive, discovering the best way to apply this truth to our lives, even the opening illustration - a married woman who takes up with another man (when is she justified in doing so, and when not?).

So, why bother with this exceptionally tough passage of Scripture? Why not do something "more practical, more relevant, more upbeat, more entertaining"?

Answer: There is nothing more practical and relevant for all of us than our daily struggle with sin. Entertaining? No, likely not. Upbeat? Not every moment, though there will be a stunning, beautiful moment of great grace: "Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!"

Dr. Ray Ortlund blogs a daily devotional called *Christ is Deeper Still*. It is outstanding; most weeks I find something there to share as a devotional with our staff. This week he quoted from the Thomas Chalmers classic, **The Expulsive Power of a New Affection**. Here is how the quote opened:

"The best way of casting out an impure affection is to admit a pure one; and by the love of what is good, to expel the love of what is evil. . . ."

In other words, our daily fight of faith against indwelling sin is a fight of affections, of loves, of devotions. Temptation's lure is "this will make you happier, this will give you greater joy, this will be truly delightful!" But it never is. What follows ends up as brokenness, disappointment, and sorrow. On the other hand, embracing Jesus Christ and "admitting" the pure affections he commends, the gospel gifts, the true delights of the Holy Spirit, these result in beauty, joy, thanksgiving, and love.

Can I preach these things in a clear and compelling and helpful way the next three weeks? I don't know. I am going to try. **I ask you to pray for me.** Read Romans 7 again and again for yourself. Immerse yourself in the drama of it: "Wretched man that I am!" Let's see if, together, we can take a giant leap forward in living the cross-centered life for the glory of Christ and our eternal joy!

For Christ and His gospel,

Pastor Dana

P.S. One of our "5 Loves" is **Love the Gospel**. I do believe that three weeks from now, we will all love the gospel more!



**MEMORIAL
DAY**



Student Ministries

Student Ministries/Graduate Recognition Sunday

Come join our high school youth as they lead the worship services on Sunday, May 1st. High school students will usher, greet, lead praise and worship, and provide instrumental and special music. Graduates will be recognized in both services and an all-church potluck and a short program will follow the second service. Bring a main dish and a dessert or salad to share. All are welcome to attend!

Summer Camp Registrations...

Students completing grades 8 through 12 are invited to attend Camp Judson the week of June 19-25. High school registrations are due Sunday, May 8th. Registration fees will not be due at the time of registration as scholarship money will be given to students that register by the May 8th due date.

Students completing grades 5 through 7 are invited to attend middle school camp at Timberlake Camp the week of July 24-29. Middle school Response Cards are due Sunday, May 8th. Registration fees and forms will not be due until mid-June.

Season Finales

MS students will have their finale on Wednesday, May 4th, from 6-9 PM. Meet at the church at 6PM for pizza and pop in the Loft. We will then go to Suburban Bowl, returning to the church by 9PM; cost \$8.

HS students will meet at the church at 6 PM on Wednesday, May 4th to carpool to the Peltiers' for food, games, and fellowship.

New 6th Graders' Pizza Party

Students completing 5th grade this spring are invited, along with their parents, to attend the New Sixth Graders' Pizza Party on Wednesday, June 1st at 6 PM. The party will be held in the Loft where you can learn about the Faith Weavers Student Ministries Program, meet youth leaders, as well as other middle school youth, play games and, of course, enjoy pop and pizza together!



May 1

- Student Ministries / Graduate Recognition Sunday & All-Church Potluck

May 4

- MS Season Finale, 6-9PM
Loft for pizza; Suburban Bowl, cost: \$8
- HS Season Finale, 6-9:30PM @ Peltiers'

May 5

- Summer Mission Team Training, 6:30PM

May 8

- Mother's Day
- MS & HS Camp Registrations Due

May 10

- Student Ministries Discipleship Team (SMDT), 6:30 PM

May 15

- No Longer Music Send-Off Concert, 6:30PM

May 25

- Summer Mission Team Training, 6:30PM

May 30

- Memorial Day



Mark Your Calendars:

June 5-11: HS Mission Trip to Montana Crow Reservation

June 19-25: High School Camp at Camp Judson

July 24-29: MS Camp at Timberlake NE

No Longer Music



David Pierce & No Longer Music "Send Off" Show
6:30pm Sunday May 15, 2011
Faith Baptist Fellowship
www.steiger.org/sendoff-sf

- Learn more about the ministry No Longer Music—led by David Pierce—and see the show for yourself!
- The NLM "show" uses a creative blend of live modern music, stage drama and other special effects to present a relevant, yet clear gospel message, including a powerful crucifixion and resurrection scene.
- Opportunity to meet and pray with the NLM team members prior to their evangelistic tour to Ukraine, Poland, Turkey, Bulgaria, Kosovo, Germany and Iraq.



FYI: THIS IS IT

The June issue of Focus on Faith will be digital! To make this a smooth transition, **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** To ensure that we have your current email address please email Deb at deb-bartels@faithbaptistfellowship.com. Plans are to use PDF format for all correspondence. If you do not have email, please call the church office, 331-3800, and we will gladly continue to mail newsletters, etc. to you.

SHARE MINISTRY UPDATE



Jesus declared, "I am the Bread of Life..." *John 6:35*

Where does your SHARE dollar go?

70% goes to Faith's **Weekly SHARE Fund**

to assist those from within our church or from our local community who apply for assistance & meet with the SHARE Team

20% goes to Faith's **Catastrophic Fund**, which accumulates to be used when some one within our church body suffers great need due to a catastrophic event
(Examples: house fire, severe prolonged illness)

10% goes to **National & District Converge Benevolence Funds**,

primarily used to assist pastors or pastor's widows

Thank You for your generous April donations. May you be blessed for sharing your blessings.

Summer Sunday School Teacher Sign Up

Class	Jun 5 th - Jun 26 th	July 10 th -31 st (No SS July 3 rd)	Aug 7 th - Aug 28 th
2's & 3's			
4's- 5's/K			
1 st -2 nd Grade			
3 rd ,4 th Grade			
5 th Grade			

If you have an interest in any of these opportunities, simply fill in the blanks and place in offering plate or drop off at the Promotions Center. We require all teachers to be current members or pursuing membership. If you have further questions, please contact Pastor Dave Vilhauer at 331-3800.

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____



Faith Groups Update:

We are excited to report that we have more than 20 Faith Groups in action with over 200 members. We are planning for growth with a goal of 300+ members in groups by year's end. If you are interested in joining (or leading) a Faith Group, please contact Mark Hecht at 605-274-4310, or email: mark.hecht@augie.edu.

Prime Time

PrimeTime (ages 55 and up) will meet on Tuesday, May 17th at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall. The program will feature Kermit Staggers, sharing about his son's service with the Peace Corps in Gambia, Africa. R.S.V.P. to Julie, 334-5303, for the catered meal; cost is \$8.50.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!!
July 18th-22nd**

THE EGYPT FILE:

Decoding the Mystery of Life

THE EGYPT FILE, from Answers in Genesis, is an evangelistic, joy-filled journey that uses apologetics to teach about the mystery and value of life. It is action packed, fun, but most importantly teaches kids that the Bible really is true and trustworthy. Join us July 18th-22nd, from 9AM-Noon.

Get in on the Secret!



What do you think of when you think of July?
Shining sun, hot days,
and Vacation Bible School!!

The Egypt File: July 18-22

9 am – 12 pm

VBS will be here before you know it. And we are looking for some talented people to assist in making this year's VBS the best ever!

VBS coordinator positions are:	
Director	
Assistant Director	
Craft Coordinator	
Snack Coordinator	
Game Coordinator	
Missions Coordinator	
Nursery Coordinator	
Prayer Coordinator	
Publicity Coordinator	
Music Coordinator	
Drama Director	Sharon Carey
Decorating Coordinator	
Photographer	BreAnn Lush

If you are interested in one of these key positions, please list your name and phone number by the desired position and return to the church office. (More opportunities to serve will be available soon.)

Kingdom Opportunities

Project: S.O.S. Supply Our Students

This summer we at Faith have the opportunity to couple with The Banquet and provide area students with essential school supplies. The Banquet gave more than 6,000 school supply packets to students in the 2010-2011 school year. Ninety percent of those supplies are given to students right here in the Sioux Falls School District. This is the same program you see in local stores just before school starts each year. The Banquet is the only agency that provides school supplies for students in need and we're proud to offer the opportunity to you to help with this ministry. Items that are most needed for Project: S.O.S. are ...

- * Backpacks
- * 5-inch and 7-inch pointed scissors
- * 12-count colored pencils
- * 8 & 10 count packages of Crayola Classic Markers (not bold)
- * 2-inch three ring binders
- * 24-count colored pencils
- * Dry erase markers

There will be containers by the Promotion Center for approximately 6 weeks through June and July to drop off these school items. Shop early and be ready!

Upcoming Kingdom Opportunities

May 15 & June 19 Union Gospel Mission **June – July** Supply Our Students

June 26th Center Of Hope Dinner

July 7-17 Germany Missions Trip w/Steiger International

July 10-17 Grand Island Missions Trip

Oct 7-17 Arizona Missions Trip w/ Curt VanEkeren

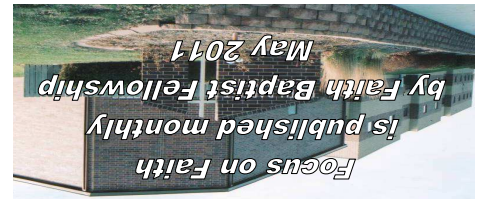
Contact any of the Kingdom Opportunity members for information:

JoAnne Tolliver: joannetolliver1951@yahoo.com

Diane Thompson: tidithompson@msn.com

Greg Friesner: drfriesner@yahoo.com

Cindy Gustafson: rsgus@alliancecom.net



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