

# The Sentinel

A WARTIME NEWSLETTER

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## Pray like this,

*the words of Jesus on the commandment of*

## PRAYER

MATTHEW 6 : 5 - 15

*this month*

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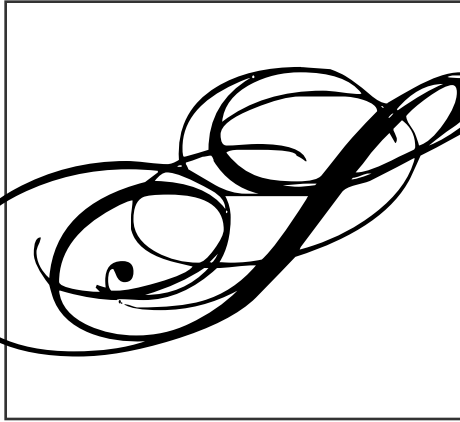
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# The Sentinel Newsletter



“So he may run who reads it...” Habakkuk 2:2

“Let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2

*The Sentinel*, A WARTIME NEWSLETTER, serves as an extension of the preaching and teaching of Strasburg Baptist Church. Our goal is to inform, equip and deliver to you spiritual encouragement according to biblical study.

If you, or someone you know would like to be added to our mailing list, whether by e-mail or usps, just let us know. It's free of charge.

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### *Corrections Policy*

If you, as a member of our church, feel we have printed anything in error and would wish to graciously present us with our mistakes, please use the provided information above to do so.

Only necessary corrections will be published.

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*The Sentinel* is on the web.

Visit the SBC website:

**WWW.STRASBURGBC.US**

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### **Recommended Reading from *The Sentinel*:**

*The Trials of Theology* edited by Andrew Cameron and Brian Rosner

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*from the editor*

**Don't Waste Your Cancer: The Story of Zac Smith**

<http://vimeo.com/9796056>

*A thought provoking video on prayer, suffering and how we live by faith amid trials & tribulation as Christians. I have to ask myself, "Does my comfort give God the glory He is due?"*

-mw

Prayer...

# Where Our Battles are Won!

by Preston Sanders

pastor, Strasburg Baptist Church

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*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. **For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.** Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And **pray in the Spirit** on all occasions with all kinds of **prayers** and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on **praying** for all the saints. **Pray** also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. **Pray** that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should. Ephesians 6:10-20*

Over the past year, I've learned that life's critical battles for the Christian are lost or won in the field of prayer.

We must conquer all our circumstances there. We must first of all bring them to God in prayer. We must survey them there. We must master them there. In prayer we bring our spiritual enemies into the Presence of God and we fight them there. Have you tried that? Or have you been satisfied to meet and fight your foes in the open spaces of the world and not on your knees in prayer?

I've learned as a child of His kingdom that when I fight the battles of His kingdom with the instruments of this earthly kingdom I end up badly beaten, bruised and broken. Prayer is one weapon I must use to engage the rulers, authorities, powers of this dark world and the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms that want to destroy all true Christians and their work for God's Kingdom. We must learn to do our battles in the field of prayer and not in our own strength and in the field of the flesh.

When we fight the enemy; the world, the flesh, and the devil on the field of prayer we will have certain victory in His strength. Let each of us drag our mean and unscriptural judgments to the field of prayer. Let us drag our immoral purposes and our insane prejudices and our malicious practices and our cruel passions to the field of prayer. Let us fight them and slay them there.

Men ought always to bring their evil antagonisms and difficulties into the presence of God. Force them into God's holy place and there fight and slay them. We ought always to *"pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints."*

I pray Lord that in the power of your Spirit each of us might declare your gospel fearlessly! Amen.

Pastor Preston

# A CONFESSION:

## The Lack of Prayer for Converts

by Gregg Schalk

### The Confession

I must confess, God does not know me to be a very prayerful person, especially for souls to be saved. God does not need my prayers to save souls, but He commands you and I to petition Him to call a people to Him and to send out workers for the harvest of souls, that He has prepared by the preaching of His word. Though I haven't read any of E. M. Bounds's books, a fellow Missourian, I found a quote by him that seems to sum my current situation. "Praying is spiritual work, and human nature does not like taxing, spiritual work. Human nature wants to sail to heaven under a pleasant breeze and a full, smooth sea." My dilemma is avoiding the real spiritual work necessary for a proper Christian walk. I have been allowing my human nature to rule my daily life. So this letter is especially for me to grow by God's grace to be more prayerful especially for souls to be saved.

### Mining our Prayers or Picking at Our Prayers

I've once read that praying is like mining the old-fashioned way. My grandfather was one of those old-fashioned coal miners who went deep into the earth with just a pick. He would talk about patiently picking away in the coal bed so as not to break the coal into many small pieces. He was focused on getting one large chunk of coal to load on his cart. At the moment his fellow workers thought he was slow, not really getting much: but by taking one large chunk he could haul out more at the end of the day than if it was in several small pieces. So prayer is like mining for coal- going deep into petitions, thanksgivings, and exhortations. We need to be focused on particulars, instead of blasting away without having a particular person in mind to mine. For example, a good and general prayer might be for the world to be saved, but also our prayers need to be focused on a particular person; patiently picking at them in our prayers. We want to pull one large chunk out, a particular soul saved by the work of the Holy Spirit as our pick.

By God's grace He raises up people to demonstrate how to pray; mentors for us to be like. One such person was George Mueller. Mr. Mueller lived during the 1800's and built 5 orphanages in England, caring for over 10,000 children, all the while pastoring the same church for 66 years and preaching three times a week. But Mr. Mueller also knew how to mine for coal (salvation of souls) in his prayers. Mr. Mueller believed the Lord had given him 30,000 souls in answered prayer. In a couple cases they were not saved until his funeral, after he had been praying for them for over 50 years. George Mueller knew the diligent, fervent, persistence prayer life the Lord Jesus instructed us to have in Luke 11:5-13. We must remember as Mr. Mueller would tell us, all that he did was only by God's grace. A persistent prayer life is only accomplished by God's grace.

### How to Mine: Praying for Salvation

Many times we pray for a person's well being, but forget their soul. Paul gives us a great way to petition God for their soul.

*"Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count*

*you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ."* 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12.

First, we see Paul always prays for them. Second, we see Paul does not just pray until they are saved, he will continue after a profession of faith, seeking that God see the glorious righteousness of Jesus in them at the final day of reckoning. Third, we see Paul prays God will then use them to show others His goodness because we enjoy His good pleasures. Forth, he prays that whatever they do may be done through faith. And fifth, Paul prays for all the above to glorify our Lord Jesus Christ.

We should not only pray for conversions of those we love, but also our enemies. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus said, *"But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you."* Luke 6:27-28.

Two kinds of people you don't forget are those you love and those who are your enemies. Just maybe God gives us enemies so we won't forget to pray for them. Not only are we to pray for souls to be saved, but by God's grace he sends others to reap His harvest. As Jesus commanded, we are to pray for people to go and harvest souls.

*"Then He said to His disciples, The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."* Matthew 9:37-38.

### Coal Mining Tools; Two Black Books

So I asked myself: What grace has God given me to be more diligent in praying for salvation of souls? One grace to help me dig for coal in my prayer life will be a little black book. The black book will remind me of the coal I need to be picking. I intend to record souls that I will be praying for salvation in this book. I hope the book will be a reminder for me to be more prayerful in general and for God's church and souls to be added to it. God gives us tools/graces in life to do His holy work. Ask God today what tools he has provided you.

The other black-covered book, that I will be mining souls with, is God's Holy Scripture. By God's grace this past year I have been able to read more of it. And the one thing that has been growing in my life is my prayer life, talking to God. God has given us His Word as His primary means to speak to us by His Spirit. As I have been reading His Word, I feel like a little child learning new words and spiritual language. I am becoming more able to communicate back to God in my prayers. As a child we learned from our parents to speak. So God has given us His holy scripture to learn to speak to Him. I have to conclude that concern for the salvation of souls will first begin with our soaking in His word. Paul knew this, because you see him asking for prayers in the spreading God's word in the lives of others. To spread the word is to first know the word and then pray for word to be spread.

*Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you.* 2 Thessalonians 3:1 +

# Saints Praying

by Bob Hausmann

You don't need to be a Christian very long before you hear the clear call in Scripture to pray fervently and constantly. Fervent and constant prayer is modeled all through the Bible by saints who have gone before us.

Moses pleaded "*Lord, show me your glory*" [Exodus 33:18] as he led the children of Israel through the desert for forty years. Hannah poured out her soul to the Lord, her lips moving but no sound coming out, asking for a son that she could give back to the Lord. The Lord answered her cry and gave her Samuel. King Hezekiah and Isaiah the prophet together sought the Lord in prayer regarding the encroaching Assyrian army. God heard their plea and routed the enemy. David filled the book of Psalms with both rising prayers of praise and heart felt cries of anguish. Saints down through the ages have repeated David's words in prayers spoken and sung back to God.

The Christian life is clearly one filled with prayer. That's why the Apostle Paul reminds us to be "*devoted to prayer*" (Rom 12:12), to "*pray without ceasing*" (1 Thess 5:17), and to be "*anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God*" (Phil 4:6). Constant, heartfelt, fervent, unceasing, and needed ... these are marks of prayer in the Christian life.

Once you are convinced that prayer is integral to the Christian life and you begin to spend more time in your prayer closet, you may also begin to realize that the lives of other saints around you need prayers – your prayers. In fact, that is exactly what God calls us to do – to pray for each other constantly. Paul says it this way "*pray at all times in the Spirit, ... with all perseverance and petition for all the saints*" (Eph 6:18). The implication is that fellow believers that we know and love need our prayers. And so, God has called us to pray for them constantly, at all times, in the Spirit.

Although God can do anything with or without our prayers, it is simply amazing that God uses our prayers to bring about His purposes in the lives of others. God is pleased to work in

the lives of fellow saints for their good through our prayers.

So, our prayer list just got pretty long. There are a lot of people at Strasburg Baptist Church (SBC). If we are called to pray for *all* the saints, we've got a lot of work to do.

But how is someone supposed to pray for a fellow saint? What type of things do you pray for? Do you just pray for physical ailments? Do you only pray for sick aunts and uncles or other relatives? Do you pray only when the saint goes into the hospital? Are you supposed to pray for things like broken down cars, clogged sinks, and loss of jobs?

The answer is "yes", you should certainly pray for all those things mentioned above. However, that is not all you should pray for. That is just the tip of the iceberg. There is so much more that we need to be praying for concerning our fellow saints.

To find out other things that we should be praying for our fellow saints, we need to open the Scriptures and examine the prayers of Paul. Paul prayed specific things for the gathering saints. His prayers can instruct us in ways to better pray for each other.

Take for example one of Paul's prayers in Ephesians:

*For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.* (Ephesians 3:14-19)

In this prayer, we can see that Paul prays several things for the saints in Ephesus. First, in verse 16, Paul prays that God would give the saints a new inner strength, an inner strength flowing from the power of the Holy Spirit. So, Paul is praying for inner spiritual strength – to fight sin, to walk in holiness, to live for Christ. Paul knows that living a life for Jesus

requires supernatural help – i.e. Holy Spirit empowerment – and that is what he prays for the saints.

But there is more. The prayer to be "*strengthened with power through the Holy Spirit*" in verse 16 is also a stepping stone towards increased faith and trust in Christ who lives in us (verse 17). Paul's desire for the saints is for Christ's indwelling presence to increase more and more through ongoing faith. So, Paul prays "*that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith*".

Paul is still not done praying though. He continues by requesting of God that the saints would begin to comprehend and know the enormity of the love of God for them. The love of God is beyond complete comprehension ultimately, but Paul prays that the saints would begin to climb this Mt. Everest of the love of God. Paul wants the saints to scale the heights and breadth of the love of God so that they are blown away by the sheer magnitude of it all.

That leads to the last thing Paul prays. Paul prays in verse 19 that all of the preceding prayers would work towards a final end goal: that the saints may be filled with the fullness of God – i.e. that their hearts would brim in faith in Christ as the power of the Holy Spirit strengthened them and that they grew to marvel at the love of Christ for them.

So, from this one example of Paul's prayer, we've just learned at least four specific things that we can pray for our fellow saints who need our prayers:

- Pray for the saints at SBC to be strengthened with power through the Spirit in the inner man
- Pray for the presence of Christ to increase among the saints at SBC through faith
- Pray for the saints at SBC to grow in our understanding of the magnitude of Christ's awesome love for us demonstrated on the cross
- Pray for the saints at SBC to be filled up with the fullness of God

There are many more examples of Paul's prayers that we can use to learn how to pray for each other. Here is a short summary from some of the other

*continued on page 6*



deliberate  
discipleship

DISCIPLES OF JESUS are prayed for by Jesus.  
It's a good thing, too. Not sure we'd last otherwise.

Take Peter for instance. Satan was getting ready to wring Peter out like a wet rag. More accurately, Satan had demanded "to sift Peter like wheat" – a violent action done to break the wheat down and tear it apart so that the grain could be removed from the chaff.

The odds were not in Peter's favor, except for one thing: Jesus prayed

for Peter. Jesus told Peter "*I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.*" [Luke 22:32]

Notice how Jesus prayed for His disciple. Jesus didn't pray for the sifting and wringing to go away. He prayed for endurance through the trial. He prayed for a faith that

would not fail. He prayed that when Peter was at his lowest, as an utter failure having been successfully sifted by the enemy, that Peter would go on trusting God as Savior.

Jesus knew the outcome of His prayers. They are a done deal. That's why He confidently said to Peter "*when once you have turned, strengthen your brothers.*" Peter did turn. He did repent and was restored

in faith. He then obeyed Jesus and strengthened his brothers. You can read his strengthening work in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter.

Friends, rejoice that we have such a Savior who prays for His disciples! Go on believing in the midst of your trials knowing that Jesus prays for you – knowing that God answers pleas from His Beloved Son. +

### ELDERS Q & A

A question and answer session regarding the issue of establishing elders at SBC was held on January 24, 2010 during the adult Sunday School hour. One of the questions asked is reprinted below. Although the reprinted question is not exactly word for word, it represents the essence of what was being asked by the questioner. A response from the Elder Recognition Committee has been supplied for the question.

**Q:** Will bringing in elders do away with congregationalism? (i.e. congregational rule & leadership)

**A:** *An Opening Comment:* The original intent of the Elder Recognition Committee (ERC) was to study the biblical case for elders and then make a recommendation to the church body regarding the establishment of elders or not. After a church vote, if elders were established, then the idea was to have the elders labor over the issue of church governance and decide on a biblical course of action for SBC. It would have been at that time, after the church approved elders, that the issue of "congregationalism" would have been addressed by the elders as they sought a biblical model for church governance.

However, due to a variety of factors and recent events, the ERC has determined that it is in the best interest of SBC to make a recommendation for church governance for consideration by the congregation of SBC at the same time that the issue of elders is considered by SBC. Therefore, the ERC will be studying, debating, fasting, and praying over the issue of church governance throughout the next several months.

*Doing away with Congregationalism?:* In answering this question, it is important to note that the term "congregationalism" needs to be clearly defined before an adequate answer can be given. So, unless and until the term is defined, the short answer is "maybe, but maybe not".

For example, if by "congregationalism" you mean that the church body has sole power and authority to make all decisions and no decision can be made unless the church votes on it – all the way from what should be taught in Sunday

School to when we should buy paperclips – then the answer is "yes, we will be doing away with congregationalism". No church can operate if every decision must be made by a church vote. In fact, that is why SBC does not embrace this form of congregationalism (although some churches do).

On the other end of the spectrum, if by doing away with "congregationalism" you mean will we establish a small band of men who will lord over the church, taking no input from the members, and be without accountability to the body, then the answer is "no, we will not be doing away with congregationalism". Scripture clearly exhorts elders to **not** lord over those allotted to their charge, but instead to tenderly lead them, watching over the flock and guarding the gathering of believers as elders who must give an account.

So, there are varying degrees of congregationalism where the congregation invests different levels of trust in certain people to represent them and make decisions for them. The question that the ERC will wrestle in the next several months is where do we draw the line on what decisions are for the elders and what decisions are for a congregational vote. All that can be said at this time is that we will end up somewhere between the two extremes outlined above.

The real question should not be "*will we do away with congregationalism?*", but instead, "*what form of congregationalism is biblical?*" We desire to be biblically faithful in our pursuit of church governance that glorifies the Lord and beautifies the bride whom He bought with His blood. +

# *What is your hope in?*

**DN10 DiscipleNow** weekend answers by Rebekah Bricker

*But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. 1 Peter 3:15*

“ Jesus Christ! Philippians 4:13 “

-Amanda Moorefield

“ My hope is in Jesus, knowing that he takes care and keeps me going and he’s with me amidst the pain.”

-Sandy Collins

“Jesus Christ’s righteousness. Now more than ever. Everyday. “

-Preston Sanders

## *Featured Hymn & Prayer*

Suggested for reading & meditation while in your prayer closet.

*From a Puritan prayerbook: Valley of Vision, page 5*

### **GOD: THE SOURCE OF ALL GOOD**

**O LORD GOD, WHO INHABITEST ETERNITY,**

The heavens declare thy glory, The earth thy riches, The universe is thy temple; Thy presence fills immensity, Yet thou hast of thy pleasure created life, and communicated happiness; Thou hast made me what I am, and given me what I have; In thee I live and move and have my being; Thy providence has set the bonds of my habitation, and wisely administers all my affairs. I thank thee for thy riches to me in Jesus, for the unclouded revelation of him in thy Word, where I behold his Person, Character, grace, glory, humiliation, sufferings, death, and resurrection; Give me to feel a need of his continual saviourhood, and cry with Job,

‘I am vile’, with Peter, ‘I perish’ with the publican, ‘Be merciful to me, a sinner’. Subdue in me the love of sin, Let me know the need of renovation as well as of forgiveness, in order to serve and enjoy thee for ever. I come to thee in the all-prevailing name of Jesus, with nothing of my own to plead, no works, no worthiness, no promises. I am often straying, often knowingly opposing thy authority, often abusing thy goodness; Much of my guilt arises from my religious privileges, my low estimation of them, my failure to use them to my advantage, But I am not careless of thy favor or regardless of thy glory; Impress me deeply with a sense of thine omnipresence, that thou art about my path, my ways, my lying down, my end.

### **O Sacred Head**

*Words attributed to Bernard of Clairvaux, 1153*

O sacred Head, now wounded,  
With grief and shame weighed down,  
Now scornfully surrounded,  
With thorns, Thy only crown,  
How art Thou pale with anguish,  
With sore abuse and scorn!  
How does that visage languish  
Which once was bright as morn!

What Thou, my Lord, has suffered  
Was all for sinners gain;  
Mine, mine was the transgression,  
But Thine the deadly pain.  
Lo, here I fall, my Savior!  
‘Tis I deserve Thy place;  
Look on me with Thy favor,  
Vouchsafe to me Thy grace.

What language shall I borrow  
To thank Thee, dearest friend,  
For this Thy dying sorrow,  
Thy pity without end?  
O make me Thine forever;  
And, should I fainting be,  
Lord, let me never, never  
Outlive my love for Thee!

Scripture texts:

-Pray for saints at SBC to be filled with the knowledge of God's will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding

-Pray for doors to open for the saints at SBC to clearly proclaim the mystery of Christ

-Pray for the eyes of the hearts of the saints at SBC to be enlightened

-Pray for the saints at SBC to increase in the knowledge of the hope of God's calling

-Pray for the saints at SBC to comprehend the surpassing greatness of God's power toward us who believe

-Pray for the love of the saints at SBC to increase more and more for one another

-Pray that the name of the Lord Jesus would be glorified among the saints at SBC

(Ref: Col 1:9-14, 4:2-4; Eph 1:15-23; Phil 1:9-11; 1Thess 3:11-13; 2Thess 1:11-12)

May the Lord stir our hearts to pray fervently and constantly for our fellow saints as we ponder afresh Paul's prayers for the church.

Now, let us pray:

"Lord, hear our cry. We want to pray more and more for each other. We want to grow in love for each other as we seek the best for each other in prayer. Teach us to pray. Help us to form new habits and new ways of interceding for our brothers and sisters. Forgive us for lack of prayer. Forgive us for lazy praying. Forgive us for lifeless praying. Thank You that You are long suffering. Thank You that the blood of Jesus cleanses us from our sin. Thank You for faith in Jesus - may You increase our faith and strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit. May You open our eyes to the wonder of Your magnificent love. Work Your grace of renewal in us for Your glory sake, that all the saints may be filled to the fullness of God. In the name of Jesus our Lord and for His glory we pray. Amen"

What do paintballing, visiting the elderly and infirm and studying the Bible have in common? The answer is: DN10. The 4<sup>th</sup> annual retreat otherwise known as Disciple Now.

On March 12, 2010, near 45 young men and women gathered at Strasburg Baptist Church for a weekend of fellowship, learning, and worship. This year's focus was "Becoming...like the world or Christlike?" Throughout the weekend the youth looked into such topics as spiritual blindness, who you are in Christ, who is Christ, loving everyone, rejoicing in trials, and the process of transforming, renewing and becoming more Christlike. The youth were encouraged to look into the Word of God to find their answers as they seek to become more and more like Christ.

On Friday evening, the youth gathered in the gym for a short time of fellowship. An amazing meal of spaghetti, bread and salad was served followed by two short videos. One was entertaining and sort of thought-provoking, while the other challenged the youth to think about what they treasure in their lives. Following the videos there was a short "getting to know you" activity and then the groups dispersed to the host's homes. There they spent the rest of the evening looking into the Word of God. While lights out was scheduled for 10:20 the word out is that the curfew was extended and possibly non-existent in several homes. After all, who goes to bed at 10:20 on a Friday night?

Now we get to the relationship of paintball and visiting the elderly and infirm. On Saturday during the gender challenge time the girls all went to the care center in Pleasant Hill, while the boys spent the morning at the Thomas' house for an activity that involved paint ball.

One might ask, "What was the challenge in visiting a care center?" The answer lies in these comments from some of the girls following the visit. "If I had known before hand this was the challenge I would not have wanted to do it, but now I am really glad I did and plan to go back soon!" Another young lady said, "I was nervous, but I learned so much from the people that I talked to. They gave me good advice." And yet another said, "This was an opportunity to get out of my comfort zone, big time, and when we left I saw what an impact giving just a few hours of my time can make in someone's life." The girls helped elderly men and women, by playing games with them, singing songs to them, doing crafts with them and handing out snacks. It was a wonderful and challenging opportunity to serve. The opportunity to share the gospel arose and at least one Bible was given to someone who desired to learn more. Praise be to the Father in heaven, for showing us how he works so beautifully not only in blessing the girls but also those in the care center. As Lee Champion, one of the leaders

and host home hosts said after the challenge, "It was wonderful to see our younger generation and our older generation, connect and bond."

The gender challenge for the young men was a war like search and rescue activity. The guys were searching for items located out in the wilderness. There were several trials that faced them during their search that included muddy conditions, cold rainy weather and some wicked "demons" with paint balls tormenting them. The purpose of the challenge was to encourage them to persevere in their walk with Christ.

Following an afternoon of Bible study and fellowship in the host homes all the teams

gathered in the gym again to watch a video by Voddie Baucham, on the supremacy of Christ and truth in a postmodern world. By preaching out of Colossians 1:15-23, he expanded on the supremacy of Christ and the importance of truth.

Then after devouring a wonderful Mexican dinner, the young men and women headed to the sanctuary for a time of praise and worship through music and preaching. The guest speaker, was Jason McFeerson, a youth pastor for the Fort Osage Church of the Nazarene.

On Sunday morning all of the teams journeyed back to the church where they ate some breakfast and gathered for the final session of the DN10 weekend. Following the morning worship service many of the weekend participants, (leaders and home hosts included) went home to recover with a much needed nap! Though this weekend was exhausting, there were many times and many ways in which the Holy Spirit worked. Please continue to pray for our youth as they come to know, love and honor the Savior, Jesus Christ.

Thank you to all the cooks, host homes, leaders and everyone who gave so freely of their time and energy to serve the youth during this Disciple Now weekend.+

# FYI:

## **Bible Studies**

The following Bible studies meet on a regular basis and you are encouraged to choose one or more to attend. All are open studies and can be joined at any time! Please prayerfully consider joining one! Presently the following studies are:

**Mondays @ 9:45 am:** Saints in Training are studying "Bible Promises for You."

**Monday @ 6:30 pm:** First Place

**Tuesday @ 10:00 am:** A women's study titled "Embracing Gods Grace Meets at Rena Ruckdeschell's home.

**Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm:** The Inductive Bible Study, Observation, Interpretation & Application is an adult study that meets at the church. We are presently studying the book of 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy.

**Alternating Thursdays @ 7:00 pm (April 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>):** The Genesis Study is a men's study that meets @ Kevin Harris' home

**Alternating Thursdays @ 7:00 pm (April 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>):** A Chronological study of the Gospels is a men's study that meets at the church. Childcare is provided.

**Alternating Thursdays @ 7:00 pm (April 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>):** Humility: True Greatness is a women's study that meets at the church. Childcare is provided.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month @ 7:00 (April 11<sup>th</sup>):** Worship Matters is a study for anyone interested in worship through music.

**For The Whole Family:** "See What a Morning" an Easter Cantata will be presented on **Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** and

again on **Sunday Morning at 10:45.** The choir desires to share the wonderful excitement, beauty and joy they have found in the resurrection of Christ with all who will come and hear! Please consider attending one of these joyous services!

**Game Night** is on the **16<sup>th</sup> of April at 6:30pm.** Bring a favorite game, a favorite snack and your favorite friends and come join us as we spend an evening fellowshiping together. People of all ages are welcome and there is something entertaining for everyone! Hope to see you there!

The **All Hands Cleaning** was a great success! From the cobwebs on the ceiling to the dust on the floorboards the church building was deeply cleaned. Thank you to all who braved the weather to come out and serve in this manner.

The **NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY!** Our new church directories are to be shipped on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to everyone who took the time to get their picture taken for the directory. It will be helpful for all of us to see names and faces and to see the various adult ministries, children's ministries and Sunday School Classes. There are so many people that help in so many places each week and this directory will picture those areas of service that we so much appreciate but never hear much about.

We did not qualify for the 3 Ring Binder style directories that we wanted. We wanted to put business and family information in the back and be able to add to it. So that information will not be printed in directory. **For those of you that had your picture taken,** you will receive a **free directory.** Those that were **not photographed**

may purchase a directory for **\$6.00.** When the directories arrive, we will have them available for pick up in the foyer.

In case you did not know we now have a **valet service** at the North entrance for anyone needing it. Just inform the greeter at the door of your need and your car will be parked for you and then retrieved when you are ready to go home.

## **Men Serving Christ/ Serving Others:**

This month's Men's movie night is sponsoring a Good Friday evening service on April 2<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 6:30pm. Everyone is invited to come for an evening focused on Christ and the Cross. We will view the raw and brutal, yet heart softening, and thought provoking movie, "The Passion". This movie portrays the final hours of Jesus' life on this earth and enables the viewer to gain some perspective on the events leading to and including Christ's death on the cross. Please note that this movie is for mature audiences due to the graphic content.

The **Deacons** will meet for their monthly meeting on **April 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm.** Deacons of the week during the month of April are : April 5<sup>th</sup>, Bill Curtin, April 12<sup>th</sup> Bob Glentzer, April 19<sup>th</sup> Gary Moulder, and April 26<sup>th</sup> Jim Nichols.

The monthly **Brotherhood Breakfast** will be held **April 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am.** Come enjoy some delicious food, excellent fellowship and for those willing and able a possible work project!

Don't forget to sign up in the foyer for this year's **"God and Guns" men's retreat.** It will be held in Warsaw, MO, **May 7<sup>th</sup> and**

**8<sup>th</sup>.** For more information please Call Bob Champion @816-540-6054 or Roger Proffitt @816-987-3110

The **April Usher list** is located on the **bulletin board** in the **foyer hallway.** If you would be willing to serve as an usher on a monthly basis, please contact Roger Kemerling @ 987-6113

## **Women Serving Christ/ Serving Others:**

Ladies we are incredibly excited to announce the one day **"Keep A Smile on Your Faith" Retreat** to be held on **April 17<sup>th</sup>.** Debi Stack and Fawn Brent are two energetic women who love the Lord and have a wonderful way of teaching His word, therefore encouraging and edifying women in their faith in God. They refer to themselves as Two Clay Pots drawing the name from the verse in 2 Corinthians 4:7 *"But we have this treasure in jars of Clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."* I recently had the opportunity to meet with these two women and their excitement and love for the Lord was very evident. Sign up for this exciting and fun-filled event in the foyer. For more information or if you have questions please feel free to contact Rena Ruckdeschell or the church office. The **Deacon's wives** will meet at **4:30 on Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>.**

**WMU** meets on **April 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm** and we are always looking for women of all ages who enjoy working in different ways in the mission field. Watch for upcoming information concerning these opportunities to serve. We are currently collecting for the Annie Armstrong offering and our goal is \$1200.00 .

## Missed Sunday School?

# *The Heart & Mind class is now on YouTube!*

visit the channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/HEARTandMINDministry>

**Acteens** will meet **April 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30**. You are invited to the **Acteens Coronation** to be held on **Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm**. This special service will recognize those young women who have completed 16 Quests during the past 8 months. They will each receive a crown representing their dedication to service and missions. These young ladies have worked very hard this year on several projects. One such project was mission work in a downtown Kansas City Muslim community reaching out to African refugees and Americans and another was collecting gifts and devotional materials for the boys and girls at both of the Missouri Baptist Children's Homes. Most recently, they collected over \$500 for the Golden Valley Door of Hope to go toward an Ultra-sound Machine and gathered gifts to meet the needs of those that the facility ministers to. While serving in these ways the girls have had to learn the importance of balancing outreach, body strengthening, sports and school. Even though this has been a challenge, these young ladies are looking forward to another year of service to the Lord. Please consider attending

this very special event. A finger food fellowship will immediately follow the ceremony.

### **Children's Church:**

Children's church continues to be a blessing to both the workers and students. The newly implemented Music/worship time has been wonderful. What fun to see these children 2 years through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade praise the Lord in this manner! The children in the 2 and 3 year class ask throughout the hour "Is it time to go (to music) yet?" Praise God for the way he lifts workers up to lead others in worshipping Him! We are always looking for volunteers to work with our children. Lesson plans, craft supplies, and snacks are all provided for each class every week. Each class also has at least 2 adult workers. If you feel that this is an area in which you could serve, please contact Linda Duncan or Pam Albrecht.

### **RA's, GA's, and Mission Friends:**

Meeting every Sunday evening at 6:00 these mission minded ministries offer age appropriate activities for children ages 3 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. A missionary or missionary family is spotlighted

each month and positive character trait building is taught. Scripture memory is encouraged as well. These three ministries strive to teach the children to love God and to serve others. One special event going on in April is the GA retreat in Chillicothe MO. The girls leave on April 16<sup>th</sup> and return on the 17<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to hearing about their fun weekend.

### **Prayer Chain Gang:**

There are times each week when someone will call the office and request that they or a loved one be put on our prayer chain. Often someone is sick, sometimes there has been a death in their family, other times something devastating or tragic has happened and the only thing they know to do is ask for prayer. When these requests come in, I send out a summons for prayer from a group of people that desire to obey the command of our Lord found in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 to "Pray without ceasing." I appreciate the immediate response I often get from those who pray as well as the enquiries the next day and the next concerning the wellbeing of those they are praying for. And even though at times we don't

hear back from those that have requested the prayer, we know and believe that God has heard and we trust his sovereign hand to work according to His will in every situation!

Prayer is essential! It is our open line of communication with God. He is available at every moment of every day. We are grateful for Jesus and the Spirit who intercede for us. So on behalf of the Prayer Chain Gang, I make this offer: If you desire others to pray for you and with you about anything, feel free to call and have your request put on the prayer chain.

**ATTN: All Ministry Leaders**, if you have an upcoming event that you would like to let our Church know about through *The Sentinel*, please contact our church office with all relevant information prior to issue deadlines.

Deadline for each issue is the 1st of the month prior to publication.

(i.e. If your event date is in August, requests for print must be in before July 1.)

**"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Hebrews 4:16**

## Monthly Book Give Away!

If you are an avid reader, be sure to sign up for the drawing that may possibly put a new book into your hands. Every month the SBC Library will be giving away two books.

THE TITLES OF THIS MONTH'S BOOKS ARE:

*Gilead: A Novel* by Marilynne Robinson | & | *The Cross and Christianity Ministry* by D. A. Carson

To be a in the drawing, CONTACT: Judi Hausmann 816.540.5123 with your name and number.

LAST MONTH'S WINNERS ARE: *Hope Gilmore & Crystal Wheeler* CONGRATULATIONS!

# Psalm 90

## A prayer of Moses, the man of God

Lord, you have been our dwelling place  
throughout all generations.

Before the mountains were born  
or you brought forth the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You turn men back to dust,  
saying, "Return to dust, O sons of men."

For a thousand years in your sight  
are like a day that has just gone by,  
or like a watch in the night.

You sweep men away in the sleep of death;  
they are like the new grass of the morning-

though in the morning it springs up new,  
by evening it is dry and withered.

We are consumed by your anger  
and terrified by your indignation.

You have set our iniquities before you,  
our secret sins in the light of your presence.

All our days pass away under your wrath;  
we finish our years with a moan.

The length of our days is seventy years  
or eighty, if we have the strength;  
yet their span is but trouble and sorrow,  
for they quickly pass, and we fly away.

Who knows the power of your anger?  
For your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.

Teach us to number our days aright,  
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Relent, O LORD! How long will it be?  
Have compassion on your servants.

Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,  
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,  
for as many years as we have seen trouble.

May your deeds be shown to your servants,  
your splendor to their children.

May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us;  
establish the work of our hands for us  
yes, establish the work of our hands.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Galatians 1:3-5