
What Have We Lost?



April
2009

Last month Delinda wrote of her impressions of Belize. Sunday morning March 8, David Brady brought us a rousing sermon based on his impressions and their impact on a larger scale. Then in the evening several team members provided their thoughts and pictures of the exciting times we all had while in Belize, Central America. Several have asked for my impressions and I honestly have to say that I am very mixed. I am



overjoyed with the experience. I am overwhelmed with what God could possibly have waiting for New Sterling in Belize. As a pastor, I am challenged with how to respond given all that has been laid before us. I feel torn in so many ways. But as I reflect, one thought that keeps creeping into my mind is one that I must admit is more challenging.

During my two weeks there I was repeatedly impressed with how much Jesus Christ was at the center of the lives of many of the people of Belize. Now, I am not naïve to think that all of the Belizean people feel this way but the small sampling we met certainly lived with Jesus as a major factor in their daily lives. The National Anthem of Belize and their National Prayer mentions Jesus by name several times. Here in the US we are debating the removal of ‘under God’ from the Pledge of Allegiance. What would we do if the name of Jesus appeared? I fear to think!

The thought that continues to creep into my mind is this: how much Christianity have we lost in our country. While in Belize a lady said to one of the team members that, “If we were not Christian, I don’t know what we would be.” We in the US can’t make that statement. It is widely accepted that the US is now a post-Christian nation meaning that the time has past that a Christian influence is the leading authority in our country.

So what can we do? First, wake up! Realize that this is the case. Realize that we are not a Christian nation. We have lost that identifier. Second, live as a Christian. Each adult who has influence over another adult or a child must realize that we have the responsibility to live all parts of our lives according to biblical teachings with no qualifications, alterations or modifications. Our lives should be a resolute influence on everyone around us. In addition, we should expect the lives of those under our authority to be lived according to this standard as well. Third, call out and or deny anything that is counter to a Christian moral. This will take guts. But I plead with you to take this stand. The first place to take this stand is in your home with your children. We must teach our children that there is a Christian expectation and when they deviate from it, they are **WRONG**. Folks it is OK to tell your teenage children they are wrong. It will not cause irreversible psychological damage. You are the parent. Tell them in love and teach them.

Fourth, ensure you and your children are involved in church activities and family worship time more than you are involved in secular activities, be it sporting events, dancing, gymnastics, etc. This is a matter of influence by volume. If our children spend only 2-3 hours weekly in church activities or worship time with the family but dedicate 40+ hours in secular activities, which do you think will have a greater influence? If our children are struggling with life issues then one reason may be that they are given too little exposure to Christian teaching.

Other things could be offered but I will only add one final encouragement: pray. Pray for God's guidance for our leaders. Pray that their consciences be convicted by the Holy Spirit when they depart from biblical guidance. Pray for men to lead their families as Christian men should do. Pray for the women to be Titus 2 women and teach and lead biblically.

Over the history of our country we have moved gradually and slowly away from a sound biblical foundation. Leaders have come with many of them promising to be the savior or the one who has the plan to lead this nation to recovery. Instead of moving closer, the country continues to move farther away from our Lord. Over the same slow, gradual time we have become desensitized to the effects the damage many of the leaders have done. We have become desensitized to the demands of living a Christian life and too easily have fallen prey to the secular, relative, 'faith is a private matter' lies being offered. In the church we have become tolerant and too nice, not wanting to upset anyone. Many in the Church want to look like the world so we will be easily accepted by the people. Jesus said, "Be holy as my Father in heaven is holy." He did not say to be anything like the world. We have lost our first love.

How much more will we lose? This is a question directed to each of us personally because each of us individually can decide to follow God and his ways rather than the non-Christian nation in which we now live. Teach your home what it means to be a Christian and expect each person within your home to live to those teachings. As Rev. Tony Evans has said, "change the home, change a community; change a community and change a state; change the state and in time you will change a nation."

May God have mercy on our nation!

Pastor Tim



Our deepest sympathy is expressed to Andy Hartness and his family in the passing of his father Bill Hartness.

Sympathy is also expressed to Frank "Sarge" Emery in the passing of his brother, Lester Emery.

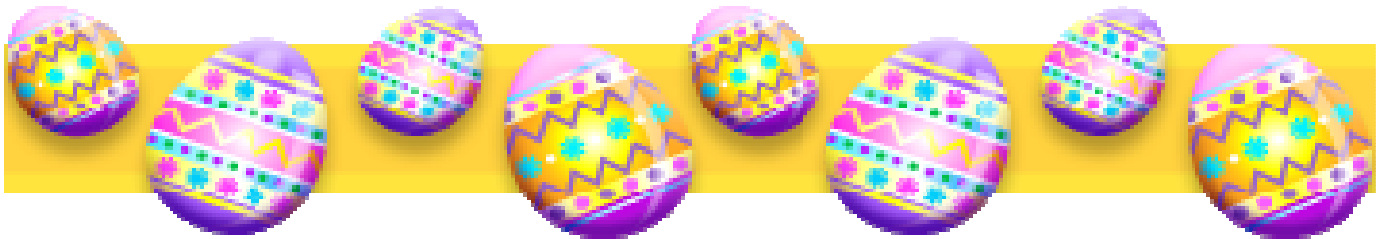
HEY KIDS!!!!!!!!!!



It's time to hide the eggs!!!!

Are you ready to find them????

If you are be at the church Saturday April 11 at 11:00am for our annual Easter egg hunt. Parents, we will have a light lunch after.



All youth grades 5-Sr. High: your leaders need your assistance..... Meet at the church at 10:30 to help set up and hide the eggs for the children. If you have any questions, please call Taryn Setzer.

NEWS FROM STERLING SILVERS



The Women's Ministries served a very delicious meal at the last meeting in March. To express our appreciation it was our pleasure to present each server a long stem rose for this honor.

Each woman whose birthday was in March were also presented a rose. Judy Watson gave us a briefing of some day trips we could make in North Carolina from an associate she met in Belize.

Pat Sherrill, Minnie Pope, Jim Snyder, Earl and Harriet Linderman, SARGE and Pastor Tim ventured to Bessemer City for the Spring Fling at the Hephzibah Presbyterian Church. Classes in Bible Study, Psalm Singing and a Craft Class that made some fancy bookmarks. Thanks, Pastor Tim, for being our driver.

The next meeting of Sterling Silvers will be at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall on April 13. We will discuss some trips for one of the months May or June. The devotional for the meetings will be rotated among the members.

The photo was taken at the last meeting. Truly a handsome group—Don't you think? Thanks to Pat Sherrill for arranging the photo sessions.



Sincerely,
SARGE





Proverbs 31 Ministries

Renee Swope is a wife, a mom and a friend. She's also a national speaker, author and co-host of Proverbs 31 Ministries international radio show. With warmth, transparency and contagious passion Renee speaks from a heart that has been transformed by the power of God's love! She knows the challenges women face, the heartaches and joys we share. Sprinkled with humor and saturated with Truth - Renee's message will bring you insights that are powerful and applications that are practical.

Be sure to join us for an evening with Renee - you'll leave challenged as a woman and encouraged as a child of God!

To find out more about Renee, visit www.ReneeSwope.com or www.Proverbs31.org

Come and hear Renee speak
At our
Mothers and Others Banquet
"A Celebration of Women"
on
May 7th at 7:00 pm





April 4	8:00 am	Session & Diaconate—'Keys of the Kingdom'
	9:00 am	Knit Wits—Meet in the parlor
April 5		Palm Sunday
	5:00 pm	C3 Practice
	6:00 pm	Sunday Family Night
April 6	9:30 am	Golden Christian Circle
	6:30 pm	Evangelism/Membership Committee
April 9	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service
April 10	7:30 pm	Seekers Bible in the Parlor
April 11	9:00 am	Women's Council—Emily Nash & Judy Stewart hostesses
	11:00 am	Easter Egg Hunt
April 12	7:00 am	Easter Sunrise Service
		Breakfast
	11:00 am	Easter Service
April 13	10:30 am	Sterling Silvers
	7:00 pm	Property & Maintenance Committee
April 14	7:00 pm	Treasure Keepers—Emily Nash, Hostess; Meal—Emily Nash, Betty Godfrey, Lori Compton, Jeanette Hauck
April 15	9:30 am	Mary-Martha Sunrise—Virginia Brady, hostess Peggy Gray, facilitator
April 16	7:00 pm	Men's Life Issues Bible Study
April 19	5:00 pm	C3 Practice
April 19	6:00 pm	Sunday Family Night
		Jubilee Birthday Celebration
April 20	7:00 pm	Knit Wits—Parlor
April 20-24		Bonclarken Work Week
April 24-25		30 Hour Famine
April 21	7:00 pm	Mary-Martha Sunset—at the Church; Kitiz Emery, Facilitator; Pat Price/Julie Winters, refreshments
April 24	7:30 pm	Seekers Bible Study
April 26	5:00 pm	C3 Practice
	6:00 pm	Sunday Family Night
April 27	7:00 pm	Experiencing God Bible Study

Here and There at New Sterling

It was a awesome experience at the **Senior High Retreat** this spring those who attended were **LaurenGryder, Lauren Bailey, Kortney Hauck, Daniel Pugh, Taryn Setzer, and Jessica Graham.....Steve and Judy Stewart's** granddaughter Victoria Sloan was chosen to be in the Iredell Statesville Elementary Honors Chorus. They will sing at Statesville Senior High on May 4.....The family of **Brent Mauney** are receiving letters from him frequently, he is doing well in boot camp for the Air Force in San Antonio TX and will be graduating on April 24, **Bill and Delinda Mauney, Cliff Mauney, Brian and Taryn Setzer** are planning to attend his graduation in Texas.....Ask **Erin Elizabeth Waugh** how she feels about Dermatology AND ask her about her useless knowledge about having a average day. What kind of average day.....You'll just have to ask her!!.....**Madelyn McNeely** was chosen by her school to attend a leadership conference in Washington D.C.. **Her family and the Gryders** went with her and made a vacation out of it.....**Dr. Earl Linderman** recently had his pacemaker replaced.....**Florence Brookshire** recently had back surgery..... **Kitzi Emery** had her thyroid completely removed and will undergo treatments in the next few weeks.....**28 ladies** attended the beach retreat this year, It was a weekend of relaxation, good bible study and reflection, fellowship, laughter, tears, and good food.....The **Junior High Spring retreat** was a big hit!! Those who attended were: **Maggie Emery, Madison Winters, Garrett Deal, Cody Hairyes, Jacob McNeely, Adam Donahoe, Brianna Little, Jayce Sherrill, Jared Hauck, Leah Gryder, Ken Hauck, Kelly Pugh, Ed and Anna Donahoe, Holly Harris, Sarah Donohoe, Isabell Rea, Leah's friend Salem.....Larry Watts** had surgery for a malignant tumor in his ear. He has a second surgery coming up soon.....**Chase Sharpe** had surgery recently..... Approximately \$7500 was raised at the auction and barbeque.....



Special Announcements

NEEDED

Church members with a love for youth to work with youth on Sunday nights and special activities throughout the year. Particular help is needed in 3rd through 5th grade. Please contact Ken Hauck or Cindy McNeely if you are interested.

Need Knives??

Remember that the Women's Ministries are still selling RADA knives.

Orders will be taken the last Sunday of the month and sent off. Please turn in your order along with your money.

If you need a catalog or order blank, please see Delinda Mauney.



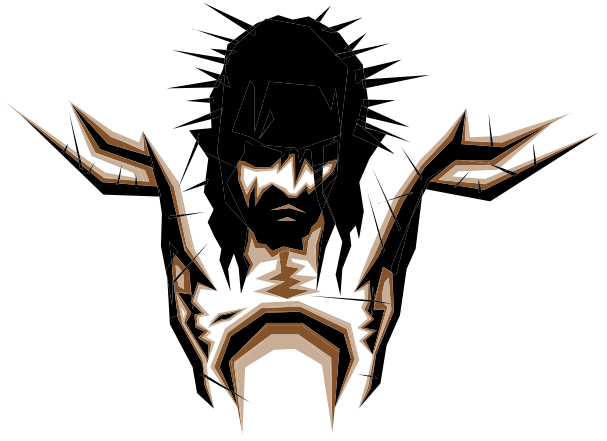
Vacation Bible School Directors Needed

The Christian Education Committee needs the 2009 VBS directors in place as soon as possible. It is time to begin choosing material and making plans for a fun summer event. The experience will be very rewarding for anyone who loves to work with excited kids and a very willing group of teachers and volunteers.

Please begin to pray about what your role should be on the VBS team. If you feel lead to be a director, please let us help you get started. If you have a friend who would make a great director or co-director, please encourage them to step into the role. Director or co-director, whichever fits you, please use this opportunity to enhance friendships and be a positive witness for many kids in our church and community.

If you are interested or have questions, please contact Doug Gryder or anyone on the CE Committee.

Subject: Who took Your Place?



One day, a man went to visit a church. He got there early, parked his car and got out. Another car pulled up near the driver got out and said, 'I always park there! You took my place!'

The visitor went inside for Sunday school, found an empty seat and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, 'That's my seat! You took my place!' The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing.

After Sunday school, the visitor went into the sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, 'That's where I always sit! You took my place!'

The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still He said nothing. Later as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood up, and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet. Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, 'What happened to you?' The visitor replied , as his hat became a crown of thorns, and a tear fell from his eye,

'I took your place.'

News From New Sterling Women's Ministry

The Women's Ministries will host the Jubilee Birthday on Sunday evening April 19 at the Sunday Family Night services. The speaker will be Gidget Wray, owner of the Freckled Frog in Hickory.

The Women will be hosting the meal that evening and invite all to attend. We will again take up a White Cross offering for our the mission fields supported by the ARP Women.

Mark your calendar and make plans to attend!!!

New Sterling Women's Council

Comedy Corner



Texas

The Sheriff pulled up next to the guy unloading garbage out of his pick-up into the ditch. The Sheriff asked, 'Why are you dumping garbage in the ditch? Don't you see that sign right over your head'. 'Yep', he replied. 'That's why I dumpin' it here, cause it says 'Fine For Dumping Garbage'.

Mississippi

The young man from Mississippi came running into the store and said to his buddy, 'Bubba, somebody just stole your pickup truck from the parking lot!'

Bubba replied, 'Did you see who it was?'

The young man answered, 'I couldn't tell, but I got his license number.'



Georgia

A Georgia State trooper pulled over a pickup on I- 75. The trooper asked, 'Got any I.D.?'

The driver replied, 'Bout whut?'

North Carolina

A man in North Carolina had a flat tire, pulled off on the side of the road, and proceeded to put a bouquet of flowers in front of the car and one behind it.

Then he got back in the car to wait. A passerby studied the scene as he drove by and was so curious he turned around and went back. He asked the fellow what the problem was..

The man replied, 'I have a flat tire.'

The passerby asked, 'But what's with the flowers?'

The man responded, 'When you break down they tell you to put flares in the front and flares in the back. Hey, it don't make no sense to me neither.'

Construction in Belize



**David Brady,
Jeremy Brady,
Tommy Morton,
Pastor Tim and
Ken Sides work
hard on
Conzuela's bath-
room and then
constructs an outhouse
for
Benedicta**



**SELF
TALK
SOUL
TALK**



2009 Women's Beach Retreat



Psalm 19:14



**It is
well
with my
soul.**



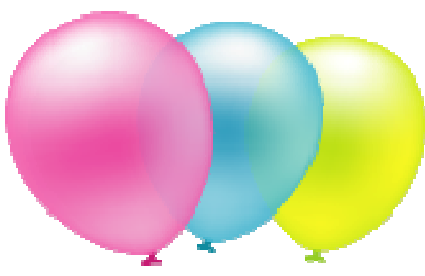
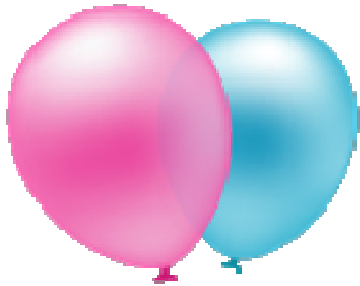
2009 Women's Beach Retreat



“I love you Lord, and I lift my voice, To worship You, O my soul rejoice. Take joy my King in what You hear. May it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear.”

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- 3 Norma Jenkins
- 4 Emily Nash
- 5 Hannah Moore
- 5 Blakely Hager
- 6 Emma Moore
- 10 Anna Reese
- 13 Cora Poovey
- 13 Louanne Watts
- 14 Tony Harper
- 14 Amanda Peralta

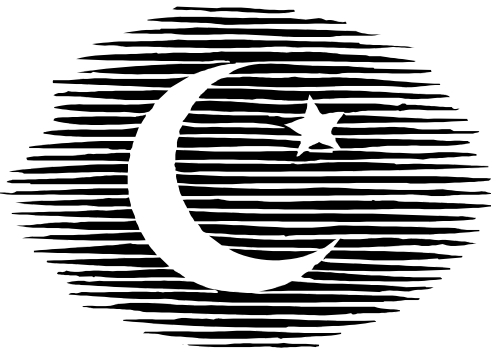


- 17 Jennifer Burchanan
- 17 Lilia Jenkins
- 18 Cody Hairyes
- 19 Leon Gray
- 21 Lynn Pope
- 22 Alexis Lail
- 24 Carolyn Byers
- 27 Scotti McCulloch
- 29 Jaxon Moore

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Two blondes living in Oklahoma were sitting on a bench talking, and one blonde says to the other, 'Which do you think is farther away... Florida or the moon?'

The other blonde turns and says 'Hellooooooooooooo, can you see Florida ?????'



Can You Guess....



Who These People Are?

