



March
2011

While in Belize Pastor Tim asked for volunteers to have devotions Monday through Friday the first week we were there. It takes me out of my comfort zone but I volunteered and Tuesday morning was my morning. My devotion was taken from “The Hole In Our Gospel” by Richard Stearns, President of World Vision. This is a wonderful book and I suggest everyone read it. Anyway, here is part of my devotion on Tuesday morning on the upstairs porch at the Baptist Training Center, Camelote Village, Belize, Central America. —Delinda

“But seek ye first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” Matthew 6:33



The most dominant cultural paradigm today is the “American Dream”. A definition given of an American dream is “a life of personal happiness and material comfort as traditionally sought by individuals in the United States”. Unfortunately, all American dreams are not consistent with Christian values.

Dreaming of wealth to indulge selfish fantasies is not in alignment with God’s ideas. Neither is the one who wants to be famous or people who get ahead by stepping all over people is walking in Jesus’ footsteps. Can we rightfully delight in our personal happiness and material comfort when we know they are living in much less.

The Biblical view of our resources is that it comes from God and is entrusted to us. God wants us to understand any prosperity we enjoy comes from His hand not from our own. God will address the arrogance of those who take credit for their prosperity, believing that their own hard work and talent provided it.

Are you gifted, attractive, eloquent, brilliant, creative or clever? Are your opportunities in life favorable because you were born to the right family or in the right country? If you have any of these traits or good circumstances you have only God to thank for them. The very notion that we are entitled to anything that comes from God is wrong. God wants us to invest His money on His behalf by undertaking His kingdom work.

We must tithe, not out of obligation but out of love and obedience for God. We make the bold statement that money has no power over us. Even when we give it away freely, we know we can depend on God to replenish it and sustain us. If we are faithful in our money God will bless us. When we give our money to God, His blessings come back to us – not always in the form of money but in so many other ways.

Statistics: If your income is \$25,000 per year, you are wealthier than approximately 90% of the world’s population. If your income is \$50,000 per year, you are wealthier than 99% of the world’s population. Of the 6.7 billion people on earth, almost half of them live on less than \$2 a day.

Statistics show that the average giving of American church members in 2005 was just 2.58% of their income – about 75% less than the Biblical standard 10%. If every American church goer tithed, we could literally change the world.

Are we similar to the church in Laodicea? As far as God was concerned, they had nothing to be proud of. They were rich, a center of trade and communication, famous for banking and a great school of medicine and many industries that created great wealth but God said they were “*neither hot nor cold. I wish you were cold or hot but because you are lukewarm, I will spit you out of my mouth.*” Rev 3:15-16

There are 5 adjectives Jesus used to describe the church in Laodicea that we should not want to see linked in a sentence describing out churches today: Wretched, Poor, Pitiful, Blind and Naked. Our deeds are every bit as “lukewarm” as those of Laodicea. We are too comfortable, wealthy and self sufficient, blindly believing we are prosperous because we are God’s favorite.

What kind of letter would Christ write to us today? He has already written one to us and it is contained in the Bible. We just have to read it and apply it.

This is a letter Richard Stearns put together through verses in the Bible and compiling them in a letter style. He states “I realize this violated every rule of sound biblical exegesis, but I think you will agree that it works – it speaks to us with truth and with bluntness. Here is that letter:



A LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN AMERICA

He who has an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. Revelation 2:7 NKJV

To the angel of the Church in America write:

These are the words of the One who holds the seven stars and walks among the golden lampstands. I know your deeds. You live in luxury and self-indulgence and you have forsaken your first love. I hold this against you. Woe to those of you who add house to house and join field to field till no space is left. Surely the great houses will become desolate, the fine mansions left without occupants.

Give careful thought to your ways. You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it. Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded your wealth in the last days. You say, “I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.” Yet it is those who are poor in the eyes of the world that are rich in faith. I have chosen them to edify. Therefore, do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Seek first My kingdom and My righteousness and all these other things will be given to you as well. Remember, even I, the Lord Jesus Christ, though I was rich, for your sakes became poor, so that you, through My poverty, might become rich.

Why do you call Me, “Lord, Lord, but do not do what I say? Do not merely listen to the Word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says, for whoever obeys My commands — that is the one who loves me.

What does the Lord require of you, you ask? To act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God. In fact, the entire law is summed up in a single command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

There will always be poor people in the land. I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in the land. Defend the cause of the weak and the fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and the oppressed.

Now let’s talk about fasting. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high. Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for a man to humble himself? It is only for bowing one’s head like a reed and for lying on sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? No, this is the fast that I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke. It is to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter – when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?

Even now, return to Me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning. Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and He relents from sending calamity.

I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Do not be conformed to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Why spend money on what is not bread and labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to Me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the riches of fare. Then you will call, and I will answer; you will cry for help, and I will say, “Here am I.” If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and the malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become as noonday. I will guide you always; I will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

Therefore, My dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

-----Jesus



P.S. I am coming soon! My reward is with Me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.

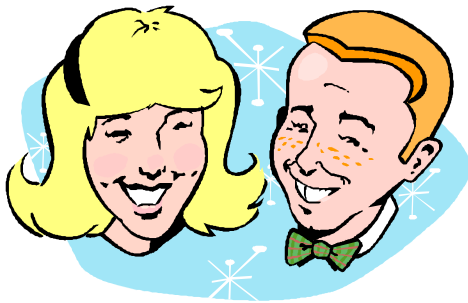
Sunday School is Getting an Addition

Beginning this fall our Sunday School will have another adult class for you to consider. Also, this fall our Adult Sunday School classes will begin a 12 week instruction cycle. Each 12 weeks you will be given the option to attend anyone of our 4 adult classes. One adult class will teach a biblical book; another the Standard Sunday School Quarterly and two addressing life/current issues and/or theological issues. Right now we have another adult class in progress and we are discussing our marriages. We have gotten very positive feedback regarding the subject and also the relative short time spent in the material.



You are certainly free to stay with your present class or as you see another topic offered in another class, you can sign up for that class for 12 weeks. Each 12 weeks you will have this opportunity. There are certainly advantages and disadvantage to this format but we have heard the feedback from many and would like to respond by offering you options. We have great Sunday School teachers and this will give you an opportunity to hear them all. Another great advantage is that we will mix ages and life dynamics in one classroom. The Bible encourages the ladies to teach the younger ladies and

men to do the same; this will enhance our ability to do that. Another advantage is that we can be more responsive to needs in the church. If a particular need is identified and we need to discuss, the topic can be developed and presented at the next 12 week cycle. There are more advantages but I will stop with these.



If you are a Sunday School teacher and see an upcoming class you would like to attend, please inform the CE Committee so they can assist with finding someone to

take the class. As I said, we have some great teachers but sometimes, as I have learned, it is great to sit back and become a student again.

We are a people hungry to learn more about our Lord and the application of his teaching to our lives. This can only help us in that pursuit. Please be in prayer about this new addition and as time draws near more information will be presented.

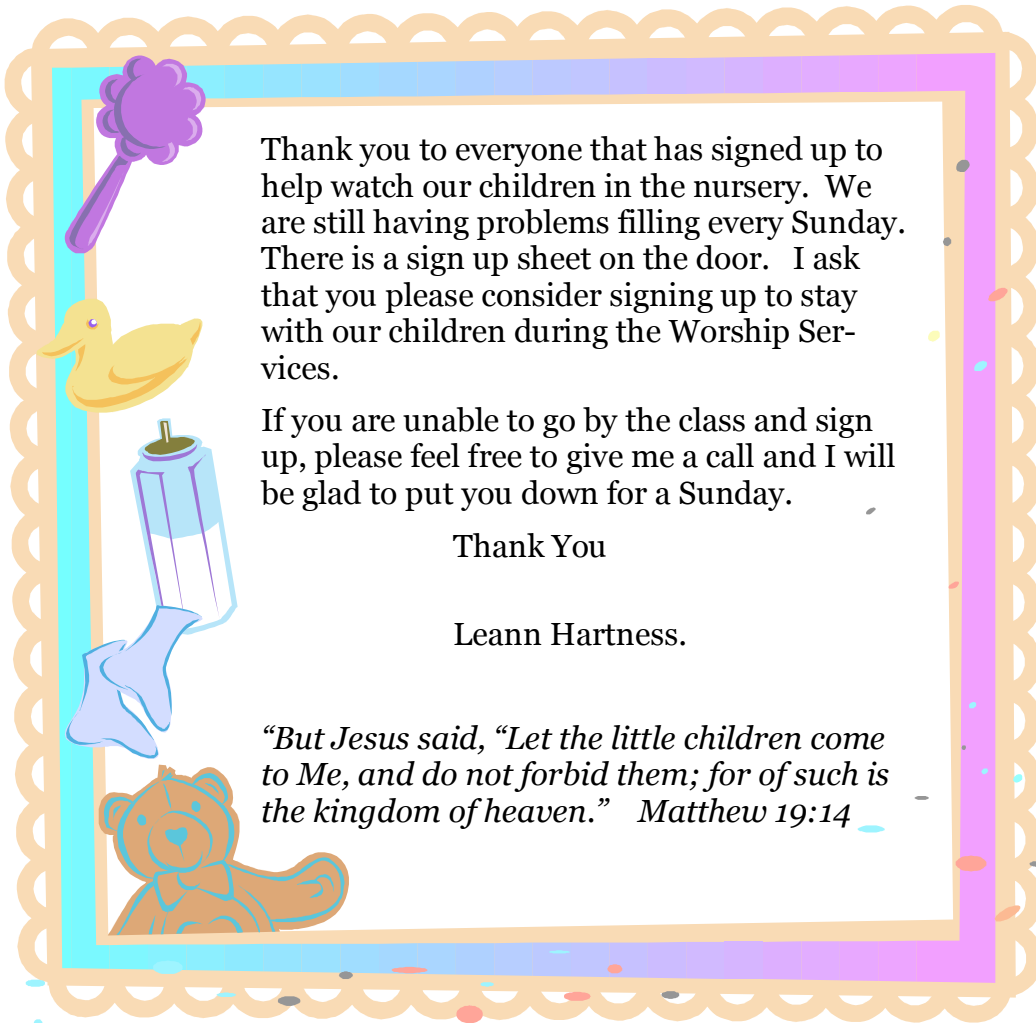
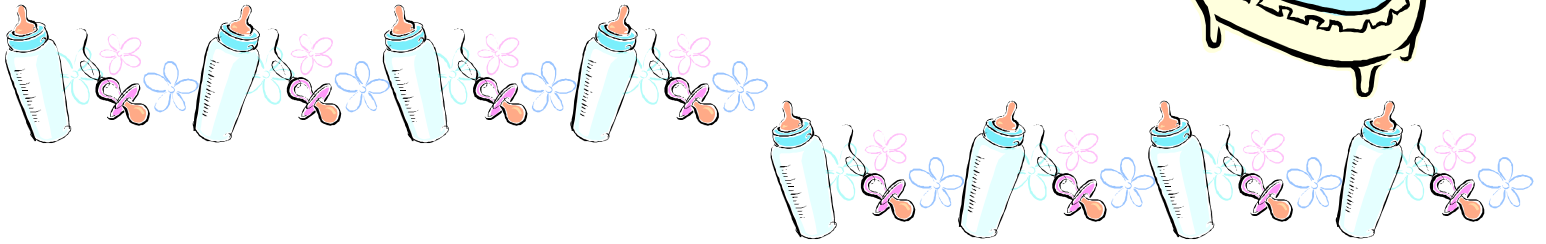
Thank you, Pastor Tim.



Congratulations!!!!

To Adrian and Amber Jarrett in the birth of twin boys:

Austin and Alex born on March 11



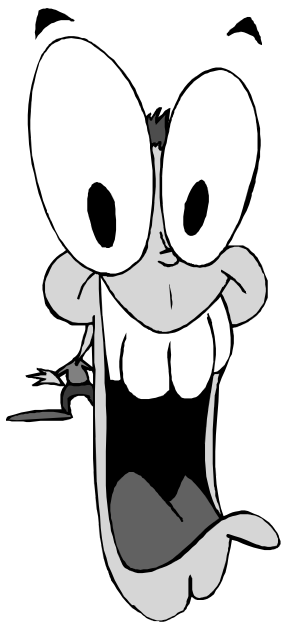
Thank you to everyone that has signed up to help watch our children in the nursery. We are still having problems filling every Sunday. There is a sign up sheet on the door. I ask that you please consider signing up to stay with our children during the Worship Services.

If you are unable to go by the class and sign up, please feel free to give me a call and I will be glad to put you down for a Sunday.

Thank You

Leann Hartness.

“But Jesus said, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 19:14



HAVE YOU HEARD???????

Jim Mayhew has retired from Pet.....**Dylan Pope** played on the Sharon 3rd/4th grade basketball team and were the season champs! Congrats!!!.....**Daniel and Kelly Pugh** provided halftime entertainment for the fans at the cent NC State-Florida State basketball game in Raleigh. Quite a show we hear!!!!.....**Judy Chambers** has been ill and undergoing treatments.....**Taryn, Brian and Brax Setzer's** home was hit by a tornado recently.....

*Our deepest sympathy is expressed to
the family and friends of:*

Reid, Leon and Kenneth Gray in the passing of their sisters:
Lavern Clanton and Inez Tomlin

Todd Goodman in the passing of his father, Jerry Goodman

Bill Mauney in the passing of his mother, Georgia Mauney

And also, to Jim Dagenhart in the passing of his brother-in-law, Wade Watts.



10 THINGS (you may not know about your pastor)

Paul's New Testament letters are full of prayers for his fellow believers. Like most pastors, I am often surprised to find that my church members don't realize that I pray for them regularly – not just when they are sick or experiencing turmoil. Here are 10 things, generally speaking that may surprise you about your pastor.

He loves you – and not just because it's part of his job description. As a pastor, God has placed in his heart a love and concern for you that you probably wouldn't believe if he tried to explain it, although, like me, he could try harder. Your words, notes, and other forms of encouragement mean so much because they come from people your pastor really cares about.

He gets frustrated because most of his church family thinks he's the first to know everything when often he's the last. Few things are more discouraging than learning there has been heartache, sickness or turmoil that everyone else has been talking about for a week, wondering why the pastor hasn't called or come by. He could use your help in this area.

He understands that you don't agree with everything he does. He may even know that your way would be better. But sometimes, he also knows he might have to do things a certain way for a while longer (or change something a bit more quickly) for the greater good. He's deeply aware that it may be inconvenient or not as effective, but he's willing for some to be frustrated if it means he can prevent bickering in the church – or to make certain that he's not compromising doctrinally in an area that maybe no one else has noticed.

You fill him with overwhelming joy. Whether it's your becoming consistent in your attendance, asking him a question that reveals you've been thinking about gospel implications, treating others with grace, smiling while you sing, showing concern when someone is missing from church life, lingering after services because you would rather spend more time together than leave, or many other great things, you make him happy. There are times when he's near tears because he sees God bringing His work to completion in you.

He wants you to really know and love the gospel, to have genuine love for one another, and to have your life shaped by the grace of God because when the church has this love and is gripped in this way, there is rejoicing both on earth and in heaven.

He doesn't expect you to be perfect and is acutely aware that he's not. In fact, a lot of times he's afraid that you may perceive he's not the man of God you thought he was. Not because of some gross sin but because he, too, can be lazy, selfish, tired, frustrated, and distracted in his walk with Christ. Pray that he won't be.

For every sermon you think he bombed, he thinks he bombed twice as many. You know this: Sometimes, the sermon you love the most leaves him frustrated because when you tell him you loved about it misses the point he was trying to make. Other times, he's 100 percent certain that he proclaimed the text exactly as the Lord wanted him to and feels invigorated to have done so – until he realizes everyone hated it or was bored. Knowing that he shouldn't try to be a people pleaser but wanting his church family to be encouraged and engaged is hard to balance. Pray for him.

Sometimes, he has no idea what he's doing. It's not that he hasn't been called to the ministry, but seminary doesn't train him for every situation. Things often come up and he has no idea what to do. Sometimes, by the grace of God, he gets it right. Sometimes, he swings and misses and it scares him to think he might miss again next time. Pray that he would be bold and trusting Christ at all times and in all circumstances.

It bothers him when he can't make your situation better. He doesn't care so much about being the hero or the great problem solver, but he's rooting for your marriage to work out. He wants your rebellious child to see the truth. He wants your parent to show you affection. He wants the memories of abuse to be swept away. He wants you to overcome doubts that God is real or that your faith is genuine. He knows God is in control and that He alone can heal these wounds and perform these miracles. But when the answers to his prayers aren't coming, it breaks his heart for you and he would do almost anything to fix things if he could.

He wants more than anything else, for your labor to bring honor and glory to God. He knows he has blown it sometimes, that there have been instances when he simply could have and should have done better. His calling as a pastor often terrifies him because he knows his own inadequacies better than anyone else. He longs for the church family he serves to get it right because he loves God and he loves you. And when God gets the glory and you reap the benefits, your pastor relishes in the joy that is all rooted in Jesus Christ.



*Taken from HOMELIFE magazine,
January 2011 By Stephen Cavness, pastor of
Cave City Baptist Church in Cave City, KY*

"HOW'S YOUR FAMILY WORSHIP GOING?"

In addition to private worship (personal devotions) and corporate worship (together with fellow church members on Sunday mornings), the other sphere in which worship should take place is in the home as families worship together. Fathers are charged with bringing up their children in the training and admonition of the Lord in Ephesians 6:4. God gives us a pattern of daily instruction and worship in Deuteronomy 6.

Many families are intimidated by the thought of starting a pattern of family worship because they were not brought up doing it themselves. It's never too early or too late to begin! The 2 keys to starting a successful pattern of family worship are simplicity and consistency.

First, pick an event that the entire family already does together, such as eating a meal.

Make a plan to worship before or right after the meal. Dad or Mom could begin by praying, then reading a short selection from the Bible or from a family devotional book (such as DINNER TABLE DEVOTIONS). Dad explains the text and ask some questions to stimulate thought and conversation.

by praying together their individual praises God. Later, after your consistent, you can sing, reciting the Lord's Prayer, the Bible or memorizing Scriptures.



before or right after the meal. Mom could begin by reading a short selection from a family devotional book (such as DINNER TABLE DEVOTIONS). Dad explains the text and ask some questions to stimulate thought and conversation. The family closes and offering up requests to worship has become a consistent part of the meal. Later, after your consistent, you can add other items like singing, reciting the Lord's Prayer, the Bible or memorizing Scriptures.

Remember that we are stewards of the children in our care, who really belong to God, and we are His instruments to help them know God. "We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, His power, and the wonders He has done...He commanded our forefathers to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget His deeds but would keep His commands." Psalm 78:4-7. What we teach our children has a direct effect on what they teach THEIR children, and so on.

Let us encourage on another in this crucial endeavor! For help or other suggestions, see Pastor Tim or a member of the Evangelism and Membership Committee.

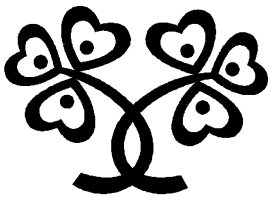
Sterling Silvers



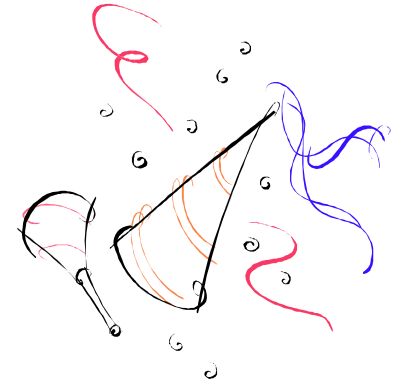
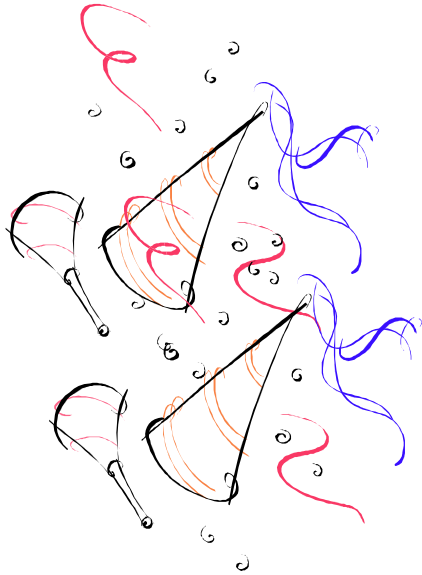
The Sterling Silvers met on Monday, March 14, for their monthly meeting. Dr. Earl Linderman led the meeting telling us an interesting story about St. Patrick and why there are no snakes in Ireland. We then sang some short Irish songs as Harriet Linderman played the piano.

We were served a delicious meal consisting of fried chicken, brown rice, green beans, rolls, coffee, tea, and out-of-this-world lemon cake. The Women's Ministries provided the meal and the ladies serving the meal were Pat Price, Aarene Reese, Tena Campbell and Anna Donohoe.

Tables covered in white were centered with beautiful spring flowers of daffodils, red tulips and other greenery. We are grateful to all involved with our luncheon and wish to say.....



April Birthdays



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