

Care Group Sign Up

and an invitation to personal discipleship

BCC's small group ministry, called Care Groups, are inviting those who are not currently in a care group to sign up in the month of January. Care groups are always open for new people but this month we want to extend a special invitation. If you are already a part of a care group, you do *not* need to re-sign up.

Our hope is that our care groups are a starting place for people to move into personal discipleship relationships. If you are interested in personal discipleship or want more info about a care group suited for you, please contact Ben Davidson at 508-1755 or Ben@BethanyCommunityChurch.org.



Short-Term Missions Trips 2010

Waveland Mississippi—Construction trip to help those affect by Hurricane Katrina. Trip dates are January 24—30, 2010. If interested in participating, contact Kent Hudson at 309-657-4152 or Chris Gebhart at chris.gebhart@gmail.com.

Other Trips for 2010:

New York City July 18-24

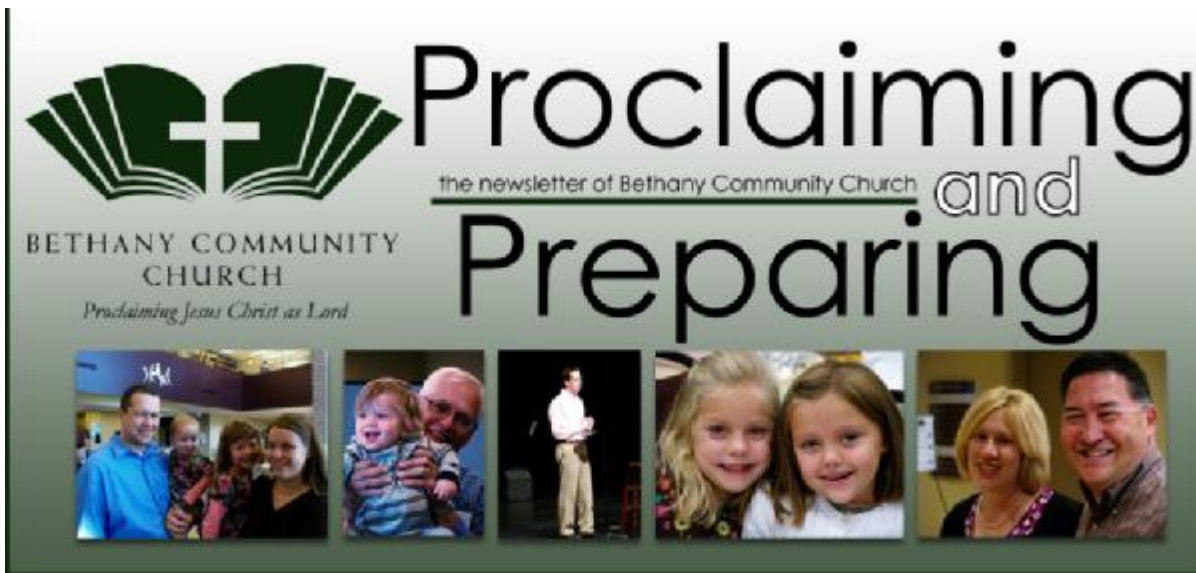
Canada, July 18-24

England, August (Dates to be announced.)

For more information contact Chris Gebhart at chris.gebhart@gmail.com



Ben & Avery Davidson in Canada July 2009



Issue 1

January/February 2010

Worship in the Digital Age by Pastor Daniel Bennett

Shane Hipps has written a book entitled *Flickering Principles: How Technology Shapes Your Faith*. While I disagree with some of the conclusions he draws, I think he is on to something when he analyzes the problem of exercising our faith in a digital world.

Hipps, now a Mennonite pastor, describes in the first chapter his previous work in advertising:

My role as an advertising account planner was to serve as a kind of "consumer anthropologist." That's the sanitized description. More accurately, my task was to hijack your imagination, brand your brain with our logo, and then feed you opinions you thought were your own.

You're welcome.

Much of what I did involved unearthing private, exploitable data from consumers' lives.... An effective ad tries to tap viewers' most intense and emotional experiences, the trigger for all consumer impulses. My job was to save people from feeling impotent,

unattractive, or powerless by offering them a Porsche, which promised to fix those problems.

What Hipps says about marketing has implications for the Evangelical Christian as we worship God.

Images are designed to trigger emotions and illicit a desired response. The commercial with a family laughing and gathered around a pizza stirs my emotions as a father. Without even realizing it, I have identified "pizza" with "family."

In a sense, I have replaced something real—my family—with something imaginary—a mythical family huddled around a slice of pizza. I have cheapened the value of what a family really is. The television has communicated to me that togetherness requires nothing more than a \$9.99 single topping special.

There are several reasons, therefore, why I believe that God commands us to avoid the use of images in worship. First, images allow the one who is utilizing them to manipulate the response of the one receiving

(Continued on page 2)

Return service requested

Bethany Community Church
27265 Dutch Lane
Washington, IL 61571

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PEORIA, ILLINOIS
PERMIT NO 917

Bethany Community's Purpose

Our church exists to glorify God. That is declared in our church's purpose statement: *Our church exists to glorify God as we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and prepare His people to worship Him forever.*

But in what ways are we practically implementing God's purpose for our church? As we mentioned in the last newsletter, before we began the church plant, the leadership team identified seven areas that we believe God would call our new church to focus on in a special way:

- Equip lay people for ministry**
- Build fellowship**
- Reach the Lost**
- Disciple the flock**
- Commit to the Community**
- Become a church**
- Foster a regional ministry**

In this newsletter, I would like to encourage you to think about how you can participate in our second vision area: building fellowship.

Creating a new community is not only hard work—it is impossible! It is only by the Spirit of God that the various individuals within this church can become one body. As we saw in Ephesians 2:14-16:

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

How is God calling you to pursue unity and fellowship with other believers? One great avenue of fellowship is our Care Group Ministry. A new sign-up for Care Groups begins again the month of January, so be looking for information in the bulletin. Wherever God calls you, work diligently to pursue fellowship with other believers.

(Continued from page 1)

the communication. Second, no matter how wonderful, or beautiful, or awe-inspiring the imagery is, it falls short of the real thing. We replace the true, holy and awesome God with something that is less.

As I mentioned recently as we began our series in the Gospel of Luke, I do not desire to worship a false Je-

sus. I do not wish to know your pseudo-Jesus, the image of Jesus you have created for yourself. I desire to heed Moses' words to the Israelites in Deuteronomy 4:23-24: "Take care, lest you forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which he made with you, and make a carved image, the form of anything that the LORD your God has forbidden you. For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God."

What God Has Been Doing at Bethany Community Church

Career Impact

When people see their keys locked inside their vehicle, they do not ask to borrow another person's set, for they know that only the right key will unlock the door. Many people in life are trying the wrong keys to open the door to find purpose and satisfaction. As part of the Bethany Community Church the singles have formed a Career Impact Group for the purpose of helping others find the right "key," Jesus Christ, as well as to encourage each other throughout the daily challenges of life.



The Career Impact Group does not desire to be another social club, but rather to fulfill God's design for them in the church body. All singles that desire to partner in unity with the Bethany Community Church to boldly proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and stir other singles to devotion and joy in Christ in the midst of life's trials are invited, and needed, to participate.

We gathered for the first time in November and followed that up in December by meeting along with BCC college students for a Christmas party. Watch for other events coming soon.

Bethany Biblical Counseling Ministry

The ministry of B.B.C.M. is growing as we expand our focus on counseling training. Feb. 1st, 2010 we will begin revolving training classes at the Farm House; these will be open for anyone interested in learning foundational counseling principles. Bethany Community Church currently has 24 individuals who've been involved in counseling training.



If you're interested in a more in-depth training, please consider joining us for the Feb 7-12 training conference in Lafayette, IN. Last year we had 29 people from this area attend with us. This a great week of personal growth and fellowship and is relevant for singles, couples, parents, ministry-workers, and is an excellent investment for anyone considering full-time ministry of any kind.

B.B.C.M. currently provides counseling at all 3 Bethany Fellowship locations. Counseling is available to anyone, regardless of church-affiliation and is offered at no charge. Your prayers and contributions are greatly appreciated.

Children's Ministry



God continues to provide for our children's ministries at BCC. The scripture covered in Sunday School in Jan. and Feb. will be

1/3 | Samuel 1-7 (CC only) 2/7 | Samuel 18-20
 1/10 | Samuel 8-12 2/14 | Samuel 24
 1/17 | Samuel 13-15 2/21 | 2 Samuel 1-2
 1/24 | Samuel 16 2/28 | 2 Samuel 7
 1/31 | Samuel 17

These lessons will continue during the Children's Church hour except for 1st through 3rd grade who are studying the attributes of God. The attributes they will be looking at include: Understanding (1/10) Attentive (1/17), Faithful (1/24), Trinity (1/31), Love (2/7), Omnipresent (2/14), Refuge (2/21), and Unchanging (2/28).

Please contact the office at 508-1755 if you desire to be a part of this ministry.

As a reminder, on January 3, Children's Church will be provided for children up to and including 5 years old.



Adult Ministries

Bethany Community's three adult SS classes continue their study of the book of James into the new year. Also in the

new year, care groups will be intentionally making themselves available for new attenders (see January events). With this invitation to care groups, BCC is also wanting to help facilitate personal discipleship relationships. Personal discipleship is the process whereby a genuine convert, who is enabled by the Holy Spirit, and led by a more mature disciple -maker, cultivates those life practices, spiritual disciplines, and heart attitudes that make

Youth Ministry



Highlights from the Semester:

- ◆ Youths and families decorated and rode on floats for the Washington and Metamora Homecoming parades. This is becoming an annual fun way to support our community.
- ◆ Several youth leaders, students, and parents spent a Saturday morning raking leaves in the yards of some of our church attendees.
- ◆ The HS ladies had a service/social event where several children's outfits were donated to the Women's Pregnancy Center in Peoria.
- ◆ Several students have joined the group, and the Wednesday night meeting space in the farm house has been outgrown! Praise—the newly remodeled garage provides plenty of space.
- ◆ The group is halfway through Galatians (Sundays), and has just finished studying and praying through the Lord's Prayer and starting Daniel (Wednesdays).

Coming Up:

- ◆ Bowling night on January 22th
 - ◆ "Engage: Annual Youth Apologetics and Preaching Competition" is January 29-30.
 - ◆ Middle school girls game night in February.
- As God continues to bless us with more families with youth, there is a great need and opportunity to minister to them. Contact Mike Chambers for specific information at 508-1755.

him/her more and more like Jesus Christ. In other words, a disciple is a person who is moving closer toward greater likeness to Jesus in thought, word, and deed.

If you are interested in hearing more about how to plug into personal discipleship, an adult Sunday School or a Care Group, please contact me at 508-1755 or Ben@BethanyCommunityChurch.org.

A new adult ministry to singles called Career Impact began meeting since our last newsletter. See the article on the next page for how God is working in this ministry.

Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 3 Patty Moye
Jill Sutter
Emily Duncan
Ryan Parsons
JC Hitz
Zachary Alexander
Micah Lee
- 4 Larry Plummer
Hayley Hoppock
- 5 Marca Lott
- 6 Kevin Martin
- 7 Jonathan Opperman
- 8 Jill Vogel
Mark & Amara Biedler
- 9 Dylan Ewers
Mariel Biedler
- 10 Jennifer Entner
Cory Clubb
Zion Rinkenberger
Fisher Rinkenberger
- 11 Rebekah Dentino
- 12 Roger Schrepfer
- 14 Debbie Jo Hodges
Philip Ausfahl
Ryan Harkins
- 15 Jana Chambers
Linda Irish
Kelli Heille
Rachele Ackerman
- 16 Abe Ingold
Matthais Biedler
Doug & Darcey Handly
- 18 Darcy Biedscheid
Timothy Beck

- 19 Jennifer Bencher
Zoe Alexander
- 20 Chandler Roth
Lisa Salzer
Dan & Janis Greenwood
- 21 Caleb Lee
- 22 Charlie Stilling
- 23 Makayla Hostetler
- 24 Jeff Vallosio
- 26 Dan Ebbert
Caleb Miller
Austin Bennett
- 27 Zackary Shobert
Emily Crank
- 28 Dylan Williams
- 30 Alexis Prosser
Niki Van Beuning
- 31 Tina Backstrom
Brad Van Beuning
Makenna Yergler



- 1 Denny Smith
Kari Hoffmann
- 2 Emily Ingold
Bailey Kenar
Cole Braun
- 3 Jordan Howard
Gary Conner
- 5 Staci Aberle
- 6 Steve Hank
- 7 Tristan Handly

- 7 Brian & Tina Backstrom
- 10 Tammy Savage
- 11 Jalee Stone
- 13 Jeremy Bencher
Harry Placher
Dave Yergler
Emalee Yergler
- 13 Nicholas Hoffman
- 14 Brian Schniers
Scott & Julee King
- 15 Andy Biedscheid
- 16 Brian & Maria Hasty
- 18 Jackie Thompson
- 19 Julee King
- 20 Gabe Kolb
- 21 Seth Carbaugh
Corbin Ausfahl
Noah Clubb
- 22 Jill Hostetler
Meryl McDaniel
McKenzie Gray
Navae Arajuo
- 23 Richard Craig
Cade Davidson
Sully Grogan
- 27 Dan Greenwood
Jeremiah Araujo
Morgan Joyner
- 28 Scott Bahorik
Frank Ackerman
Jon Crow

Sunday Night Service

January 10

Our evening services provide such a great opportunity to hear God's Word and go deeper in relationship with others at Bethany Community. Join us at Camp Good News at 6:00 p.m. for a time of fellowship, song and hearing God's Word. Pastor Daniel will be preaching from Genesis and we will take time to pray for BFC missionaries Pat and Rachel Emmert and have a fellowship time afterward.

Central Good News Club

Plan is to begin January 26

We have the tremendous opportunity to be in Central Primary School every Tuesday beginning in late January. We will hold this after-school club for 6 weeks and will schedule another 6 weeks later in the school year. We'll each sit 7 to 8 children and another adult and get to know the kids as you all hear Bible lessons, sing songs, and learn God's Word together. Contact Mike Chambers at 508-1755 or mike@bethanycommunitychurch.org for more information.

Prayer for the Lost

Starting January 27

Our desire is to see BCC be an evangelistic church. Join us at Camp Good News at 6:30 p.m. (childcare provided) to pray for our lost friends and family. Pick up more info and a prayer guide at Sunday School or the Welcome Center. Bring ideas for how BCC can reach out to the lost in our community.

Bible Studies

The following Bible Studies are among those that will be starting in January:

Jesus the One and Only—Beth Moore
Carol Dornon, facilitator (For Ladies)
This study is an in-depth study of the life of Jesus based on the book of Luke. Meets Thursdays from 9 –11 a.m. at the Dornon's.

Lies Women Believe and the Truth That Sets Them Free by Nancy Leigh Demoss
Toni Cottrell, facilitator (For Ladies)
Topics covered include lies women believe about priorities, marriage, children, emotions and circumstances. Meets every other Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. at the Cottrell's.

Answers 2 by Ken Ham
Bob Dornon, facilitator (For Couples)
Topics include "Is Genesis relevant today? Why is there death and suffering? And more.
Meets Tuesday evenings at the Dornon's.

Men's Bible Study—If you are interested in attending a men's study, contact Ben Davidson at 508-1755.

Christian Worldview Study

January 17

On January 17, 2010, following the Sunday service at 12 noon a presentation and discussion will take place at the Farm House on the topic of launching a worldview study open to all. The study of worldview will help each of us understand how to better achieve "the mind of Christ" and to see the world the way God does. Lunch and child care can be provided. Contact Doug Wright at dwright_logos@live.com for questions and your need for child care.

Biblical Counseling Training Conference

February 7—12

Faith Baptist Church, Lafayette, IN

Learn to counsel with confidence and compassion. This conference is for staff, laypersons, teachers, students—anyone who wants to do personal discipleship. Instructors include Dr. Stuart Scott, Dr. Paul Tripp, Lou Priolo, Martha Peace, and Dr. Bob Smith, among many others.

To learn more about the conference or to register, go to fbcm.lafayette.org or contact Kent Kloter at 508-1755. If you register before Jan. 8, the cost is \$300 per person, or \$460 per couple.

The Future of Proclaiming and Preparing

Building Campaign Kickoff

February 21

Join the BCC family as we gather to take the first step to launch our multi-phase building campaign called "The Future of Proclaiming and Preparing". Our church exists to glorify God by proclaiming Jesus Christ as Lord and preparing His people to worship Him forever. We trust the Lord to be able to purchase additional land and build a facility that would make us more effective in that mission. The focus of this first step of the campaign is to raise prayer and financial support to purchase the land adjacent to the current BCC offices. We will share a meal in the Five Points Washington banquet rooms starting on February 21 at 5 p.m. The event is for adults only but childcare will be provided. Children should bring a game or toy that all can enjoy and will be given dinner in their childcare room. You will be receiving an invitation in the mail in the next few weeks.

Intimacy in Marriage Conference

Saturday morning, February 13 at Bethany Baptist

- Do your daily pressures hijack intimacy with your spouse?
- Is your marriage more business-like than intimate and personal?
- Would you like help to deepen relational intimacy with your mate?
- Could you benefit from biblical encouragement regarding the most important human relationship in your life?

If you've answered yes to any of these questions, then plan now to attend Bethany's Intimacy in Marriage Conference. Come, be encouraged, challenged and equipped to bring God the glory that He desires in your life.

Topic: Defining and Renewing Biblical Intimacy in the Marriage

Speakers: Bethany staff, to be announced

Time: Saturday morning only, time to be announced