



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.org

July 20, 2010

LOOKING FORWARD TO VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

I grew up “in the church” and am so thankful that God has blessed my life with that privilege. Some of my fondest memories from my youth come from annual Vacation Bible Schools. They were so enjoyable and left a lasting impression on me. As with most churches, our local congregation still has a Family VBS every summer.

Vacation Bible School can still be an effective tool of study and evangelism in today’s world—and specifically in our communities. If we, as individuals and congregations, will once again stress the importance of the great commission (Matt. 28: 18-20; Mk 16: 15,16) and our responsibility to grow as Christians, it will help us reorganize our priorities and make every program evangelistic in thrust. The annual Vacation Bible School will be a highlight in the local church, rather than a burden or just a “tradition.”

There are two questions we need to ask in order to restore prominence to Vacation Bible School. First, “Why have VBS?” and second, “What can result from VBS?”

Why have a Vacation Bible School?

Vacation Bible School, first and foremost, is an opportunity to honor and glorify God. This is our ultimate purpose as Christians (Ephesians 3:21; I Cor. 10:31; Acts 17:28). There is no reason to have a VBS unless we desire to use it as a way to praise and honor God (I Pet. 4: 11; Col. 3:17).

Second, VBS provides us with extra time for Bible study. Who would argue that in today’s society we don’t all need this?! The bible provides us with all things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3). VBS provides us with a unique opportunity to emphasize God’s standard of morality and His absolute values which will help provide direction to those who are walking in the confusion of the modern world. Through VBS, we can help restore moral and spiritual sensitivity in our local communities (and especially in the lives of our own church families!).

Third, VBS is a door-opener. It allows us to study the Bible with others in a non-threatening way. While many seem reluctant to come to a traditional Gospel Meeting, they will still come to Vacation Bible School. By giving a strong emphasis to VBS, our community can see that we love God and honor His Son (Phil. 2: 9-11;

Matt. 6:33), and thus open the door for meetings and other “adult-oriented” programs. Those in our ministry areas can also see that we are a kind and loving people who care about them (Jn 13:34,35; Gal. 6:10; Lk 10” 25-37).

What can result from Vacation Bible School?

First, a good, Bible-centered VBS can restore a love for Bible study (Ps. 119:97). It also builds credibility for the church’s Bible school to outsiders. If they see a well-run VBS, dedicated teachers, exceptional artwork, and especially if their children enjoy coming, then they will more likely come back Sundays and Wednesdays. Let us make the most of each opportunity to lift up and proclaim Christ (Col. 1:28; Jn. 12:32).

Second, it gives us an opportunity to renew our faith. We all have “ups and downs” and need times for restoration and renewal. In VBS, we are able to study, learn, and discover new truths that can be applied to our lives that will help us live closer to Jesus. It also gives us an opportunity to demonstrate our faith by sharing it with others (Matt 5: 13-16).

Third, VBS gives us an opportunity to make contact with those who are in a search of real faith. As stated earlier, VBS is a door-opener. We are able to contact people in a non-threatening way and help them find answers to their important questions. Many people know about Jesus—but they don’t know Him and know little of His Word (Phil. 3:10; Jn 17:3; Jn 8:31-32). We have the opportunity to help people come to know Jesus as Savior, Lord, and Friend instead of just a historical character. Our uniqueness as the New Testament church allows us to offer others a genuine faith that is based solely on Holy Scripture. Since we are bound only by the Word of God, we should never be ashamed (Rm 1:16), but be excited with the prospect of simply sharing with others what Christ Himself would share.

A strong emphasis on VBS can bring about great results. If we will pray, plan, and prepare, God will give us a harvest. Vacation Bible School can make and provide many opportunities for us. Let us make this year’s the best we’ve ever had.

~ adapted, Wyatt E. Fenno, Christian Bible Teacher, 1994

“Go ye therefore and teach all nations...”

Matthew 28:19a

Preparing Our Children

By Riley Nelson

Most parents are interested in seeing that their children are well prepared to go out into the world. Millions, perhaps billions, of dollars are spent each year for education so that young people can have the best education possible. This is the way it ought to be, for our children of today will be our leaders of tomorrow. Yet, while getting a good education is important, we must not forget their spiritual training; God needs to be, must be, a vital part of our lives, as well as the lives of our children.

God told the Israelite people that they were to teach their children about all the things He had done for them. “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God *is* one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates” (Deut. 6:4—9). God wants the children to know about all He has done for man.

Some parents get so busy worrying about, providing for, and preparing children for life they forget to do what God has asked. The result of this can be seen in our society today. Many do not believe in God, others believe there is a God, but fail to follow His way. Surely it can be seen we must be concerned with what we are teaching our children about spiritual matters.

Children need, yes, must be taught about God. They need to be told of His great love for all mankind, including them. They need to know about His willingness to send His only begotten Son to die for them (John 3:16). They need to know He is alive and well today.

Children also need to know that God is important to their parents. If they see parents not following God, not going to worship God, never putting God first in their lives, then the children will most likely not follow God.

Children are so precious. May we all seek to follow God and to teach our children to follow our example. What are we teaching our children?

YOUTH NEWS

- The following youth are at Maywood Christian camp this week; David Clayton, Dillon Clayton, Tyler Weaver, Caleb Jennings, Ruston Adams, Kris Hays, Erin Wall, Olivia Pounders and Ashley Weaver. Please remember them in your prayers.
- The Youth Devo planned for this Sunday, July 25, has been postponed till a later date.
- **VBS Saturday July 31st from 9:00a.m.—2:00p.m. Invite! Invite! Invite!**

The Greatest MAN

He had no earthly servants, yet they called Him Master.
He had no degree, yet they called Him Teacher
He had no medicines, yet they called Him Healer.
He has no army, yet kings feared Him.
He won no military battles, yet He conquered the world.
He committed no crime, yet they crucified Him.
He was buried in a tomb, yet He lives.

“His name shall be called Wonderful.” Isaiah 9:6

For daily devotional & updates call NEWSLINE @ 534-0016

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Raymond Vest, was released from the hospital Monday.

Ethel Russell, (grandmother of Brad Pounders) in the Tupelo hospital.

Jared Ward, (friend of Bobby & Dixie White) in the Tupelo hospital as a result of a bad car wreck. He is from Columbus.

Belinda Colbird, (friend of Jim Dickerson) is recovering at home following a heart procedure.

Betty Adams, (mother of Richard Adams) will have knee surgery on September 14th.

Marie Wells, (grandmother of Justin Dewberry) has been moved to a rehab center in Eupora.

Bill King, (brother of Mike King) recovering from surgery. He will be facing chemo in the near future.

Adam & Monica Lindsey, prognoses is not good for their infant that is to be born this month.

Continual Prayer List

Nance Family, Donna Weeden, Sylvia Plunk, Pauline Smith, J.D. Stroud, Terry Young,

Shut-Ins

Jean Drummond, Lessie Bryant, Billy Joe Garner, Laura Mae Harris, Belle Cross, Raymond & Amy Vest

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Sue Collins, Shane Hutton, Corrine Hall, Eunice Mabry, Faye Owen & Anna Davis, J.A. Thornton

Military List:

David Wilhite-Navy-Florida Barry Wilhite-Marine-Navy -Virginia, Jimmie Stutts-Air Force-California, Tiffany Erwin- Army-Camp Rooker, AL; Aaron Raines-Army, Afghanistan; Jamie Vansandt, Alaska; Michelle Montgomery, Fort Leonard, Missouri, Jim Vest-Afghanistan

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July 22.....Hunter Jennings
July 22.....Matt Jennings
July 27.....Dixie White

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

July 25.....Bobby & Sue Marques

THANK YOU NOTES

*Just a note to thank you all for the prayers, food and other thoughtful things done for our family during daddy's hospital stay and afterwards. The congregation means more to our family than we can express. You will continue to be in our prayers, as we hope to be in yours also. In Christian love,
The family of Bobby Montgomery*

Dear Christian family,

Thank you for your prayers, calls, visits, and cards during the illness and death of our loved one, Cindi Whiteside. You all are very special to us!

Larry & Janice Cobb & Family

My Christian family,

Thank you all so much for your prayers, kind words and cards during my recent RA (rheumatoid arthritis) flare. You have truly lifted my spirits and I love you all for it. Love, Nicki Weaver

VBS

Continue to invite children ages 2years through 6th grade to our Super Saturday Bible School which will be held July 31st. We will begin at 9:00AM and end around 2:00PM. We will be learning about the Bible characters Samson and Esther. If you have not yet signed up for your VBS T-Shirt please do by Sunday. If you are bringing a guest please be sure to order them a shirt as well. There is a work day planned this Saturday, July 24, to help get things prepared for VBS. Your help will be appreciated.

AREA EVENTS

Gospel Meeting @ the Hillcrest church of Christ in Baldwyn, July 25-28 with Mark Lindley as the guest speaker. Time: 7:30 each evening

Faith Basics Youth Rally 2010, to be held at the Gloster Street church of Christ August 21 from 9:00a.m. to 2:00p.m. Theme: "Rightly Dividing the Word" Keynote Speaker: Doug Burleson

Visit our website @ <http://www.nacoc.org>

OUR RECORD

Sunday School 100
 Sunday A.M 114
 Sunday P.M. n/a
 Wednesday 98
 Contribution..... n/a
 Budget \$3,305.70

TO SERVE

Scripture Burrell Walton
 A.M. Prayer Brad Pounders
 Closing Prayer Steve Todd
 P.M. Prayer..... Troy Robertson
 Closing..... Bill Lyon
 Wed. 7/28. Lonnie Weaver
 Wed. 7/28..... Carl Smith
 Usher & Lock Harold Russell
 Greeters..... G & K Clayton

PANTRY ITEM: Soup

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School..... 9:30
 Morning Worship 10:30
 Evening Worship..... 6:00
 Wednesday Bible Study 7:00

Elders

Richard Jennings 534-6671
 Troy Robertson..... 534-3491

Deacons

Bill Botts 316-2422
 Greg Clayton 538-0791
 Roger Clayton..... 534-5240
 Andy Clemmer 816-5887
 Harold Russell 534-4648
 Randy Wall..... 316-9255

Minister

Office..... 534-4649

Esther Word Search

BibleQuizzes.org.uk

A H T A D E M M A H G N I R M F N D X
 U X T S E T N O C Y T U A E B Z P R A
 K Z S D Q C A F K O R Y H U N C L E B
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ABIHAIL	FEASTING	MORDECAI	SACKCLOTH
AGAGITE	GALLOWS	PALACE	SCEPTRE
BANQUET	HAMAN	PEOPLE	SHUSHAN
BEAUTY CONTEST	HAMMEDATHA	PERSIANS	SILVER
CHRONICLES	HANGED	PETITION	UNCLE
CROWN	INNER COURT	PLOT	VASHTI
DEATH	JEWS	PURIM	WICKED
DECREE	KING AHASUERUS	QUEEN	WRATH
DESTROY	KING'S HORSE	RING	
ESTHER	MEDES	ROYAL APPAREL	

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