



Spotlight on Missions: Alyssa Wray

Alysa Wray, daughter of Kim and Jeff McMurry and granddaughter of Vance and Shirley Pyle, has spent the last several months in Denver, Colorado. For the next 3 years, she will be part of the ministry of the Providence Center for Urban Leadership Development. One of her duties in this ministry is creating a monthly newsletter. She identifies a person who has been positively affected by Providence Bible Church. Alysa is be-

ing trained to combat the many issues of urban centers like fatherlessness, drug addiction, crime, etc. with the Gospel. Alysa's official title at the Center is Director of Administration and Candidate Counselor. Alysa works closely with two of the elders from the Providence Church to develop four programs: 1-Week Immersion, Summer Internship, Senior Residency and the Providence Fellowship. The mission of the center is to

"launch a movement of lifelong urban leaders who will serve in local churches and make disciples in their own communities." The Mission Board of First Baptist Church has recently added Alysa to their "Mission Partners". Please join us as we support Alysa in this important ministry both in prayer and financially. Look for her monthly newsletter on the bulletin board in the dining area.

Christian Vocational Scholarship

The deadline for submitting Christian Vocational Scholarship Aid Fund Forms to the Board of Christian Education is Tuesday February 7,

2012. The scholarship is available to persons from First Baptist Church of Crawfordsville who have made a public commitment to full-

time Christian service. Information on the scholarship and allocation forms are available in the church office.

ABW Scholarship available to Seniors

If you are a member of an American Baptist Church and active in the church,

you are eligible to apply for the American Baptist Women's Scholarship. The final

date applications and reference letters can be postmarked is February 15, 2012.

Philippians 2:3,4

³Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

John 13:34,35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

As this is an election year the unemployment rates carry a great deal of significance. (I cannot remember a year since I was born when that last sentence was not true.) After hearing people talk about how bad things are I began to take stock and have realized that they are absolutely right. I did some quick mental math and realized that unemployment rates in my own home are well above the national average. Between the six members of my family only 2 provide any sort of goods or service to the family economy. The other four members are simply consumers whose demands continue to grow with each passing year. None of these four members of our family have managed to hold down a job for any length of time this past year. This puts our family unemployment rate at roughly 67%, which is alarming. Each person claims to be searching for gain-

ful employment but seems unable to find a steady revenue stream. All of the unemployed family members continue to hope for a windfall (by windfall, of course I mean, going for a bike ride and having a gust of wind blow them, face first, into a fire hydrant and reaping a fortune in tooth fairy dividends) but that every elusive "ship" never quite seems to come in.

Eleven months out of the year these members of my family live in blissful ignorance of their miserable poverty. However, it is December and as gifts and packages continue to appear it becomes increasingly apparent to them that to experience the joy of giving and not just receiving, they will first have to find some sort of income source. They are discovering just how hard it is to stimulate your own economy and so are trying to come up with

various plans to address the issue. One stimulus bill that was presented to the governing body (unlike some systems the governing body in our family is the same as the group that provides the goods and services) went something like this: "You always give us so much, and we are so grateful; so give us some money so we can buy you something to show our appreciation." While this has been very effective for places like Greece, it is actually not that beneficial in a family economy, and so the bill, which it enjoyed popular support, was vetoed. We finally settled on a stimulus plan closely resembling the sum of FDR's programs in the New Deal. We have created a mini WPA, where unskilled workers are paid to do things that they either should have already accomplished for free or which do not really need to be done at all. The wages for these

Pastor Isaac—continued

public works projects are then put into a fund to be used to buy Christmas presents. Obviously the system has its drawbacks. One of the younger workers informed his supervisor that he would no longer be working because he did not want to buy anyone else Christmas presents he just wanted to get them. His concern was that if he worked and made money and bought presents then there would be less money available for his gifts. (Ironic, that the only member of the family who really understands economics is four.)

Paul encourages the church in Philippi to have a Christ-like attitude and specifically to *regard one another as more important than*

yourselves. This is one of the many "one another" passages in Paul's epistles where he gives direction to the individual members of the church and how they should relate to the other members. The idea is that each person should regard, count, think like, live as if, the other people in the church are more important than they are. When everyone does it, it is wonderful (hypothetically, as it has never happened), but very difficult. Our default setting is selfishness, which is why we need Christ. His example was one of selfless love, and our dealings with the rest of the church body are supposed to follow his pattern (John 13:34,35). But this only happens if we have been

changed by his spirit, and so we really put others first, not hypocritically, but in real selfless love. I have been grateful to see genuine love begin to take shape in my kids (some of them), and by God's grace, he will continue this work and we will continue to give them the opportunity to demonstrate this love (even using the WPA). My challenge to you is consider the selfless love that Christ displayed on the cross, and then consider how you love your spouse, your kids and grandkids and your church family. Allow the Spirit to convict you of the sin of regarding yourself as more important than one another and then pray that God would work to change your heart.

Getting to the Heart of Parenting - Sunday, January 29th from 4-8pm

"Learn how to be an instrument of heart changing grace in the little moments of life that God will give you with your children, whether they are toddlers or teens."

- Session 1: "What is a Family?" (4:00-4:50pm)
- Session 2: "The Heart of Behavior" (5:10-6:00pm)
- Dinner & Discussion (6:00-6:45pm)
- Session 3: "Breaking It Down" (6:50-7:40pm)
- Ages 0-5
- Ages 6-12
- Ages 13-?
- Conference Ends @ 8pm

***The Conference is FREE and childcare will be provided. We will also be giving away some great resources. Please register at the Welcome Center or Contact Pastor Jeff.**

Live conference on DVD with Discussion & Leader's Guide with Pastor Paul David Tripp

Library News

Eight large maps have been donated to the library in memory of Emogene Kenny who had given them to the New Image class many years ago.

There are eight maps measuring 43" wide and 45" high, on a 4 foot tripod. The maps are of Ancient New East before the Exodus, Israel/Judah, Exodus, Paul's journeys, Rome and the East, Ancient Near East, Persian Empire and Assyrian Empire.

The Lottery Winner

by John Sands

A man who is set in his ways and well prepared for his upcoming retirement experiences an unexpected change in life when he wins a huge lottery. Rather than basking in enjoyment of the windfall, he turns inwards and doesn't tell a soul, not even his wife. During the six months he has to redeem the ticket, a series of events chal-

lenge him to reconsider the deeper purposes of his life and the source of true riches.

John's book, *The Lottery Winner*, is now available for check out in the church library.

Guiding Light—December

The month of December we talked about God's gift to us—Jesus. We had many Bible stories teaching us about advent and the birth of Jesus.

I still have a few openings in January. I have one opening in the Toddler room, one in the Threes, and one in the Fives. If you know of anyone interested please let me know.

We had an awesome Christmas program! Big thanks to Pastor Isaac for all his help and a HUGE THANKS to Linda Wilson for all her hard work.

Financial Information: We are currently helping staff chil-

dren and families in the community with assistance from the scholarship fund.

Big thank you to the Steering Committee for all our Christmas gifts, the staff was very appreciative.

In Case you haven't seen it in the bulletin, we are asking for items to help us with our class time in the New Year. Please put the items in the blue tub.

Items Needed:

4oz Elmer's school glue

Washcloths

Destin

AA, AAA, C & D batteries

Paper plates

Rubber stamps and ink pads

Contact paper

Clorox bleach wipes

large plastic tubs for storing toys

Continuing to serve,

Julie and the Guiding Light Staff



Passion Groups—January 16th

All ladies of the church are encouraged to join us.

Morning group will not meet in January or February. Marge is in Florida for a well deserved

vacation. You are welcome to join the evening group.

The evening group will meet at 7:00 pm at the home of Pat Snow

Note from the Congregation

First Baptist Church Family,
Thank you for the comforting words and support you gave to the family. To the Ladies for the wonderful meal.

God Bless You,

The Family of Al McKinsey

Thank you for the lovely plant sent to the funeral home. Thanks, too, for all the prayers from your congregation—knowing that so many cared meant a lot to me.

Family of Dick Mills

Dear First Baptist Family,

We would like to thank you for the prayers for our family, the cards, the flowers, and visitation at the funeral home by Pastor Isaac and members of the church during the recent passing of my mother, Phyllis Arthur. Every kindness was appreciated.

Rob & Rita Arthur

Dear Church Family,

I thank, my friends at First Baptist for all your good deeds these last few months, you were so good to me and I'm very grateful. May God bless each and everyone. Madonna Jones

Church Family,

Thank you for all your prayers, cards and calls during Donnie's surgery and recovery. Thank you to Isaac for staying with us during the surgery.

Donnie & Vicki Ratcliff

Dear First Baptist Family,

Thank you so much for your kind and generous Christmas gifts. We are so grateful for the love and care you have for us. We thank God for the privilege of continuing, by His grace, to serve you.

Sincerely, FBC Staff

Sympathies & Prayer Requests

Linda Hood—inflammation, surgery

Norman Jones—ulcerative colitis

Alice Hughes—heart cath

Bob Gooding—colon cancer

Roy Leath—health

Jack Triplett—recovering from surgery

Elena Braica—recovering from surgery

Kate Mason—MDS

Morris Davis—liver cancer

Teresa Ramsey—cancer

Aaron Shelton—cancer

Helen Shull—brain disorder

Donnie Ratcliff—recovering from surgery

Carole Hargett—recovering from surgery

Virginia VanHook—rehab in Iowa

Our deepest sympathy to the families of:

Ed Switzer

Susie Ray

CJ Brooks

Leta Miller

Phyllis Arthur

Melinda Jackson

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 Mary Deckard	Devin Kincaid	24 Barbara VanArsdel	3 Marcus & Jennifer Hutson
Bill Henderson	12 Corvin Pitcock	Edlawn Warner	
Charlotte Carver	Sharon Kincaid	Juan Cruz	4 Don & Florence Gobel
3 Julie Randles	14 Juanita McCauley	Emily Warner	
4 Michael Dellinger	15 Elinor Dolph	27 Cathleen Robbins	17 Ralph & Susie Anderson
Michael Tobias (15)	Ralph Anderson	28 Scotty Cheatham	
5 Hampton Davis	Linda Newnum	29 Frank Moore	19 Todd & Julie Randles
6 Jim Remley	16 Debbie Manges	30 Rich Clouse	
Vance Pyle	17 Brittany Furr	31 Larry McCance	
Rhonda Smith	Mahlon Nevitt		
7 Chris Cox	18 Barbara Pace		
8 Jerry Harshbarger	Kathryn Brown		
Bradly Clouse	Trevor Cruz		
11 Robert Arthur	23 Tommy Edwards		