

October
2009



1905 LEBANON RD CRAWFORDSVILLE, IN 47933-765-362-6504

The Baptist Herald

Praying for the persecuted church: Uzbekistan

On Aug. 23, seven church members belonging to the registered Donam Protestant Church were arrested and Christian literature confiscated when more than 20 police officers raided a church service in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, according to Forum 18 News.

Members of the Anti-Terror Police claimed the service was “unauthorized” and although three men were released on the same day, four, including the

pastor, Vladimir Tyo, were sentenced to 15 days in prison. They have been charged with “violation of the procedure for organizing and conducting meetings.” The judge ordered the confiscated literature be destroyed.

This is the latest of many raids on both registered and unregistered religious communities in Uzbekistan. The Voice of the Martyrs supports persecuted be-

lievers in Uzbekistan by encouraging them and providing resources to courageous believers. VOM encourages you to pray for the imprisoned believers and their families. Ask God to protect and encourage them and other believers living under heavy scrutiny from the government.



Theology Breakfast: Round #3

❖ What Is It?

- *Theology Breakfasts are exactly what they sound like—theology (study of God) and breakfast (the best meal of the day...french toast, egg casseroles, biscuits and gravy, pancakes, fruit, sausage, bacon...mmmm)*
- *As for the study, we will be taking an in-depth look into the Christian faith by examining what the whole Bible teaches about all areas of life.*
- *Round #3 will include topics such as Salvation, the Holy Spirit, Sanctification, the Church, Baptism, Lord's Supper, Church Government, Spiritual Gifts, the End Times...*

❖ Who Should Go?

- *Anyone who desires to learn more about the Christian faith and grow in their knowledge of God and His Word*
- *This study is designed for those who are truly looking to go deeper in their faith.*
- *But I Missed Rounds #1 & #2: Not a problem, just don't miss this one!*

❖ When?

- We meet on the following Saturdays from 8:30am—10:30am
 - October 10th
 - November 7th
 - December 5th
 - October 31st
 - November 21st
 - December 12th

❖ **SIGN UP NOW @ THE WELCOME CENTER**—*In order to have enough food, we need to have everyone sign up!*

See Pastor Jeff if you have any questions!

A ridiculously short vinyl fence separated the neighbors. Four little girls played in the backyard of the first house. The sandbox sat close to the house beside a cement pad under a basketball goal. Up the hill a bit and further back, was the wooden swing set, always the first station of play. The girls were seven, six, five, and four (two sets of sisters) and a dad sat a bit apart watching them. He had warned them as they swung, to stay clear of the yellow jacket nest, that they were probably ok where they were but too much closer could cause the bees to attack. The girls nodded seriously, all having older brothers who had ignored such advice before, and went back to swinging. Legs pumping, heads thrown back, pig and pony tails swishing through the air, the seriousness of height, momentum and gravity quickly erased all thoughts of danger from their minds. Boredom hung always close by, kept at bay by a steady changing of activities. The father, turned activities coordinator, had a flash of brilliance and suggested that the nearby canoe be overturned and used as a house/fort/hiding place. The girls were skeptical but did not veto the suggestion, so the over achieving dad pulled and strained and grunted the canoe into position; angled up from the ground to the swing set platform, forming a narrow lean-to for the girls to sit under. He stepped back from his labor and surveyed his efforts; as did the girls. The possibilities of the creation seemed to escape the girls and so to demonstrate he sat under the canoe and looked up into it, trying to appear enthralled with the possibilities of playing here. One girl suggested that they could use it as a slide and other asked if it could be turned into a tunnel while the other two politely wandered off to find something fun to do. The dad climbed to his feet feeling old and out of touch, wondering if he should get his ear pierced to be cool again. One of the girls suggested that the play wagon be filled with grass and then each could take turns having a "grass" hayride. This brilliant idea was hailed by all as genius and the girls set to work gathering up dry grass. The father took some comfort in the fact that since he had waited too long to mow the last time, there was a good

supply of dry grass clumps, perfect for a grass ride. The girls filled the wagon and the Dad stood back, warning them as they approached the yellow jackets again. The dry grass proved to be a huge success, not only did it convert an ordinary Radio Flyer into a hay wagon, but after the rides were over (almost three minutes on the same activity making it the favorite so far) the dry grass could be scattered on the cement pad under the basketball goal and then swept up for more fun. The dry grass benefactor smiled benevolently down on the playing girls, content with his role in their joy. His eyes moved down the fence, post by post, and he saw a different scene.

The backyard of the second house was unencumbered with the childhood toys of innocence. Instead, cars were parked in the grass and the voices of teenagers came in snatches and breaks from the far end of the yard. They hid in an old tree fort, whose builders skill and the materials' durability had outlasted their intentions. The father watched them come and go, little men whose legs pumped them forward, desperate to escape the inertia of home and family. He did not know them, his fear was only loosely based on a careless word or gesture; all that fell from tongue and hands. Just kids, he thought, and yet the fear remained, like a ticking clock reminding him that all kids grow up. There was fear on both sides of the fence, afraid of being seen and of what was to be seen. The Dad wondered if he was more afraid; silently he began to pray. Not the articulate prayers of a professional or the corrected prayers of the thoughtful; but the quick desperate prayers of the urgent. Protect them Father, these little girls so innocently playing in the sand. These beautiful and sweet girls who grow up into the world filled with little men, men so afraid of being seen. I cannot always warn them of the yellow jackets or worse that lie hidden in the grass. Protect them Father.

Then the moment passed, the girls were hungry and begging for a snack. The dad suddenly recognized that his moment had come. No longer would he

stand beside while the girls played other games. No longer would his slanted canoe remind him of his failure to be hip. He leapt to his feet, head held high and entered the house, on a mission. He opened the freezer door and removed the tub of vanilla and placed it on the counter. Next he took a bottle of Dr. Pepper (never mind the caffeine) from the fridge and made each of the girls a float. Not a skimpy little half scoop and some soda, no a double-scoop-float with foam billowing over the top of the glass. The girls eagerly took their treat and the gratitude rolled over him and he basked in it's warmth. It was supper time and the girls had not eaten, he idly wondered what their mothers would think of this appetizer, but the pleasure of the moment drove such clouds from his mind. They were babies again giggling and sipping, commenting on each others technique, drowning out the foreshadowing of a moment before.

A phrase came into his mind, unbidden or contemplated, *apart from the grace of God*. So often seeking to follow and obey, the father was suddenly, horribly aware of his own failures, own inabilities to protect, his own desperate need of grace. He felt the pull, the irresistible force that swung all the universe, and more terrible yet, his own life and family. Wisdom and parenting advice was forgotten, or rather overshadowed, by the overwhelming importance of the grace of God. All of his ridiculous attempts to "protect them" or worse yet "make them happy" were swept away in the sovereign flood. What else could fill in the numerous gaps in his fatherhood caused by his own sin. What else could protect and watch and care, years after he was gone. Grace was the only thing, was everything, and nothing else could be trusted. It had eclipsed all other parenting methods and devices, the missionary's slogan became his own; *I a lowly, wretched and miserable worm; upon thy arms I fall*. He began to pray again, not the prayers of desperation, or even of fear, but the prayers of the mountain climber at the base of the precipice; who after a moment to refocus on the task at hand, a minute to remember how high he must climb and how little he could control; begins to climb again.

Jeff Strickland—Christless Christianity

What would things look like if Satan really took control of a city? Over a half century ago, Presbyterian Minister Donald Grey Barnhouse offered his own scenario in his weekly sermon that was also broadcast nationwide on CBS radio. Barnhouse speculated that if Satan took over Philadelphia, all of the bars would be closed, pornography banished, and pristine streets would be filled with tidy pedestrians who smiled at each other. There would be no swearing. The children would say 'Yes, sir' and 'No, ma'am,' and the churches would be full every Sunday...where Christ is not preached.

It is easy to become distracted from Christ as the only hope for sinners. Where everything is measured by our happiness rather than by God's holiness, the sense of our being sinners becomes secondary, if not offensive. If we are good people who have lost our way but with proper instructions and motivation can become a better person, we need only a life coach, not a redeemer. We can still give our assent to a high view of Christ and the centrality of his person and work, but in actual practice we are being distracted from 'looking to Jesus, the

founder and perfecter of our faith' (Heb. 12:2). A lot of the things that distract us from Christ these days are even good things. In order to push us off-point, all that Satan has to do is throw several spiritual fads, moral and political crusades, and other 'relevance' operations into our field of vision. Focusing the conversation on us—our desires, needs, feelings, experience, activity, and aspirations—energizes us. At last, now we're talking about something practical and relevant.

As provocative as Barnhouse's illustration remains, it is simply an elaboration of a point made throughout the history of redemption. Wherever Christ is truly and clearly being proclaimed, Satan is most actively present in opposition. The wars between the nations and enmity within families and neighborhoods is but the wake of the serpent's tail as he seeks to devour the church. Yet even in this pursuit, he is more subtle than we imagine. He lulls us to sleep as we trim our message to the banality of popular culture and invoke Christ's name for anything and everything but salvation from the coming judgment. While undoubtedly stirring his earthly disciples to persecute and

kill followers of Christ (with more martyrdoms worldwide in an average year than in any previous era), Satan knows from experience that sowing heresy and schism is far more effective. While the blood of martyrs is the seed of the church, the assimilation of the church to the world silences the witness.

I think that the church in America today is so obsessed with being practical, relevant, helpful, successful, and perhaps even well-liked that it nearly mirrors the world itself. Aside from the packaging, there is nothing that cannot be found in most churches today that could not be satisfied by any number of secular programs and self-help groups." (Horton, 15-17)

The excerpt above is from the beginning of Michael Horton's *Christless Christianity*, a work that has been eye-opening for me. It is amazing how quickly and easily we can be distracted from Christ and how much of our thinking about God, the church, and the Christian faith can be shaped by our culture and world and not the Word of God. If the writing above has piqued your interest, you can find this book and others in our church library.



The FBC Open First Baptist Men's Ministry Champions

Pictured are Phil Morris, Wayne Tate and Ken Barclay. Not pictured is Bill Locker who made up the foursome that received the championship trophy for the 1st FBC Open on Saturday, September 12th.

Many of you have asked me for histories of some of your favorite hymns. I came across a book in the music room that was donated by Olive Steele back in 1997 that has some wonderful stories about hymn histories, and thought I'd share the story of our beloved hymn "Amazing Grace."

Excerpts from Al Smith's *Treasury of Hymn Stories*, 1981, pgs. 61-62

John Newton was born in London in the year 1725. His father was a sea captain. His mother, a devout Christian woman who, realizing that an illness she had would take her life within a short time, taught her son to know the Bible at an early age. When John was seven, his mother died and he became a cabin boy aboard a sailing ship. His experiences through the years on the sea were dangerous and exciting, even to being shanghaied. That is, he was forced to join the crew of a Man of War. Here he was cruelly treated,

being flogged and abused. After this experience, he joined the crew of a slave ship and eventually became a captain. During all of this, John drifted far from his mother's God and the Bible. He later wrote, "I often saw the necessity of being a Christian as a means of escaping hell, but I loved sin and was unwilling to forsake it."

Each year say him sinking lower into the pits of sin and soon he had gotten so low that even the ship's crew despised him as being no more than an animal. On one occasion, the drunk captain fell overboard but the men did not so much as make an effort to drop a boat over the side to rescue him. They simply took a whaling harpoon and threw it at him. It caught him in his hip and the crew hauled him aboard, much the same as they would a large fish. Because of this occurrence, John Newton limped the rest of his life, but as he would say, "Each limp is a constant

reminder of God's grace to this wretched sinner."

Amazing Grace is really the life story and testimony of John Newton. It was in 1779 while working on the hymnal "Olney Hymns" with William Cowper, author of "There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood" that he wrote this gem of hymnology using as its title "Faith Review and Expectation."

When I read stories such as this, it helps bring new meaning to words that I've sung for so long and carries the song away from vain repetition to heartfelt praise. And as God desires our praises to be sincerely and thankfully offered from our hearts, it's always good to look at words that we've repeated many times with fresh eyes, just as if we are reading them and reacting to them for the very first time.

MAN NIGHT #1 Monthly Gathering

October 11th @ 6pm
Fellowship Hall

The Reason:
Teaching & Training Men to Live
out their Calling in Christ as...

Godly Men
Godly Husbands
Godly Fathers
Godly Brothers

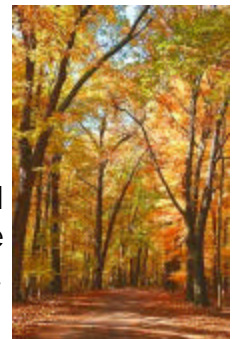
LADIES DAY OUT

Saturday, October 24, 2009

Join us for a trip to beautiful Brown County. We will leave the church at 8am and return at 3pm. Indiana is so beautiful in the fall. We will enjoy God's art work on the drive down.

Come and celebrate this beautiful fall season with us. We will shop and sight see in downtown Nashville. Lunch will be at *The Ordinary Restaurant* which will cost \$10.

Please sign up at the Welcome Center.



STAFF APPRECIATION



The First Baptist Church has adopted October as Staff Appreciation Month. The purpose of Staff Appreciation Month is to take the opportunity to express our appreciation for the dedication and hard work of our staff. We know they work very hard and spend long hours serving the Lord and our congregation. Our staff members are: Isaac Zull, Jeff Strickland, Linda

Wilson, Julie Randles, Marjorie Hughes and Cathleen Robbins.

We want to encourage you to take time to express what they mean to you and our church. Here are some ideas for ways to express your appreciation:

- ? A phone call, card or letter of appreciation
- ? Send an email message or email card of appreciation
- ? Promise to lift them and their family up in prayer
- ? Prepare a dessert or snack for Thursday morning staff meeting
- ? Take them out for breakfast, brunch or lunch
- ? Present a small significant gift or gift certificate for each person
- ? Set aside a time in your Sunday School Class to pray for the staff and their families

? Encourage your children and grandchildren to make cards and posters of appreciation for them

? Make banners or posters to display in the church

? Volunteer to do a simple chore

? Ask them how you might be able to help them

Even though October is designated as Staff Appreciation Month, we must remember to express our appreciation all year. We all know how uplifting it is to be appreciated and to be told that what we do is appreciated. This is not about glorifying a man or woman. The scriptures ask us to *"respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work".* *1 Thessalonians 5:12-13*

Thank you, The Staff Relations Board

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

It is not too early to begin filling shoeboxes with school supplies, hard candy and simple toys.

For most of their lives, these children have only known suffering and hurt, so the opportunity to reach them and their families through a simple shoebox is a privilege.

The Hands & Hearts Circle has collected shoeboxes and has made them available to anyone in the church. Most are wrapped, but some are not. Shoeboxes will be available in the Narthex. Please feel free to take a shoebox or use one of your own. Brochures are available at the Welcome Center.

Collection week is November 16-22. The hours will be Monday - Friday noon to 6pm. Saturday from 10am to 2pm and Sunday 8am to noon.



What's Happening at the Daycare—Volunteers needed

Dear Church Family,

We are very busy at the daycare. Preschool has started again. I still have a few four year old openings. Tina Martin gave us some preschool workbooks that incorporate the Bible in with our handwriting skills, thanks! We are doing chapel time every other Thursday. Linda leads worship time and Pastor Isaac teaches the Bible lesson. Linda is teaching them how to worship God by using instruments, they love it. Every Monday afternoon Pastor Isaac does Kids Club with the after school kids. They

sing songs, listen to Bible stories and play games. I would love to see our after school program grow. Prayer that we will be able to minister to more school age children in the community.

Thanks to all who have given monetary donations or shown us acts of love this past month. We have been very blessed by your acts of kindness.

We are in need of volunteers willing to fill in when staff is out. With the upcoming holidays, I am in need of extra hands, ANY age is welcome! I am hoping to

compile a list of people I can call if my staff need the day off. I will plan a training night to teach you how to run the different classes. If someone needed time off, I would call you and you could let me know if you were free that day. If this sounds like an area you can minister please give me a call. The deadline will be October 15 and the training night will be at the end of October. Pray about this and give me a call!

Julie Randles, GLCCM Director
364-0656

As many of you know by now, Guiding Light is experiencing a financial problem which The Steering Committee is working hard to make better. Listed below is a Wish List that the teachers have given the board for anyone that would like to help donate items to keep expenses down. As you can see, there are many items that you may have right at your house that could help them. Please feel free to bring any of these items in and mark on them for the Guiding Light. You can leave them in the church office or with Julie back at the Guiding Light. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tina Martin at 364-0475. Thanks for helping to spread our arms wide to help keep the Guiding Light remaining a positive influence for many children in our community.

Wish List for the Guiding Light

Baby Bibs (Plastic Backing)	Drinking Straws	Plastic Grocery Bags
Baby Bouncers/Crib Mobiles	Dry Erase Board Pens	Pop Tart Boxes (empty)
Baby Wipes (Non-allergenic)	Feathers	Pompom Balls
Batteries (Size AA/C/D)	Foam Letters or Figures	Scissors (kids & teacher sizes)
Bleach	Formula Cans (empty)	Sharpies (black)
Brass Paper Fasteners	Fruit Snack Boxes (empty)	Square Kleenex Boxes (empty)
Brown Paper Bags	Glitter	Staples
Coffee Cans (Empty)	Glue/liquid and sticks	Stickers
Construction Paper	Kleenex	Tape (scotch, duct or masking)
Contact Paper-Clear	Lysol/wipes and spray	Tempera Paint (all colors)
Cotton Balls	Paint Brushes (large)	Toilet Paper Rolls
Craft Yarn-black	Paper Clips (small)	Trash Bags (small or large)
Crayons (Jumbo)	Paper Plates (plain)	Two Liter Bottles (empty)
Crib Sheets-Infant Room	Paper Towel Rolls	Vegetable Cans (empty)
Destin	Pipe Cleaners (all colors)	Water Bottles (empty)
Dishwashing Soap	Plastic Containers with Lids	

Thank You from the Congregation

To Our First Baptist Family

Thank you for the beautiful flowers for our brother, Terry Clore. A Special thank you to all the Prayer Warriors for your concern and prayer.

In Christian Love,
Fred & Rozella Clore

Church Family

I would like to thank our church family for all the cards, calls and attendance at the celebration for my 80th birthday. You helped to “make my day”. God has blessed me and you all are part of the blessing.

Tyke Rice

Many thanks for the prayers, phone calls, and cards during my recent fall and procedure.

They were all very much appreciated.

CJ Brooks

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN’S CIRCLES—OCTOBER 6th

HEARTS & HANDS CIRCLE

will meet at 5:45 pm for a lite dinner served by Tyke Rice.

After a short business meeting, we will work on projects for Edna Martin Christian Center, Operation Christmas Child and Prayer Quilt Ministry. Sharon Kenny will offer devotions and provide dessert. All women are invited for an evening of service and fellowship!!

EDNA MARTIN CIRCLE

will meet at 9:00 am at the church with Pat Seale hosting. Lesson and devotions on “Hope in the Fringes” will be presented by Mary Jane Porter. Our Community Outreach Opportunity for October will be sharing items with the Family Crisis Center – personal products, paper products, teen books, shampoo, conditioner, razors, tooth brushes/paste. We invite anyone in our congregation to participate in this Outreach Opportu-

nity – just give your items to Marge Hughes or Mary Jane Porter.

These Circles are open to any woman in our church who has a heart for missions, wishes to participate in learning more about the ministry of American Baptist Women, and desires to share in Christian fellowship with other women.

Please join with us.



Women’s Ministries . . . continued

The Women’s Fellowship will be making cheer plates. Beginning October 18th @ 2 we will meet at the church to put together the cheer plates, please bring something to share. Then deliver them to shut-ins and nursing homes. We will meet again the 3rd Sunday of every other month.

For more info call Sheila Cox 361-5828 or 376-8741 or jmcsac@gmail.com

WOMEN’S HOME STUDY GROUPS (Passion Groups - the emphasis will be on our passion for Christ and to lead Godly lives) will meet monthly on the third Monday of the month. **October 19th**

10am Leader: Marge Hughes
Place: Terri Duncan’s 105 Woodlawn

7pm Leader: Nancy Kline
Place: Kline Home - 2459 W Del Mar Drive

7pm Leader: Patti Kinslow
Place: June Gourley - 612 East Main Street

OCTOBER CALENDAR

- 1 Word Watch 7
- 5 GLCCM Steering 5
- 6 Visions of Praise 6:30
- 8 Foster Parents 6 FH/FLC
Grapevine 7
- 10 Lego Club 2
- 11 Trustee Meeting 6:30 JS
- 13 Board of CE 6:30
Missions 6:30
Visions of Praise 6:30
- 15 Keenagers Lunch
Grapevine 7
- 16 Wedding Rehearsal 6
- 17 Ritchie/Martin Wedding 3:30
- 20 Visions of Praise 6:30
- 24 Lego Club 2
- 25 Deacon Meeting 6 FS
- 26 Assemble Newsletters 9am
Prime for Life 5:30
- 27 Prime for Life 5:30
Visions of Praise 6:30
- 29 Grapevine 7

Our Sincere Sympathy and Prayers
are Expressed to the Families in the
lost of .

Stella Linzie
&
Thomas Dickerson



Week 1

Harold Anderson
Ruby Sterrett

Week 2

Beth Mause
Emerson Mause
Kinslow Family
Starnes Family

Week 3

Bev & Dennis Lepper
Thomas McIntyre
Clore Family
Cox Family
Hunter Family
Priest Family

Week 4

Guy McCance
Marge Porter
J.D. Taylor

October Birthdays

Anniversaries

4 Jerri Stewart	15 Samantha Rosi	23 Roger	1 Harold & Linda Carpenter
5 James Gobble	16 Ray Seale	Rockenbaugh	Fred & Rozella Clore
Lisa Cruz	Rick Schavietello	Linda Wilson	4 Joe & Michele Enlow
Kaeleigh Carrier	16 Stephanie Akers	Trish Overpeck	5 Dennis & Judy Fruits
6 Suzanne Kincaid	17 Jeff Stewart	24 Jennifer Veatch	Dave & Laurie Rosi
7 Shane Harrison	Judy Ford	Colton Pedro	7 Gerald & Janet Clawson
Janet Fyffe	18 Bill Lippencott	26 Josh Hodges	9 George & Barbara Allen
Andrew Barclay	Paula Oshier	27 Thomas McIntyre	James & Charlene Gobble - 50th
8 Doris White	Faith Akers	29 Fred Cook	15 Rusty & Debbie Coffing
Mekhi Wallace	19 Justin Ellingwood	30 Barbara Reisner	17 Howard & June Holt
9 Mona Clouse	Charles Reath	Jordyn Wallace	Richard & Evelyn White - 50th
11 Barbara Craig 90th	Brad Kenny	31 Lois Priest	18 Bob & Rita Zahn
Nate Hester	Chris Minks		Barry & Stephanie Pool
12 Jim Deckard	21 Robert Wilson		20 Roger & Sandi Hutson
Dennis Ward	22 Terry King		21 Al & Peggy McKinsey
David Lovold	Shirley Astin		23 Jon & Jennifer Day
13 Rachel Barclay	Susie Locker		25 Duffy & Kristi Thornburg Sr.
15 Allen Personett	Nancy Kline		26 Larry & Jane Minks
Barry Pool	23 Harold Anderson		27 Tom & Kathleen Prince
Ethan Utterback	Nancy Cook		