

The Lamplighter



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September Home Edition

Some Friendly Advice

Recently God brought something to my attention that may be the key to why He says what He does about the church of Ephesus in Revelation 2. This was a group of believers who were **busy** serving the Lord. The Lord notes that, but He voices concern that they had left their first love. What the Lord has brought to my attention is the matter of being His **friend**. The Ephesians were not cultivating their friendship; they had become distant in their relationship with Christ Jesus.

The Lord Jesus told the disciples in the upper room: “Henceforth I call you not servants...but I have called you **friends**” (John 15:15). A friend is more than an acquaintance. The word friend speaks of a close personal relationship; acquaintance refers to knowledge about or association with. Friend is a more intimate type of a link with a person. We have many acquaintances, but not so many friends. A friend is someone with whom a person confides innermost matters; an acquaintance is a person with whom we exchange the information necessary to make our associational connection function appropriately. Let me move back to the last sentence in the paragraph above.

Abraham is spoken of three times in the Scriptures as the ‘*Friend of God*’ (2 Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8; James 2:23). What an honor to be called by God, “*My Friend*.” Enoch also must have been a friend of God. In Genesis 5 it declares: “*And Enoch walked with God...three hundred years...And Enoch walked with God...and God took him*” (v. 22). Enoch’s walk with God epitomizes what friendship with God means. Day by day over three centuries God and Enoch communed and grew closer to one another, until one day when the Lord stepped back into glory and Enoch went along with Him. Well, that might be an imaginative description of what happened, but the verse says that God took Enoch to glory with him. Their

communion was sweet, mutually enjoyable. The word in John 3:29 for the best man at the wedding is the word friend. This speaks about the intimacy of the bond between the two individuals. This relationship can be likened to a king’s inner circle of **trusted** friends. It is a very special relationship.

That is what the Lord God desires with each of His faith children. God wants us to focus on the relationship with Him over what we do for Him; after saying a person should not glory in his wisdom, might, or riches, the Lord declared: “*But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he **understandeth and knoweth Me***.” I want to be a friend of God. You would say “Amen, me too.” It is one thing to think that is wonderful and want it to be so, quite another to have it be so. That requires something on my part, your part. Balaam wanted to make his grave with the righteous, but his desire for this world brought his demise with the enemies of God and His people Israel. It is one thing to **desire** a certain conclusion, but another thing to live out what will achieve the desired result.

To become a **friend** of God let me suggest that we need to do the following:

- 1) Maintain constant conversation (1 Thessalonians 5:17);
- 2) Practice continual meditation (Psalm 77:12, 119:97);
- 3) Choose to be honest with God (Deuteronomy 32:4);
- 4) Choose to obey God in faith (John 15:14);
- & 5) Choose to value what God values (2 Corinthians 11:2). We must desire friendship with God more than anything else (Philippians 3:10). Scripture declares: “*Draw nigh to God, and **He will draw nigh to you***.” There is no doubt about God’s willingness to be our friend. As the saying goes at decision time: “The ball is in your court”. The blessing of God comes from doing right, not merely knowing truth: “If ye know these things, happy (blessed) are ye if ye do them (John 13:17)

Your friend in Christ,

Pastor Mosher

ANNIVERSARIES



September

4 Pastor & Debbie
10 Peeper
15 Madden
19 O'Shell
20 Cepullio
20 T. & E. Bodenmiller
22 Schroll

October

1 Folkman
3 Morgan
3 S. & K Calaway
3 Chown
8 McDivitt
12 Luiza
13 Minch
14 Magnani
15 Harness
20 Dombrowski
27 Whitty

Birthdays

September

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 2 Betty Link | 16 Diane Folkman |
| 4 Jacob Tester | 17 Kathy Auletta |
| 5 Brian Dombrowski | 20 Charles Anderson |
| 7 Carrie Thompson | 23 Ethel Kimes |
| 7 Chuck Hill | 23 Bill Mosher |
| 8 Diane McDivitt | 26 Eric Friedrich |
| 10 Shellie Fisher | 26 Ivan Hall |
| 12 Karen Biros | 26 Deloris Madden |
| 13 Devon Snelling | 29 Lois Lawther |
| 15 Eric Vestfal | |

October

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 6 Betsi Prill | 17 Donna Bennett |
| 9 Gayle Kaye | 18 Michael Paulocsak Jr. |
| 13 Adam Whitty | 20 Dan Minch |
| 13 Vivian O'Shell | 21 Jocelyn Cepullio |
| 13 Wayne Sharp | 22 Ben Bouw |
| | 24 Beth Swaffield |
| | 25 Jared Howells |
| | 25 Cheri Minch |
| | 31 Melissa Morgan |

Special

Celebrations

Golden Anniversary - Pastor Bill and Nan Mosher celebrated 50 years of marriage on August 1st! Congratulations to you both!

Carl & Sue Dombrowski will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary on October 20th.

Dave & Beth Swaffield marked their 25th wedding anniversary on August 25th.

Rob & Penny Whitty share their silver anniversary on October 27th.

It's a Boy!

Congratulations...

to Lee & Erica



Bodenmiller and big sister Ella on the birth of Pax Conner Bodenmiller. Pax was born on August 24th. Congratulations also go out to Thayne & Earlyne Bodenmiller, the proud Great

Grandparents, and to Jeff & Sharon Meier and Tim Bodenmiller the proud Grandparents!

2009 Fifties Club

The Lord has granted us 50 years (of old age)! But we don't look it (right?)

Gene Avery – February
Carolyn Tester – April
Julie Pierce – June
Gayle Kaye – October
Cheri Minch – October
Linda Allen – November
Penny Whitty - November



Happy Birthday to Us!

Home With the Lord

Curt Padgett - July
Virginia Marshall - July
Doug Thompson - August

Member News

Retirement: Congratulations are extended to **Bob Bulick!** Bob worked his final day at the Cleveland Steel Mills on June 28th, 2009, after 44 years of service.

Bob began his career in March of 1965 at Republic Steel in the Flats. He labored many years on rotating shifts during weekends and holidays. Bob was maintenance Foreman at the Hot Strip Mill Plant. This Plant rolls slabs of steel into coils 24 hours a day!

Bob has always been grateful that the Lord provided a job for him through an industry decline of factory closings.

Bob is looking forward to continued service here at Berea Baptist Church. He also will enjoy free time with his family, traveling, and his car hobbies out in the family garage! Congratulations Bob!

Special Recognition: Baptist Mid-Mission Workers Karen Thompson and Linda Dembeck received special recognition for their work at the annual BMM conference in July. Karen, who is the Accounting Department Supervisor, and Linda who works in the Tax Department, both received their 35 year service pins! Congratulations to you both!

Carrie Whitty: had the opportunity to travel to Thailand in July. She was able to be a help and encouragement to our missionaries, Nate & Mam Beckman. Carrie had many opportunities to minister, including teaching and, being in fellowship with area teens. She was also involved in working with a Woman's Prison Ministry. When she wasn't busy serving with the Beckmans she was able to do a little sightseeing and got to sit in this cool taxi! (The taxi is called a "tuk tuk"!)



Milt & Jean Friedrich: welcome the newest addition to their family; Lola Ann Helman. Lola was born by emergency C-section to Keli Butler Helman, the Freidrichs' Grand Daughter on June 28th, Lola was two months premature and weighed in at only 5 lbs! Now at 2 months old, she weighs 9.5 pounds! "God is great" says Jean. This is the Freidrich's first Great Grand daughter. Congratulations to you both!



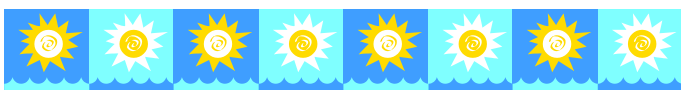
Adam Whitty: Welcome home Adam! At least for a few days! Adam returned to the States from Saipan and gave a report on his ESL teaching ministry and many of his interesting experiences. Adam is now at Faith Baptist Bible College in Ankeny, Iowa but hopes to go back to Saipan soon, hopefully for his student teaching.

Keith & Kelsey Mitchell

...arrived safely in South Korea and have already begun their two months of training to teach English as a Second Language there. They will be ministering there for one year. Keith and Kelsey were able to stop here in Berea this August to see their family before they left. They also visited their church family for the day at the annual Church Picnic.



Gene Avery: had the opportunity to attend TESL Classes in Minneapolis, August 3rd – 7th, Her training has already born fruit with the possibility of having an ESL/Sunday School Class for BW International students here at BBC! Very Exciting!



A Note from Pastor & Debbie

(August 30th, 2009)

Dear Church Family,

As of today, I have completed two-thirds of the scheduled three month Sabbatical. Only one month remains. God has been good in so many ways during this time. Debbie and I miss you all very much and are counting the days until we return! It has been a profitable time so far. Please continue to pray for us as we are for you. Thank you once again for your expression of love. We will see you in October!

- Love, Pastor & Debbie

OWLS

The summer has been a busy one for The Older Wiser Loving Saints of Berea Baptist Church. June saw the



OWLS out and about at Sauder Village. In July the OWLS took a trip on the Goodtime and enjoyed a fine lunch aboard ship. Then it was off to Pymatuning in August to enjoy a day of relaxation. The OWLS is a great group of Senior Saints who meet on a regular basis for fun and fellowship. Pastor Bill and Nan Mosher head up this special group and would love to see more come along and join in the fun! The next scheduled trip is the Botanical Gardens on October 13th.



Pastor Hauser

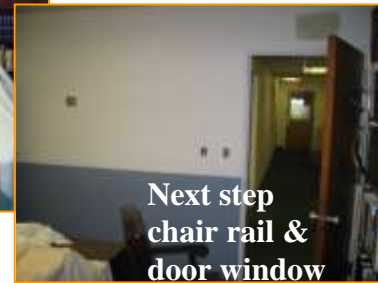
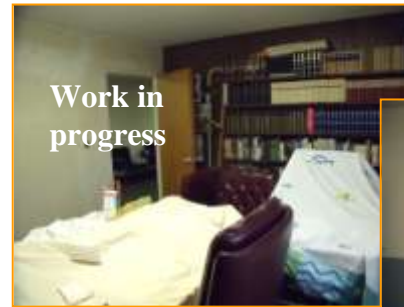
(September 10th, 2009)

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

It was such a joy to minister the Word of God at BBC during the five Sundays in August. The blessing of renewing fellowship with those whom we served, and the joys of meeting new members was special. May God richly bless you in your various ministries for Christ. Let us all be faithful until Jesus comes!

-Pastor & Rosie Hauser

Trustees



Pastor's Study

While the Pastor is away...the mice will RENOVAATE! Pastor's study gets a fresh new look. (The fish sheet is not included in the decor, by the way.)



262 West Street Project

Improvements on the Mission House began on August 1st! The old enclosed porch was removed and replaced by a new deck. New windows, siding, trim, back steps and some interior work are the projects that are now nearing completion.



Thanks go out to the men who spent many hours working to get the house in shape for the arrival of missionaries Paul & Joanna Avery. The Avery's will be moving into the house in October.



WMF

WOW! WMF has been busy! Mattress covers were made for Carrie Thompson's summer camp, a meal was prepared for FBCC, Gospel bracelets were assembled, Adopt a Missionary Program was initiated, and a collection of items for Chaplain Worrell's FOB in Iraq is now in progress. The Ladies are taking advantage of the last days of summer and holding a garage sale too! Thanks for all you do for our Missionaries!



Half full or
Half empty?



Filled to over-
flowing!
Thank you!



Penny Whitty
loads up "stuff"
for the WMF
Garage Sale!

Library News

The Children's books are back on the shelves and we are adding new ones!

The new books will be placed on a special shelf in the Library for a couple of months. Stop in and take a look!



Rock Climbing

Gene and Gary Avery had the opportunity to do some rock climbing with Samuel and Clare Sung at Whipps' Ledges in Hinckley. Zeke and Carrie Whitty scaled some heights as well!

