

The Communicator

July/August 2010

FROM THE



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Summer Plans

“Successful people have a plan.” Although this statement has a great deal of truth in it, it’s not an absolute truth. Sometimes, the plans we make don’t work, or we realize our original plan needs to be changed – and sometimes discarded completely. One of the things I am always amazed at is the number of ‘*experts*’ that populate the news broadcasts. Now these ‘*experts*’ lend their expertise to help us all plan for what the future holds. For example, here in Arizona, if we have a good year of rain, the ‘*experts*’ tell of increased wildfire danger due to the additional foliage the rains produced. If we don’t have rain and it’s a dry year, the ‘*experts*’ warn us of increased wildfire dangers due to the dry conditions. Which is it? Last spring, the ‘*experts*’ predicted 2009 to be an above average hurricane season. “Plan accordingly” they said. “It’s going to be a tough year with many severe storms” they claimed. Thankfully, 2009 turned out the fewest hurricanes since 1997. In regards to the economy and housing market, the predictions from the ‘*experts*’ seem to be wrong much more than right. “Experts were surprised” is a common phrase heard on the news. This brings me back to the opening sentence about successful people and their plans.

If so many ‘*experts*’ struggle to plan correctly, is planning really worth the effort? Yes...Scripture commends those who make plans - **Prov. 19:21** “Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.” (see also Prov. 21:5). Godly wisdom involves planning, it involves ‘counting the cost’ before you build a house. But we need to realize the limits of our planning ability. Since we are sinners, and we do not have the same abilities or attributes as God (omniscient, sovereign, etc), our best plans will sometimes fall short of their intended goal. Many times, the results of our plans will be no different

than the ‘*experts*’. When this happens, it’s not a verdict on planning or a verdict on the goodness of God in helping us accomplish our plan. It simply points to how much we need the Lord. It points out that we can’t do life – or eternity on our own. Our plans are limited in this life and the next.

Thankfully, God is a planner. Theologically, we refer to God’s *providential plan* or His *Decree*. If you are a believer – consider yourself blessed – and consider that God has a plan for you! **Jer. 29:11** “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” If you’re not a believer (yet), God invites you to be a part of His plan – and you start by putting your faith in Christ and His work on the cross – this is God’s *plan* of salvation. Not only does He have a plan for you, but His plan will not fail – it will not fall short of its intended pur-

pose. **Psalm 33:11** “But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.”

I pray that your plans this summer bring you great joy, rest, and some cooler weather. Regardless, know with certainty that whatever plans you have diligently put in place, whether they succeed or not, you can rest in God’s plan for you and for your future. Your greatest success lies in God’s plan for you. Indeed, the most successful people have a plan...it’s just not their own plan!

May your plans be blessed by God!

Pastor Steve

By Pastor Ken Fahl

In Christ's first letter to the churches in Revelation, He says that they have left their first love. When a church loses its first love, it is often reflected in its worship. To worship is to express our love for God. Man was created for fellowship with God. Worship is the sweetest expression of that fellowship.

It is precisely at this point, the point of worship, that Satan attacks because to worship is man's highest glory. Recognizing who God is in His holiness, glory and love; realizing I am a sinful creature re-deemed and adopted as God's child, I offer my whole being to Him in adoration and praise, which is worship.

Satan can rob God of our adoration and disrupt our fellowship with the Father by attacking our worship. We then begin to lose our first love. The problem the church faces is not one form or method of worship, but an enemy who has succeeded in getting our eyes off the holy and glorious God and on to our *own* experience and satisfying *its* expression. Worship is never a problem when the Holy Spirit is directing our attention to the Father and away from ourselves.

Let's pray for our Father to renew our hearts desire by a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Then, our highest glory and God's deserved worship will once again be restored.

"Worship is the prostrate adoration of the Holy Presence, often without words." ~Andrew Murry
May that spirit of worship fill our church once again.

EXTRA!! EXTRA!!

We are moving the church newsletter to the church website at www.cdobaptist.org/newsletter. This will be the last copy mailed to you. If you do not have the capability to view the newsletter on the church website, or prefer not to, please call the church office at (520)297-3900 or e-mail drandels@cdobaptist.org (if you have not already done so) to let Debbie know you would like a copy mailed to you.

Thanks To Our Great VBS High Seas Staff!!

God provided wonderful servants to this year's Vacation Bible School! Praise Him for the 48 who came to know Jesus as their Savior! Also, a special thanks to all who donated money, snacks, and, for all of those who prayed for a successful week!

CDOBC Lay Leadership

<u>Elders</u>	<u>Deacons</u>	<u>Deaconesses</u>
Lew Backer	Brent Avey	Sheryl Cottrell
Allen Birdsall	George Ballesteros	Tonya Haynes
Tom Cetas	Tony Greco	Shirley Horner
Jim Dover	Lou Hall	Beth Kolbuss
Dale Haralson	Kyle Randels	Amie Oetter
Russ Tronstad	Tom Trappman	Beth Silveira
	Bill Updike	Leona Williams
	Brian Wilson	Debra Wylie

Authenticity and Worship

By Pastor Joseph Berko

The human body is an amazing organism--capable of incredible achievement. Just the other day, I saw a story in the news about a guy who ate 54 hot dogs in ten minutes. And he was disappointed he didn't get down eighty! If you have ever been to an art exhibit, or attended a concert given by an outstanding musician, you have likely marveled at their creative brilliance, technical mastery of their medium, and virtuoso talents. Athletes make excellent examples as well, accomplishing incredible displays of coordination, speed, strength, and endurance. As I write this article, I tap keys on a laptop computer that was engineered by brilliant designers (yes--it's a Mac!) and spell out words that make sense to you because you understand the English alphabet. Just as there are many positive examples of what our bodies can do, most of us know someone who has lost much of the faculty of their mind or the use of their bodies due to a disease, accident, or neglect. All the "raw materials" may be there, but because certain members of the body aren't functioning properly the whole person is severely limited in what they can do.

The church is a type of body. It is capable of both great good, and also great evil. It can be characterized by strength and purpose, or weakness and apathy, unity and one-mindedness, or divisiveness and confusion. And just as the human body is composed of hundreds and thousands of organisms and systems--each one masterfully fitted together by God--the church is made up of people who have specific roles and tasks, and who need to work together for the good of the whole.

Who makes up the Body of Christ? 1 Cor. 12:13b says this: "We have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit." If you claim Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior you are part of the body of Christ. This is true because we all share the indwelling Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:15-16). And the body of Christ is wonderfully vast and varied--spreading all over the world, and spanning all age groups, social classes, and nationalities.

There are numerous systems that make up the human body and this is also true of the body of Christ (Rom. 12:4-5a; 1 Cor. 12:14). Each part plays a specific role and must be functioning properly to contribute to the body's overall health. To help us accomplish this, God has given each one of us a gift of doing something well (Rom. 12:6; 1 Cor. 12:18). Think about that for a minute. You don't have to wonder *if* God has a role for you. He *already has* given you a specific gift and the ability to use it skillfully. And He expects you to use it.

What is God's design in creating the church to function like a body? There are 2 main reasons. First, because we are individual members of one body with specific gifts and roles, we must realize that we need each other. How strange a body would be if it had only one part! ... The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you." If we think that we can rely on our own skills and abilities to be healthy while disregarding or minimizing other members of the body, we are both fooling ourselves and limiting the overall functionality of the whole. Secondly, we are put together in such a way that we are ideally suited to function and protect each other when we embrace those roles. Not every member of the body may appear to be strong, or important, but Paul urges us not to be blind to the fact that these are "actually the most necessary" (1 Cor. 12:22b). There are no appendixes in the body of Christ. Every member is important, and nobody should be overlooked, disrespected, or disregarded. God's design for us is that we care for each other (1 Cor. 12:25) and His vehicle to accomplish that is the church.

There are 3 responses we can have to our roles in the body. First, we can embrace our role--looking for what our special gifting is and using it to the good of the whole. Second, we can ignore our *role* in the body while still trying to maintain involvement. This can be done by denying we have anything worth offering the body, or simply not getting involved due to other commitments. In doing this we essentially are telling God we are not interested in fulfilling His role for us, and the other members of the body that we are unable or unwilling to get involved. The third option is that we claim relationship with God, but want nothing to do with His body.

What has your response been? There have been many criticisms leveled at the church in recent years--both from the outside and also from within. Unbelievers see us (generally) as squabbling legalists who really don't live all that differently than they do. While that is a generalization, there is a large element of truth in that accusation. It's easy to cast blame on denominations or Christianity as a whole for this bad testimony and avoid personal responsibility. But Romans 5:6-8 says: "If God has given you the ability to prophesy...If your gift is serving others...If you are a teacher...If your gift is to encourage others...If God has given you leadership ability...If you have a gift for showing kindness...DO IT! (my paraphrase)." It won't always be easy, but serving each other in love and getting involved is what God has for us. So let's do it!



Praying for Our Missionaries

By Scott Nichols

Jesus, when He left this earth and returned to heaven, gave a command before He left for His followers to live by. In what is called the *Great Commission* (found in Matthew 28:19-20), Christ tells the disciples and all of His followers that we need to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations. This is something the Apostle Paul lived by as he went on his many missionary journeys through the Roman Empire. Being on the road as a missionary undoubtedly was a hard calling, constantly traveling, not knowing how his needs would be cared for. Instead of worrying about that, one request he made that can be found in his writings, was focused on being able to further carry out the preaching of the Gospel to the people that he had not visited, yet. He writes in 2 Thessalonians 3:1, *“Finally, brethren, pray for us that the Word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it did also with you.”* This is a powerful reminder from Paul to the church at Thessalonica, to keep Paul and his traveling companions in their prayers, but specifically to be in prayer for the spread of the Gospel that Paul was participating in.

We should be praying for our missionaries that CDO supports, as they are out in the world spreading the good news of Jesus and His sacrifice. If you don't know who the missionaries are that CDO supports, be sure to check out the missions page on our website that has a complete listing. Another way we can pray for those spreading the gospel is to remember those youth that are going to Latvia this month. They will be there for two weeks working in an Evangelistic English camp. Pray that they will have opportunities to share their faith with the youth of Latvia and that they will have a life changing experience that will ignite them to serve God. Below is an itinerary of the trip for what the group will be doing each day:

July 18th—Depart from Phoenix for London
 July 19th—Arrive in London (stay over night)
 July 20th—Arrive in Riga, Latvia
 July 21st—Camp Prep in Latvia
 July 22nd—Camp Prep in Latvia
 July 23rd-30th—Latvian Evangelistic English Camp in Tukums, Latvia
 July 31st—Depart Riga for London (stay over night)
 August 1st—Depart London and arrive in Phoenix

We would love for you to be in prayer for us!

Pastor Scott

College and Young Singles Ministry

The College/Singles Sunday School class will not be meeting this summer. Watch for announcements coming soon to find out when and where you will resume meeting in mid-August.

The Gathering

(for young adults)

Join us every Thursday night as we gather to sing, pray, and enjoy a time of fellowship at Einstein Bros. Bagels from 6:30-8 p.m., located at the intersection of Ina and Shannon (a couple minutes west of Foot-hills Mall). Go to www.cdobaptist.org/gathering for more information.

Upcoming Events



Between Time Snack Bar on July 25th and August 29th. Come and enjoy special treats between worship services!!!

YMCA All Church Social on August 29th from 4-6 p.m. Join us for board games, swimming and ice cream! The YMCA is located on the corner of Magee and Shannon Roads.

MEN'S MINISTRY NEWS:

Men Under Construction for Christ (MUCC) Bible study meets at 6:30 p.m. every Thursday evening in room 2. All men are invited to join us for fellowship and study in the Book of Jeremiah. For more information, contact John Durako at 419-0535 or muc4c@msn.com.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS:

Tuesday Morning Bible Study: Join the ladies at 9:45-11:00 a.m. for a study (TBA) taught by Beth Kolbuss beginning on September 14th.

Tuesday Evening Bible Study: All ladies are invited! Your life will be changed as we study "Breaking Free" by Beth Moore from 6:00-8:00 p.m. beginning September 7th for 11 weeks. Cost: \$15 for workbook.

Women of Faith Conference - "IMAGINE" TOUR - October 1 & 2 (Friday & Saturday) - US Airways Arena-Phoenix, Arizona - \$89 Special Group Rate (available *only* through Group Leader-Michelle Racioppo until July 16th) - www.womenoffaith.com/phoenix

Ladies! The next **Women of Faith Conference** is only months away! Please pray about joining us for 2 days of fun, praise, worship, laughter and tears, and see how God will leave you a changed woman! The theme this year is "IMAGINE," and you are invited to *imagine* how God will touch your heart and your spirit as you allow yourself to be Christian believers, praising His Name and laughing until you cry. If you have never been before, or even if you have, each year is different. Sheila Walsh, Natalie Grant and Luci Swindoll are a few of the ladies who are on the lineup for the Lord! *Sign up now to ensure your discounted group ticket price* that will include great seating, as well as, box lunches for both days. **To purchase your ticket(s)** call Michelle Racioppo/Group Leader at 977-3381, or, e-mail her at luv2ulord@aol.com. Tickets are limited so reserve yours right away! If you need hotel accommodations, speak to Michelle for those details. May God bless us as we grow closer and closer to Him!

Opportunity to Serve God as a Short-term Missionary

"Go ye unto all the world..." was Jesus' last command. Have you ever thought you could serve as a missionary to a foreign country?

Your Missions Committee is planning on a special opportunity for our members to do just that by serving on a short-term mission trip to Eastern Europe during the late spring or early summer of 2011. The committee is working with the Greater Europe Mission which leads Christian teams to assist churches, evangelical groups and schools in various projects throughout Eastern Europe. Usually such projects are about two weeks in duration and would involve a commitment to work on practical projects. We ask you to think about this challenge and pray for God's guidance on how He would lead you to serve. It is not too early to begin your planning now. This would be a wonderful opportunity to truly have a vacation with a purpose. Would you consider this challenge?

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Please contact us with your new address or if you no longer want to receive the newsletter.

*Committed to helping people
become mature followers of Jesus*



YMCA



All Church Social

Sunday, August 29th

4:00-6:00 p.m.

(corner of Shannon &
Magee Rds.)



*Bring your swimsuits, towels and favorite board games to play. Swimming: \$1 for 17 & under \$3 for adults

