



Dearly Beloveds!



Well, happy new 2010! There's just an intriguing ring to that for me.

Having completed our Christmas theme series of His Excellency, Emmanuel (GOD WITH US) and, having examined the question "Why was Jesus born (John 18:36-38)?" We are returning to complete our time in 1st and 2nd Timothy.

So, Why WAS Jesus born? Why did He come into the world? The answer is not only simple and crystal clear, but full of divine purpose and resource for our beliefs, life, culture and choices! It's all about truth!

Right now I'm praying especially for our young people to know, be liberated by, live by and fully trust ... the TRUTH. Jesus said that He WAS the truth. He said we shall KNOW the truth. He said that the truth would set us FREE! John chapters 8, 14 and 18.

TRUTH! **It's not relative.** It transcends opinion. It is absolute. It can be known. It must be believed (fully trusted). He is worthy of our worship! TRUTH is how we find and draw near to God.

Ps 91:4 *His truth shall be your shield and buckler.*

Ps 100: 5 For the Lord is good; His mercy is *everlasting, & His truth endures to all generations.*

Ps 117: 2 For His merciful kindness is great toward us, *And the truth of the Lord forever.*

Praise the Lord!

Ps 119:160 The entirety of Your word [is] truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments [endures] forever.

Ps 145:18 The Lord [is] near *to all* who call upon Him, To all *who call upon Him in truth.*

19 He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry & save them.

20 The Lord preserves all who love Him, But all the wicked He will destroy.

Truth prevails. Truly, I love you and am praying for you! Please serve Him well!!

pastor jake

C The new year is here and although I have never been one for new year's resolutions, I have found myself seriously contemplating some things I would like to improve upon. One of the things I want to do this year is read through the entire Bible - sometime I will share some helpful suggestions I received from Rick Hattan's pastor. Along those lines, I read some statistics from George Barna that I would like to share with you and present a challenge to you (if you are not already doing it) for this new year. Barna did a nationwide survey of Christian families and found fewer than one out of ten families read the Bible together during a typical week or even pray together (excluding mealtimes). Nevertheless, the "families interviewed saw how crucial family faith experiences were to raising a godly child." Can I challenge you to sit down as a family and read God's word together in this new year? I'm not asking you to read the **entire** Bible as a family in this year, but I am asking you to consider carving-out a little time each week to read a portion of scripture. George Barna goes on to say that the responsibility for the nurture and spiritual development of our children rests on us as parents. Will you accept the challenge in this new year to take the nurturing of your child's spiritual development to a deeper level? Please? Next month I'll share how we have done this in our family. God bless you, Russ Garrett/Children's Christian Education Director

**C
h
r
i
s
t
i
a
n**

**E
d
u
c
a
t
i
o
n**

Assimilation Seminar – Saturday January 9th (8a.m. – 12p.m.)

*“An effective **assimilation** ministry IS an effective **evangelistic & disciple-making** ministry!”*

Pastor Dan would like to encourage anyone who is interested in being a part of designing and implementing a more effective and thorough visitor follow-up strategy in ministering to the guests that God brings us every week—or simply wants to know more of what we’re doing in this vital area of ministry—to attend this ½ day seminar. This would include those in our church family who may have interest in—or are already serving in such areas like: being a *greeter*, being a person who *connects with visitors* during the greeting time, those who would like to serve in welcoming and ministering to our guests on Sunday mornings with a *Welcome Center*, those who would like to *deliver a baked good* or gift during the week that says, “Thank you for visiting”, those who would like to help visitors get *plugged* into classes, small groups, and in using their gifts in service, etc. Participants will also have the opportunity to fellowship with other believers in our community as a couple area churches will also be participating. If you have not yet given your **RSVP** via e-mail, bulletin, or by calling the church office, please do so by *no later than January 5, 2010*.

“Bridging the Faith & Business Disconnect” --- Saturday January 23, 2010...

Monument Bible Church is privileged to help sponsor this one-day seminar designed to provide instruction and encouragement in integrating biblical principles and sound business in the marketplace. The featured speaker is Jim Dismore who conducts seminars and consults with businesses around the world. He has served for 5 decades in the retail and manufacturing business as the president/CEO of several multi-million dollar companies—including working for 12 years alongside Sam Walton as one of the original officers of Wal-Mart.

With this storehouse of experience Jim will be bringing practical, hands on instruction in 5 key areas: *establishing a clear purpose statement, forming a compassionate care plan, developing a comprehensive business plan, assembling advisors, and measuring up to God’s standards.*

This will be held at the Harms Center from 8a.m. – 3p.m. The cost is \$45 per person which includes lunch, a take-home workbook and other materials. Call the Harms Center @ 635-6700 to register. For more information or promotional materials that can be used to invite others, please contact Pastor Dan at 632-4099.

Director of Music & Worship Resources Search Update Pastor Dan Anderson

Where are we at in finding a person for this position? Per the article in our October Newsletter, we have selected a team of individuals from Monument consisting of people from the elder, deacon, and worship ministry areas to be involved in interviewing any potential candidates. Through initial efforts to get the word out through various pastors/contacts in the area and state there have been two candidates who expressed some preliminary interests, but have not panned out date.

How can I be involved or provide input? Please keep praying! To find the kind of person we are looking for with part-time pay it is definitely going to have to be a God thing! In addition, as I mentioned in the last newsletter article, if you know of someone who might be interested, we would love to know about it! However, if you could check out the finalized detailed ministry description we have posted on our website at www.monumentbiblechurch.com before (to see if the person you are thinking of aligns with what we’re looking) that would be a great help. Or, please feel free to encourage such individuals to contact me at the church office. Thank you so much for your care, interest, support and prayers in this!

MOPS Benevolence Project

During the regular MOPS meeting on February 2nd, they will be working on a benevolence project for DOVES. They will be filling purses with various items for the women who come into the DOVES shelter. MOPS is collecting used purses in good condition to fill with the following items: travel size shampoo/conditioner, contact solution, toothbrushes/paste, chapstick, feminine items, candy, cough drops, Kleenex, gum, deodorant, makeup, face wash, brushes, & hair ties. MOPS desires to encourage these special women & brighten their day with their own purse filled with goodies.



MOPS Scrapbooking, Friday, Jan 22, 4pm thru Saturday, Jan. 23, 7pm.

MBC Giving & Attendance Report

Date	Giving	Budgeted	Difference	YTD Giving	YTD Budgeted	Difference	1st	2nd	Attnd.
11/30/2009	7023.25	7614.93	-591.68	102736.05	98994.09	3741.96	141	195	336
Online 12/3	436.65	7614.93	-7178.28	103172.70	106609.02	-3436.32			0
12/6/2009	10771.75	7614.93	3156.82	113944.45	114223.95	-279.50	71	154	225
12/13/2009	12116.08	7614.93	4501.15	126060.53	121838.88	4221.65	115	199	314
12/20/2009	2859.46	7614.93	-4755.47	128919.99	129453.81	-533.82	103	197	300
Online 12/26	174.18	7614.93	-7440.75	129094.17	137068.74	-7974.57			0
12/27/2009	4220.55	7614.93	-3394.38	133314.72	144683.67	-11368.95	83	146	229

 * **Ladies Bible Study begins** *
 * **Wed., Jan 13th, 9:00 am or 6:30 pm** *
 * **EPHESIANS by Elizabeth George** *
 * Please have lessons 1 & 2 completed by Jan. 13th. *
 * If you missed the order date, books may be *
 * ordered through the Bible Book Shop. *



A coaches meeting will be on
Monday, January 4th at
Zion Evangelical in Scottsbluff
Sparks coaches at 7:00 pm
TNT coaches at 8:00 pm
 ✓ **AWANA resumes Wed., Jan. 6th @ 6:20 pm.**



- ⇒ Valley Mobile Pantry, Fri., Jan. 22—food donations may be placed in barrel by south office door.
- ⇒ Interested in helping with greeting, nursery, college age meals, and/or Awana meals? Please contact the church office 632-4099 for more info on various ways to serve at MBC. ☺Praying for Blessed New Year!!!

Mission of the Month - Jack & Melissa Shoemaker, Wycliffe Bible Translators

Dear all at Monument Bible Church, We are currently in northern Uganda. I am glad to report that it is warm here, the days averaging upper 80's to low 90's, the nights dipping to the 60's. I know, it's a rough assignment, but someone has to live here. I cordially invite you to spend your Christmas break with us, away from the blowing snow. We have running water occasionally, but usually it just walks by, carried in 5 gallon plastic Jerry-cans on women's heads. We also have running sewerage, or at least you run to the latrine if the need arises. We have electricity from a pair of solar panels, otherwise we use the light of the sun straight from the source in the day. Even then, at night we find ourselves gravitating to the mud charcoal stove on the lee side of the house after supper, for a desert of roasted corn on the cob, slightly popped.

The weather has been unusual this year. It should be bone dry by now, but we are still getting afternoon showers and occasional deluges. No fear of flooding where we are, we are perched on the rim of the Rift Valley, the bottom of which is a couple hundred feet below us. We usually get advance warning. There is a 5,000 ft. peak about 3 miles to our east that directs the flow of moist air up out of the rift. When we can't see that peak anymore we know its time to look for shelter. This time of year the winds from the Sahara may carry so much dust that it can blot out the mountain too. On other days smoke from the burning grasslands around us may obscure it. This year only ½ inch of dust has accumulated, its been light.

Where I am collecting data on traditional Ma'di names for a degree program in Anthropology. The purpose of this research and degree program is to better equip me to teach anthropology and cross-cultural work at GIAL, (Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics). The mission of GIAL is to equip missionary candidates for cross-cultural ministry, especially in translation, literacy and development. One reason I chose this topic of research amongst the Ma'di is that many of their names are similar in style and content to the names given in Old Testament times. My hope is that by understanding Ma'di names we can better understand how names were given, and for what purpose.

One application of this study will be to better understand the function of names in the Old Testament. For instance, some names, like Ich-abod "The Glory has departed" serve as historic markers, recalling a significant event. This name can also serve to teach a lesson, reminding people that if they are not truly worshipping and following Him, God does not promise protection. Neither He, nor in this case the ark of the covenant, is not to be treated like a good luck charm.

In Hosea God told the prophet to call his children names like LoAmmi, You are not my people anymore, or LoRuhamah, I will not show my love to Israel anymore, and Jezreel, I will punish Israel in the valley of Jezreel. In this case God communicated his message to Israel through the names of Hosea's children. Every time those children were called, God's message was again proclaimed for all who could hear.

In Genesis 29-30 Rachel and Leah exchanged blows through the names they gave their sons. This is one of the few cases where the meanings of the names of an entire set of children are given, complete with their explanations. Westerners see these kinds of names as obtuse, projecting the anxiety or rivalry of women onto their kids. But these names are very familiar to the Ma'di. Christ's name, Jesus, meant Savior. We are told in Matthew 1:21, and elsewhere, that his name was to be Jesus, because He would save his people from their sin. There is a lot to learn yet, but the Ma'di have been very cooperative.

Lelia is working with a lady who has been praying for years for someone to come help her organize Sunday School teaching and methods in the local churches. This is a challenge for her, as this has not been a priority in the past, and Sunday School has just been a noisy time where the kids are taken out of the regular church, but not really taught. This week the church is holding a youth camp for several surrounding towns. Lelia is busy guiding 50 kids through the book of Romans, in 6 easy lessons. I have been asked to present exposition on Romans to the high-school and college ages.

Pray with us for Lelia's work permit. So far the Uganda Government has not been willing to grant her a work permit, though we are applying for a special extension to her initial entry while we try other ways of getting a visa which will let her stay till June.

Jasmine is homeschooling under Melissa's watch. Being overseas makes some studies, like geography, come alive. However, school is stretching both of them. Melissa is trying to meet with women who come to share and pray. This is a busy time of year for everyone, and since she is limited in where she can get to, this has been discouraging. Her health has been stable otherwise.

Justice stayed in Dallas for his Junior year. He is on the swim team, and in the choir, so he wanted to stay to continue those activities.

Natalia is in the Navy. She is currently out to sea on the Harry S. Truman.

Thank you for your prayers and support, and may the Lord richly bless you, by the power and grace of His Name.

Emailed received
12/12/09