

EMAIL UPDATE

From: Pastor Scott Distler
Date: 06/30/08

BIBLE SCHOOL FRUIT

Thank you to all who participated and prayed during last week's VBS! We are excited to report that literally hundreds of children attended with dozens of them making decisions for Christ. Below are some updates about VBS written by **Pastor Tim**:

“As I stood outside the door saying good-bye, a number of people came up to me and shared the stories of how their child (or a child they brought) trusted in Jesus. There was one lady who shared that their little neighbor girl trusted Jesus to be her Savior tonight and that her mother has said she will be coming to the Patriotic celebration...God's doing some incredible things through VBS – Not only are children being saved, but God's doing some neat things in the lives of parents. I spoke with a man tonight coming to pick up his daughters. They don't attend church anywhere, but his girls are having so much fun at VBS, which led him to ask what else they could come to. The Lord opened up a wonderful opportunity to talk about our ministries and he held up his Patriotic Celebration postcard that was handed out tonight and said – ‘we'll see you there’.”

KEEPING UP WITH OPERATION BARNABAS

Check out daily updates and photos of our OB students at www.operationbarnabas.net. Also, there is a mailing itinerary if you'd like to encourage them with cards, letters or care packages. Getting mail means a LOT to OBers who are away from home for the entire summer! **Janelle Brooks; Jessica McCracken; and Megan Walsh** are on the *Continental Team*. **Alicia Heckman; David Leisey; and Alison Witmer** are on the *MidAmerica Team*. **Kaddie Brandt** is on the *Midwest Team*

READ TUESDAY...WE ARE ADDING A THIRD SERVICE

Beginning in October, Grace Church will be adding a third Sunday morning worship service. You can read about this move in my bog this Monday, **June 30**. It has been said that every young preacher has an Apostle Paul. On Tuesday, **July 1**, I will write about my Apostle Paul. On Wednesday, **July 2**, I will give an application for our new Grace Church dating service. You can access my blog at www.folklisten.blogspot.com or through www.lgbc.org.

LETTER LOOK OUT

I will be mailing a letter this week to our entire church family. This letter will include a stewardship update for the final quarter of the fiscal year and an overview of a very exciting month of October which I believe will undoubtedly be the most important month in the history of our church. For those who get my e-mail updates I will send you an advance copy of this exciting letter on July 1 (Tuesday). Be checking your inboxes and your mailboxes.

THANK YOU'S FROM OVERSEAS

In our fiscal year budget for this year we were able to accomplish our goal of supporting our full-time overseas missionaries at 50% of their need level. This allows us to have a much stronger connection and partnership with the **Beckers** in **Ireland** and with the **Beuggerts** in the **Philippines**. This is very needed as the U.S. dollar continues to decline overseas. After communicating this to these missionary families, we received the following e-mails from them. The first is from the **Beuggerts** and the second is written by **Rebekah Becker**:

“Dear Church Family, We just wanted to deeply thank you for the awesome way you have shown your love to us through increasing your support to us. We are still basking in the way God has showered us with this blessing. We as a couple were thinking of how we could raise support from the field without having to leave, and we began praying that the Lord would take care of this need for us. As you know the dollar continues to weaken and it has definitely affected us. So, when we opened the email informing us of this unexpected news, we were reminded once more of our Lord’s faithfulness to each of us in “supplying all of our needs, according to His riches in glory”. We have closely followed what the Lord is doing there at Grace and believe the Lord is blessing as a result of each person developing a burden for the lost and a deeper hunger for His Word. What a combination! And the creative juices are endless with all of the fantastic outreaches you are thinking of! We are looking forward to an outreach retreat we are planning for the end of September. We have recently been encouraged to meet several Thai families that have a curiosity/hunger to know more about the Lord, and we believe He is opening hearts for him. Thank you again for your large part in our ministry in Asia. The Beuggert Family”

“This may be of interest. I was praying and I felt that God was telling me to read the book of Philippians. Today I was asked more or less to apply for the school where I did my placement for a full-time job as counselor. In two or three weeks there have been 2 different jobs that I have been asked or given to apply for. Both pay very well and in both cases I have said no. Today was tough because I love the school where I did my internship. I prayed on my way home and once again told God that my family was first and despite the cares and worries on finances I told the school counselor I couldn't do the job. She understood as a fellow believer and knowing what Scott and I do. Then just this evening I was praying and felt God telling me to stop and read Philippians. The end of the book talks about the gifts the Philippians gave to Paul and the fact that they were a sweet sacrifice to God. The book closes with 4.19, ‘But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.’ I finished reading that and as I read the words I was thinking of the churches and individuals who have supported us. I then felt like God was telling me to check email and yours was the first one I opened. Somehow I felt I needed to share that with you. Please tell the church body and elders, ‘thank you.’ We are very humbled and blessed by Grace. Continue to pray for us and

the ministry here and many things that are starting up next week. I hope you have a lovely weekend. Thank you for that huge encouragement. Rebekah”

PATRIOTIC CELEBRATION THIS SUNDAY

This Sunday is our community Patriotic Celebration which will be held here at Grace Church and will include two identical services at **9:30am and 11:00am** (*please note the change in service time from our normal Sunday service schedule*). Our Nursery and children’s program will be provided during both services for children ages infant through 4th grade. Immediately following both services there will be outdoor activities for the whole family. A cook-out style lunch will be provided free of charge to everyone. Other activities include inflatable castles and games, a dunk tank, face-painting and a special Army camp with a mess tent and military vehicles set up for the event. Everything about this event is free and will take place rain or shine. For more information visit www.lgbc.org or call 626-2155.

NEW STAFF AT GRACE

Starting in July, two new staff members will join our team here at Grace Church. **Marlin Weaver** will be working full-time in our maintenance department. Marlin and his wife, Sue, were missionaries in France supported by Grace Church for years. They are now back home in Lititz. Along with maintenance work, Marlin will also be putting together work teams utilizing the gifts and abilities of those within our church to serve within our own building and grounds as well as within our community. Marlin will also be working with our Mission Team to organize and lead several short term missions’ trips for our church family each year. We also will be welcoming **Jeremiah Kleylein** as our part-time Director of Junior High Ministries. Jeremiah and his wife, Nicky, have been an active part of our volunteer youth staff under Doug Kegarise, our Director of Student Ministries. Please make sure to welcome and pray for these two newest staff members to our church ministry.

JULY DIGGING DEEPER ELECTIVES:

This summer, our mission’s team is offering a Digging Deeper Elective to all adults during both the 9:00 and 10:45 services in the Fellowship Hall that is sure to ignite your passion for God, lost people and our part in reaching them for Christ. The topic for each Sunday is:

July 13: “Worship is the Fuel and Goal of Missions”: Please join **Bryan Burkholder** and **Greg Robinson** as they talk about the following “Missions exist because worship doesn’t... When the flame of worship burns with the heat of God’s true worth, the light of missions will shine to the darkest peoples on earth.” (John Piper)

July 20: “God Loves the Nations”: Please join **Mike and Joan McCracken** as they speak about God’s love for the nations along with an update on our Cambodian partners in the Gospel.

July 27: Hand in Hand Orphan and Widow Partnership: Please join the Missions Team and **Barb Wooler** and **Madame Alexandrine** who have traveled from the Central African Republic to share with the Grace Church family all the exciting things God is doing through our Birthday Gift for Jesus. They will have some incredible photos of the orphans we are caring for through the vehicles, schools and food we provide them on a daily basis.

Have a great week
Scott

