



Good News from the Bethesda Church Family

The Encourager

“Therefore encourage one another, and build up one another...” I Thess. 5:11

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March, 2006

Bethesda Church
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The Joy of Theological Fellowship

Pastor Mark Matychuk

There are many levels in which we can enjoy relationships with other human beings. At times we find great joy in sharing simple pleasures such as the warmth of a sunny day or the fun of a sporting event. Other times we find unique blessing in delving more deeply into our values and beliefs as we share with others our deepest concerns and personal goals. There are certainly wide ranges of fellowship levels within which we operate. Some are very superficial and therefore safe to navigate. Others, involve deeper sharing that bring with them greater risk and relational danger. We would all agree, I'm sure, that it would be a sad thing if we spent our lives relating on relatively superficial and safe levels without ever experiencing the amazing joy of spiritual intimacy and the deeper levels of relationship that can be ours. The fact is the risk is always worth it, because the potential blessings are rich indeed.

noble of Berea. The Apostle Paul ministered to the Jews at Thessalonica and for three Sabbath days he, "reasoned with them out of the Scriptures", trying to show them that Jesus was the Christ. Rooted in their own religious traditions, however, the majority were unwilling even to consider the truths Paul was teaching. They resented the fact that some did believe and, "set all the city in an uproar" with a mob reaction to what was taking place. Paul's life was in such danger that the Christians there sent him away by night to Berea, a town about forty miles away. It is hard, but at times we find this very type of emotion in ourselves when dealing with new concepts or theological challenges. There can be impatience, jealousy, anger, resentment and even retribution.

The situation at Berea was so amazingly different it begs us to consider what attitudes were present. As we continue in the story we find that Paul again sought his "kinsmen", the Jewish community, who were meeting in the synagogue in Berea. Verse 11 indicates, *"These were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the Word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so"*.

In both cities many gentiles were saved as they heard the gospel, perhaps for the first time. What was different between the two locations was the reaction of the crowd and how they faced a theological shift. The Bereans "received the Word with eagerness" and

their hearts and minds were open to what the Lord would teach them. I praise the Lord for the teachable hearts in our congregation and I pray that my heart would always be eager for what the Lord would reveal to me in His Word.

They also examined the scriptures daily and formed their foundation of faith on God's Word and not personal experience or the traditions of the Pharisees. It is interesting that at this time the "scriptures" they referred to were the Old Testament books because the New Testament wasn't in their hands yet. Their noble-mindedness rested in their trust in God's Word over the words of men. They gave Paul a hearing, listening with open minds to what he had to say. But, they subjected his word to God's Word, "examining the Scriptures daily to see whether those things were so". Their hearts were humble to God's Word, and patient in the process of seeking the truth concerning salvation and the church. They were indeed noble-minded because they were able to speak of the most important matters of life with grace, patience, openness, and a faithfulness to God's Word. May the Lord bless our many levels of fellowship here at Bethesda. I pray that we would enjoy great harmony as we share in the process of seeking understanding only the Lord can give.

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The Encourager

If you have an event or news you would like to have published, please submit articles to the church office by the third Tuesday of the month.

e-mail: bethesda@bethesdachurch.com



Awana Clubs
 for Boys & Girls
 Ages 3 Years to 6th Grade

Every Wednesday Night!
 6:45 - 8:15 p.m.

This is so true in terms of our theological interactions as well. It has been interesting to see this played out in our congregation. There are many things we can discuss "safely" with one another because we all agree about the central foundations of our faith. There are other things we discuss that require greater patience and sensitivity as we maneuver through the important teachings of God's Word.

A great example of this is found in Acts chapter 17 where we find a great contrast between the mob in Thessalonica and the

Mark your calendars and pray for our upcoming...

"Understanding Your Bible Conference"

Bethesda Church
May 6 & 7, 2006

Featuring: Les Feldick

Bethesda Family & Friends Prayer and Praise Requests

WOMEN'S WINTER RETREAT - Pray for those on the planning committee as they continue to make arrangements. Pray for Cathy Hansen our speaker as she prepares the messages.

JIM GUEST - On Feb. 24 he had more surgery on his hip and is continuing to recover at Augustana Chapel View Care Center, 615 Minnetonka Mills Road, Room 283, Hopkins, MN 55343. Pray for healing and physical therapy. This is difficult to go through again.

ANGIE CARLSON - (*Cousin-Myhra's & Matychuk's*) - Continue to pray for Angie as her body continues to heal. Pray for the many therapies she has each day. Angie's cognitive skills are continuing to develop. Updates at www.caringbridge.org/visit/angiec.

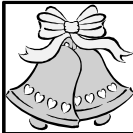
FROSTY HANSEN - *Pres., Grace Gospel Fellowship* "Thanks to all of you who have been praying for Frosty's shoulder surgery and for the kind notes. The surgery itself went well. He's begun the physical therapy treatments." *Cathy* Their address is: 1214 Fairfield Drive, Hudsonville, MI 49426. Email: frosty@ggfsusa.org

DAN & MARY SUE REED - Praise they arrived in Bolivia safely and all their luggage arrived! Pray for them as they begin language school and get adjusted.

TALO VERGARA - Praise he is now in Bolivia working with Jerry and DeAnna Olson. Pray for him to quickly move into ministry.

CORY & KIM HODGSON - Praise they are now in Tanzania in language school. Pray for them to quickly learn the language and get adjusted to the culture.

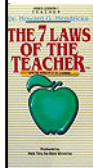
JOE & MICHELLE CAMPOS - They have arrived in the US with their family for home assignment. Staying in Grand Rapids, Michigan area. Pray for all the adjustments and for rest along the way!



Best Wishes to
Derek and Linda Larson
who were married on
Feb. 11 in Chattanooga,
Tennessee. A reception
in their honor was held on March 4 in
Prior Lake, Minnesota. Parents are
Alan and Cheryl Larson and
John and Fawnda Cofield.

ALL Teachers

**Join Us for a Training Session
March 19, 12:30 p.m.**



7 Laws of the Teacher
by Dr. Howard Hendricks

Lunch/Video/Discussion

- Full of vivid graphics and realistic classroom dramas.
- Helps teachers stay motivated in the face of great challenges.
- Unlocks the principles of teaching found in the Bible.
- Helps teachers prevent burnout and stay excited about their work.

For all small group leaders, adult bible study leaders, Sunday school teachers, AWANA leaders, youth leaders, VBS teachers and any potential teachers etc... We will be serving a complimentary *lunch - salad & sandwiches*.

Please sign up by March 15. For more information contact Pastor Dwight, 952-226-6651.

March Birthdays

3-01 Ivars Redland
3-01 Sue Hollenbeck
3-02 Paul Brandt
3-03 Steve Johnson
3-03 Clarence Sutton
3-03 Amber Zunker
3-04 John Toeller
3-05 Adriana Grund
3-05 Rindy Koukal
3-07 Bill Jones
3-08 Caleb Grund
3-09 Nancy Rolfe-Bailey
3-08 Mikel Oliver
3-09 Patty Johnson
3-09 Angelica Johnson
3-11 Mary Heath
3-11 Emilie Helberg
3-11 Connie Sommers
3-13 Kristianna Larson
3-14 Jeremiah Schimp
3-15 Terry Langnickel
3-17 Bev Andrews
3-17 Lori Crumb
3-17 Leona Franklin
3-17 Arlene Sutton
3-17 Pat Wigen
3-19 Byron Smith
3-19 Nadine Wentworth
3-20 Darlene Gowdy
3-21 Hilary Gunn
3-21 Tim Peterson
3-24 Connie Papulas
3-26 Barb Wolfe
3-27 Mary Nelson
3-30 Nate Johnson

Missionary Birthdays

3-03 Sally Roth
3-10 Betty Lee
3-12 Dan Reed
3-16 DeAnna Olson
3-26 James Sorteberg

Missionary Anniversaries

3-03 Frosty & Cathy Hansen
3-18 Gomer & Nene Indino

**Summer Missions 2006 Trip**

Our summer youth missions trip is in two parts this year.

Part 1: "Impact" Mission 180 Training, June 18-23 at Crown College in MN.

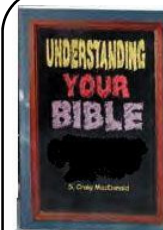
Students will learn how to share their testimony, evangelism techniques, participate in a Concert of Prayer and more. This training will help students get ready for the trip to Matamoro.

Part 2: "Matamoro, Mexico" with *Adventures in Missions*, July 14-21.

Ministry opportunities include vacation Bible school, door-to-door evangelism, prayer walks, discipleship visits, possible orphanage service, sports evangelism and more.

Please pray for our youth as they prayerfully decide if the Lord is calling them to be involved this summer and pray for leaders to join them.

For more information contact Pastor Dwight, 952-226-6651.

Book Project

PRAISE ... we have handed out over 150 books "Understanding Your Bible" to visitors who have attended Bethesda.

Pray for our *Visitation Teams* as they go out and visit these folks and answer questions they may have.



Our New Members
 Ted & Judy Brown
 Candy Davis
 Ronn & Joyce Gunn
 Andy & Sue Hollenbeck
 Corrine Horn
 Ed & Carol Jankowski
 Aimee Johnson
 Patsy Jones
 Don & Rindy Koukal
 Mary Knutson
 Vincent & Diane Martin
 Tim Peterson
 John & Sandra Toeller

Reinstated Members
 Alan & Cheryl Larson

I've Got the Power

rediscovering
 the power of **GOD**



2006 Family Bible Conference
 Lake of the Ozarks, MO July 4 - 7, 2006

The **Grace Gospel Fellowship** is excited to invite you and your family to the **2006 Family Bible Conference.**

July 4-7, 2006

The Resort at Port Arrowhead
 Lake Ozark, Missouri

Set in the beauty of Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri, the Resort at Point Arrowhead features breathtaking lake views, outstanding dining and deluxe

lodging accommodations. It's within these surroundings that your family will be challenged and encouraged to take a fresh look at God's power. There will be activities for all ages so bring the entire family for a time of relaxing and spiritual rejuvenation as we rediscover the awesome power of God at work in our lives.

For more registration information: www.ggfusa.org or call 616-245-0100.

Also check out the resort website: www.lakeoftheozarksgetaway.com


Bethesda Church - - March 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Sunday Night Satellite Groups continue to meet throughout the month. For more information contact the church office.</i></p>			1 6:45 PM AWANA 6:45 PM JAM Jr. High 7:00 PM Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 8:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	2	3	4 8:00 AM Prayer Gathering
			5 9:30 AM SS & Adult Classes 10:25 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:50 AM Worship Service - Communion 12:30 PM Worship Team Rehearsal	6	7 7:00 PM Impact Sr. High Youth	8 6:45 PM AWANA 6:45 PM JAM Jr. High 7:00 PM Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 8:30 PM Choir Rehearsal
12 <i>Women's Retreat Continues</i> 9:30 AM SS & Adult Classes 10:25 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:50 AM Worship Service	13	14 7:00 PM Impact Sr. High Youth	15 6:45 PM AWANA 6:45 PM JAM Jr. High 7:00 PM Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 8:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	16	17	18 8:00 AM Prayer Gathering 9:00 AM Pastor's Welcome Class 9:00 AM Summer Missions 2006 Meeting
19 9:30 AM SS & Adult Classes 10:25 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:50 AM Worship Service 12:30 PM Teacher's Training Session	20	21 7:00 PM Impact Sr. High Youth 7:00 PM Trustee Board Meeting	22 6:45 PM AWANA 6:45 PM JAM Jr. High 7:00 PM Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 8:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	23 6:30 PM Women's Crafts and Scrapbooking 	24	25 8:00 AM Prayer Gathering
26 9:30 AM SS & Adult Classes 10:25 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:50 AM Worship Service NGYC Sunday	27 Sunday March 26 12:30 p.m. Summer Missions Fundraiser Dinner	28 7:00 PM Impact Sr. High Youth 7:00 PM Women's Reflections Small Group	29 6:45 PM AWANA 6:45 PM JAM Jr. High 7:00 PM Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 8:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	30	31	

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Check out:
www.bethesdachurch.com
Sermon Downloads!



Up on the Web!



Bethesda Church
Women's Winter Retreat
March 10 -12, 2006
Mount Olivet Retreat Center
Farmington, Minnesota

Mark your calendars! Join us at the annual "*Bethesda Women's Winter Retreat.*" We will be at Mt. Olivet Retreat Center for 3 days, 2 nights - Friday evening to Sunday afternoon. Five meals and snacks!

Our theme will be "Hidden Treasures" with our guest speaker, Cathy Hansen. We are looking forward to Cathy challenging us from God's Word. Check out their website to see the conference center, hotel rooms and the beautiful grounds!

www.mtolivetretreat.org

Cost: Hotel Room \$150.00 (2-4 people in room)
Cost: Dorm Room \$120.00 (up to 12 people in room)
Scholarship funds are available. If you'd like to contribute to that fund note it on your offering envelope.

Indoor swimming pool, whirlpool, sauna
Outdoor hiking trails
Cross country ski trails (bring your own equipment)
Tables for scrapbooking and crafts
Table games, puzzles, snacks!

Registrations by March 5, 2006.