

CHURCH CHATTER

NOVEMBER 2011

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MEMBERSHIP MUSINGS	2
BIBLICAL REVELATIONS—JR.-STYLE	2
LEADING BIBLE TRANSLATIONS	2
THE PASTOR'S PASSION	3
BRAIN TEASER	3
NEWS BRIEFS	3
IN STEP WITH FRIENDS—RECORDING	4

SUCCESS SECRETS

Various thoughts and methods of church growth and success are studied and evaluated in seminaries and at conferences across the country.

You are invited to consider the “secrets” of church growth presented here, as well as do some of your own “home-grown” research on the subject.

Secret #1:
The church’s leadership and the laity hold to a high view of Scripture.

Secret #2:
The churches and their leaders seek to be relevant. Clarification: relevancy does not and cannot mean biblical compromise.

Secret #3:
The churches and their leaders hold to the primacy of preaching. (If churches focused on just these first three principles, we might very well see the American Church move from sickness to health. That would be true revival.)

Secret #4:
The churches have a healthy small group structure. This can take the form of Sunday school, home groups or other small groups. (In one study, churches that emphasize moving as many attendees as possible into a small group assimilated those members five times better than those who attended only worship services.)

Secret #5:
Healthy churches emphasize corporate prayer and church prayer ministries.

Secret #6:
Churches that are healthy take membership seriously.

Secret #7:
Healthy churches are highly intentional about evangelism. There are ministries, programs and emphases that lead members to reach out with the Gospel to their un-churched friends, relatives, co-workers and acquaintances.

Distilled from an Outreach Magazine article by Thom Rainer, president and CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources (LifeWay.com). He was founding dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism, and Church Growth.



SEE YOU AT THE POLE!

September 28, 2011 was the global day of student prayer, also known as “See You At The Pole”.

SYATP is based on Matthew 18:20, “Whenever two or three of you come together in my name, I am there with you.” (CEV). This experience allows students nationwide to gather to pray

at their school flagpole. The goal is to pray over each campus, and, include friends, teachers, families, the nation, and the world. This is an opportunity for teens to glorify God in a display of their unity in Christ. Dozens to hundreds gather each year. Regardless of number, God takes each

situation seriously and promises to be in their midst.

Crossroads Community Church Youth Group had a strong showing with 11 teens gathering to pray, supported by several of our youth leaders.

Where there is prayer, there is power.

MEMBERSHIP MUSINGS

Church membership is a demonstration of the believer's commitment to both Christ and His followers and growth in the grace and knowledge of Christ together.

- Service – Gal. 5:13
- Willingness to confront sin - Gal. 6:1
- Openness to being confronted by caring brethren – Matthew 18:15-17

Expectations of members include:

- Regular attendance – Hebrews 10:24-25
- Financial support – 1 Corinthians 16:2
- Devotion – Romans 12:10
- Confession and Prayer James 5:16

Membership helps accommodate and accelerate our emotional and spiritual shift in perspective from me-centeredness to we-centeredness. This allows us to “do life” with others who purpose to live lives in recognition of the authority of the Scriptures,

makes us part of the church community of Jesus-followers committed to regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship and service. By investing the resources God has given us (time, talents, spiritual gifts and finances), we craft the next chapter in the story of our church.

Our Newest Members:
 11/10–11/11
 Bev Bergeron
 Paul Lewicki
 Aaron Posey
 Michael Sullivan

“...from
me-centered-ness
 to
we-centeredness...”

BIBLICAL REVELATIONS – JR.-STYLE

(These come from a Catholic elementary school.)

The following statements about the Bible were written by children. They have not been retouched or corrected.

1. In the first book of the Bible, Guinness, God got tired of creating the world, so he took the Sabbath off.
2. The first commandment

was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.

3. Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day, but a ball of fire by night.
4. The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten ammendments.
5. Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles
6. The greatest miracle in

the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.

7. Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
8. When the three wise guys from the East side arrived, they found Jesus in the manager.
9. The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 decibels.
10. The epistles were the wives of the apostles.



The Five Leading Bible Translations¹

	Word for Word	Based on Earliest Greek & Hebrew Manuscripts	Publication Year ²
ESV	YES	YES	2001
NLT	NO	YES	1995
NKJV	YES	NO	1983
NIV	NO	YES	1978
KJV	YES	NO	1611

¹Based on CBA and ECPA data for 2008. ²Listed in order of publication date.

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IT'S NOT FINE-PRINT, THEY'RE FOOTNOTES

03-08-2004

PASTORS' PASSION

Recently, we were able to see the Glory of God as we sat in a Calvary Chapel beachside service on the island of Maui. Before us, His creation was displayed, the mountains of nearby islands, cloaked in foggy clouds, the sun sparkled on the turquoise waters, sea turtles roamed to and fro across the ocean backdrop as we sang worship songs together, hymns of God's great wonder, songs of His magnificence, words of His deep love for each one of us as His people...and the pastor preached the biblical message God had given him for that morning. As

we sat in our beach chairs and sunglasses, drinking in the experience, the love of God enveloped us, the security of His love strengthened us, His deep, loving care, astonished us.

There is nothing like taking time away to focus on God (no matter where you are). The Sabbath was an institution God commanded for the good of His people, and the good of their relationship with Him. A spiritual timeout allows for rejuvenation and re-focus.

Busy-ness and noise in our lives make it difficult to establish a

rhythm of Sabbath. A study from the American Psychological Association says, "Americans are struggling to balance work and home life, & make time to engage in healthy behaviors, with stress not only taking a toll on their personal physical health, but also affecting the emotional and physical well-being of their families."

God's call is for each of us to set time aside and spend it loitering in His presence.

Let's commit to seek God's desire for ourselves in this arena.

BRAIN TEASER

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible (merely by a fluke). It kept people looking so hard for the facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the name of the books were not capitalized, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others it was a real

job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a

cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now. There really are sixteen names of books in this story.

(Answers are posted on the bulletin board in the church entryway.)

NEWS BRIEFS

Christmas Echo

Our services in celebration of Christmas this year will include both the Christmas Eve Saturday Evening Service and Sunday Morning (Christmas Day) Service. Plan your holidays with the added depth of worship during your holiday traditions!

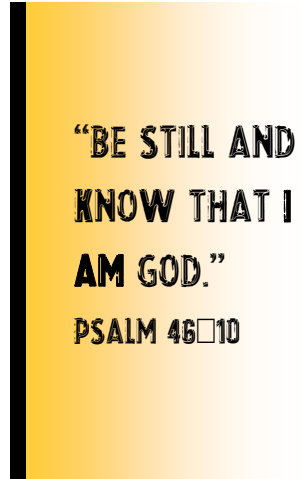
One Year

The pastoral team appreciated passing the one year mark of ministry at Crossroads on the first of November. Dan and Mindy have appreciated the depth and warmth of their welcome and support over the course of this transitional year.

Sprucing Up

With all the excitement and anticipation of the holidays, there are several building and grounds projects being undertaken before the advent of 2012.

If you'd like to assist in this valiant endeavor, contact Mark Radich for details.



CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH: A FRIENDS FELLOWSHIP

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Also find us on Facebook!

IN STEP WITH FRIENDS...

ON RECORDING

Friends believe that only God ordains a minister. God's people recognize God's ordination and record those called and gifted for public ministry. For legal purposes and tax requirements, the term "recording" is interchangeable with the term "ordination".

Friends also believe ministers may be called by God in a single instant, but they develop over time. They need godly character, biblical knowledge and ministry skills to maximize their effectiveness.

Recording requires extensive testing of competence in Bible, theology and ministry.

Entering the recording proc-

ess does not guarantee any specific timeline or outcome for the candidate. The Board of Leadership's Sub-Committee for Recording is given the task of working with the Holy Spirit to discern the specific steps, interviews, and process as well as the outcome for each candidate.

www.nwfriends.org/media/forms/2011

Recording a Friend as a minister is the community saying, "We've noticed the Spirit working through you in public ministry, and we want to make a note of that for your encouragement, and for the encouragement of future generations." This is not something that happens

only after passing certain written or oral exams, this is not something that has to happen in order to become a released minister in a Friends meeting, and this is not something limited to those who are in a paid leadership position in the worshiping community. Rather, it is open to any and all Friends, and it happens when a group sees God working in the life of that individual in public ways.

www.quakeroatslive.blogspot.com/2008/03/on-ordination-and-recording.html

Our pastors, Dan & Mindy, are licensed Friends pastors currently in the recording process through Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends.

Quaker

Pronunciation: 'kwǎ-ker

Function: noun

1. one who quakes
2. also known as: Friend.

Member, by birth and/or conviction, of the Religious Society of the Friends of Truth, a Christian sect founded in England by George Fox, circa 1652

Originally "quaker" was a derogatory term referring to a physical shaking which often occurred when Friends were moved to speak from the Holy Spirit.

Quakers are not necessarily connected to birds, oil or oatmeal.

definition provided by QuakerShop.com