

The G E M GOD ENABLED MISSIONARY

Winter 2009-10
A quarterly newsletter

Uncut
Unpolished
NEVER
Unclaimed

Welcome

Hey everyone,

Brooke, Drew, and I took a much-needed retreat to Cannon Beach, OR over the weekend. Besides being near the breath-taking spots where “The Goonies,” “Free Willy III,” and “Kindergarten Cop,” were filmed, the Lord truly refreshed us as we took some time to gaze up at His beauty and splendor. I spent most of my time sleeping, praying, reading scripture, watching college football (How about those Huskers—whew-hoo!), roaming shops, walking the beach, and reading a book by Chip Ingram. The Lord spoke to me through Ingram’s book and I wanted to pass on a few takeaways to you as we at Ridgeview enter into a season of Thanksgiving and Advent. Perhaps as we start praying about our goals and direction for 2010, the Lord may quicken our hearts to focus on one or more of the following things that, according to Ingram, all great Christians have in common. According to Ingram, all great Christians:

*

1. Think great thoughts (Phil 4:8)
2. Read great books
3. Pursue great people
4. Dream great dreams
5. Pray great prayers
6. Take great risks
7. Make great sacrifices
8. Enjoy great moments
9. Empower great people
10. Develop great habits

*(from Chip Ingram’s Book: Good to Great: 10 Practices Great Christians Have in Common)

I don't know about you, but I want to be the greatest person I can for Christ and know that in order to do so I must first learn how to delight in Him and secondly, I must discipline myself to do the kinds of things in this list. I also want to help inspire, equip, and empower all of you to do the same.

God wants to do something God-sized at Ridgeview, but it must first start with us focusing on Christ and secondly, allowing Him to develop Godly disciplines and habits in our lives.

On another note, we cannot wait to get to beautiful Chadron, Nebraska to be a part of your church family and community. Once there, my first order of business will be to get to know all of you and spend some time listening to your hearts, your dreams, hopes, disappointments, expectations and the like.

There are several things that need to be addressed and the leadership and I are going to be prayerfully tackling these things with your help and input. It's going to be a fun ride so get ready! We're going to dream God-sized dreams and watch our Lord and Savior accomplish in and through us "immeasurably more than all we could ever ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20)!"

God bless,
Charlie
Your new pastor

"Friar Chuck" and the Elf Granade



Lost and Trying to Find Our Way Back

by Tom Scheimo

Have you ever set out on any kind of trip, only to get lost along the way? Whether you are driving, flying, boating or hiking, it can give you a feeling of panic. Worse than the feeling, is the real chance of serious problems. Most incidents of being lost could be avoided if people would make sure their travel directions are based on correctly interpreted standards of reference - maps, GPS, homing beacons, etc.

I had a recent incident of getting lost, when Hope and I went to the Spearfish Canyon area for our anniversary weekend. Though I had studied the map for the route to Old Baldy Mountain, I discovered I had forgotten the map when we arrived at the canyon. Reasonably sure (or so I thought) that I could remember the road numbers and sequence, we traveled onward. Somewhere along the way we got on one wrong road, then another. When we Jeeped to what I assumed was probably the summit of Old Baldy, we were quite surprised to find we were actually on top of Cement Ridge Lookout, a higher mountain, 4 miles west in Wyoming!

The worst kind of being lost, with the greatest consequences, is spiritual. It's like when I lived in Alaska, we would hear about bush pilots who died in crashes - usually caused by their choice to "fly by the seat of their pants." It's scary, but that is the

way many people approach their spiritual lives - running on feelings, or impulses, or even sensationalism - not carefully checking out their life's direction against the only true and dependable standard we have - The Bible.

However, the Bible will not help people much if they do not read it, or if they do not learn how to properly use it to guide their lives. There are so many ideas and teachings floating around, many propagated with great style, but without real Biblical substance.

Others are swayed by the feelings of spirituality they get when they participate in mystical rituals and ceremonies that have little or no basis in The Bible. Can you depend on others to do your thinking for you? *Should* you let others do your thinking for you?

There are objective books available to help sincere Christians who want to learn how to correctly study and discern the Bible for themselves. If you can't find one at a good Christian bookstore, you can go online to Christian Book Distributors and look at their selection. Some good basic Bible interpretation studies include "Basic Bible Interpretation" by Roy Zuck; "Let the Reader Understand: A Guide to Interpreting and Applying The Bible", by McCartney & Clayton; or "Grasping God's Word: A Hands-On Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying The Bible", by Duvall & Hays. This is your chance to be sure you know what you believe and why.



You've seen it... the snow has come and will come again...volunteers are needed before we get hit again! See Dave Meister 432-5228 to get on the roster to shovel the walks. Good fresh air and exercise for the coming months! ☺

Sometimes we're puzzled by life...we cannot figure it out...when we look to the answer we find there is only One...enjoy the puzzle below. Perhaps it will relieve some stress...then when you're done patting yourself on the back, think of the One who can solve life's real puzzles...

	7	4			1		2	9
	2		9				7	
9				7	5	6		
5	8		6	1		4		
	9		5	8		7	6	
		6						5
1				3		2		
	5		4		2		1	
3		2			7	8		4

A big thanks to Marleta Hastings for putting together our new visitors' packets...
 faces with a packet,
 introduce yourselves.
 you were a visitor?
 anyone at RBC?
 make you feel welcome?



If you see some unfamiliar
 please take a moment to
 Remember back to when
 When you didn't know
 Did anyone particular
 What a great privilege to
 be able to return that favor or pass that kindness on to another new
 person/family!!!

Needs in the Church...fellowship




Would you like to be instrumental in the growth and fellowship of RBC? We need someone who would be willing to coordinate our congregation in getting to know one another...Here's the gist of it...

- ☎ Get the names of people who would like to participate (through "in-the-loop" and/or sign-up sheets at church)
- ☎ Coordinate them together...person/couple A will be given person/couple B and C's contact information and they can plan a potluck meal, can host the meal in their home, or coordinate a trip to a favorite restaurant
- ☎ The next month, coordinate person/couple A with person couple D and E while also coordinating B with F and G and C with H and I...give everyone a chance to meet each other. At the end of a year - each person/couple will have had the chance to get to know 24 other people/couples.

If this sounds like something you would like to be a part of organizing -- please contact Hope Scheimo at church or send a message to loop@ridgeviewbiblechurch.com!

FELLOWSHIP DINNERS

December, January & February

December 13		Sloppy Joes and Christmas Treats
	SSS	
Soup & Sandwiches		January 10
February 14		Pasta & Chocolate

Short-term Missions:

So...you want to work in missions? Let's start simple...

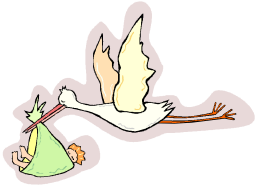
Preschoolers, Nursery...and their ongoing needs at RBC

- ☺ **PRAYER** ~ for our ministry to be effective: To lead a time of worship and learning where young children can discover God. We help this process by playing with the children or directing their play, reading to them, praying for them, demonstrating Christ-like patience and love, as well as providing a classroom/nursery that is a safe, secure, nurturing, and clean environment. Early childhood is the best time to build a God-centered worldview for children. Our goal is to teach the children a short Bible lesson each week and be able to express excitement, energy, and love for God's word when sharing a story and its principle or truth.
- ☺ Substitutes for when normally scheduled workers or teachers fall ill
- ☺ Dress up box ~ robes, dresses, scarves, hats, jewelry, shoes, old costumes...limited only by imagination...
- ☺ Bags of rice or beans for indoor sandbox
- ☺ Crackers for snacks
- ☺ Play dough
- ☺ Any toys in good working order that don't require batteries (ages 0-5)
- ☺ Dolls, clothing, and accessories
- ☺ Musical Instruments/noisemakers ~ anything that can be used to make a "Joyful Noise"
- ☺ Props or ideas for props for acting out Bible stories

Parents ~ Thank you for entrusting your children to us...Family ~ the more donated, the less to come out of the church offerings ~

!God bless you for being involved in this ministry!

Questions? Call Kim Lund ~ 665-3983, ijklund@bbcwb.net



New additions



Welcome to the Nursery!

Drew Granade &
Babies Huffman and Sinnett

RBC asks your help in doling out extra
prayers for health and safe deliveries
Nadene Huffman is expecting a boy and
Jacquie Sinnett is expecting a girl!
Both due in December!

Don't forget our "Diaper Drop" to help out these families.
God is growing our congregation!

"I realize that parenting a child in the way you would have me to is beyond my human abilities. I also need your strength and patience, along with a generous portion of your love flowing through me. Teach me how to love the way you love. Give me the communication and nurturing skills I must have. Make me the parent you want me to be and teach me how to pray and truly intercede for this child. Thank you that I can partner with you in raising this child and that I don't have to do it alone. I'm grateful that I don't have to rely on the world's unreliable and ever-changing methods for child rearing, but that I have clear directions from your word and wisdom as I pray to you for answers."

From the Power of a Praying Parent by Stormie Omartian



The Compassionate Friends

The Compassionate Friends (TCF) of Northwest Nebraska will be hosting the annual Worldwide Candle Lighting ceremony on Sunday, December 13, 2009, at Ridgeview Bible Church.

TCF is an international nonprofit, self-help support organization that offers friendship, understanding, and hope to bereaved parents, grandparents and siblings. The secret of TCF's success is simple: as seasonal grievers reach out to the newly bereaved, energy that has been directed inward begins to flow outward and both are helped to heal. **Their vision is that everyone who needs us will find us and everyone who finds us will be helped.**

Worldwide Candle Lighting is held the second Sunday of December. This unites family and friends around the globe in lighting candles to honor and remember children who have died at any age from any cause. As candles are lit at 7 p.m. local time and stay lighted for one hour in each time zone around the world creating a virtual wave of light, hundreds of thousands of persons commemorate and honor children in a way that transcends all ethnic, cultural, religious, and political boundaries.

While the organization focuses on those who have lost children, grandchildren or siblings, the candle lighting ceremony is open to anyone who wishes to honor the memory of their loved ones of any relationship. A "power point" presentation will be shown and anyone wanting to share their loved ones can send pictures to Evelyn Mitchell for inclusion.

This is the third year that the **TCF** of Northwest Nebraska has hosted a candle lighting. Each summer they also host a “balloon release” to honor the memory of their children. Other activities of the local group have been: the making of “grave blankets” at Christmastime and decorating heart wreaths at Valentine Day to place on the graves of their loved ones. Anyone who has lost a child, grandchild, or sibling is welcome and encouraged to become a part of the **TCF** of Northwest Nebraska for these and other events. Contact Evelyn Mitchell at 308.432.3051 or 430.8222 or email mitchell@gpcom.net if there are questions or a need for grief support at any time.



BIRTHDAYS

December, January & February

Nicole Pourier - December 8
 Clint Fernandez - December 8
 John Dockweiler - December 9
 Lee Branson - December 11
 Ayden Branson - December 11
 Lily Varpness - December 14
 Jeff Lund - December 18
 Moriah Hastings - December 20
 Madisyn Nemecek - December 26
 Walt Gaal - December 26
 Hope Scheimo - January 2
 Boone Huffman - January 3
 Brandon Horst - January 3
 Dick Meyers - January 8
 Carissa Meister - January 8
 Alexys Fernandez - January 12
 Bat Pourier - January 13
 Kim Lund - January 16
 David Johnson - January 18
 Drew Granade - January 21
 Nadene Huffman - January 29
 Colette Fernandez - January 31
 Veda Ford - February 12
 Ann Dockweiler - February 14
 Wilbur Juett - February 19
 Randy Dockweiler - February 24
 Sue Gaal - February 25

Hope here...I don't know about you but there are many days I live my life in a tunnel...fearful...I forget so easily...fear so unnecessarily GOD - the Light at the end of my tunnel....

Dear Heavenly Father,



Why do I insist on chaining You up? When I refuse to relinquish my needs and my sins, I tie Your hands, I bind Your feet from rushing to my rescue. I take away Your privilege of giving to me the treasures that You are joyful to see me inherit. I remove Your importance from my life, I dishonor Your wisdom and call You names by my attitudes. I have blinders upon my head; I live my life in a tunnel, never looking up, nor allowing the big picture, YOU, to encompass me. Every now and then You deliberately block where I have been and place barriers to where I am headed: You create a hole above me by a mere tap of Your finger and give me a chance to focus in only one direction, towards You. Knowing the smallness of my mind, You give me only a drop of what Your love can do for me; one drop at a time You enlighten me to Your greatness, one drop at a time You introduce me to the vastness of Your wisdom and purpose. Sometimes I crouch and hide, not wanting to remove myself from the comfortable, familiar darkness: I hug myself tight, fearing too much the space, too much the knowledge. You are so big, so great, that You are able to squeeze into my small heart in order to assist me one beat at a time, to fill me one pulse per moment, until I understand that Your vastness is what makes You so reliable, so loving, so secure. Everyday I concentrate on Your strengths, I walk taller and love more; everyday I concentrate on my weaknesses, I stoop over from the burdens and my heart begins to shrink.

A promotional poster for Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. The background is a bright blue sky with a man in a white shirt and dark pants jumping joyfully. The text is in white and blue. At the top, it says 'IMAGINE YOURSELF DEBT FREE'. Below that, it says 'Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace UNIVERSITY'. A small text block describes the program as a 13-week, video-based small group study. The website 'daveramsey.com' is listed. At the bottom, there are two boxes: 'Free Preview' on December 13th or 20th at 11:30 a.m. @ RBC, and 'Class Begins' on January 3, 2010 at 9 a.m. A phone number 'Lunds @ 665-3983' is also provided.

IMAGINE YOURSELF
DEBT FREE

Dave Ramsey's
Financial Peace
UNIVERSITY

Financial Peace University is a 13-week, video-based small group study that teaches families how to beat debt, build wealth, and give like never before.

daveramsey.com

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Call For More Information
Lunds @ 665-3983

F. P. U. Financial Peace University

When we first heard about Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, we weren't sure if we should take the class. It's a big commitment: finding a babysitter every week, giving up family time, choosing to make a change in lifestyle... was it worth all of that? After taking the class, we can assure you the answer is YES! Taking the FP class is one of the best decisions we've ever made for our family.

I (Amy) am a Business teacher, so the concepts of budgeting were certainly not new to me. In fact, MOST of what Dave Ramsey teaches was not new to me. Yet it's one thing to know something in your head, and an entirely different thing to apply it to your life. FPU gave us the push to utilize those concepts, and most importantly, made **communicating** about our finances a priority.

The saying, "if you don't know where you're going, you won't know how to get there" is very true with finances! Yet in the busyness of life with jobs, kids, and other commitments, making the time to sit down together and construct a real financial plan, create a budget, and set financial goals was something we just never got around to doing. Not having a plan meant it was easy to pay for things with credit cards, spend more than planned on a purchase, and various other financial pitfalls. Money was something we'd deal with later. However, later doesn't come around quickly enough, and before long debt accumulates.

We used the Dave Ramsey envelope system unflinching for over a year, and during that time paid off much of our debt. We paid cash for all purchases, cut up all our credit cards, and closed the accounts. We have not added to a credit card balance since then.

Continued on next page...

F.P.U. continued...

Using the envelope system & sticking exactly to a budget is time consuming, and to be honest, difficult. Unfortunately we can't say that we've done that *every* month for the last two or three years since we took the class, but we do know it's worth the effort. If we'd stayed completely faithful to it, we'd be entirely out of debt by now! Despite "falling off the wagon" at times, we have continued to apply the most important things we gleaned from the class-communication, planning, and creating no further debt!

We will be debt free, other than our home, in a matter of months, and plan to pay our mortgage off in a few years. We know for sure this would not be the case if we hadn't taken the FPU class. We are a "1 ½" income family (I work part-time outside the home), so if we can do it, anyone can!! Take the class, make the effort, and soon you'll be living like no one else!

Dave and Amy Jones



RBC Sunday School Christmas program presents "Cookin' Up Christmas!" on December 13th! Please join our wonderful group of children as they portray some pretty famous people....anyone watch the Food Network???

You'll see Miss Paula Queen, Better Rocker, Emerald Lasagna, Rachael Day, Bobby Grey, Martha Steward, and Alfred Brown all in action as they cook up the recipe for God's Love this Christmas.

Come join the fun. You may even get a yummy Christmas cookie! Don't forget that fellowship dinner follows the program.

We can piece some things together, but unless we're God, it's not going to turn out right.



"Many are the plans that are in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails." Proverbs 19:21



Sometimes we're like Popeye...when we want a quick fix, we take a "dose" of God...then set Him back on the shelf...

Writing Group...

Sometimes we choose a word to ponder and write on...

Harmonize... by Hope Scheimo

I think of beautiful voices blending as one extra-ordinary sound. To harmonize with God has to be even more amazing. There have been times...very few mind you...and woefully short...when I sense I am harmonizing with God and His will. Times when there is a euphoric peace settling about me. When I am not stressed or worried or even thinking about anything else, no matter how pleasant the subject might be. These are the times I could just evaporate into His being.

Yet, all good things get jolted by my ever-present humanness. The needs I believe HAVE to get done. The mundane chores and have-to's society dictates again and again. Or - The jolt may be those inner desires that I want to keep for myself:

"no Lord, please, I know this is wrong

I still want it - please Lord - just wait for me"

And that is when the needle drags across the vinyl. When a key is dropped an octave. A note falls flat...and my life begins sounding like a DJ's mix on a rap album. Yes, it is music--to a degree. And yes, one could get used to it and actually begin to like - or even enjoy it. But only when all of life is chaos and noise--Only then my disjointed chords appear to fit in and I begin to feel comfortable in my screeches and groans.

Comfort isn't always peace. Comfort in chaos does not lend itself to beautiful music. I want to be in harmony. I wish to harmonize with God. He created each one of us as His Body. If I think of the Body like one instrument. The clarinet needs a reed and a mouth piece. The guitar requires strings and a neck. And the band thrives on every instrument--unique, with its own sound and function. To entice. To wrap us in heavenly harmony.

Let us Harmonize with God - let us make beautiful music together!

And sometimes we share our words....

My Words

A selection from Lona Meredith:

Words pouring out of my soul
where did you come from
I cannot believe I had all of you in me
feeling released when this pen puts you to paper
I feel lighter and less weighed down
what a joy to finally have you out in the world
I am no longer holding you back
Keeping you from your goals
I wish to shout at people and say things I only dared to think
freedom of expression, what a joy it is to finally feel it
Unbridled words flow from my mind and for once aren't
suppressed
They are free on paper
They are not to be so wildly loosed by my tongue
but they are free to roam on page and print
not reserved or held back
writing them makes me feel lighter
I did not hold them back from their destination
but I let them go where they can hurt no one.

Come and join us any Tuesday at RBC from 6:30-8 p.m.

“My heart bursts its banks, spilling beauty and goodness. I pour it out
in a poem to the King, shaping the river into words.”
Psalm 45:1 --The Message

In The Mess...

By Jolana Milburn

It started on Sunday, November 1st. I had this horrible dark-
cloud-depression-type-thing that came over me and wouldn't leave.
The problem was that I wasn't particularly upset about anything. It
was really starting to get to me because I couldn't understand why I
just wanted to lay in bed and cry.

The next day, I realized that my lifetime friend, Joey Hotz,
was due to start his trial for killing his roommate he was convinced
was going to kill him, after they had consumed mushrooms. Life
had been pretty busy the week before and I had completely lost track
of what month it was! I knew immediately why I had been feeling
so heavy. I knew that the Holy Spirit was prompting me to pray. All
week this verse came to mind:

*And the Holy Spirit helps us in our distress. For we don't even know
what we should pray for, nor how we should pray. But the Holy
Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in
words. ~Romans 8:26*

Sunday, and on all week. Normal life followed by sudden
interruptions of grief that brought my knees to the ground, and tears
to my eyes. And, it was exactly like Romans 8:26 describes-
groanings coming from deep down in my gut, immediately followed
by a wave of grief. While on my knees I prayed. Sometimes I could
verbalize it, sometimes I couldn't.

Throughout the week I spent time in the court proceedings
with Joey's family. My family has been very close to theirs since as
long as I can remember. We grew up next door to Joey's
grandparents, and I was his mother's flower girl in her wedding. I
had been visiting Joey since the beginning of summer. It was a
difficult time, and it was especially hard to see the suffering around
the room...from everyone involved.

At one point during the proceedings, a recording of Joey in the back of the patrol car was played. It was just moments after he had been arrested, and probably the first moment he had to think about what just happened. What followed was deep, guttural groanings of despair. He prays for Kenny, (his roommate), and prays for mercy and guidance. He confesses that he is a sinner and Christ saved him. He cries out that all of his knowledge, (Joey is extremely bright and learned), means nothing. “Only Jesus matters” he says, “I am nothing without Him.” Silent weeping could be heard through his pained cries. I spoke with his mother later, and we were reflecting on people’s reactions. I said that I thought all of us have felt a despair similar to that where all we can do is groan in a way that words cannot express. We could relate to Joey’s pain as fellow human beings.

This is what I learned “in the mess” this past week. Tragedy brings people together; God brings healing from suffering; and...I am no better than Joey Hotz. We all need Jesus. In a world of suffering and confusion, I am more grateful today than last week that God is in control. Joey is God’s child, and I have been praying all week that His will be done in Joey’s life.....and everyone else’s.



“Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him, and to our God, for He will freely pardon.” Isaiah 55:7 NIV



THE LAST RESOLUTION

By Ann Dockweiler

2009 is coming to a close. I am always ready for a new year to begin. I make resolutions, or more accurately I recycle old resolutions that I have not been successful with keeping any other year. However, in spite of a history of failure, each New Year I re-resolve to do better!

My resolutions have a common theme. They are mostly about self-discipline which is not really my strong point. My resolutions typically have to do with losing weight, regularly exercising, spending less money, journaling daily, being a better housekeeper and establishing a daily Bible reading habit. I have never succeeded in keeping any of these resolutions for very long, even though I really, really wanted to. Maybe Paul sums it up best in Romans 7:15 “For that which I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate.” I find myself in this continual struggle between what I know I should do and that I want to do but yet I choose not to do. I know this pattern like the back of my hand. I hold no hope, that by myself, I will ever choose differently. I must be on the wrong track.

I found some evidence that maybe I have been off track all these years in 1 Timothy 4:8 “...for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.”

I have been wondering if, for 2010, I should just put the resolutions aside. Perhaps I should not resolve to do anything differently because it appears from my track record that making resolutions are just a lesson in futility. Somehow I couldn’t embrace this new thought for my life. I am a goal oriented person. I write lists...lots of lists. The lists help me to prioritize the things that need to get done and give me a sense of accomplishment when I am able to cross something off the list. So I really feel like I need to resolve to do something in 2010.

My quest was to find what one goal I needed to focus on in order to make a single resolution for 2010 that would be pleasing to God, be within His will for me and would be a good foundation on which to build some success for future resolutions.

My one 2010 resolution was found in the last part of 1 Timothy 4:7 “...discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.”

I know...the discipline thing again. Discipline or lack thereof, is the common denominator in all my old unsuccessful resolutions. This time the resolution can not be something that I depend on myself to accomplish. I have found my self to be fickle and weak. This resolution will require that I depend on God to do the work.

Only He can change the desires of my heart. Only He can transform me from the inside out. What if I would *want* to pray and read my bible and memorize verses? I believe that God can give me that desire. I believe that it is His will that I pursue godliness. I believe He will honor an honest prayer from my lips asking for *His* desires for my life, to be my desires.

As I write this and re-write and correct and bother John to be my editor....a thought has occurred to me. This is not just a resolution. This is not something that I have to wait to start until January 1. This is not something that has an end, not something that can ever be accomplished to such a point that I will cross it off my “list”. This is a resolution for life. This is a resolution that I can practice and pursue for the rest of my life. I feel excited about that. I want to start today. Already it seems that God is answering my prayer to give me *His* desires for my life.



Remember what God says...

“‘For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.’” Jeremiah 29:11



Luke 4:8 - Psalm 95:1-7 - Psalm 96:1-13 - Isaiah 12:2-5

Worship That Pleases God

Around our nation, most people associate worship of God only with church services. Even many Christians do not recognize the importance of worship, so do not take the time to learn all that God's Word teaches us about worship. Contrary to the view of so many people across the country, true worship of God is not a church music ritual. While it is very true that music can be a form of worship, there is much more.

To begin to understand worship, we need to recognize who it is directed toward. From the earliest of times, God has commanded those who profess to be His, to worship Him. Can we just worship any way we feel like? Should we just copy what other churches do? Or, if we really want to be sure we are worshipping God right, do we take the time to research The Bible to make sure we are doing it His way? Like so many things, God gives us some latitude when He chose to give us principles and examples to guide us, rather than strict rituals.

There is a good reason God did not give us worship rituals. The key to true worship is found in John 4:23-24, where we are instructed to worship *in spirit and in truth*. Rituals and traditions too often allow people to just "go through the motions" without engaging their hearts. This may impress others with an appearance of spirituality. But, what does God see as He looks at each heart? In Matt. 15:8-9 and Mark 7:6-7, we see Jesus denounce those whose worship is false.

Since the New Testament church is our scriptural model, what do we see of corporate worship? The most consistent and powerful form of worship is unified prayer - not the prayer of petition or intercession, but of praise and adoration of God. In Luke 19:46, Jesus said God's House was to be a place of prayer. In passages like Acts 2:42 and Acts 13:1-3, we see in the New Testament church, corporate prayer was a major part of their meetings.

Verbal proclamations of praise, thanks, adoration, and awe toward God are also a form of worship and are consistent with the New Testament Greek worship verbs. Luke 24:53, Acts 2:47, and I Cor. 14:24-25 are a few scriptures that show this type of worship.

While music was not the major focus of the New Testament church, it was still a form of worship in the assembly of the saints. We see in I Cor. 14:15, James 5:13, and Col. 3:15-17 instruction about singing. While many Old Testament Jewish forms of worship did not carry over into New Testament church practice, such as rituals, dance, and sacrificing animals, music did continue into the New Testament church.

A very important form of worship that is often overlooked, is that of how we can worship God by how we live and the deeds we do that can honor God (not to be confused with the mistaken idea we can earn our salvation!). Romans 12:1-3 and I Tim. 2:9-10 tell us more about this. Not totally unrelated to this, is how we also worship God when we participate in the sacraments of communion and baptism. The original language of the New Testament conveys a sense that worship is obeisance, reverence, homage, feelings of awe, and to honor God. Hopefully, this brief look at worship will help us all be able to be sure our hearts and minds are both involved when we worship God - both at RBC and in our day-to-day lives.

Needs in the Church...



ANGEL BREAKFAST

The 11th annual Angel Breakfast is Saturday, December 5th. This is a nation-wide celebration with the purpose to remind people to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Children ages 4-6 are the honored guests. Special invitations were sent out to the children. We acquired our guest list from MOPS, AWANA, and people like you. The children were asked to bring one adult guest with them. It is so neat to see Daddies, Grandparents, Aunts, and of course Mommy, come to the breakfast as the adult guest. We start promptly at 8:30 with an age appropriate video and then move on to do an advent calendar that will help them count down the days until Christmas. Then we all move to beautifully decorated tables for our specially served breakfast of quiche, doughnut holes, and fruit. While we are eating, "angels" come to visit each child and give them a small ornament to remind them that Christmas is Jesus' birthday. Individual pictures with the angels are available too, which has always been a big hit. If you would like to be a part of this special event, we sure could use you! RSVPs are coming in even now, so mark your calendar and save the morning. Please contact Mary Branson @ llandmb@bbc.net or 432-5087 if you would like to be a part of this event and help the children know the meaning of CHRISTmas!

NEEDED:

people to bake quiche
 Juice
 Fruit
 Doughnut holes
 Servers for the Day

CALENDAR

SUNDAYS

Tool Time - 9:00 A.M.

Worship Service - 10:30 A.M.

Young Married Couple Bible Study - 7 p.m., Amy & Wilbur's, 828 Chadron Ave

MONDAYS

MOPS - 4th Mon, 6-8 p.m. (CCC) RBC contact Amy Horst 432-6929

TUESDAYS

Women's Bible Study, starting in January. TBA @ RBC

Writing Group, RBC, 6:30-8 p.m.

(writers@ridgeviewbiblechurch.com)

WEDNESDAYS

Prayer - RBC 7-8 p.m.

PURSUIT - youth group, 7p.m. at CCC - RBC contact: Amy Juett, face book or 402-760-1810

MOPS - 2nd Weds, 9-11 a.m. (CCC) RBC contact Amy Horst432-6929

Awana -- Bible learning - at 6:30 p.m. at Chadron Berean Church - 407 Shelton St. Contact for RBC - Dawn Meister - 432-5228

CRU--Campus Crusades for Christ - 8:30 p.m. CSC Ballroom - RBC contact: Will Broeder, 308.225.1097, wibro@eagles.csc.edu

Focus: building relationships, getting students connected with Christ and other Christians

THURSDAYS

YML Young Married Lady's Bible Study, 7 pm

Amy Juett, RBC contact - 402-760-1810

RBC

Mission in Real Life
Grace * Truth * Relationships *
Influence

RBC exists to empower and release people on mission to all spiritually damaged, abused, negative or neutral men, women, and children in order to proclaim the good news of Jesus in the 21st century as we live as kingdom citizens in real life.

www.ridgeviewbiblechurch.com

308-432-5131

THANK YOU! Brandon and Zach for our wonderfully updated sign... Marleta and Dawn for all your work with the kids and the RBC Christmas program...Sue for organizing meals for Charlie and his family!

G.E.M.

writers@ridgeviewbiblechurch.com

Chadron, NE 69337