

Focus

Empowered Servant-Leadership

In unity, we will serve others by assessing and using our Spiritual gifts in various ministry opportunities.

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Our Core Values

- Healthy Loving Relationships
- Spirit-Led Worship
- Persistent Passionate Prayer
- Empowered Servant-Leadership
- Transformational Discipleship
- Need-Based Evangelism



It's More than a Book

By Pastor Kurt

Someone once told me the best gift I could give my kids is a love of reading. The problem is I don't love to read. So how can I give something I don't have myself? And what about teaching them to make car or house repairs? How can I pass along a lesson I have not learned myself? This is the same dilemma we can face when it comes to impressing character qualities and spiritual values. So let me share what I did about reading and how that's helping me pass on a love of books and also how it's giving me opportunity to impress Biblical values on my children.

Last summer I wanted to shift some attention from the TV and electronics to books, so I started with a book that we had watched - *Robinson Crusoe*. This peaked the boy's interest and mine. I read enough to get us hooked and then stopped so they'd want me to pick it up again the next day. And we did every day for over a week. This repetition began to instill what I had hoped. When we finished that book, I picked out another classic that also had a TV or movie. This time we read the book first and then watched the show. We read *Count of Monte Cristo* and then *Man in the Iron Mask* (I previewed the movies so I could skip any parts I didn't think were age appropriate).

The boys got to the point they were reading books on their own and picking out other adventure books they'd like me to read to them. I should also mention I prayed for God to instill in them something that I don't have - a love of reading. I certainly give Him credit for shifting our hearts away from the TV and towards books.

Last week I finished reading the classic *Heidi* to all my kids. Besides the fact their Mom shares the same name, we talked about the ways our Heidi and the character *Heidi* were similar... (*nice, pretty, enjoy outdoors, kind, honest, and compassionate*). *Heidi* thought about others above herself and we talked about how God wants us to think and act this way too.

The boys and I had similar discussions when I read the book *Moby Dick*. While certainly it's a dark story, it is a lesson on the destruction of revenge. In *The Three Musketeers* the boys and I talked about how a girl's outside beauty can be deceiving and God wants us always look at a girl's heart for her true beauty.

I'm catching a better glimpse of what the author of Deuteronomy meant when he wrote "*These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*" (Deut 6:6-7). Passing along Biblical values can happen in every setting (*travel time, bedtime, mornings, meal time...*). Our task as people of influence (*parent, family, teacher, coach, neighbor*) is to prayerfully watch for ways to point kid's thinking and hearts to Jesus. It's more than a book, more than a ballgame, more than a garage project, and more than a meal. There's a lesson behind every turn in life.

Ushers In April



8:00 a.m.

Dennis Ayres**
Mike McKee
Craig Walters
Recruit
Recruit

9:15 a.m.

Roger Metzger**
Fred Thompson
Lynn Blocher
Terry Sites
Recruit

10:30 a.m.

Kevin Watson**
Larry Swihart
Dave Hofer
Steve Bucher
Jason Meredith

** Denotes head usher for that service

Any questions, please call
Carl Petrie 260-417-2246.

Prayer Cards in Pews

The green prayer cards in the pews are available for any prayer request. A group meets to pray each Wednesday at 6:30 a.m. You may place the card in the offering plate or leave it in the church office.



BLOOD PRESSURE

SCREENINGS will be on the third Sunday this month (April 17th) in Pastor Ron's office.

They will be held after first and second services. Blood pressure cuffs are available for loan/check-out in the church office.



The ladies of Joyful Hearts will attend a free concert by the Manchester Symphony at 3:00 p.m. at the Honeywell Center, Wabash, on Sunday, April 3rd.

WMS

Monday, April 4th

3:30 p.m.

At Timbercrest

Leader: Lila McCann

Committee: Linda Lindzy & Alma Eiler

Lesson: A Child God

By Vickie Taylor

All Women Are Invited

"Come see what we're all about!"



Library Lines

Easter Bunny, Are You for Real? is just one of the many books available in the church library to help you prepare for resurrection Sunday. Come visit the library and see what you can find to share with your family or as a personal quiet time to focus on what Christ has done for us.



There will be a Baptism in the coming months. If interested, please see one of the pastors.

Brethren Missions

India Pastor Profile

Surya Rao D. (Deva)* and his wife, Mrs. D. Chinna, are the pastor in the village of Gonedda. They are the parents of 2 sons and 1 daughter. Pastor Surya Rao studied at the Brethren Bible Institute, and received both a Certificate of Theology and a Diploma of Theology from there. He is good in counseling, and has a ministry of tracts distribution. Surya Rao and Chinna's weekly activities include: Sunday School, Sunday Worship Service, Friday Fasting Prayer Meeting, and Saturday Women Prayer Fellowship. This village has a prayer hut provided by the Brethren Mission with 67 baptized members (up from 62 last year). Pray for their continuing ministry in Gonedda village, and that soon they will be able to construct a church building there.

*Family Name

Mission Lunch

On Sat., April 16th Linda and David Immel, along with their Global Action friends, will be sharing about their recent mission trip to India. The director of Global Action, Lars Dunberg, will be here to talk about their ministry in India of distributing blankets to remote villages. His son, Paul, who led the India team, and Sheeba, the Indian interpreter, will be with him.

In addition to them, Linda and David will be showing pictures and talking about their visit with Prasanth and Nirmala Kumar in Rajahmundry. The Kumars have many areas of ministry through the Brethren Mission, and the Immels are anxious to share their experiences with you.

Lunch will be provided at 12:00 with the program beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the church Fellowship Hall. Please come and join in for this special time of sharing the work in India.



Columbia, SA

Marcelo &

Adriana Ferreri

Marcelo's birthday

– April 10

Adriana's birthday

– June 17

Email – mferrericol@une.net.co

Marcelo and Adriana Ferreri lead the largest Brethren Church in Colombia. This church is located in the city of Santa Maria, and they have recently opened another outreach in Los Gomez, which is a low-income area reaching over 100 families. They coordinate many ministry leaders to help them reach people for the Lord. Marcelo would be greatly encouraged on his birthday by greetings from American Brethren.

Rajahmundry, India

Prasanth & Nirmala Kumar

Prasanth's birthday – April 27

Nirmala's birthday – February 13

Email – prasanthnirmala@hotmail.com

In a land that is dominated by idolatry, superstition, and diverse religions Dr. Prasanth and Nirmala Kumar oversee the Brethren Mission in India. They have many ministries including a Brethren Church with over 600 members, an orphanage for both boys and girls, Bible institute, tailoring and computer schools, and a Charity hospital. They also oversee more than 100 village pastors. They are very committed to spreading the Good News of Jesus to their country. A note of encouragement would be a true blessing to Prasanth on his birthday.

An Update From Your Diaconate Leadership Council

In February, the DLC conducted a mid-year personnel review of Pastor Kurt. A considerable amount of time and effort was put into this process. As a guide, the DLC developed an outline for evaluating the senior pastor position looking at the numerous aspects of public, relational, administrative and outreach ministry. A sampling of specific areas included Bible-based teaching, congregational interaction, listening skills, organizational skills, working with ministries, missions, evangelism, visioning, equipping the congregation for ministry, overseeing the congregation's spiritual growth, personal integrity, attention to his own marriage and family..... and many more.

Prior to meeting with Pastor Kurt, each DLC member was asked to evaluate him using this guideline and in turn Pastor Kurt did a self-evaluation and prepared an explanation of his personal philosophy of ministry.

An initial review consisted of the DLC meeting with Pastor Kurt for a time of sharing. Immediately thereafter, there was a private meeting of the DLC to discuss and summarize the review, which was very positive and affirming. About a week later, DLC members Mike Pyle and Garen Bushong met with Pastor Kurt to review those areas of praise and affirmation as well as areas for improvement.

Your DLC has also been evaluating the church and wrestling with church ministry priorities. The importance of discipleship continually comes to the forefront. How can each of us be in a closer personal relationship with Jesus Christ? We covet your prayers as we want to discern the Lord's plans for us in these areas.

We also ask for your prayers as we establish an agenda for a one day DLC retreat in April. A two to three hour meeting twice-a-month simply isn't conducive to discussing many big picture issues and hopefully a full day away will help us gain more of a sense of God's path for First Brethren.

Finally, we have taken sometime in our bi-monthly meetings for sharing our personal testimonies. It helps to know where others are coming from and what their walk with Jesus looks like. We encourage you to pray for and look for opportunities to share your personal Jesus story as well.

As always, we welcome your comments, concerns and input. Please feel free to contact any DLC member – Warren Garner, Mike McLaughlin, Jim Mishler, Gary Purdy, Mike Pyle, Steve Searles, Phil Zile, Kurt Stout and Garen Bushong.

Garen Bushong, Moderator

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Family & Friends at NMFBC,
We want to thank you all for your outpouring of love and sympathy through yours calls, visits, cards and flowers. We deeply appreciate the love and support we have received during this time of Daddy Jack's passing.

God love you all and we do too.
Rick & Dee Grindle

Dear Members of First Brethren Church,
We thank you for all that you have done to support our family. Kay is now recovering at home, following her fall and fractured vertebra. She has the help of her family, and hopefully soon, she and Bill will receive some daily assistance from home health care services.

Thank you for all of the wonderful meals and visits that you provided Bill while Kay was at Peabody. A special thanks to Bill and Denise Leonhard for coordinating the food. Thank you Deb Thompson, Sandy Burch, Bill and Denise, Sharon Fruitt, Kari Speicher, Candie Petrie, Kelly Mckee, Linda Lindzy, and Lisa Rice. Bill is so appreciative, and healthier for it too!

Pastor Kurt's words of encouragement and visits to the hospital were also appreciated. Thank you for your continuous thoughts and prayers.

In love and thankfulness,
Bill & Kay Bellinger and Family

The W.M.S. ladies would like to thank everyone that came to our Soup and Sandwich Luncheon or gave to our fundraising projects. We received more than \$900 for our National and District mission projects. Thank you for your wonderful support.

Greg, Suzanna and Morgan Hicks, are appreciative of your cards, flowers, hugs and meals with the passing of Suzanna's father on March 19. Thank you for loving us well.

Dear Church Family,
We want to thank you for the many acts of kindness shown to us during Ernie's illness and passing. We cannot express the comfort and love we felt from your prayers, cards, meals, calls and words. We want to also thank the church for the Gideon Memorial Bibles given in Ernie's name. We are so blessed to be a part of this loving church family.

The Family of Ernest Zerbe:
Dolly, Steve, Linda, Sharon,
Coleen and families



Congratulations to Joel and Sarah Harting on the birth of their son, Elijah Brody, born Thursday, February 10th, weighing 8 lbs. 1 oz., and measuring 19¾ in. long.

Congratulations to Kyle and Erin Wood on the birth of their daughter, Olivia Ann, born Friday, March 25th, weighing 7 lb., 14 oz, and measuring 20 in. long.



Our deepest sympathies to the family of Ernie Zerbe who passed away Wednesday, February 23rd. Services were on Monday, February 28th at the Loree First Brethren Church, Peru.

Our deepest sympathies to the family of Myra Lackey, aunt of Janice Chapman, who passed away Friday, March 11th.

Our deepest sympathies to the family of Bill Bellamy, father of Suzanna Hicks, who passed away Saturday, March 19th. Services were held Tuesday, March 22nd in Madison, IN.

APRIL

Birthdays

- 1 – Jonathon Eberly
- 2 – Barb Ihnen
- 3 – Kacy Sites
- 5 – Tristan Leonhard
- 8 – Dillon Gish
- 9 – Keith Immel
Steve Music
Ryah Vawter
Kelly Louvier
- 10 – Arlene DeLancey
Jessica Duffy
Dianne Floor
Megyn Meredith
- 11 – Jon Johnson
- 13 – Dick Metzger
Janet Miller
Amy Lambert
- 14 – Anne Frantz
- 15 – Lydia Gawthrop
- 16 – Amanda Bradley
- 17 – Lois Dickerhoff
- 18 – Adam Bashore
- 19 – Janelle McLaughlin
- 20 – Clayton Moore
Bill Wade
- 21 – Kim Pyle
Isaac Smith
- 25 – Ray Eberly
Imogene Warren
- 26 – Oliver Godoy-Forrester
Will Green
Debbie Gish
Amayah Jones
- 28 – Glenda Christiansen
Isabelle Anguilm
Andrew Dennison
- 29 – Connie Burton
Ethan Callaway

- 30 – Stephanie Beaver
Betty Duffy
Bill Leonhard
Lucas Hernandez

Anniversaries

- 3 – Larry & MaryAnn Swihart '66
- 4 – Steve & Sherry Searles '85
- 9 – Carl & Candie Petrie '88
- 10 – Alan & Trish Lauer '76
- 12 – Myrl & Joyce Frantz '58
Jason & Heather Lauer '03
- 14 – Steve & Cindy Bucher '72
- 16 – Bob & Joan Michel '50
- 17 – Jay & Jo Montel '93
Mark & Jenny Hill '93
- 18 – Craig & Rita Haecker '98
- 23 – Brian & Rebecca Ramer '94
- 24 – Craig & Sherry Walters '83

**LOOKING
AHEAD
MAY**

Camp Sign-Up Day
Sunday, May 1st

National Day of Prayer
Thursday, May 5th

Child Dedication
Mother's Day Sunday, May 8th

**Justice Team
Benefit Lunch**
Sunday, May 15th

District Conference
Friday & Saturday, June 3rd & 4th

The Power of Joy

As we approach Easter towards the end of this month, and particularly in the Communion service, our attention is focused more than usual on the crucifixion of Jesus. I've heard it said that it wasn't the nails that held Jesus on the cross; it was love. I certainly wouldn't disagree with that statement. However, the book of Hebrews is very specific about something that enabled Jesus to endure the cross. Hebrews 12:2 tells us to *fix...our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God* (Hebrews 12:2, NAS). According to this verse, what kept Jesus on the cross was joy. Jesus knew what His coming death and resurrection would accomplish, and that hope fed His soul as He hung on the cross.

Jesus' experience demonstrates the power of joy. Joy can empower us to do great things. What makes a woman willing to bear the trouble and pain of a pregnancy and giving birth? It's the joy of having a child. In the Christian life, joy is an excellent motivator. One of the most encouraging verses for me in seeking God is Hebrews 11:6, *And without faith it is impossible to please [God], for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him* (NAS). God rewards us when we seek Him! Our church has a three-year Bible reading plan, and on days when you don't feel like reading the Bible, something that can help is to remember that God will reward you when you seek

Him. Psalm 1 speaks of the godly person who delights in and meditates on the law of the Lord day and night. Such a person *will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers* (Psalm 1:3, NAS). The more we know and obey God's Word, the more joy we'll have.

The prospect of joy can help us overcome temptation. Psalm 16:11 says, *You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.* When we believe that true joy can only be found in God, it won't be difficult to turn away from the counterfeit joy that sin offers. The promise of joy helped Moses turn from sin. Hebrews 11:24-26 says, *By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.* Someone has written that when we can smell the steak sizzling on the grill, we won't be tempted by a bologna sandwich.

If joy could keep Jesus on the cross, it will certainly carry us through whatever comes our way. As it says in Nehemiah 8:10b, *"The joy of the Lord is your strength."* That's the power of joy.

Ron Burns, Discipleship Coordinator
(All Scripture references are ESV unless otherwise noted)

Invisible Children's 2011 Tour

The Justice Team is excited to announce:
Invisible Children's 2011 Tour!

- View the 45-minute screening of the film "Tony", which tells the story of child soldiers, war, and hope in Northern Africa.
- Hear the story and testimony of Achiro, a 22-year-old Ugandan women, who survived the war and is making a difference for others.
- Be inspired by the young people who are taking God's call for mercy, compassion, and justice to heart.

This free event is on Wednesday, April 27th at 7:00 p.m. at Manchester High School Performing Arts Center. Check it out at www.invisblechildren.com

April Compassion Corner

April Compassion Corner: Just for this month, Compassion Corner will move to the **SECOND** Sunday of the month, April 10th. This is a great opportunity to stock Easter baskets as the items we will feature this month are for children.

Items include:

- Children's felt purses and backpacks made by women rescued from slavery in Nepal
- Hand-made jump ropes, made by the Stout kids, with all proceeds going to organizations helping to rescue and restore the oppressed around the world.
- Africans: Novelty crayons made by local abolitionist, 11 year-old Heidi Ziebarth. Proceeds go to the House on Hope in Ghana.
- Fair trade Easter candy.
- As usual you can stock up on fair trade coffee and chocolate.

First Brethren Church *Learn From Me ... Matt.*

11:29

Reading Plan Bookmark 2011

April

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22

25

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28

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Mark

13-14

15-16

Leviticus

1-2

3-4

5-6

7-8

9-10

11-12

13-14

15-16

17-18

19-20

21-22

23-24

25-27

Luke

1-2

3-4

5-6

7-8

9-10

Children's Ministry

Weaving Faith into our Daily Lives Everyday

As we approach the Easter Season, remember to connect your families Easter activities with Jesus.

Garden 0-1 We are continuing to learn about creation and what God has made! Each Sunday we learn through singing, listening to our story and interacting with our "softies". Parents if you haven't seen us, feel free to peek in the window and watch as we learn to love God!

Garden 2's This month our theme is "Jesus Loves me" while focusing on the Easter Story. As we reinforce this while we play at church, parents please do the same by reminding your child that Jesus loves them as they play and grow this week.

Garden 3-Kindergarteners will be starting out our month with the stories of Jonah and Noah, before we start our Easter Unit. Our verse we are focusing on this month is: Matthew @8:6a Sung to the tune of: Where is Thumbkin?

| |
|--|
| He is not here (2x) He has risen, (2x) Just as He said. (2x) Matthew 28:6a (2x) |
|--|

LOFT: This month in LOFT we continue "Swingin' in the Kingdom" as we learn about God's Kingdom from the life of Jesus. We will learn the story of the Good Samaritan and raising Lazarus from the dead. There is no LOFT on Palm Sunday (Faith In Action) or Easter Sunday--you will celebrate Jesus' resurrection with your family. We hope you will talk together about what God is teaching you and the life Jesus gives us. Remember to keep working on the memory challenges of learning the Lord's Prayer and books of the New Testament- you have until the end of May.

LOFT Attendance Challenge continues as we try to set a record of 35 or more in LOFT each week. When we reach our next goal, it will be banana split day! Keep up the great job worshipping together every week!

Club de Niño's (Kids' Club) meets Wednesday night during the Hispanic Service as their Sunday School and as an activity night on Mondays while their parents are in class. We will be working on the real meaning of Easter.

Camp Shiphewana - Plan on our Annual Camp Sign -Up Day on May 1st - right after the 3rd Service. There will be camp games and activities for the kids, and a time for all questions to be answered for Parents. Our church has a different registration form to figure out the cost since our church pays $\frac{1}{2}$ the registration cost for one camp per year for each of our kids. Look at the sign-up sheet on the door by the LOFT for dates and times.

VBS -Mark your calendars for **August 1-5, 2011** We will be watching Psalm 139 come to life as we learn that God is Wild about us! Ages 3-6th grade!

Our Children's Ministry can use some more people who love Jesus and love kids! Check out some of these options:

Nursery/Garden 0-1's: We just need some extra hands/arms to hold some of our newest babies! Check out the door on the Nursery for the sign-up sheet to see which services need helpers most.

LOFT Summer Sign-Up: We need several people to sit with our kids and help them find their verses, during our 9:15 services in the LOFT. We will also need people to lead a crew around to different stations at the 10:30 service. Check out the sign-up by the LOFT door for times and more information.

FB C YOUTH MINISTRY

Weekly Schedule

CHAOS (7th-8th Grades) meets on Wednesday nights from 6:15-7:45 at *La Casa*

Ekklesia (9th-12th Grades) meets on Sunday nights from 6 to 8 at the Town Life Center

****Through the end of this school year, Ekklesia will be meeting at the Town Life Center!***



eklesia

"More Than a Building."

Orange Parents (Parents of Teens) meets on Sunday mornings at 10:30 east end of the Fellowship Hall

Family Force 5 in Concert

Friday, April 1 at Indiana Wesleyan. We'll leave from the church at 5:30pm. Cost is \$12 per person. Back around 11:30pm.

Good Friday Youth Worship Service

Friday, April 22 from 6:30-8:30pm at Wabash Friends Church.

We'll leave from our church at 5:45 and get back at 9pm.

Junior Highers:** The ***Stuck in the Middle Retreat was cancelled... so we're going to the ***Never2Young Retreat*** at Indiana Wesleyan on May 6-7. Cost is only \$25, and your money and registration must be turned in by April 24.

D. R. Mission Trip Team

- **Be praying that the money we need for this trip continues to come in.**
- **Our next team meeting is Monday, April 18 at 7:30 pm at Cafe of Hope in Huntington.**
- **If you would like to have one of the roles in the "Lifeshouse Everything" skit, let Pastor Tim know ASAP.**

Invisible Children are coming!

Be at the MHS Auditorium on Wednesday, April 27 at 7pm to learn more about this 25 year war and how we can help the thousands of children being greatly affected by it!

Go to <http://invisiblechildren.com> for more info.



Youth Conference is July 13-17 in Ashland, OH. Our church covers half your cost! Get your registration turned in by Sunday, May 15 and you only pay \$140. Get it turned in by Sunday, June 12 and you pay \$165.

Cost goes up to \$190 after that.

For a printable registration, go to <http://byic.org!>



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