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Need Based Evangelism

*Upon assessing the needs of others,
we will display through acts of
kindness the compassionate, world-
impacting message of Christ.*



Kids from 1st-12th grades have begun to raise money for the Kids Against Hunger event coming on January 14th. Our goal is to pack 20,000 meals for starving children. Each meal costs 25 cents.

Please be sure your child gets a chance to help package these meals on January 14th. There are sign-up sheets posted outside the church office. Children 5 years old and above may participate. Children between ages 5 and 10 will need an adult to sign up with them. There will also be a need for a few adults to help set up and tear down. See the sign-up sheet for details. We will be taking the first 100 volunteers. Choose a shift from 9:00-11:00 a.m. OR from 12:00-2:00 p.m.

RICE and BEANS

By Pastor Kurt Stout

We live in a land of opportunities and choices, but not everyone can pick what they want to eat or how much to eat. We take for granted the abundance of food, the privilege of having a refrigerator, and the expectation of eating at least three meals a day.

So how can we learn to be truly thankful for what we have? Take it away. You know this feeling:

Electricity goes out for a few days. Car breaks down. Computer crashes. Cell phone battery dies. Water shuts off. Left shoe is misplaced. Crutches needed for a month. Reading glasses break. TV satellite reception quits. Layoffs at work. Spouse goes on trip. ATM is out of order. Toilet paper roll is empty. And the list goes on.

Although we've all experienced some kind of "loss" we often choose complaining rather than gratitude. Or our thankfulness is short lived as we return to our daily routine and expectations forgetting gratitude until the next time something we like or need is missing. Bottom line is this: God wants us to have an Attitude of Gratitude.

To help our family learn a gratitude lesson and to raise money for the upcoming **Kids Against Hunger**

So how can we learn to be truly thankful for what we have?

TAKE IT AWAY

project, Heidi suggested a "rice and beans fast." We all decided to give it a try, choosing to limit ourselves to only three meager meals a day. Now before you say that doesn't sound bad, here is the menu: a cup of oatmeal for breakfast (plain if you dare), a cup of rice/bean mixture for lunch, and the same for dinner. No seconds. No snacks. Drink only water. For the first meal and a half it was kind of exciting. But the novelty of this experiment quickly wore off, especially when I wanted a late night snack.

Our three day adventure lasted two. Heidi broke our fast by surprising us on Monday morning with pancakes, eggs, bacon, fruit, and juice. Our emotional journey accomplished our goal of reminding us of the land of plenty we live in and the land of need

many in our world live in. We are donating the grocery money we saved to the **Kids Against Hunger** project and have

signed up to volunteer help package the 20,000 meals, which will be sent to a Christian organization in Haiti. Our kids were both grateful and generous, determining to give some of their own money too. On the next page are a few notes our three oldest kids wrote at the conclusion of our fast. **We challenge you!**

MENU: Oatmeal for breakfast, Rice and Beans for lunch, Rice and Beans for dinner. **REPEAT**

“Rice and Beans Fast” Journal Entries:

Isaac

“It was hard and easy. Sometimes before we were going to eat I was feeling hungry. I liked the rice. On Sunday when we went to Warsaw and drove by all the restaurants, I said, ‘Arby’s Yum... Ruby Tuesday’s Yum... Bob Evans Yum... Applebees Yum.’”

“Why can’t we just send our good food to people?”

Caleb

“I learned during our fast that we are so lucky to eat different foods every day. The poor must have gigantic hearts because they stay happy even when they are poor and homeless. I personally thought fasting was very hard, so hard I even cried a few times. I can’t imagine having to eat that way my whole life. Sunday night we looked through a Samaritan’s Purse catalog and we all picked something to give. I picked to give ten fruit trees because I wanted children to have something that is not rice and beans. It is a very hard thing to fast.”

Beletu

“The oatmeal we had tasted gross, but I know that some people eat that. I am glad that my Mom put ‘stuff’ (herbs/spices) in the rice and beans. It tasted good. We ate two days of rice and beans. We ate one cup of rice and beans and that totally filled my tummy. I think that it was good we did the fast.”

“I ate better than this at the orphanage”



BLOOD PRESSURE

SCREENINGS

will be on the third Sunday this month (Jan. 15th) 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.

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.



Congratulations to Mathis and Lauren Miller on the birth of their daughter, Blake Vivian, born Saturday,

December 17th, weighing 7 lbs. 12 oz. Proud grandmother is Margie Miller, and great grandparents Vivian Miller and Ralph and Joyce McBride.



Wedding Congratulations

Congratulations to Kyle and McKenna (Egner) Grossman on their wedding that took place Saturday, December 10th. The couples new address is: 5562N 675E, Rochester, IN 46975.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

The family of Mamie Keim expresses their appreciation for the love and compassion of the congregation!

Our gratitude goes out to Janelle Walters and Linda Pyle and all the volunteers who helped with the pictorial directory. You did a wonderful job!

Ministry of Nurture



Dear North Manchester FBC Friends,

Thank you very much for the food donation for our pantry. In November we helped over 250 families serving over 950 people total. December looks to be about the same. Your gift of food will really be a big help. Thanks again.

Sincerely, Larry & Cindy Hanson,
Cross Bars Ministries

P.S. The WMS would also like to thank you for helping us to "Fill the Van." We really can make a difference.

First Brethren Church,

We want to say thank you for opening your church for us and Fellowship of Churches. Thank you for all the help you give. Happy Holidays.

Jason & Jodi Barrett

Esperanza 2012

The dates of the "Esperanza 2012" Peru trip have been changed to June 21-July 3 because of scheduling conflicts. If you are still interested join us for an "Esperanza 2012" meeting, Sunday, Jan. 15th. Lunch will be at 12:00.

Deadline to sign up for the team will be Feb. 15th with a \$200 registration fee. You can pick up an information sheet in the office. If you have questions call Linda Immel, 982-8238 or Sherry Searles, 260-901-9564.

Library Lines

We have several new selections recently added from generous donations, including fiction from Lori Wick, Dee Henderson, and Karen Kingsbury! Warren Wiersbe's Fifty People Every Christian Should Know: Learning from Spiritual Giants of the Faith is also ready for you to check out and learn about amazing things God has done through lives in the past and be inspired to allow Him to work through you today!

January Compassion Corner

Sunday, January 8th

Prayer Service

A prayer service is held each Tuesday, 6:30-7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. It consists of guided prayer time and spontaneous scripture reading. Adults, teens & kids welcome.

Orange Core Value #5: Gratitude

*Interact with people less
fortunate than you.*

Love and Respect Conference

There will be a Love and Respect Marriage Video Conference at our church Friday and Saturday, February 10-11. "The Love She Most Desires – The Respect He Desperately Needs" – a revolutionary, simple message that works in marriage, based on Ephesians 5:33.

A comment from someone in our church who went through the material: *"Love and Respect is something we should have gone through many years ago. If we had, it would probably have saved many arguments and sleepless nights."*

To register, go to our church web site (www.nmfbc.org) and follow the links, or go to loveandrespect.com.

Brethren Way of Christ (BWOC)

Be thinking about attending a BWOC spiritual retreat weekend. The Spring schedule is March 8-11 for men; March 15-18 for women; and March 23-25 for youth.

For more information, contact Pastors Kurt, Ron or Tim (982-6457), or Mike or Cindy Pyle (352-2807).

Orange Core Value #5:

Gratitude

*Developing an Attitude of
Gratitude: One Bold Idea*

First Brethren Church Learn From Me ... Matt. 11:29

Reading Plan Bookmark

2012

January

2 1-2

3 3-4

I Chronicles

4 1-2

5 3-4

6 5-6

9 7-8

10 9-10

11 11-12

12 13-14

13 15-16

16 17-18

17 19-20

18 21-22

19 23-25

20 26-27

23 28-29

I Thessalonians

24 1-2

25 3

26 4

27 5

II Chronicles

30 1-2

31 3-4

February

1 5-6

2 7-8

3 9-1

“Back in MY day...”

This past August, the Fellowship of Christian Counselors presented information on the *i Generation*, those born from early to the mid-1990s (about ages 12-17ish). “Back in my day...” is a common phrase used by most adults, regardless of their generation. However, if we want to connect to the younger generation, we must study their world. When looking at the “more” and “less” of this *i generation*, what we discover is this:

They are *MORE*:

- Family oriented. They want to be connected with the family and desire more time with parents.
- Technologically savvy. Cell phones are nearby at all times and they know how to use them—fast!
- Achievement minded.
- Relationally healthy.
- Anticipating innovation. What Apple designs is directly related to what this generation wants to see.

They are *LESS*:

- Likely to use drugs or tobacco
- Less likely to be sexually active
- Less likely to experience an unplanned pregnancy
- Prone to less violence

Their top 10 list would rank as follows:

1. Parents
2. Friends
3. Teachers
4. Siblings
5. Religious faith

What pressures this generation?

1. Grades (42%)
2. Money (18%)
3. Image (16%)
4. Family (16%)
5. Loneliness (10%)
6. Drugs/Alcohol (8%)
7. Sex (6%)

The *i generation* takes very little down time. They are thinking all the time and their cell phones keep them in constant touch with several people at the same time. Help them unplug and learn to be quiet. Spend time and listen. Learn what they value (not the same as accepting their values). Rather than comparing them to your generation, allow this generation to teach you what it’s like to be in their world.

FBC Strategy for Making an IMPACT:

Missional Living Near and Far

Right before Jesus ascended to heaven, He commissioned the people of God to carry on the mission of God. We are discovering this means all of Jesus' followers have been called to be missionaries. We have been sent to go out and share the love and truth of Jesus wherever we are.

We are to be missionaries in our homes and our neighborhoods, not just on a "missions trip." Jesus has called us all to "GO!" The question is where and to whom?

Seeking to **IMPACT God's World with the message of Jesus**, we believe non-local missions are important. What we have found is being missional "there" helps us be missional "here." God's World is both near and far.

One of the values the DLC has identified is that mission trips has been and will continue to be a part of our discipleship strategy. It is our hope at some point everyone in the congregation will go on a non-local missions trip. If the time is right for you, this summer there will be at least three to choose from!

Each of these trips is intentionally different from the others: three different locations, lengths, costs, and purposes. Hopefully one fits what you think God is stirring you to do.

Kentucky

A great trip for families to serve on together. Even young children can serve and have a great week. This team leads Vacation Bible School and does construction projects and other service projects. Limited to 35 team members. Usually last week of June. Estimated cost \$150.

Dominican Republic

A highly relational trip. Days are spent visiting villages, schools and churches: playing, praying, giving, and getting to know the Dominicans and Haitians. This trip is for students in high school on up. Limited to 18 team members. June 21-28. \$1400. Contact Pastor Tim: 260-578-0631.

Peru

This trip will have three ministry teams: focusing on construction projects, a sewing co-op, and ministry to children. This trip is for older high school students on up. Limited to 27 team members. June 21-July 3. \$2000. Contact Linda Immel (260-982-8238) or Sherry Searles (260-901-9564).

In addition, the congregation has established a \$10,000 Non-Local Mission Fund to be used in helping First Brethren respond to the many needs outside our community (We already had some funds designated for local outreach projects). Money from this fund is available by completing a request form. The Ministry of Outreach will then determine if and when funds will be granted. A distribution guide and request form (approved by Outreach and Stewardship) is available from the office for anyone to use. This fund is specifically designated to offset project expenses Christian organizations or individuals need to carry on the work and word of Jesus. The first recipient of these funds is the Kids Against Hunger project. For every dollar donated it will be matched up to \$1000.

Making an IMPACT by encouraging and resourcing people to "GO into all the world and make disciples" (Matthew 28:19).

LOOKING AHEAD FEBRUARY

Love & Respect Conference
Friday & Saturday, February 10th & 11th

JANUARY

Birthdays

- 1 – Bob Cummins
- 2 – Carol Grindle
Rosie Purdy
- 4 – DeAnne Clifton
Presley Bradley
- 5 – Brad Briner
Jenean Rager
Tallulah Gawthrop
- 6 – Morgan Hicks
Janell Dockter
Wayde Platt
- 7 – Joshua Cook
- 10 – Marvin Gish
Steve Lambert
- 11 – Carol Munson
Wilson Nettleton
- 12 – Joyce Eberly
- 13 – Shirley Mishler
Sydni Hernandez
- 15 – Tom McClure
- 16 – Lance Christiansen
Jasmine Jones
- 18 – Diana Nettleton

- 20 – Jerry McKee
Tawn McLaughlin
- 21 – Tim McLaughlin
Anthony Sparks
- 23 – Lucy McKinley
- 25 – Linda Pyle
- 26 – Chris York
- 27 – Mark Westafer
- 28 – Lexi Webb
- 29 – Julia Felgar
Randy Fruitt
Abbie Isbell
Denise Leonhard
Danielle Pyle
- 30 – Brian Burgan
- 31 – Samuel Ayres
Caroline Callaway

Anniversaries

- 1 – Mark & Chris York '96
- 11 – Earl & Phyllis Montel '48
- 16 – Bill & Carol Collett '88
- 30 – Leonard & Linda Pyle '60
- 31 – Lynn & Wendy Blocher '92

Spiritual Beauty

Several years ago Pei and I visited the Grand Canyon. We walked around and looked at the Canyon from various angles for hours. It was beautiful, just one of countless examples in the world of physical beauty. Just as there is physical beauty, there is such a thing as spiritual beauty. Physical beauty is seen with physical eyes, but spiritual beauty is seen with spiritual eyes. The apostle Paul refers to such eyes in Ephesians 1:18 when he speaks of the “eyes of the heart.” Physical eyes see God's handiwork in the visible realm, and spiritual eyes see God's handiwork in the spiritual realm.

Spiritual eyes see beauty even in the physically ordinary or even in what is not physically appealing at all. An example is Isaiah 52:7, *How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"* (NIV) Normally feet are not thought of as beautiful, but when someone brings the gospel (the good news), spiritual eyes see even the feet of that person as beautiful because the gospel is so spiritually precious.

Richard Wurmbrand was a pastor in Romania who was imprisoned for fourteen years by the Communists during the 1950's and 60's for his outspoken faith in Christ. He was tortured and spent three of those years in solitary confinement. But during his imprisonment he saw such acts of love and kindness by fellow Christian prisoners that he could say, “I have seen beautiful things.” The cross was an ugly instrument of the most awful kind of death by execution. So why is the cross revered by Christians? Why do we sing “so I'll cherish the old rugged cross?” Because we see the cross through spiritual eyes. Our Savior died on the cross, and to us it's a thing of beauty, in a spiritual sense.

Where can spiritual beauty be seen? It can be seen anywhere God is at work. It's seen in a person coming to faith in Christ, in turning away from sin, in showing love to enemies, in being bold to proclaim the gospel, and the list could go on. Just as sometimes happens with physical beauty, spiritual beauty isn't automatically appreciated. Just as the beauty of a sunset may go right past us if we're distracted with something else, we can miss spiritual beauty if we're in a hurry or too much consumed with the things of the world. If we slow down and look for it, spiritual beauty will make its appearance. For example, when a group meets regularly for prayer, and answers to those prayers are seen, everyone can delight in the beauty of a God who hears. When we visit a Christian who is dying, we can appreciate the beauty of a faith that makes the person strong. When we're going through a trial of our own, we can be encouraged to see the truth that, as it says in James 1:3, the testing of our faith produces endurance.

Recently I've asked God to let me see spiritual beauty. I have to fight spiritual dullness all the time, and praying that prayer helps keep me alert for the beauty to be seen in the spiritual realm. And God has answered that prayer. Spiritual beauty is all around; ask God to help you see it.

Ron Burns
Discipleship Coordinator

Children's Ministry



Garden 0-1 Parents remember to mark your child's bag, bottle, and cup while they are in the Garden - we have stickers but those don't always come off very good afterwards. Remember to check their notes as to what they are working on each Sunday.



Garden 2's will learn about Friendship this month as they focus on 4 friends who helped their paralyzed friend see Jesus. We will focus on ways we can help!



Garden 3-Kindergarteners Join our News Room this month as we learn how Jesus Grew Up. Parents remember to talk about the point of the day - it's on their sticker and to check out the activities on the back of the take home paper. These two things will help reinforce the things we learn on Sunday.



LOFT (1st -6th graders) January will be full of excitement as we focus on God's love for us and the things Jesus did as he grew and showed us what real love is like. Our new memory verse is John 3:16, and the challenge is 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, & 13. Our lessons will include the Wise Men finding Jesus, Jesus being baptized by John, Nathanael's surprise, and Jesus' first disciples.



Sunday School at 10:30 a.m. for all our kids, age's 2-6th grade, during the Sunday School hour is when we learn how to apply the Bible Story to our daily lives. Bring your Bible and plan on being there!



WINTER BLAST!!

Saturday, January 28th

2-4 p.m.

@Warvel Park

(Check-In at Scout Hall)

Bring your sleds for the big hill!

Games, crafts, & snacks inside!

For all families with kids age 3-6th grade!

(Preschoolers should have an adult attend with them)



Sunday School at 10:30 a.m. for all our kids, age's 2-6th grade, during the Sunday School hour is when we learn how to apply the Bible Story to our daily lives. Bring your Bible and plan on being there!



Club RIOT (3 yrs - 4th grade) Mark your calendar for February Winter Club RIOT! Each Wednesday in February with Family Night the last Wednesday.



KFC (5th & 6th graders) make a plan to attend snow camp this month! Check out the information at www.brethrenretreat.org



Camp Shishewana SNOW CAMP for 3rd-6th grades January 21st-23rd, Cost is \$85.00, Registration forms are on the LOFT Table, due by January 9th.

FB C YOUTH MINISTRY

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

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

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

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

Dessert Club

High School Students are invited to the home of Ruth and Andy Ayres one night a week (typically Wed or Thurs) for Dessert and Conversation. Check Facebook or give Ruth your cell number if you want to know when these are.

and Dessert Club JV

Once a month on a Friday night, Junior High Students are invited to Bill and Carol Collett's for Desserts and Games.

Fast Food Progressive Supper

For Junior High Students

Friday, January 21

Meet at La Casa at 7 pm. Bring \$5.

We'll be back at 8:30.

Winter Retreat @ the BRC

For both JH and HS Students.

February 17-19. Cost is \$75.

Registration and fees must be turned in by February 5.

2012 Summer Mission Trips

There are two trips this summer that teens are invited to attend. One is to the Dominican Republic.

This trip is open to 9th graders and up.

Dates are June 21-28, 2012. Cost per person is \$1400. Application and \$100 deposit is due by January 15.

The second trip is to Peru. This trip is open to 10th graders and up. Younger students may go if accompanied by a parent. Dates are June 21-July 2, and cost is \$2000. \$200 deposit is due by February 15.

Run for Fun?

I've started running again.

I hesitate to mention this in such a public forum, which gives it an almost official status, because I'm not sure Running and I have reached that place in our relationship yet.

I also hesitate to use the word "again" which gives the impression that I have ever been a serious runner. To be clear, I use the word in the manner of saying, "I have run before." Which is not a lie.

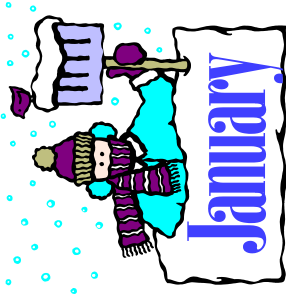
Sometimes...

Read the rest of this article at

<http://friendedbychrist.com/2011/12/08/run-for-fun/>

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