

Church Life News

Inside this issue:

VBS - Jerusalem Marketplace	2
Youth Ministries/Stewardship	3
Birthdays/Anniversaries/Library Lines/Thank you!	4
May Ministers/Prayer Concerns	5
Calendar	6

First Christian
CHURCH of VISALIA



Mike's Musings

More than ever, true Christians need to be studying the Word of God. Scripture, as Paul reminds Timothy, *“is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.”* It is not enough to simply read scripture, we also need to study it and reflect on it. Once again Paul reminds Timothy, *“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”*

One important aspect of studying the Word of God is to read it in its entirety. So many times we read our favorites passages and neglect large sections of the Bible that have an important message. It is important to read the complete Bible because in so doing you will gain a better understanding of the dominant themes running through it concerning God’s redemptive plan for mankind. A major blunder in biblical interpretation is to isolate a passage and not interpret it in the complete and broader context of the Word of God.

Another valuable method of studying the Bible is to get a concordance and do word studies. Take the word “faith” and look up as many references to faith as you can and make notes of any special insights you may gain from the different passages and contexts in which it is used. It is also important, and probably should be done before you do anything else, to pray to God for His Holy Spirit to help you in gaining insight as you study His Word. It is also valuable to participate in Bible Studies to learn more about God’s Word, not only to gain insight from others, but committing to a Bible Study increases the probability we will actually study the Word...let’s be honest, our biggest obstacle is our own lack of

discipline and laziness. We really need to have a consistent plan for actively and intentionally studying the Word.

As most of you know I am a firm believer that we are in the “end times,” but whether that is true or not, one thing is certain and that is we live in very challenging times when not only do we have a plethora of competing philosophies, religions and ideologies outside the church, but we have as much confusion within. Within the church we have individuals throwing out all kinds of varied and contradicting teachings, which could drive the average person nuts if they were exposed to all of this. Some of you might say, “That is why I don’t listen to any of it,” but is it smart to completely close yourself off from what is going on in the world? Proverbs 22:3 says, *“The prudent sees evil and hides (or protects) himself, but the naïve go on and are punished for it.”*

Evil comes at all of us everyday, and the best way to protect yourself is with God’s Word. That can only happen if you read it, study it and reflect on it. Our theme this year is “Pursuing God,” and another obvious benefit from studying the Bible is to help us develop a closer relationship with God. We can learn how God wants us to conduct our lives in order to walk with Him and honor Him. God’s instruction in His Word is also a useful guide on how to live our lives for our own personal benefit, to experience what Jesus calls “abundant” living, freeing ourselves from fear, anxiety, bitterness, etc. Make a commitment today to start reading and studying your Bible in a serious way, it is a wise use of your time.

God bless,
Mike

Vacation Bible School— Jerusalem Marketplace

What Is Jerusalem Marketplace?

Imagine what it was like to live and work in the bustling city of Jerusalem at the time of Jesus. You would hear the chatter about this puzzling prophet as you talked with shopkeepers. You might work with people who had met



Jesus, heard his teachings, or witnessed an actual miracle. Perhaps you would even be in the carpenter's shop as he created a cruel cross for Jesus' crucifixion.

Jerusalem Marketplace immerses learners in Bible times culture, helping kids and adults explore what it might have been like to live when Jesus did. Families will experience new traditions, taste new foods, try new arts and crafts projects ... and discover that Jesus chose the cross because of His unending love for each of us.



At Jerusalem Marketplace, everyone gathers for a brief time of worship at the *Gathering* before joining Tribes (named after the tribes of Israel) for small-group interaction. During *Tribe Time*, tribal families will explore traditional Jewish customs that were part of everyday life in Jesus' day. Then Tribes are off to learn at *Synagogue School* or perhaps discover what Bible-times kids did for fun at the *Village Playground*. And Tribes will have plenty of time to explore the *Marketplace*, where they might become apprentices in carpentry or jewelry-making, sample sweet treats at the confectioner's, or feed the animals in the *Barnyard*.

Families might even encounter a tax collector or Roman soldier in the Marketplace! Each day a "real" drama will take place at the well. Tribes will drop what they're doing and hurry to see and hear the excitement. Shopkeepers will chat about the latest news about Jesus, helping people discover that all the stories they've heard about Jesus really happened.

The day at the Jerusalem Marketplace wraps up with *Tribe Time*, where kids and adults connect their experiences in Jerusalem to their modern-day lives. They'll discuss how Jesus can be part of life today just as he was part of everyday life in Bible times. Each person will receive a "Bible Memory Maker" as a reminder of the day's scripture, and they'll record their experiences in a daily take-home newspaper, the "Jerusalem News".

Finally, everyone will gather for a brief time of singing and announcements at the *Gathering*. This unique hands-on approach to Bible learning is one your families won't

soon forget!



What Is A Tribe?

In Genesis 49, Jacob gathered his sons to give them his final blessing and prophecies. Verse 28 begins, "These are the twelve tribes of Israel." It is estimated that approximately four hundred years elapsed between the end of Genesis and the book of the Exodus. So it was not Jacob's sons but their descendants who led their people through the desert and into the Promised Land. When the people settled in Canaan they began to grow crops which they had to defend from marauders and invading armies. Over the years tribal distinctions faded as the Israelites grew as a nation. During Jesus' lifetime only the Levites, the priestly tribe in charge of the Temple, played a significant role in people's lives.



For our purposes at Jerusalem Marketplace tribal families give children a taste of Israel's culture. We've given symbols to each tribe based on the scant information available in scripture. Children need to know that families were the core group of a tribe. Several families made up a clan, and groups of clans made up tribes.

Youth Ministries

Congratulations to our “Reward Trip Qualifiers” – MaKenzee Stowers, Alexandra Messinger, Stephanie Guy, Tim Munoz, Amanda Blackburn, Jessica Parker, Bob Blackburn, & Albert Flores!!! They worked hard and made their goal – a free weekend trip! I also want to congratulate all of our youth on a fantastic youth Sunday! You all did a fantastic job. As we come to the end of our 2007/08 school year we are excited about what is ahead and celebrate what we have just experienced. This school year has brought some amazing youth group volun-

teers. Special thanks to Will Shattuck, Wanda Sharp, Dave Barber, & Kevin Guy for all their help each week. We also want to thank our parents for helping out with the Flamingo Fundraiser. We were able to raise just over \$2,000 toward this year’s events. I also want to congratulate our high school graduates, Alexandra Messinger & Tim Munoz. We are proud of both of these two who have been true leaders in the group. We are excited to see what God has in store for both of these teens. We have a great summer planned and know it will be a great time!

Sunday Nights – Youth Band 5pm, SNS 6:30PM

Special Night on Sunday, May 25th – Grad Party during SNS for all teens and family and friends of high school seniors.

Breakfast Club – May 6th No Breakfast Club, 13th @ McDonald’s Mary’s Vineyard, 20th @ McDonald’s Demaree & 198, 27th @ Jack In the Box Near Golden West

Rock N’ Water – Next payment is due Sunday, May 25th (if already paid \$25 deposit, only \$50 is needed, if not a full \$75 is required).

Reward Trip will be in May – if you qualify get information from Carrie

Stewardship

A PLEA FOR GOD'S HOUSE

I want to commend our church for its faithful stewardship to so many programs, missions and operating requirements and for giving back to God. We have been able to accomplish a lot with your generous giving. Did you know last year we received \$361,000 for God's work and have put it to good stewardship use.

However, sometimes we need to make you aware of needs before they become problems. We have a need to increase our awareness of our building loan payments. When we moved into our new church we received several large donations to the Building Fund that served as a reserve to help make the monthly building loan payments of \$3,867 per month. The principal balance is currently \$468,000. Each month we receive member donations to the Building Fund. With the reserve a

transfer from the Operating Fund of \$1,000 per month and monthly contributions we have met our loan obligation payments. That reserve has decreased to the point where under the current supply of funds we will have used up the reserve with the August payment. That means the \$2,867 we have been taking from the Building Fund to meet payments will need to be funded from our Operating Fund. We have not budgeted for that shortfall in the Operating Fund. Our church giving will need to increase by another \$12,000 to cover our payments through the end of the year.

God knows our needs and has the ability to lay those needs on your heart. As stated earlier you have been generous in meeting so many needs to spread God's word that I know you will do the same for God's building if we just let you know that need.

Please consider an increase in

your giving to the Building Fund so we can continue to meet our loan obligations on this beautiful building and grounds. Do not decrease your giving to the Operating Fund. The operating budget still needs to be funded to accomplish all the other great things we do.

Charlie Shedd in his book “The Exciting...Church: Where They Give Their Money Away,” says when most churches are moaning and pleading about budgets and bills some have plenty of income. He says there are three reasons worth serious attention:

- (1) The people really pray.
- (2) They are studying the bible.
- (3) They give their money away.

He also says the Lord will provide plenty of income for us when our outgo meets his approval.

In Christ's Love,
Buz Southard

May Birthdays

Courtney Brooke.....	1	Aaron Shacklett	7	Sabrina Hayhurst.....	22
Victoria Sanchez.....	1	Kelli Stowers	8	Shelley Huff	22
Allan Evans.....	2	Cameron Wiseman	10	Jorge Ruiz.....	22
Larry Hardisty.....	2	Adalyn Hollis	12	Darren Grant.....	24
Stephanie Messinger.....	2	Floyd Slocum	13	Joseph Mina	27
Josie Nunez.....	2	Evelyn Hardisty	15	Peggy Pryor.....	28
David Grant	3	Vivian Sanchez.....	19	Melanie Gorman.....	31
Madysen Dake.....	4	Kerrell Lewis.....	20	Anaka Leger	31
Daniel Blackburn.....	7	MaKayla Grant.....	21		

May Anniversaries

Tim & June Glick	7	Tom & Kerrell Lewis	12	Moore, Keith & Marcia.....	23
Ryan & Heather Ritter	11	James & Jamie Maupin	20		

Library Lines

We have some new additions that you might like to “check out” in our library.

These are from the “Jews for Jesus” group who came to lead Worship for us on April 27th.

We have a DVD of the “Christ in the Passover” presentation. In this DVD Passover comes to life as David Brickner, executive director of Jews for Jesus, demonstrates the seder before a live audience.

Then you might like to read the “Messianic Family Haggadah” which is designed for the whole family with special care taken to be child-friendly as well as thoughtful for adults. Sit down and celebrate the Passover seder with traditional and Messianic insights on redemption and freedom.

Also, you will find “Witnessing to Jews” by Moishe Rosen and his wife Ceil who came to faith in

1953. Now they have written a guide for witnessing to the Jewish people. In this work, the Rosens invite their audience on a journey across the previously uncharted chasm that divides Jews and Christians today. Together, they guide us past the land mines that await the well-meaning but uninformed Christian to a firm foundation of understanding and readiness to fulfill the Great Commission.

Thank you!

Dearest Church Members

The Pratt, Gunning, and Viselli families would like to “thank you” for your thoughts and prayers during our husband, father and grandfather, Glenn Pratt’s recent illness and passing.

“Thank you” Pastor Mike for the beautiful service at the church and the Military honors at the cemetery. Special “thank you” goes to Wanda Sharp and Neoma Cowing, Food Chairwomen, and all of the church women who prepared food for the

after-service reception. The beautiful flowers provided by our church family were greatly appreciated.

First Christian Church of Visalia

Pentecost

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

Acts 2:42

Fellowship (koinonia), POWER OF UNITY. This first detailed description of the early Christians is wonderfully revealing. The followers of Jesus, who had been baptized by the Holy Spirit, literally devoted themselves to communication and unity with God and with each other. In relationship to God, the “continued steadfastly” in the apostles’ doctrine (the Word of God) and in prayer. In relationship to one another, they devoted themselves to fellowship and to breaking bread with one another. The word koinonia literally denotes a deep sense of spiritual unity - of spiritual communion with the Lord and with each other. With the coming of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the priorities of the followers of Christ focused upon spiritual unity with the Lord and with their brothers and sisters in Christ - within the church - the spiritual body of Christ. Every true Christian is a member of the body of Christ and is related to Christ and to other believers as a member of that body. This is the essence of true spiritual unity - the unity of the Spirit.

April Attendance

April 6	127
April 13	145
April 20	121
April 27	124

April Giving

April 6	\$6,735.80
April 13	\$2,910.15
April 20	\$4,802.38
April 27	\$1,276.77

May Ministers

Deacons		Elders
Dave Barber	May 4	Ann Johnson
Sabrina Barber		Roger Johnson
Chris Black	May 11	Kay Fox
Jennifer Black		Don Fox
Don Jones	May 18	Tami Tharp
Peggy Jones		Stan Livesay
Dana Switzer	May 25	Mike Messinger
Freddie Trent		June Glick

May Drivers

If you need a ride to church during the month of May please call one of the people listed below:

Tami Tharp.....	592-1406
Betty Baker.....	734-2806
Wanda Sharp.....	732-0836

Prayer Concerns

Health

Betty Cates
 Bob Eastin
 David Huff
 Marsha Jepson
 JoAnne Jordan
 Matt Joslin
 Megan McCracken
 Frank Morales
 Thelma Mortenson
 Irene Slocum
 Jean Stevenson
 Barbara Stowers
 Glen Wells
 Shirley Williams
 Kole (child)(brain tumor)
 Maya (6 yr old)

General Request

Scott Young Family-all areas
 Dave Smith -Housing
 Angelica Valencia-Favor

Prepare Hearts to Attend

VBS Members, Workers,
 & Families
 AWANA Puggles Teacher

Military

Lane Boland
 Matthew Calhoun
 Ervin Edwards
 Nikki Walz
 Casey Wightman
 Cody Wood

Deliverance from Cult

Kurt Gruver Family

Hospital

Steve Adams
 John Montgomery
 Jean Myers

Working of Miracles

Jesus Banuelos (brain tumor)
 Steve (New Liver)
 Lisa Ann Bachman

Missionaries

Kenya - Misheck Kanake
 Thailand - Handclasp
 Bruce & Bev Newkirk (Travel mercies)

Prayer Project

Louie Thomas (see Joyce)



1023 N. Chinowth St.
 Visalia, CA 93291-4114
 Phone: (559) 732-6623
 FAX: (559) 732-6625

Website: www.fccvisalia.org

*Biblically Based
 Christ Centered
 Spirit Led*

Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs 9:00 AM— 4:30 PM

Staff E-Mail Addresses:

Michael Messinger, Senior Pastor
pastor@fccvisalia.org

Joyce Hogan, Pastor's Assistant
pa@fccvisalia.org

Carrie Guy, Youth Pastor
youth@fccvisalia.org

Pam Shattuck, Children's Ministries
Pshattuck@clearwire.net

Will Shattuck, Music Director
music@fccvisalia.org

Sheila Ronk, Church Secretary
sec@fccvisalia.org

If you have questions contact Pam or Joyce at the Church Office — 732-6623

Kingdom Kids News



Where a kid can be God's kid!

Last day of AWANA this year is May 28th!

Kingdom Kids Programs:

Sunday School—9 am Sunday Mornings
 Jesus Street—During Church Service (10:15 am Sundays)

Remember MOM!

Mother's Day
 May 11, 2008

VBS: June 23-27; 7-9PM

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

First Christian Church
 1023 N. Chinowth Street
 Visalia, CA 93291-4114