



WindSong NOTES

CHURCH OF CHRIST

SERVING THE GREATER LITTLE ROCK AREA

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Get in a Growth Group

Bobby B. Boaldin

It's that time of year again, the time when we are more diligently praying for, planning and publicly promoting our WindSong small group ministry, "Growth Groups." The importance of our Growth Group ministry needs to be emphasized on a regular basis. This is especially true due to the recent growth we have experienced at WindSong.

Rick Warren, the author of *The Purpose Driven Church*, writes, "The church must be willing to grow larger and smaller at the same time." He continues, "One of the biggest fears members have about growth is how to maintain that 'small church' feeling of fellowship as their church grows." Small groups are the answer. Our Growth Groups provide a means of maintaining the intimacy and need-meeting capabilities of smaller congregations while allowing WindSong to grow to whatever size the Lord wills. We can preserve that small church feeling of friendliness, closeness and fellowship and still fulfill our mission of reaching the lost.

Another important aspect of our Growth Groups is that they are, perhaps, the most effective way of closing the "back door" of the our congregation. A universal problem that churches face is new member and visitor retention. If people don't feel plugged-in and part of a church community—that is, valued, loved and appreciated—they can easily slip through the

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FAMILY MISSION TRIP 2008



We spent a week working at the Children's Homes in Paragould, Arkansas—

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WHATEVER IS TRUE

Note that “whatever is true” stands at the very top of Paul’s great list of things we should steadily think about. It is ahead of everything else. “Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things” (Philippians 4:8).

The temptation of today is to repeat the cynical question Pilate asked Jesus, “What is truth?” We tend to seek the pleasant, whether true or not. It is so convenient for me to have “my truth,” and you to have “your truth.” “It doesn’t really make any difference what you believe just as long as you are sincere,” we are told.

For the sake of harmony and political correctness we are eager to stamp all religions as “true” regardless of how they conflict with each other. We tend to major on a commonly accepted idea of so-called “spirituality.” This is a vague, abstract state often removed a hundred miles from the truth.

In the Bible truth is not presented simply as an abstraction, but boldly in the form of Christ. The Christ said, “I am the truth...” (John 14:6). As Avon Malone observed, “Other men spoke of truth, but he was truth speaking.” Christ said, “and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free” (John 8:32). In our devotion to the pleasant, the lovely, the gracious, we must never forget Christ and his teachings. He does not mince words when he says, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). Dogmatic? Well, yes. But when is truth not? It always stands against falsehood.

If we rely on God's truth in Christ, we should never hide from any other truth in the world. “Whatever is true, . . .think. . . .”

JOHN GIPSON
WINDSONG CHURCH OF CHRIST



The Twenty Year Reunion

Joe Chesser

Tomorrow I'm heading to north-east Arkansas for my twentieth high school reunion. It has not really seemed like twenty years since I graduated from high school, but then that's what we're supposed to say. While the party is sure to be fun, there is a certain nervousness with which I will be attending. I've heard nothing but excitement in the voices of those I've spoken to, yet there's no way around this weird feeling that things will not be the same.

Things have certainly changed. In high school we were single, childless, dreamers, naïve, invincible, and skinny (let's hope not everyone's gained the fifty pounds I've put on!). Yes, things have changed. Some of the changes will not be very encouraging: poor health, loss of hair, loss of loved

ones, and loss of faith. These negatives will certainly exist, but so will the good. There will be growth and maturity and new life. Oh, the children we'll brag about, the stories we'll tell, and news we'll share. I guess the fact that things have changed is not so bad after all.

Would we really want things to remain the same? Is a static life a full life? Did God call us to find a comfortable spot and stay put, or did he call us to continually be stretched and molded and shaped into maturity? Did he intend us to drink the milk of immaturity all our days, or did he challenge us to grow up and eat some real meat? Change isn't so bad. Come to think of it, that's the way it should be. If I look and act the same way I did in high school, then shame on me. And if you are the same...well then, shame on you. We were made to change, becoming more like Christ everyday.

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www.windsongchurch.org

Growth Group—*from Page 1*

cracks and simply stop attending. Our Growth Groups provide a way for people to connect to our family immediately. In fact, recent research suggests that new members should be in a small group of other new members. Being in a group with other new-comers provides common ground and a point-of-contact where they can begin to connect with one another. If our new members have nothing else in common, at the very least, they are all new to Windsong.

Soon we will begin sign-ups for Growth Groups. Get involved. Get plugged-in. Be sure other members you know have signed-up as well. In our WindSong 101 class we say that the heartbeat of WindSong is our Growth Groups. Every member should be a part of one. Sign-up and be blessed. To God be the glory!

CONNECTIONS

Congratulations to **Renee McCartney** and **Lance Corporal Matthew Farley** who were married on July 6, in Oceanside, CA. The couple will be living in Oceanside while Matt is stationed at Camp Pendleton, CA. They plan to return in December to renew their vows for family and friends.

Congratulations to **Chad and Kerry Hatman** on the birth of a son, **Cooper Martin Hatman**, on July 28. Congratulations also go to big sister, **Baylee**, and big brothers, **Drew** and **Chance**.

The **Women's Softball Team** won third place in their league. Congratulations!

We rejoice that **Tim Hall, Frank and Thelma Hall's** son, has returned from Iraq. He will be moving soon to an instructor's position at Ft. Belvoir, VA.

David Denton, Dawn Denton's husband, was deployed to Iraq the end of last month. David will probably be in Iraq until January 2009.

We are blessed that **John and Megan Calvillo** are with us again before they leave for another year in Shiyen, China, in late August.

Also in August, **Bill and Marie-Claire McDonough** plan to return home for a few months of fund raising and recruiting.

Family Mission Trip 2008 (continued)



building new relationships, and renewing and strengthening old ones.

BULLETIN BOARD

OUR JULY RECORD

Average Attendance	217
Average Contribution	\$10,552
Building Fund	\$947

With Sincere Sympathy To...

Montine Copeland on the death of her husband, **Ordis Copeland**, on Tuesday, July 1. The funeral was July 5, in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

The family of **Jean Patton**, who died on Saturday, July 5. The funeral was July 10.

Reba Dobbs on the death of her daughter, **Bonita Vines**, on July 5. The funeral was in North Little Rock, Arkansas, on July 10.

Carl, Gail, and Sarah Anderson on the death of his mother, **Iris Anderson**, on July 10. The funeral was July 14, in Little Rock, Arkansas, with the burial following at Forest Hills Cemetery.

Dawn & David Denton and **Tina Lord** on the death of their uncle, **Glen Winslow** in Birmingham, Alabama, on July 14.

Kim Milam on the death of her friend, **Jack Rushing**, who died on July 11. The funeral was July 14.

Charlene Clark on the death of her brother, **Jimmy Lee Clark**, in San Antonio, Texas, on July 15.

Gary, Linda and Lindsay Hickerson on the death of his father, **David Hickerson**, on July 27. The funeral was August 1, in Malta, Ohio.

OPERATION MYANMAR IMPACT—PHASE TWO BEGINS



Brethren distributing food to villagers

The Myanmar cyclone disaster is long from being over for those living in the delta where one hundred and seventy-three thousand people are dead and fifty-three thousand more are missing. More than two million lost their homes, livestock and means of survival. Partners In Progress is working with local Christians to help five hundred families, more than three thousand individuals, survive and build a new life. Phase One was the delivery of food, cooking utensils, clothing

and blankets needed just to survive. Villages were chosen which had received no aid, or very little, and were destitute and helpless. The government will not allow the people to leave the area as they fear a gigantic migration to the cities, which would overwhelm them. The people are left to survive if they can and however they can.

Phase Two of our operation began last week in an effort to help these same families to be able to sustain a meager existence in the near future without total dependence on outside help—which they cannot count on for very long. We are, as I write, delivering five hundred fishing nets, providing funds to build houses, and organizing the distribution of rice seed for planting once the fields are again tillable. Farmers are currently pumping water onto the fields in an attempt to rid them of the salt deposits the sea water left when the tidal wave washed over a strip of paddies more than two hundred miles wide.

The UN and USAID and other government aid agencies which have been allowed into the area say the situation is deplorable and unless more is done quickly, hundreds of thousands may die. The good news is that thus far there have been no outbreak of epidemics as was feared and there is no urgent need for medical attention. Your partnership with the local Christians in Myanmar, who are doing the distribution and sharing the gospel in these Buddhist villages, has made it possible.

Joining you are thousands of other Christians from home and abroad. The church in Zurich, Switzerland sent five thousand eight hundred Swiss francs (six thousand dollars) and brethren in Germany are currently collecting funds to help. When our little church in Phnom Penh saw the pictures we brought back, they immediately began giving and collected one thousand dollars to send with me last week. If you have not helped, please go to our website, www.partnersinprogress.org, and click on "Donation." If you would like a printed newsletter with vivid pictures to share with others contact PIPChesser@aol.com and the newsletter, now at the printer, will be mailed to you. Yours for sharing the love of God with all while there is yet time.

Bill McDonough

