



Volume 5

August 3, 2007

Number 8



**I'm Excited
 and
 Encouraged**

Bobby B. Boaldin

I'm encouraged and excited by the outreach efforts that are being utilized by the Family here at WindSong. We've recently completed a six week video seminar series on Monday nights entitled, *Making Your Children Mind without Losing Yours* at the Maumelle Community Center. Every night we had a good number of people, who aren't members of WindSong, not only attend but participate in the small group discussion that followed the video.

As I write this article, we are preparing advertising for the *No Debt, No Sweat Seminar* that we will be hosting on September 16 and 17, with Steve Diggs of the Antioch Church of Christ in Tennessee. This past Lord's Day we had forty visitors present for the morning worship service and an additional twelve visitors in the evening. Sunday before last, we were blessed with forty-nine visitors during the morning service. An atmosphere of optimism, cooperation, and genuine love permeates this congregation and this is not going unnoticed by the people who visit us. Every first-time visitor receives, along with a visitors' letter, a postage-paid post card that asks

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SEPTEMBER 16 & 17 LIFE-CHANGING SEMINAR WITH STEVE DIGGS

Teaching God's Way of Handling Money

- How to Get Out of Debt
- A,B,C's of Christian Money Management
- How to Make a Successful Spending Plan
- A Do-It-Yourself Credit Repair Kit
- How Mutual Funds Work
- Retire with Dignity

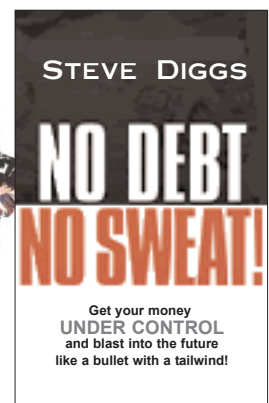
Session #1: Sunday, September 16, 9 a.m.
 "Failure, the First Step to Success!"

Lesson: Sunday, September 16, 10 a.m.
 "The Things Jesus Is Teaching Me"

Session #2: Sunday, September 16, 5:30 p.m.
 "A,B,C's of Godly Money Management"

Session #3: Monday, September 17, 6:30 p.m.
 "Debt and Credit Cards"

Session #4: Monday, September 17, 7:55 p.m.
 "The Future: Saving, Investing, and Getting Ready for Retirement"



A BOY AND HIS BASEBALL

Driving to work the other day, I was listening to the radio when Bob Steele related that some young boys in his neighborhood were throwing a baseball back and forth. Suddenly, he heard the sound of crashing glass. Looking around, he noted that the back glass of his wife's car had sustained a direct hit, and a young boy was running toward his wife. He noted further that in a moment his wife had her arms around the lad and was giving him a big hug.

His wife later explained why she was so eager to comfort the boy in his distress. As quickly as the ball hit, the boy came running up and said, "I did it. I'm *so* sorry! Can you *ever* forgive me?" In the face of such an open confession, and the obvious contrition, her heart immediately went out to the boy in ready forgiveness.

If we, being evil, can be touched by repentance and confession, how much more is that true of our Heavenly Father. As David in the long ago said, "*The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise*" (Psalm 51:17). Isn't that good to know!

A vivid picture of the tender mercy of God is to be found in the haunting story told by Jesus of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15. Coming home, after a mis-spent period in his life the son said, "*Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants*" (Luke 15:18-19).

Such penitence and confession touched the father and caused him to have compassion. The wayward son was immediately embraced and kissed by the father. And that wasn't all. The son was instantly restored and a joyful banquet was held.

And that, my friend, is the way God treats penitent sinners. It's His nature.

In the long ago God introduced Himself to Moses with the words, "*The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness*" (Exodus 34:6).

Blessed be the name of the Lord!

JOHN GIPSON
WINDSONG CHURCH OF CHRIST



Defining Who We Are

Joe Chesser

So I picked up my copy of *Plugged In* (Aug 2007) magazine yesterday and as I thumbed through it, I came across some statistics that grabbed my attention. “Forty-four percent of teenagers say their music plays a dominant role in how they define themselves.” That in and of itself is not so disturbing, but it was immediately followed by the following, “Thirty-nine percent of teenagers say their family plays a dominant role in how they define themselves.” I’ll make the math easy for you. Today’s teenagers say that their music is a better barometer of who they are than their family.

Before we as parents just throw in the towel, let’s understand that these are teenagers. If you’ll remember back a few years (maybe a few decades!), you’ll recall that music has been a heavyweight in the “defining who we are category” for quite some time. You’ll also recall that when we were teens, our parents were idiots and have only recently regained some of their common sense.

The challenge, though, is for us to instill in our children the idea that family comes first. Since family was invented by God himself, we had better take it seriously. Teens often want to distance themselves from their families during these years and to a certain degree, this is okay. We should never, though, allow this exploration on their part to go unchecked. We must remain heavily involved in “who they are,” reminding them along the way of all the things we believe and hold dear. If we train our teenagers along the way, they will be defined by who their family is. Even though they won’t readily admit it, they’ll appreciate your attention. I wonder what ever happened to all my great cassette tapes from the 80’s....

Visit our website at
www.windsongchurch.org



Forty Years Ago and Today

Bill McDonough

We were able to go by Bremen, Germany, last week and were delighted to meet with the church that you planted, working with us in 1968. They have just moved into a new building which they are buying with their own funds and were proud to tell us that there were fifty in attendance the Sunday before. They are helping financially with the work in Cambodia and had asked us to stop by and report to them of the progress being made.

From Bremen we went to Marseille, France, to visit a friend who was dying of pancreatic cancer. Some of you will remember **Tony** and **Danielle Benskin**, entertainers by profession, who visited little Rock and sang for us at a New Year's Eve party several years ago. They had spent time working with us in Bremen, Germany, and had come to Cambodia to help teach for two months three years ago. He passed away just prior to our arrival, but his wife was thankful to have us there to help her with the funeral.

From Marseille we drove three hours north to the Annual French Christian Bible Camp where one hundred twenty-seven young people from France and Switzerland were spending two weeks together. We were very encouraged by what we saw and believe there is a bright future for the French work. They had asked us to report on the work in Cambodia, so we shared what the Lord is doing.

Today, Sunday, we worshiped with the church in Lille, France, who gave us a check for 1000 Euros (\$1370) for the work in Cambodia. Three of their members have spent time working with us in Cambodia and they have a keen interest in that work. The brother who serves as treasurer for the church told Marie-Claire we should ask for more money. We were glad to help and they were encour-

I'm Encouraged—from Page 1

them three questions about their experience with us. They are: 1) What was the first thing you noticed about WindSong? 2) What did you like most about your time at WindSong? 3) What did you like least about your time at WindSong? In response to the first two questions, “the friendliness and welcoming atmosphere of the congregation” is consistently mentioned by those who have been our guests. We are doing a number of things well in our efforts to reach others. Still, there are things we can do to improve and make ourselves even more effective.

Beginning August 1, on Wednesday nights, Lord willing, we are going to explore a series of lessons on the trends and activities of over three hundred congregations that had either peaked or were in decline and have made a come-back with significant numerical and baptismal growth. What I have found particularly exciting about my research on this subject is that we are already doing a number of things that these “come-back” churches are doing. However, as is the case with most things, there is room for improvement in both our strategies and activities as a congregation.

I want to write it again; I am encouraged and excited by the outreach efforts of WindSong. I firmly believe the Lord is blessing our efforts, and if we will continue to be dedicated to improving our effectiveness, I think He has even greater things in store for us in the future than he had in the past. As in all things, to God be the glory!

Forty Years—from Column 2

aged by the reports from us and from their members who had visited Cambodia.


Your work has been blessed around the world where you have sent us and others to share the gospel and plant churches and I know **He Cares!**

Visit our website at
www.partnersinprogress.org

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BULLETIN BOARD

OUR JULY RECORD

Average Attendance	197
Average Contribution	\$11,053
Building Fund	\$5007
Special Fund	\$100
Membership	 Scott Hiers

With Sympathy to...

Jerry and Martha Ward on the death of **Michelle Ward**, on July 22. Michelle is the former wife of Jerry's son **Justin Scott Ward**. The funeral was Wednesday, July 25, in Fayetteville, AR.

The family of **Dr. Tim North** who died on July 28. Dr. North worked many medical mission trips with Partners In Progress. The funeral was Monday, July 30, in Madison, TN.



CONNECTIONS

Scott Hiers placed membership with us on Sunday, July 15. If you do not already know Scott, be sure to meet him and give him a warm WindSong welcome.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Birthday Party on July 28, for the kids at Southern Christian Home. We will continue to provide birthday gifts each month. See **Joe Chesser** if you want to help in August.

We send all our prayers and best wishes with **John** and **Megan Calvillo** who will be leaving us on Friday, August 24, for a year in Shiyen, China.

Bob Bishop has been transferred to the Washington, D. C. area. We wish **Bob**, **Linda**, **Bobby** and **Chris** well at their new address: **136 Country Club Cir., Winchester, VA 22602**.



At 6:00 am on Saturday, July 14th, twenty members from Windsong headed out to Albuquerque, New Mexico, for our **4th Annual Family Mission Trip**. Inspired by Shane Claiborne's *The Irresistible Revolution*, we filled our week with service projects that gave us the opportunity to minister in a wide variety of ways. We read books, colored, and played with Play-Doh with severely handicapped children at **Casa Angelica**. We cleaned up the grounds and painted at the **Albuquerque Christian Children's Home**. We served breakfast and sang for those being served at the **Albuquerque Rescue Mission**. We also helped the **Storehouse** (a food pantry) by mopping and waxing their floors. All in all we hope the experience opened our eyes to the many ways we can be the hands and feet of Christ every day right here in Little Rock.