



MARCH 2007

fbcmodeledto.com

From Pastor Wade



I hope you're encouraged by the information you're receiving about "Building on Purpose: Embrace Today,

Imagine Tomorrow."

More than two years of intensely focused prayer and planning is coming to fruition!

We had a great launching of our prayer focus with 24 hours of prayer on February 23 and 24! I can't emphasize enough how important it is for us to continue to seek the Lord! He has led us to this point ever so clearly, but we are far from completing the project!

And beyond the building itself, there are many ministry preparations for a children's day-care center, athletic outreaches and other new ministries that will help us to reach our friends and community for Christ ... as well as provide for the needs of the church family.

You'll want to regularly check the church Web site, fbcmodeledto.com, for prayer updates and other vital information.

Inside this issue of Around the Rock, there is information regarding Home Meetings and Celebration Dinners. These two events are to help us all see the complete picture of what we are seeking to accomplish. Please plan to attend both events, and especially save an evening in early May (see inside) for the Celebration Dinners.

So, please continue to pray, check the information on page three regarding the Home Meetings and Celebration Dinners and anticipate the people who will meet the Savior and grow in Him, both now and into the future!

Pastor Wade

by Stan Risen

It was a subtle difference, but a difference nonetheless. I had always considered short-term missions great for others, but probably not for me. As

I sat in a morning service last year listening to the men who had just returned from Pakistan, I felt the Lord working on me to change the way I approached and evaluated ministry opportunities such as this.

Instead of asking, "Why me?" He was telling me I needed to start by asking, "Why not me?" Instead of starting with all the reasons I could not go, I should try starting with all the reasons I could go.

It didn't take long for a ministry opportunity to present itself. Fred Randle, a member of our small group, had gone to Rancho Santa Marta last year with a team from our church and had come back enthused and excited about the prospect of future opportunities. His enthusiasm was infectious, and soon several from our small group were considering participating.

Rancho Santa Marta is an orphanage and special needs school located in Mexico about 60 miles south of Ensenada. Founded by Bill and Kaye Lawrence, this 450-acre ranch

relies heavily on the assistance of church work groups to tackle the many tasks and projects they face. For over 17 years, Modesto First Baptist has sent work teams to partner in this important ministry.

Saturday morning, January 13, 17 of us set out on our journey south. In Fresno, we met my son, Jason, who earlier in the week had picked up over 1,000 pounds of dried fruit that had been donated to Rancho Santa Marta by Gleanings. In addition, our caravan carried a number of other food and



household items generously donated by members of our congregation.

At Rancho Santa Marta we divided into work teams. The construction team, led by Gerald King and composed of Don Branson, Bill Randle, Dennis Crook, Rich Erickson and me, worked on a new classroom building. The walls had just been framed, and we finished the wall bracing, built and hung trusses, laid down the roof sheeting and hung several windows and a door. I have always enjoyed construction and was thankful that God gave me

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Two Big Events

Building on Purpose: Embrace Today ... Imagine Tomorrow

This spring, the whole church family gathers for Home Meetings as well as Celebration Dinners. Whether you're new to First Baptist or you've been part of this church family for years, it's vital you participate in both of these upcoming events connected with Building On Purpose: Embrace Today ... Imagine Tomorrow.

Here's the scoop:

Information

In order to inform the church family about our latest campus development plans, from March 19 through April 22, we're gathering in homes where the most up-to-date information will be presented. A church leader will be prepared to answer your questions and offer details about the multi-purpose building and campus development God is leading us to accomplish. This is a "get up to speed" meeting you'll enjoy over a light snack in the company of friends. So, bring your appetite and your inquisitive mind!

Inspiration

May 6-11, we again gather, this time in the Pavilion, for Celebration Dinners – you need only attend one. We will remember and celebrate the amazing things God has done and is doing among us. Recognizing the breadth and depth of the ministries of First Baptist Church is truly a cause for rejoicing ... and preparing for what lies ahead. Realizing how each of us is part of these life-changing ministries will remind us how God is using us to build the Kingdom. Come to be encouraged, celebrate and rejoice, and you'll leave with a heart full of joy and a renewed sense of mission.

How To Sign Up

You will be able to sign up for both events at weekend services using reservation cards. You may also sign up online at fbcmodeledo.com any time, or at the Church Office during the week.

After being filled with prayer, information and inspiration, we will bring our financial commitments to the weekend services May 19 and 20.

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Why Not Me?

the opportunity to work with this great group of guys.

Matt Billy, Ray Delworth, Charleen Frenette and Pastor Ross Paterson worked in the orchard, pruning the peach and nectarine trees. Rancho Santa Marta relies on the revenue from these trees to help fund the ministry, and this team's work is critical in helping ensure an abundant harvest. Each day this team would come in tired and weary with a smile on their faces; clearly theirs was a labor of love.

Chris Billy, Denise Crook, Rachel Delworth and Pam Edwards utilized their seamstress talents to build costumes for the children's missions week. Linda King created a beautiful quilt for one of the orphanage homes. Matt and Ray used their computer skills to help address some networking and printer issues at the ranch and school. Steve Edwards used his mechanical skills to fix everything from sewing machines to work trucks.



Each day we would sit down to terrific meals lovingly prepared by Flip Bravard and Chris. It was exciting to see how God took the various talents



and skills of the group and used them for His glory.

Perhaps the highlight of our trip occurred on Wednesday evening, when we were invited to join the children and the adults of Rancho Santa Marta in a worship service. What a blessing to see these children sing with joy in their hearts to the Lord. At one point in the service, we were asked to seek out two or three children and pray with them. Although few of the children understood the words we were praying, they knew that we were interceding with the Almighty God on their behalf. What a wonderful experience!

On Thursday we were invited to join the children for lunch in their homes. Charleen, Bill, Rich and I had a chance to visit with the older boys and were treated to a lunch of sopa and sope. Philip and Jesus were able to provide some translating for us, making the language barrier less uncomfortable. What a neat and polite group of guys.

God laid on Steve and Pam Edwards' hearts a desire to provide a meal for the children, so they had come prepared with supplies for a chicken barbeque. Thursday evening, everyone crowded into our dining area and we had the

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Why Not Me?

privilege of serving them a terrific meal and then joining in a time of music and fun. Many of those who had been to Rancho Santa Marta in the past remarked that this was the most interaction they had ever had with the children from the ranch.

As we traveled home, I began reading the book “Palace of the Pigs” written by Kaye Lawrence, telling the story of Rancho Santa Marta. As I read, I was struck by how clearly God’s hand has been in this ministry, working out challenges in ways that can only be described as miraculous. What a privilege it was to have participated in this fabulous ministry. Next year, Lord willing, the church will once

again be assembling a work team and I would like to challenge you to join me in asking, “Why not me?”



Women's Ministries Interview Pastors

February 13 our Women’s Ministries small groups gathered for a special Valentine’s celebration. In a packed Pavilion Garden, special guests, Pastor Paul Zeek and Pastor Cliff Sexton, were interviewed by a zany Brenda La Core in one of her signature roles as a TV talk show host. Brenda’s interview began with seating Pastor Paul in a video game chair and placing a special hat on his head that read “No problem,” reflecting his enjoyment of games and his attitude toward getting things done. She sat Pastor Cliff in a wheel chair, but not before putting a hospital gown over his suit, and an

operating room hat on his head. She said she figured it was time everyone saw him in the attire they were wearing when he visited them in the hospital!

The women appreciated hearing Cliff and Paul answer questions about their ministries, families and interests. There was plenty of laughter, but everyone agreed that it was encouraging to hear the stories of two men who have served on our pastoral staff for many years. The women blessed these two faithful servants, reading Scripture over them and thanking them for spending their lives to build the kingdom.

Elevation's Excitement

You may have noticed our high school pastor's new haircut. Before Elevation, our high school winter camp, Jeff Harmon challenged our high school

by Verity Zeek

group to bring 190 people to camp this year. Jeff agreed to shave his head if the goal was reached, and Travis Edgerton agreed to face a student paintball firing squad. Jeff's shaven head and goatee and Travis' many welts were gifts from the 191 students who attended Elevation this year. This was the largest winter camp in our ministry's recent history!

The entire weekend of Elevation was packed full of fun and fellowship, but God showed up in a way that is unforgettable. Our guest speaker, Tim Barley, spoke powerfully from God's Word, inspiring students to live a cross-centered life. It was apparent



that God was revealing Himself to everyone individually, working in lives in a

very personal way. There were some new decisions made for Christ, many rededications and even more resolutions to take the next step in their spiritual journey. Whenever

God shows up so powerfully there is always a feeling of awe and excitement that follows. Weeks after camp, that feeling has not worn off yet. Let's hope it never does.



Junior High Winter Camp: "Mutiny: Rebellion Of The Soul"

For a weekend of pirate fun, 112 students and 26 adults went to Camp Chinquapin where they were challenged by special speaker Johnnie Moore from Liberty University. Johnnie told students to be alert and ready to face the attacks of the enemy, and encouraged them to understand there's more to life than what is seen. God sees the potential in our lives that we cannot see.

The "decision night" message highlight was the statement, "Knowing Jesus as your Savior gets you to Heaven; knowing Him as your Friend gets you through



life." There were two first-time decisions to follow Christ, five re-commitments and five students committed to baptism.

The students enjoyed music from the Jr. High worship band as they

played on a stage that resembled a pirate ship. For fun, they played pirate-themed games and had plenty of time for paintball.

Pastor Scott Ramsey said, "Overall, it was the best camp I have been part of. The staff team did a great job making this a memorable experience for everyone."

Racing To Make It Count

In 1993, Randy Reeves and Dave Conway, along with a handful of other Christian men, began racing with an enduro car they built together. They named their team The Sons Of Thunder, a reference about James and John from Mark, chapter 10. Through the years the team has moved up through more advanced divisions, and today they race stock cars. The Sons of Thunder include Randy and Dave, along with Greg Trine, James Reeves, Kevin Rogers, Damon Millar, Ron Peacock and Craig Mastropierro.

With MAKE IT COUNT painted on his late model stock car, during the 2006 season, Randy Reeves raced at area tracks including the Altamont, Stockton 99, Lakeport and Shasta Raceways. While Randy loves the thrill of racing, he also enjoys getting to know the other drivers and race teams. His wife, Lynn, says, Randy enjoyed some success, but many disappointments too. When there are twenty race cars on the track — all trying to get to the front, well, let's just say things happen!"

Randy loves the fun of racing, the adrenaline rush and the heart pounding that goes with competition. With all that can happen in a race, it's a good thing the team prays together, sometimes more than once, before each race. Randy reports that as drivers have noticed the team praying, and as they've noted the Sons Of Thunder title, several Christian drivers have been happy to introduce themselves.

Last month, Randy was surprised to be honored at the Westcar Racing

Series awards banquet in Reno, Nevada, receiving the "Sportsman of the Year" award. As this was his first year racing in this series, Randy had no idea such an award existed! Selected out of a field of 40 racers, Randy was honored for keeping his cool in some very stressful situations, for his spirit and practice of fair play, and for being a man of integrity.

Lynn reports, "As we enjoyed each other's company and shared lunch, laughs and heat exhaustion, it's been clear that making it count can be fun! It's been a great family time too. Our son Jim raced his modified (car) once last year, and Jessica, Sarah and I were happily with the team, as we are their biggest fans!"

As Dave Conway and Ron Peacock have supported and helped Randy throughout the season, the guys have found that simply and clearly living out their faith as they're doing what they love is a great way to make their lives count.





MARCH 2007

Membership Class

New Five-week Class

- Sunday, March 4, 9 a.m.
- Pavilion Garden, Room 931
- Taught by various pastors

Membership questions?
extension 2609

Believer's Baptism

Sunday, April 29

If you would like to be baptized, please attend the Membership Class and schedule an appointment with a pastor

Baptism questions?
extension 2609

Pacesetters

Monthly Prayer Meeting

- Monday, March 5, 3:30-4:40 p.m.
- 818 Needham Street

Sunday Lunch Bunch *single ladies 60+*

- March 11, noon, Pavilion Garden

Homebound/80+ Communion and Luncheon

- Thursday, April 5, 11 a.m.
- Pavilion Garden

Gaither Homecoming - Give It Away Tour 2007

- Friday, April 27
- Oracle Arena, Oakland
- \$38 per person
- Leave First B at 4:30 p.m.

Pacesetters questions?
extension 2617

PLEASE NOTE:

Home Meetings Begin Monday, March 19

**Building on Purpose
Embrace Today ...
Imagine Tomorrow**

Sign up online OR on reservation cards available in worship services and in the Church Office

These informational meetings provide a comfortable setting to help us get the details on our four-year building campaign, multi-purpose facility and campus development

Home Meeting questions?
extension 2637

Worship Ministries

Be a Part of the Easter Choir

- Singing for the Palm Sunday and Easter weekend services
- Rehearsals are Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning March 13

- 6:30 p.m., The Point, downstairs
- High school and up welcome

Worship Choir • Thursdays

- 6:30 p.m., The Point, downstairs
- High school and up welcome
- Childcare provided

Worship Orchestra • Thursdays

- 7 p.m., Worship Center
- High school and up welcome
- Childcare provided

Worship questions?
extension 2113

**Good Friday
Communion Service**

April 6 • 7:00 p.m. • Worship Center

- Easter Weekend -

Saturday, April 7 • 6 p.m.

Worship Center

Sunday, April 8 • 9 and 10:45 a.m.

Worship Center

The Edge • 10:45 a.m.

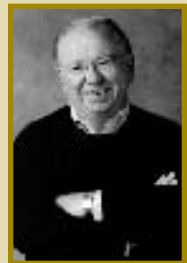
Pavilion Concourse

Get A Game Plan

Keeping Your Family Strong in a World Gone Wrong

Saturday-Monday, March 3-5

- Saturday, 6 p.m., Sunday, 9 and 10:45 a.m.
The Deception of Perfection
 - Sunday, 6-8 p.m.
Making Sense of the Man or Woman in Your Life
 - Monday, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
MotherStress
 - Monday, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Making Children Mind Without Losing Yours and Teenagers, Running the Rapids
- The conference is FREE — register online at fbcmdesto.com



STUDENT MINISTRIES

Junior High

FOCUS – Sundays

- 9 a.m., Chapel

C-Groups - Wednesdays

- 6:50-8:30 p.m., Chapel

Deeper Focus

- Wednesday, March 28
- 6:50-8:30 p.m., Chapel
- Special worship time

High School

The Deep End - Sundays

- 9 a.m., Pavilion Concourse
- Discipleship pathway for students

128/Fuel Groups

- Wednesdays, 6:45-8:30 p.m.
- Pavilion Concourse
- Worship gathering for students, then move into Fuel Groups

For High School Information

- highschool@fbcmodesto.com or 128online.com

College Ministry

18-20 Somethings

IGNITE – Sundays

- 7 p.m., The Point, downstairs

Discipleship Groups • Sundays

- Guys – 9 a.m.
The Point, upstairs
- Ladies – 9:15 a.m.
C.E. Bldg, Rm 304

Prayer Warriors

- Fridays, 7:30 a.m., C.E. Bldg, 304

Student Ministries questions?
extension 2506/2508

The Next Level

Post-college age, single young adults

Tuesday Night Small Groups

- 7 p.m.
- The Point, downstairs
- For career age and 20-somethings

The Next Level questions?
extension 2506

Men's Ministries

Bowling

- Saturday, March 24, noon-3 p.m.
- McHenry Bowl, 3700 McHenry
- \$1 per game, shoes included
- Small charge for pizza
- Sign up Sundays at the table in the street

Men's Small Groups

- Various groups meet weekly
- Call for more information

Men's Ministries questions?
extension 2617

Marriage & Family Plus 3

Living Together In ... grace ... truth ... surrender

God has called us to become families bound to each other by the cords of grace, truth and surrender – the same cords that bind us to Jesus Christ

- Sunday, 9 a.m.
- Pavilion Garden
- *So, How Much Have You Thought About This Thing Called Family?*
What you may not have considered, led by Pastor Terry Benner
- *Developing a Friendship With Money*, led by Greg Crosby

Marriage & Family Plus 3 questions?
extension 2621

LIFEGroups

A Place to Belong

Connect with other adults and grow in your knowledge of Jesus.

LIFEGroup questions?
extension 2609

Women's Ministries

Small Groups

Call for times and locations

Sunday – *Jesus the One and Only*

Monday – encouragement and prayer groups
Perfect Gifts — for moms of children with special needs

Grandmoms in Touch

Tuesday – childcare for morning groups only

- Groups: *Believing God; Daniel; Acts; Live a Praying Life; What's so Amazing About God; Lord, Give Me a Heart for You; Lord, Teach Me to Study Your Word in 28 Days; Women of the Old Testament*

Wednesday

- *Romans Part 4*

Thursday

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)

- 9:15 a.m., Pavilion Garden, first and third Thursdays; Bible study meets second Thursday; childcare available

Encouragement & Prayer Groups

- Various groups, call for details
- *Ladies in Waiting* — deals with infertility call 521-4143 for details

Deeper Still: The Event

- Friday-Saturday, March 9-10
- \$70, Moscone Center, San Francisco
- Teachers: Kay Arthur, Beth Moore and Priscilla Shirer
- Register online lifeway.com/women or call 1-800-254-2022

Women's Ministries questions?
extension 2306

Welcome New Members

Nolan Chase
Cameron Evins
Jake Johnson
Emily Lebs
Casey Long
David Sanchez
Jennifer Sanchez
Jeremiah Tek
Ryan Valeo

Young Marrieds & Young Families

Sundays • 9 a.m.

- Build friendships, enjoy relevant life teaching
- The Point, downstairs

Small Groups

- Meet weekly

March Activity – Snow Trip

- Saturday, March 10, Leland Meadows

Young Marrieds & Young Families
questions? extension 2609

Kid Country

Adult Bridges Ministry

- Volunteer to give rides to church to special needs adults Sunday mornings
- Sign up in the Kid Country Visitor Center or call the Kid Country Office

Opportunity To Serve

- Change a child's life by serving in Kid Country
- Stop by the Kid Country Visitor Center or call the Kid Country Office

Kid Country questions?
extension 2307

Family Camp 2007

Monday-Friday, July 23-27

- Registration begins Sunday, March 11 at the table in the street

Family Camp questions?
extension 2307

Monday Night Church

MNC Service and Dinners

- Mondays, March 12, 19 and 26
- 6 p.m., Pavilion Concourse

Volunteer Help

- Needed to help with childcare

Monday Night Church questions?
extension 2621

Single Adults

Single Focus Sundays

- 10:45 a.m., The Point, downstairs
- *Managing Relationships* – when high-control is the only way to go, led by Terry Benner

Friday Night Kick-back Time

- 7-9 p.m., The Point, downstairs

Single Adult questions?
extension 2618

First B Saturday Night

Chapel @ 6:00

Experience a worship service in a new place, at a new time, with the same relevant teaching and worship as Sunday morning, 10:45

Kid Country programs available birth through sixth grade

Park Cafe

- Join this fun and growing hospitality ministry, sign up in the Park Café on Sunday

Park Café questions?
extension 2618

World Outreach

Chinese Fellowship

- Sundays, 3 p.m., Pavilion Garden

India Fellowship

- Sundays, 10:45 a.m., 1325 11th Street

Laotian and Cambodian Fellowship

- Sunday, 10:45 a.m., C.E. Bldg, upstairs

World Outreach questions?
extension 2622

Recovery In Christ

Ministries Support Groups

Substance abuse, dysfunction and dependency

Various Groups Available

Thursdays, 7 p.m.

Pavilion Garden

Childcare provided, birth-sixth grade

Recovery groups available for men and women. Our Recovery Ministries is designed for people to work through difficult issues that cannot be worked through alone. We are here to help! Contact the Church Office for information on groups.

Recovery In Christ questions?
extension 2621