



JANUARY 2007

fbcmodeledto.com

From Pastor Wade



Welcome to 2007!

When I was a child and a teenager, it seems I was always looking forward to the next great

thing: starting school, learning to ride a bicycle, getting to play on the school baseball team, learning to drive, getting a job, graduating from high school.

When I started college, I remember the thought hitting me, "I'd have enjoyed high school a lot more if I hadn't been looking forward to college so much!" It was my first wake-up call to live in the present.

I think this is a key application point that arises from Ephesians 5:15-16, "Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil."

One application of being careful and wise and making the most of every opportunity is to live in each moment, in each experience, living

fully in the present. This does not eliminate wise planning under God's direction (James 4:15). It does help us to do God's will in each moment.

Also, if we're going to Make it Count, we need to practice living in the present, being alert to whatever opportunities God brings along; and alert to honoring God ... whatever we're doing in that moment.

As we begin the new year, we're going to be moving through the book of Acts in our weekend services. There are lots of great examples of living in the present under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

So, let's live 2007 a day at a time. We only get to do it once!

Wade

2007!

Make It Count

Whether or not we realize it, we are each influencers of others, yet often we forget that reality as we live day to day. It's easy to overlook how much our attitudes, words and actions affect those around us. Yet, it's valuable to stop and reflect on how we are influenced by others in the body of Christ, and to acknowledge the ways we influence others as we live in biblical community. As God's family, we place ourselves in relationship to each other in community, and it's there God uses us to speak into each other's lives. It's in His family we become His shepherds, even as He is ours.

As a high school freshman, Mark Dooley joined the Drama Team, one of the many mid-size groups in our church. This multi-generational community of like-minded servant artists loved Mark, included him, encouraged him, worked alongside him and even confronted him when he needed tough love. Be encouraged by this example of a young man raised at First B, one who has had his share of ups and downs, yet who was surrounded by people who prayed for him even when he didn't know they were.

When six months ago, Mark moved to LA to try to work in television, he had a miniscule chance of achieving his goal. Yet, he committed to walk



with God and place himself among Christian people. Within days of getting a cashier's job, Mark was "spotted" and invited to come to Central Casting, the organization where extras are given jobs in film and television. Mark has since been an extra in over 25 network shows and several films. He's been blessed with opportunities that simply amaze veterans in the field. Rarely does one go to Hollywood, get hired right away and find himself on the fast track to joining the Screen Actors Guild with almost no effort, yet Mark believes God has opened these doors for him.

The following is a letter Mark wrote recently to Lin Sexton and the First B Drama Team:

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

Living In Biblical Community

Hey Lin, I wanted to write you and thank you and the Drama Team for all the prayers and the help you have given me through the years to get me to where I am now. When I was lost and being stupid and worldly, you never gave up on me and helped me see what I was missing.

I am happy to report that I have found a church down here that I feel I belong in, and I am slowly making friends there. I am going to Mosaic Church in LA, an evangelical Christian church geared toward people looking for God's plan for them in the arts. My walk with God is growing stronger each day. I'm still working on the areas I need to, but I have seen great improvements in the ones that I was greatly needing improvements in!

I know my family was scared about me being sucked into the black abyss that is Hollywood, but I see it for what it is, and I don't want that at all. I know God has a plan for me here, and I want to follow it and do everything in His time, as much as it frustrates me from time to time. I know that His plan is best, and if I follow Him I will have greater success at whatever I do.

Since I've been down here, I've been able to be places and do things that I thought would take years, partially because God is opening doors. I want to see where He leads me; if it's away from here, OK. I don't want to leave because I'm finally following my dream,

but if He tells me I need to give up this dream for a time, or for good, I know He will put me where He wants me. And trying to fight that is pointless because I don't want to do anything down here without His guidance. I am a long way from being a big star or even an actor with any lines ... but that's not what I want. I just want to follow God's path and do what I love, and so far I've been able to do that every day, for the most part.

I need to get to bed because I'm going to boot camp for the Pirates 3 movie. Part of me hopes that God opens a door ... the other part of me just hopes I don't freeze my fingers off because boot-camp is in Palmdale, where it's very, very cold.

Please let the Drama Team know that I love them and miss them. You are my family, you've watched me grow up and become an adult. I haven't always made it easy or done the smart thing, but you've all picked me up when I've fallen. And you've given me a smack upside the head (because I deserved it) and then a hug to let me know I wasn't rejected. Thank you ... for everything you've taught me ... Thank you.

Mark

A Place Where You Hear God's Voice

2006 was an amazing year at Camp Chinquapin. Here's a brief report from our Chinquapin full time staff, Nathan and Kim Powell:

It has been another great year here at Camp Chinquapin. We have had the privilege of working with 49 Christian groups from 21 different cities across Northern California. With that, these groups have brought more than 3,000 people who came to Camp Chinquapin to hear the message of Jesus

Christ. We have seen so many come to know the Lord, and others have made new commitments in their walk with Christ. This camp is clearly a place where people can come and hear God's voice speaking to them.

Each and every group is unique; several churches bring their youth groups to help them grow in faith. Each group also encourages their youth to bring friends so they, too, can hear

the good news of the Gospel. Many churches send their leaders to Camp Chinquapin so they can get away and focus on Christ, praying as they work through issues church leaders deal with regularly.

Many adult groups came to camp throughout the year for fellowship and growth, often making new commitments to various ministries within the church. The most memorable group this year

was a ministry reaching out to men recently been released from prison.

This ministry shares Christ with them and their lives are changed for eternity because of the grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Please continue to pray for Camp Chinquapin as we prepare for the upcoming year. It is a great place where we have seen so many lives

touched by God. We also wanted to thank everyone for their prayers and letters of encouragement for the staff here at Camp Chinquapin.



Editor's Note: Many members of First Baptist rent a Chinquapin cabin for a night or two and enjoy the rest and peacefulness of the camp. The camp is generally booked

during the weekends with groups, but there is normally availability midweek. Call the church for more information.

Children's Crisis Center Ministry

Women of the Word meet in Small Groups on Tuesday mornings. In mid-December they gave a Christmas party for the Children's Crisis Center in Modesto.

Becky Couchman reports, "Of course it was a joy to put on a Christmas party for the children at the Children's Crisis Center (CCC), bringing gifts, festive snacks and games, but I must say the highlight for me was looking at the children's faces and even more than that, the workers' faces as they watched the Christmas DVD about the true meaning of Christmas, Jesus. They were captivated! My heartbeat and prayer for this Christmas project was for God's love to touch the hearts of the 15 workers there. I praise Him for how He is going to use that upbeat DVD and the love and gifts extended to them in the name of Jesus. What an awesome hands-on experience!"

Lynn Crist recalls, "I must say that

this was a good experience. The little girl whose presents I helped open was sooooo excited about all of her gifts, especially the doll. When she saw it she exclaimed, 'A baby!' All the children were precious. I was particularly impressed with the care given the children by the workers."

"As I was relating the experience to my family," recalls Jana Smith, "the following were the highlights: the love and warmth for the children demonstrated by the caregivers and their reciprocation and the large ripple effect this party had in touching the lives of children, parents, workers, board of directors, etc."

Becky Couchman concludes, "It was an amazing day. The children were so sweet and appreciative. The staff at CCC were so sweet and caring to the children and helpful to us. It felt so great to be part of something that gave such joy to those beautiful children."

Kid Country Christmas

What an awesome morning to see the children praising God and celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior. We rejoiced with our church families as many relatives and friends were here to worship with us and enjoy the morning that was filled with music, fun, worship and yes,



some unavoidable laughter.

Tweneage Power Company

choir director, Julie Collins, suffered a bad case of flu that morning, and on 30 minutes notice, Janine Runnels



jumped in to lead our Saturday morning rehearsal and each Kid Country Christmas worship service. Special thanks to Janine, Julie and Diane Heppner for their giftedness and leadership. They made it count and didn't miss a beat! And thanks to Julie, who did a great job of putting it all together.

A Year Of Making It Count

Embracing Opportunity

Two years ago when Casey joined Cub Scouts as a second grader, we became sideline parents, only stepping in to help when absolutely necessary.



Jenni, Casey, Tim

During Casey's third grade year we both reluctantly agreed to step into leadership positions and took the required training.

Before long, it was clear we both had heart connections with the troop, realizing that Tim's leadership in the Pack could be his *Make It Count* activity. Through his participation as a dad and his leadership, he could have a positive, and hopefully, lasting impact on the lives of these young boys.

Our vision became "making this positive experience available to as many first through fifth grade boys as possible." This fall, thousands of flyers handed out at 13 local elementary schools resulted in tripling the pack and bringing together boys from all walks of life. Scary? Yes! Overwhelming? At times. A blessing? DEFINITELY!

This was an answer to our prayers to expand our outreach within the community and provide us a greater opportunity to serve the Lord off the church campus, by being an influence in the lives of these young boys and their families. These boys are now learning together how to perform their duty to God, country and their community.

Return To Vietnam

Every time I look at my *Make It Count* wristband, I am reminded that I matter to God, and I want to make my life count. I chose to follow God back to my native Vietnam and minister to the Vietnamese people in June of this year, going as a volunteer with Nehemiah Medical Project. I am reminded that Jesus came to Earth to serve and not to be served. The night I shared with the College Ministry about my mission trip to Vietnam, one person gave his life over to God. I thank God for using me to make a difference halfway around the world, and back here, also.

Taking The Plunge

The event that lives in red letters in my memory is taking the plunge of going on a short-term missions trip. As a young girl growing up in church, I loved to listen to the stories of missionaries. They always seemed to live lives of exotic peril, and I could never imagine real people doing the things they did. When Lin asked us to pray about going to Slovenia and be part of a team that was not only to perform, but also model being unified to people who are disunified down to their marrow, my "inner no" said, "MISSIONARY?? You can't do what those guys do!!" That was followed by the reminder to *Make It Count*. This was definitely a way to make it count-and-a-half. I saw, as we went throughout Slovenia, that it takes real people to touch the hearts of real people — and that means we are all qualified.

Life Group Served The Homeless

Gary and Rebekah Jones presented their LIFEGroup with a service opportunity. They discovered the Salvation Army was providing shelter for the homeless at a large warehouse at 9th and D streets in Modesto during the winter months. They also learned the facility was looking for groups to cook and feed the 100+ people who sleep there each night. Because there is no kitchen facility there and no budget for feeding people, groups doing this would need to make all food and drinks and bring all the necessary paper goods and plastic ware as well. They would need to serve the meal buffet style — no small task! The group decided this would be a great way to *Make It Count*, and chose a night in December to reach out in this way.

They set up, prayed and served a delicious spaghetti dinner. The evening went smoothly, and they experienced the joy of loving and serving others who really needed their help. They also had high school and elementary sons of group members serve with them. The team agreed that those they served were blessed, yet the servers were blessed even more.

Be Encouraged!

When we talk about making our lives count, it's easy to think, "Well, I have no big story to tell, no dramatic 'before and after' anecdote, so I guess I'm not making it count."

Certainly there are great, life-affirming moments when we find ourselves touching other lives in palpable ways. Yet, there are also hundreds of little moments in our daily existence when we can choose to be life-givers, choose to do or not do something that will affect others. And often those choices are unnoticed by anyone but us and God, and that's OK.

Making it count is about choices, the kind of choices we're faced with every day. Do we choose to smile, to listen or to share something we have? Or do we choose to be so busy we have no time to encourage, bless or have a conversation? Be encouraged, for you can make such choices many times a day!

All we need to do is be willing to make our lives count, to ask God for opportunities and to choose to embrace them when they come along. He will do the rest.



JANUARY 2007

Rancho Santa Marta Mexico Mission Trip

Saturday-Saturday, January 13-20

- \$244
- Space still available, call for details

Rancho Santa Marta Trip questions?
extension 2617

Sunday Night Teaching Time Resumes

The Book Of Isaiah

- 5:30, Pavilion Garden
- Led by Pastor Claude Terry

Sunday Night Teaching Time
questions? extension 2622

Men's Ministries

Movie Night Out

- Friday, January 19, 6:30 p.m.
- The Point, downstairs
- Snacks and drinks provided
- Sons/friends welcome

Iron Sharpens Iron Conference

- Saturday, February 10
- \$48 (\$39 if in a group of 10 or more)
- Crossroads Grace Fellowship Church of Manteca. For more information go to buildingmenofcharacter.com

Men's Small Groups

- Various groups meet weekly
- Call for more information

Men's Ministries questions?
extension 2617

Believer's Baptism

Sunday, February 25

- If you would like to be baptized, please attend the New Members Class or call the Church Office and schedule an appointment with a pastor.

Baptism questions? extension 2609

Membership Class

New Five-week Class

- Sunday, January 7
- 9 a.m.
- Pavilion Garden, Room 931
- Taught by various pastors

Membership questions?
extension 2609

Worship Ministries

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

Tech Ministries, Help Needed

- Media team and sound mixer
- During Sunday morning worship gatherings
- Worship Center/The Edge

Worship questions?
extension 2113

Park Café

Volunteer Training

Training Dates

- Join this fun and growing hospitality ministry
- Sign up in the Park Café on Sunday or just come to a training meeting

Park Café questions?

extension 2618

LIFEGroups A Place to Belong

LIFEGroups Available

- Connect with other adults
- Call or go to fbcmodesto.com

LIFEGroups questions?

extension 2609

Kid Country

Kid Country Promotion Sunday is January 7

- Children move up to their new classes

Tweenage Open House

- Sunday, January 14
- 10:45 a.m., Chapel
- Parents are invited to come and learn about the Tweenage Ministry

Tweenage Power Company Musical Rehearsals Begin

- Sundays, January 28-March 18
- 5:30-6:45 p.m.
- The Family Room

If you haven't turned in your Kid Country Helper Card, stop by the Visitor Center on Sunday or the Kid Country Office during the week

Kid Country questions?

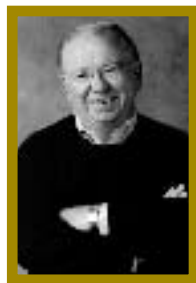
extension 2307

Kevin Leman Conference

Sunday-Monday

March 4-5

- Topics include:
The Deception of Perfection, Sheet Music-Creating a Symphony in Marriage, Motherstress, Making Children Mind Without Losing Yours and Running the Rapids



Watch for details!

Pacesetters

Monthly Prayer Meeting

- Monday, January 8, 3:30-4:40 p.m.
- 818 Needham St.

Sunday Lunch Bunch

- January 14, noon
- Pavilion Garden

Cleanings for the Hungry

- Monday-Friday, February 26-March 2
- \$55 (includes meals and accommodations)

Pacesetters questions?

extension 2617

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

College Ministry

18-20 Somethings

Ignite • Sundays

- 7 p.m.
- The Point, downstairs

Discipleship Groups • Sundays

- Guys – 9 a.m.
C.E. Building, Rm 315
- Ladies – 9:15 a.m.
C.E. Building, Rm 304

College Ministry questions?
extension 2506

Single Adults

Single Focus Sundays

- 10:45 a.m., The Point, downstairs
- *The Mirrors in Our Lives* – How do we come to our conclusions about how we see ourselves? Led by Terry Benner

Wednesdays

- 7 p.m., The Point, downstairs
- New Series: *Building for God: A Look at Nehemiah*

Friday Night Kick-back Time

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

Single Adult questions?
extension 2618

STUDENT MINISTRIES

Junior High

FOCUS

- Sundays, 9 a.m., Chapel

C-Groups - Wednesdays

- 6:50-8:30 p.m., Chapel
- Sixth graders first night is Wednesday, January 10

Pirates of the Caribbean Movie & Pizza Night

- Sunday, January 14, 4-10 p.m.
- Chapel

Deeper Focus

- Wednesday, January 24
- 6:50-8:30 p.m., Chapel

Winter Camp Luggage Drop-off

- Wednesday, January 31
- 5:30-6:30 p.m., Chapel

Winter Camp Staff Meeting

- Wednesday, January 31
- 7 p.m., Chapel

Student Ministries questions?
extension 2506/2508

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

Elevation - Winter Conference

- Friday-Sunday, January 26-28
- \$135 – \$50 non-refundable deposit holds your spot and low price (\$155 after January 14)
- Old Oak Ranch

Broomball/Ice Skating - \$5

- Wednesday, January 3
- Oak Park Ice Arena, Stockton

For High School Information

- highschool@fbcmdesto.com or 128online.com

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

- Begins Sunday, January 7
- 9 a.m.
- Pavilion Garden
- *Parenting: Considering What You May Not Have Considered* and *DNA of Relationships*

Marriage & Family Plus 3 questions?
extension 2621

Young Marrieds & Young Families

2007 Kick-off

Sundays • 9 a.m.

- Insights from Romans 12 and the challenges of a surrendered life
- Led by Mike Moran
- The Point, downstairs

Small Groups

- Meet weekly

Growing Kids God's Way: On Becoming Childwise

- Begins Sunday, January 14, 9 a.m.
- \$45 per couple/\$25 per person (Childwise alumni free)
- Childcare provided

New & Young Marrieds questions?
extension 2618

Recovery In Christ

Ministries Support Groups

Substance abuse, dysfunction and dependency

Groups Available

Thursdays, 7 p.m., Pavilion Garden

Childcare provided, birth-sixth grade

- New groups begin this month

Recovery groups available for men, women and teens (new). 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

World Outreach

Perspectives on the Worldwide Christian Movement 15-week Class

- Begins Monday, January 15, 6 p.m.
- River Oak Grace Community Church
- Orientation Monday, January 8
- Details at theharvestgroup.net

Prayer for the World

- No meeting in January

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. Building, upstairs

World Outreach questions?
extension 2622

S.H.A.P.E. Class

New Six-week Session

- Sunday, January 7, 9 a.m.
- Pavilion Garden, Rm 935
- Discover how God designed your unique gifts and abilities to benefit the body of Christ today

S.H.A.P.E. questions?
extension 2609

Women's Ministries

Small Groups

Call for times and locations

Sunday – *Jesus the One and Only*

Monday

Perfect Gifts — for moms of children with special needs

Grandmoms in Touch

Tuesday – childcare for morning groups only

- Groups: *Believing God, Daniel Part 2, Live a Praying Life, What's So Amazing About Grace, Leviticus, James, Acts, Daniel Part 1*

Wednesday

- *Romans Part 3*

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 at lifeway.com/women or call 1-800-254-2022

Women's Ministries questions?
extension 2306

Monday Night Church

MNC Service and Dinners

- Mondays, January 8, 15, 22 and 29
- 6 p.m.
- Pavilion Concourse

Volunteer Help

- Needed to help with childcare

Monday Night Church questions?
extension 2621

Dedication of Parents & Little Children

Sunday, December 3, 2006

Kaitlin Renee Akulow

Lukus Aaron Clark

Joshua Cool Corsaut

Allyson Elise Criswell

Kyle Ethan Fernandes

Lauren Renee Jin-in Frey

Jenna Alyse Harmon

Trenton Christopher Helie

Alyssa RaeAnn Holly †

Natalie Monique Holly

Jaxson Theodore Hunt

Hudson Scott Monday

Katelyn Danise Reeves

Avery Marie Sanchez

Braden Michael Sanchez

Tyler Anthony Sanchez

Evelyn Manjari Mirenbe Sonar

Devin Peter Blake Ward

Dillon Phoenix Joseph Ward

The Next Level

Tuesday Night Small Groups

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

The Next Level questions?
extension 2506

Welcome New Members

*Ramona Bandy • Robin Canady
McCall Chase • Angie Davis
Bruce La Faver • Mathew Kooiman
Andrea Lewis • Melissa Niemeyer
Cristine Tavares • Robert Van Sant
Parris Wilson*