



JUNE 2009

fbcmodesto.com

Saying Good-Bye To Modesto

by Pastor Mike Emmert

Two years ago when my family and I left Minnesota for Modesto, we knew God had been preparing us for other ministries. As native Minnesotans we were deeply embedded in our town and church, yet I was certain God wanted us here. And He did.

And now it's clear why. These two years have developed and prepared me for the next phase of God's calling on my life. Through working with the First B staff, I have learned much and can understand so much better how to do ministry. I love and respect Wade, and I've learned important lessons from him. I love the people here and have treasured serving alongside them. Whether in the College Ministry, the worship planning team, the Student Ministries staff or The Edge, each ministry assignment has been rich and rewarding.



So where are we going, and why? We do know God is calling us to the Twin Cities of Minnesota: Minneapolis-St. Paul, an area of two million, to be launched into a ministry of some kind. We are

uncertain as to specifics: Will it be a church? Will it be a para-church or campus ministry? While we have no specifics, we know He has been preparing us.

The process began with the gradual cultural changes we realized coming from the Midwest. Of necessity, learning to live and work in a different culture brought challenges and growth to me and my family. This process opened a window through which we began to see that our horizons did not simply stop here in California. We began to talk, pray and wonder just what God was doing in our hearts. One answer He gave us was that He was preparing us for something down the road. But

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Nine years ago, Dan Oie started Shepherd's Garden to help men gain victory over destructive life-controlling habits and become healthy members of God's family. Dan found that by providing a place where men could live in Christian community while receiving mentoring, biblical guidance and life coaching, participants had a viable opportunity to live godly, productive lives.

That was no small goal, no insignificant dream.

Today Gary Kuhlman directs this ministry. "I'm thankful the Lord has blessed me to serve here at First B as director of housekeeping and Shepherd's Garden. To watch the lives of these men change is a thrill and a blessing," he says. "Over the years, men who have come out of prison or off the streets have needed a jump start in order to get back into the work force. They've needed help to clean up their lives and to deal with legal and even relational problems. When they show an interest in coming into Shepherd's Garden they are asked to begin by volunteering for a month before they can move into the house. Once they have completed this month of volunteering, they then move into a house where they live with other

men who also want to move forward in their lives. A significant part of Shepherd's Garden is

that a job is provided – working at the church as a custodian in the area of housekeeping."

A former pastor, who trained for ministry here at First B, Gary's job today allows him to impart solid work ethics, teach marketable skills and spiritually mentor these men. His years in ministry caring for people, counseling and teaching, provide a great foundation for what God has laid before him to do.

But Gary is not alone in this work. Men from the congregation volunteer to mentor Shepherd's Garden guys, one on one, giving their time and attention, friendship and focus. "Accountability is a important part of a man's growth," says Gary. "In Shepherd's Garden, this is made possible through mentors who help in spiritual, as well as practical, ways with such things as Bible study, budgeting, shopping and sometimes helping them overcome and replace bad habits with good ones."

It takes 18 months to graduate from Shepherd's Garden, during which each man becomes involved in the church. Not only are they employed part-time at the church, they also participate in God's Way Out, Monday Night Church and men's small groups.

Since Gary has been with Shepherd's Garden he's seen two



Saying Good-Bye To Modesto Continued

what? The process of discovery has been one of talking, praying, seeking wise counsel and simply trusting God. A valuable thing I've learned here is that faith is the opposite of certainty, and we are listening and living by faith, uncertain as to the place God is leading us. After all, if we knew the "what" and "where," we wouldn't need faith!

I feel really good about this because folks here in leadership have known from day one what I've been thinking. I have not come to this decision in a vacuum but in a good place populated with wise counselors and people of integrity.

Here in Modesto, God has gently impressed on me the significance of my foremost role as a husband,



then a father, then a pastor. I've experienced in new ways what it means to be the spiritual leader of my wife and four children. I've understood more deeply the vital role of a listening husband and father. Together, the six of us are convinced that God is moving us as a family, stronger, more skilled

and faith-filled for having been in Modesto for two years.

When I first arrived here, I remember telling the college group that I wanted this group to be a crash of rhinos – that's what a group of rhinos is called. I told them how rhinos can run up to 40 miles an hour, but they can only see 30 feet ahead. If we're like a crash of rhinos, we are running together, completely by faith, trusting God for what's ahead. I think that's how the Lord wants us to live. And since I don't know what's 30 feet in front of me, I keep going, approaching this journey with a fearless wonder because I'm trusting God.

So Marlene and I and our family, Bailee, 18, Tess, 17, Allie, 15 and

Walker, 12, will depart in July. I feel like we're on one of those big old wooden roller coasters, hearing the clicking just before the sheer drop. I'm excited and terrified, expecting a thrill, ready to go over the brink simply because I know

God is running the ride. I have great confidence in what He is doing.

Among my favorite memories of Modesto will be the Christmas season program we did at IGNITE (the College Ministry). Using the film *It's A Wonderful Life*, we asked, "What if Jesus had never been born?" On the screen was John 3:16. One by

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Can I Trust the Bible?

For two Sundays in April, 80 people participated in a workshop that focused on answering questions like, “Where did the Bible come from?”, “Can I trust the Bible?” and “How do we know we have the right books?”

The goal of these two weeks was to help each person deepen their conviction that the Bible can be trusted more than our feelings, values, opinions and culture.

The response to the workshop was tremendous. Participants gained a greater understanding of the history of the Bible while increasing their confidence that it is truly God’s Word.

The workshop will be offered again June 14 and June 21. It takes place in room 931 in the Family Life Pavilion. It is offered at 9:00 and 10:45 am. The workshop is identical each hour.

A follow up workshop will take place June 28 and July 5. The focus of this workshop will be “How to Study the Bible.” These two weeks will focus on ideas as to how to have a meaningful quiet time and ways to study the Bible in depth.

Talk Around The Rock

Regina Stewart serves as Pastors Benner and Moran’s administrative assistant. Recently while at work she suffered what might have been stroke symptoms. The doctors checked her over and she’s fine, but while she was at their office, she was asked if she’d like to be part of a television documentary on women and stroke prevention. “The whole thing grew into much more than I expected,” says Regina. “They filmed me at my home and later at the doctor’s office.” Yes, it was Regina on a recent Sutter Health special!

In an exciting world outreach development, we’re sending a team to Slovenia later this month to help run a youth English camp. The team includes: **Greg and Nancee Davis, Hope Davis, Terri Johnson, Connor Johnson, Janine Runnels, Jordan Runnels, Liz Richie, Deb Smallwood, Morgan Smallwood, Chloe Smallwood, Gabe Duncan, Shauna Kopra and Chris Weiss.**

This team will work with Josiah Venture, an Eastern European Youth Ministry, at a camp near Lake Bled in Slovenia teaching English to 7th, 8th and 9th graders. The camp environment includes wacky themes, active sports and games, zany competitions plus three hours of English instruction each day. A proven effective outreach, English camps are life-on-life evangelism through relationship building.

Saying Good-Bye To Modesto Continued

one, the words disappeared, leaving only the phrase “all shall perish.” As I prayed aloud, I stopped and said, “Oh, wait. Jesus wasn’t born, so there’s no one to pray to.” I walked off. And, since He had not been born, there would have been no need for the cross, so the guys moved it off the platform. Everyone sat in silence for 10 minutes, stunned. The impact was remarkable. Then spontaneously, someone read a Bible verse. Another person started a song. A couple of guys got up and dragged the cross back to the platform. I returned to the front and said, “This was the Holy Spirit moving us, and that’s proof that Jesus was born, and did die and rise from the dead.” I’ll never forget that night.

Marlene and I will also treasure the memories of The Edge team and the congregation where we made

our worshiping home. We will miss connecting with them, worshiping with them and living life together. I so deeply value the experiences and friendships built here, and fondly remember the synergy of the worship planning team and how we saw God piece creative elements together to glorify Himself in worship.

I will miss sharing how God intersects our lives and how we do life together. I will miss watching the college students grow spiritually. And I know I’ll miss wearing flip-flops all year round!

And that’s the journey we’re on — one of inspiration, wonder, innovation and above all, faith. Thank you for your prayer support, friendship and kindness. We will always share with our Modesto church family, the calling to win people for Christ, one life at a time.





“For whoever wants to save his life will lose it,
but whoever loses his life for Me will find it”

- Jesus

Early this spring, 128, our high school ministry, embarked on a 40-day spiritual journey looking into Jesus’

upside-down way of living. In what has become a tradition, our students set aside 40 days to learn, pray, study the

Bible and fast as a group.

by Pastor Jeff Harmon

This year’s theme was “FLiP”, and it was focused around the numerous “upside-down” statements that Jesus made throughout His ministry, such as “My power is made perfect in weakness” and “If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last.” Our students learned that Jesus’ way of living, although it may have been counter-culture and unconventional, is truly the best way to live.

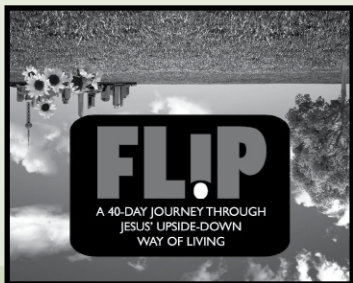
On the first night of the journey, students received a devotional book, with daily Scripture readings, application questions and action steps. Each week’s theme had corresponding memory verses, and the Wednesday night messages reinforced what students had been learning throughout the week. Over 200 students and staff

participated. Many students commented that the daily devotions and accountability from others really helped them make a habit of spending time in God’s Word on a regular basis. Others were opening the Bible for the first time.

At the end of the 40 days, the students and staff gathered to celebrate and share what God had done in their lives throughout the journey. Students were challenged to take what they had learned and live out Jesus’ upside-down way of living as a daily lifestyle.

Here is one response received from one participant:

At the beginning of this 40-day journey, I almost assumed that I wouldn’t learn much more because I thought I knew this stuff about Jesus. I knew that this was wrong to think, so I refrained from believing that I wouldn’t change from this journey. But throughout the 40 days, more and more flesh was put onto the skeleton of my knowledge of Christ. I learned a lot, and changed in the way I thought about some things, too. This straightened me out in ways I couldn’t see when I was looking ahead 40 days ago. My love for Jesus grows stronger with every day that passes. I want everyone to know this: When chances come to learn more about Jesus, take them with no second thoughts, because in the end, you will always come out knowing more and being closer to Him than ever before. No attitude should ever hold this back, none at all!



men graduate from the program. Skip Givens and Jerry Carson overcame drug and alcohol addictions, learned the importance of faithfully working hard, being diligent in Bible study, steadfast in prayer, and such basic things as punctuality and sharing household chores. Since graduating, they have remained faithful to the Lord and His church and continue to grow in these areas.

Gary leads the guys in three different Bible studies weekly, so he touches their lives outside the workplace three times a week, right after they clock off work. "What we try to do through the studies is to give the men basic building blocks for their faith and help them look at a passage and understand what's in it," he says.

In the workplace, Gary and others help the men prepare to join the workforce by helping them learn to stay on schedule, making sure they finish assigned tasks, learn to estimate how long tasks take, and accomplish new skills. They stress taking care, promptness, safety, thinking ahead and being responsible.

"When they graduate," says Gary, smiling at the memory, "we recognize them with a certificate, and they come into one of our Monday night meetings where we have food and celebrate their achievement. With their co-workers and guests present, we spend the evening talking about what they've accomplished. By that time they have secured a job and are able to get a place to live because they have saved money. They have learned to

do a personal budget. They are ready for the next step in life."

With warmth and joy, Gary adds, "The heart of this ministry is the life change experienced by men who have come broken and scarred from destructive living – people who have had to work through really hard stuff. What I tell them from the beginning is this is about a relationship with Jesus Christ and it's also about His Church. I tell them God wants them to become part of this body. They need a center, a community. They need a place to land, and that place is here. If they have no home base, they will easily stray back to that broken place they've come from. When they find this is home, as I did in 1978, they will have a place to live life, and to connect with and enjoy fellowship with other people. They'll have a place to flourish."

Smiles

After having breakfast with five of their nine grandchildren one Saturday morning, Claude and Gayleen Terry transported three of the older boys to get a haircut, a new adventure, since their parents usually give them a buzz cut at home. Claude asked them what kind of haircut they wanted. Jeremiah, spoke up, "Papa, I want a haircut just like yours, but without the hole in back."





JUNE 2009

Home Groups

Home Groups – a place to belong

- Connect with other adults
- Study God's Word
- Various groups and locations
- Call or go to fbemodesto.com

Home Group questions?
extension 2370

Church Blood Plan Available

The Gift of Life

- Please call the church office for information on how you can be a part of this plan

Blood Plan questions?
extension 2350

Sunday Night Teaching Time

Galatians: Being Free in a Tense Time

Can you be a true follower of Christ and live totally free? Are these two paths compatible? Discover what true freedom is and how to grow strong in your faith in these uncertain times

- Sunday, 5:30 pm
- Pavilion Garden

Please note: not meeting June 21

Sunday Night Teaching Time
questions?
extension 2320

Family Camp 2009

Camp Chinquapin

- Wednesday, July 29-Sunday, Aug 2
- A fun time for the whole family
- Various prices
- Sign up in the church office during the week

Family Camp questions?
extension 2120

Church Blood Plan Available

The Gift of Life

- Please call the church office for information on how you can be a part of this plan

Blood Plan questions?
extension 2350

Membership Class

New Five-week Class

- Begins Sunday, July 12, 9 am
- Pavilion Garden, rm 931
- Taught by various pastors
- A basic introduction to First B and how to get connected, no need to pre-register for this class

Membership questions?
extension 2370

Believer's Baptism

Sunday, June 28

- 9 & 10:45 am
- An opportunity to express your faith in Jesus Christ publicly and allow others to share in your joy

If you'd like to be baptized, please call the church office

Baptism questions?

extension 2370

First Impressions

An Opportunity For You To Show Hospitality

- Welcome guests and help them find their way around the church campus
- One service, one Sunday per month
- Sign up at fbcmoesto.com or call the church office during the week for more information

First Impressions questions?

extension 2806

Military Prayer Wall

Prayer Cards Available

- Remember to pray for those who are serving in the armed forces
- Pick up a prayer card in the worship center lobby on Sundays, next to the Military Prayer Wall

Let Us Know

- If there has been a change in the status of your friend or loved one
- Forms available in the lobby next to the wall or go to fbcmoesto.com

Park Cafe

An Opportunity To Have Fun And Serve At The Same Time!

- Be a part of this hospitality ministry during the second hour on Sundays
- It's fun and training is provided
- Sign up in the Park Café on Sunday

Park Café questions?

extension 2373

Kid Country

Wild Wild West

Tweenage Summer Camp

- Sunday, June 28–Thursday, July 2
- Silver Spur Christian Camp
- \$230 (\$250 on June 15)
- Fourth–sixth grade this fall

Starlight Space Adventure Day Camp

- Monday–Friday, July 13–17
- \$18 (\$25 on June 29)
- Four years old (by 12/1/09)–third grade (this fall)

Good News Bible Clubs In City Schools

- You can provide prayer support, supplies or teach

Christian Martial Arts Class

- Ages 8–17
- Thursdays, 5:30–6:30 pm
- Saturdays, 9:30–10:30 am
- The Family Room
- Small monthly fee

Opportunities Still Available

- Many opportunities for you to help children learn more about Jesus
- Fill out a 2009 Kid Country helper card and turn it in Sunday

Kid Country questions?

extension 2120

STUDENT MINISTRIES

Junior High

The Price Is Right

- Wednesday, June 3
- 6:45 pm, Pavilion Concourse
- Prizes; free

Wipeout Summer Camp

- June 14-18
- \$269 (\$289 on June 4)

Fusion Sundays - Center Stage

- 9 am, Chapel

Fusion Inside Out Small Groups

- Wednesdays, 6:45 pm, Chapel

Check Out Fusion Online

- fusionjrhigh.com

High School

Vertigo '09 Summer Camp

- June 8-12
- \$295
- Koinonia Conference Grounds

The Deep End - Sundays

- 9 am, Pavilion Concourse

128/Fuel Groups

- Wednesdays
- 6:45 pm, Pavilion Concourse

Check Out 128 Online

- 128online.com

College Ministry

18-20 Somethings

IGNITE - Sundays

- 7 pm, Pavilion Concourse

Facebook - The Plex

- See what's happening at The Plex

Check Us Out Online

- fbcignite.com

Student Ministries questions?
extension 2506/2508

Single Adults

Single Focus

- Sundays, 9 am, The Point, upstairs
- This month *Where God's Power Flows*

Car Rally

- Saturday, June 13
- Ends in Knights Ferry for a picnic

Game Show Night

- Friday, June 26

Single Adult questions?
extension 2373

Family Dynamics

Marriage • Family • Parenting

Sundays

- 9 & 10:45 am, The Point, downstairs
- *Marriage Mysteries*
 - *Accusations: Marital Communication at Its Best*
 - *Commitment: Why It's Not a Good Reason to Stay Married*

Family Dynamics questions?
extension 2373

Young Marrieds & Young Families

Sundays

- 9 am, Pavilion Garden
- Please note: no meeting June 21

Coming June 28

- Summer workshops:
 - Books of the Bible, Personal Finance, Love Languages, Raising Kids, Newlyweds, The Bible & Evolution*

Come check out our class as we *live life together*. We focus on biblical truths, faith, building strong families and more.

Young Marrieds & Young Families
questions? extension 2373

Men's Ministries

Men's Small Groups

- Various times and locations

Rafting at Knights Ferry

- Saturday, June 27
- Bring son, grandson or friend, ages 12 years and up
- \$20
- 8 am, meet at First B
- Bring a sack lunch
- Sign up Sundays in the street

Golf Tournament

- Saturday, July 11

Men's Ministries questions?
extension 2355

Pacesetters

Sundays

- 10:45 am, Pavilion Garden
- *Luke, Christian Ethics* and *A Christian's Closer Walk With Christ*

Monthly Prayer Meeting

- Monday, June 1, 3:30 pm
- Office Bldg, Fireside Room

Lavender Hollow Farm Luncheon

- Friday, June 5
- 11 am meet at First B, 11:30 lunch
- \$12 per person

Fallon House Theatre & Dinner

- *Sisters of Swing: The Story of the Andrews Sisters*
- Thursday, June 11, leave 4 pm
- \$48 includes dinner in Knights Ferry

Sunday Lunch Bunch

- Sunday, June 14
- Noon, Pavilion Garden
- Single adult women 60+

Pacesetters questions?
extension 2355

Monday Night Church

Service and Meal

- Monday, June 8, 15, 22, 29
- 6 pm, Pavilion Concourse

Volunteer Opportunities Available

- Help with childcare, prayer partners, sign language or food service
- Sign up this weekend on your communication card or call the office

Monday Night Church questions?
extension 2350

Women's Ministries

Save the Date - SoulScape

- July 31-Aug 2
- Register at fbcmodesto.com or Sundays in the street
- \$135, July 1 cost goes to \$145

Living Proof Live Event

- Featuring Bible teacher: Beth Moore
- Worship: Travis Cottrell
- Friday-Saturday, June 26-27
- Stockton Arena
- Ticket information call the church office or call 1-800-254-2022

MOPS Summer Fun Days

- June 4, 10 am
Ustach Park, 2700 Hillglen Ave
- June 11, 10 am
Fairy Tale Town/Zoo, Sacramento
- June 18, 10 am
Mistlin Park, Ripon

Summer Small Groups

- *He Speaks to Me*
Tuesdays, June 9-July 14, 9 am
Call Kid Country for childcare
- *Women of Faith: Living Above Worry and Stress*
Tuesdays, June 2-Aug 18, 9:30 am
Group meets in Hughson, call for directions, 209-883-4867

Women's Ministries questions?
extension 2316

Dedication of Parents and Little Children

Mothers Day Weekend 2009

Sydney Joy Bentley

Lucas Orlando Caligiuri

Ian Robert Campos

Jonah John Cheek

Jonah Evan Croteau

Ezra Scott Crowson

Hayden Parker Degnan

Lyla Ranae DeGuzman

Noah Daniel Doub

Griffin Andrew Farley

Kyle William Hoffmann

Micah Kim

Thomas Patrick LaBarbera

Anita Lyne McClay

Michael Slade McClay

Brock Marshall Phillips

Josiah James Reeves

Parker Joel Rogers

Shea Elizabeth Ryan

Rylan Joseph Sanchez

Lauryn Grace Smith

Stella Bree Swager

Khloe Elle Turner

Luke Campbell Van Steenwyk

Rachel Faith Warter

Aiden John Wirowek

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**First Baptist Church
Modesto, California
Wade Estes, Senior Pastor**

Worship

Worship Choir News

- Taking break during the summer
- Watch for upcoming events and news

Worship Orchestra

- Thursdays, 7 pm, Worship Center
- High school age and up

Worship Ministry questions?
extension 2113

World Outreach

Night of Prayer For The World

- Monday, June 1 (first Monday each month)
- 6:30 pm, 1325 11th St

Chinese Ministry • Sunday

- 9 am, adult Sunday school,
The Point, upstairs
- 10:45 am, worship service,
The Point, upstairs

Laotian Ministry • Sunday

- 10:45 am, 1325 11th St

Cambodian Ministry • Sunday

- 10:45 am, Office Bldg, rms 207 & 213

World Outreach questions?
extension 2320

Recovery In Christ

Ministries Support Groups

Substance abuse, dysfunction and dependency

GriefShare For Men and Women

- Thursdays, 7 pm, 1325 11th Street

Search For Significance For Women

- Thursdays, 7 pm, Pavilion Garden

Thursdays, 7 pm, Pavilion Garden

Childcare provided, birth-sixth grade

Various groups available for men and women. Our recovery ministry is designed to help people work through difficult issues that cannot be worked through alone.

Recovery In Christ questions?
extension 2350