



MAY 2008

fbcmodesto.com

From Pastor Wade



The Building on Purpose dinner meetings are here!

Sunday,
May 4
through
Wednesday,
May 7 we're
going to get

the best look yet at our next big step in facilities development. It will be the biggest and possibly most faith-stretching building program adventure in the 105-year history of our church!

The dinners start each evening at 6:30, so arrive a little early if you can, and enjoy some time with friends and new-comers alike. There is no cost for dinner, so come and be blessed by enjoying a good meal with your church family.

If something interrupts your schedule and you can't come the night you planned, just come when you can! It is important for each

of us to hear the new information I'll be presenting so that we can pray and be ready to do our part to "build the wall" (in Nehemiah's language).

If you haven't yet made a reservation, please call the church office and let us know when you're coming. You may also sign up online at fbcmodesto.com. And if all else fails, just get there!

Yes, it's that important.

As we've been walking through the book of Nehemiah, I've been renewed in my awareness of the importance of each person in God's church. Each one of us brings something — hard work, encouraging words, insight, skill, leadership, prayer, support — I could go on.

So, please take God at His Word. He has work for you, and your work is important (Ephesians 2:10).

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Wade

by College Pastor
Mike Emmert

Over the past few months, God has been working powerfully through IGNITE, our college ministry. As we have been going through a series on

relationships, we have looked at relationships with family and friends, and talked about both male and female friendships, dating, love and purity. Our Scripture foundation for the whole series has been: *Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.* (Proverbs 4:23, NLT)

A couple of weeks ago as we were discussing purity and sexual temptations, I phoned a former high school student from Minnesota who was active in the high school ministry I pastored. Amy came from a strong Christian home and was solid in her faith. The students at IGNITE listened as I

interviewed her live by speaker phone.

Most recently as a student at a Christian college, Amy told her gripping story of how she did not guard her heart and how she is now 23 weeks pregnant. Through Amy's vulnerability and transparency we were able to see the incredible work of God's grace. Here are some of Amy's words:

"I just want to rejoice in what God has been revealing to me during this time ... so much love, peace, joy, excitement, comfort. So much! ... and His Word speaks to my heart ... every day I am blessed with God showing me He is here with me ... Oh, it is so wonderful."

It was a powerful night as students asked questions of Amy and learned as she openly and humbly shared in the midst of her pain and struggles. Our college students ended the night by praying for and encouraging Amy. The Holy Spirit worked and connected hearts across many miles. We left that evening with a greater understanding of the importance of guarding your heart through Jesus.

Thanks, Amy, for opening your heart – thank You, Lord, for moving in ours!

Reaching The Next Generation Today

It is vital in any group or organization for them to reach, inspire and invest in the next generation. We want everyone to hear about and rejoice in what God is doing in our Student Ministries.

Our junior high, high school and college ministries are reaching and discipling students. Here are a few incredible facts that should inspire us all:

- Over 75 students have received Christ so far in 2008.
- We currently have 37 small groups in junior high, high school and college.
- Our college group meets on Sunday night and our junior high and high school groups meet on Wednesday night. During these meetings on March 16 and 19, 600 students and staff participated!

Let's continue to pray for our Student Ministries leaders as they focus on reaching the next generation.

What A Difference Ten Years Make

Ten years ago, while helping in First B's Bridges ministry to special needs kids, Kathy Weltner searched



for printed material she could use to enhance the Bridges ministry. She talked to publishers of Sunday school curriculum who told

her no publisher would ever write curriculum for special needs kids because there wasn't a big enough market. A few years later Kathy became director of the Bridges ministry. She knew God was calling her to empower others to minister God's love to these kids and their

families, so with the Kid Country staff and volunteers she pressed on ahead.

The rest is history.

Today Bridges has three classrooms, with 26 enrolled. An average of 12 special needs kids participate each Sunday. Bridges makes it possible for their parents to attend either morning worship service, and there's an Adult Bridges class during the 9 am service. Kathy also provides oversight to our Perfect Gifts support group for moms of special needs kids, meeting Monday mornings at the church.

With the success of Bridges, Kathy has been asked to speak at several conferences. In October she presented a workshop at a Joni and Friends Conference in Pasadena where she connected with Pat Verbal, director of curriculum development at Joni and Friends. Kathy made the

Continued on page 5

Pavilion Sock Hop

The Pavilion was really hoppin' one Sunday evening in April as the Tweenage Power Company presented "Hallelujah Hop!" After months of preparation and rehearsals, 60 of our tweenagers wowed a packed house with familiar hits from the past. These

by Pastor Tom La Core

songs, sung to and for the Lord, took on a whole new meaning. No doubt, He was pleased.

Besides the great music,

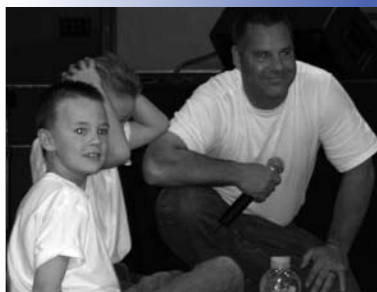


in their white T-shirts. And the music ... the 60s hits performed were the best!

At the heart of the musical was Andrea, who wanted her friends to come to church to enjoy the party. She prayed for friends to come. Then she invited them. One came and another didn't. The one who came absolutely loved it and

wanted to come back. It made me think about those who influenced me to become a believer in Jesus — my dad and a friend named Barth. I am

so thankful God used special people in my life to draw me to Him. I need to be that kind of friend to others. Well done, Tweenage Power Company!



the drama portion of the musical packed a powerful message. "Hallelujah Hop!"

is a story about elementary kids with a desire to tell their friends about Jesus and having fun doing it. Since the local school is having a 50s week, the kids decide to throw a 50s party at church. The girls dressed up in poodle skirts and the guys were



welcome discovery that Pat was in conversation with the well-known Christian publishing house Gospel Light about developing a 325-page handbook on every aspect of special needs ministry to children.

“One week later,” says Kathy, “I found myself sitting in a book proposal meeting at Joni and Friends in Agoura. I was one of two outside people brought in to state the need for special needs curriculum for children to the Gospel Light team.

“At the meeting, the Gospel Light people told us they had asked their sales staff what they thought was the number one thing people were asking for, and 75% said special needs curriculum!” Kathy points out that 10 years ago only 5% of all churches had any type of disability ministry, and today that number has grown to nearly 15%. The time has come for this project and it got the go-ahead.

That night Kathy was invited to another meeting. “The next thing I knew,” she recalls, “I had been assigned 20 chapters in the book. This is only about 30 pages of the 325 pages but is somewhat overwhelming for a person who has never written. I was assigned chapters that dealt with

adapting curriculum, responsibilities of directors for special needs, and job descriptions for special needs teachers and buddies.”

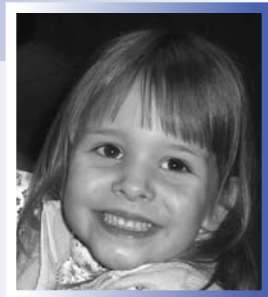
Kathy marvels at how God has prepared her for this mission through all that has developed in the First B Bridges journey. She’s amazed at God’s timing and provision, and knows that it’s time for churches across the nation to embrace ministry to special needs people and their families. God has given her this opportunity to help empower caring people to minister to a growing population that is now receiving focus within the Church.

The book, entitled “The Special Needs Smart Pages,” is almost ready for printing and will include a CD-ROM so churches will be able to print out anything in the book to use in order to start their own ministries.

“It has been a tremendous stretching experience for me,” she says. “I have greatly increased my knowledge of disability ministry, and because I had to rely 100% on God’s direction my relationship with Christ is better than ever. There were many times I wanted to quit but I kept striving for the finish line!”

Kid Quote

Todd and Sarah Hunnicutt’s daughter, Lili, turns four this month. Recently as Todd read Lili the Bible story about how Jesus called His disciples, the observant Lili quickly corrected him with, “Daddy, they didn’t have telephones back then!”



For the past few years my husband, John, and I have talked about how when he retired, we would like to go on the annual First B missions trip to Rancho Santa Marta in Mexico. This

by Gayle Petersen

was the year, and we were going.

As the time drew nearer, I started

experiencing doubts -- thoughts like, could I really be of any use? What about safety? What if I got sick while there? I had to determine that by faith I was going, and prayed that God would use me and take care of me. He most certainly did.

The trip was well-organized and rewarding. I worked in the kitchen cooking meals with Chris Billy and Linda King. Each person's skills were needed, and each one enjoyed using their gifts.

It was a pleasure for John and I to get to know the others who went on the trip as each one had a genuine love for the Lord and for the children of Rancho Santa Marta. Each person clearly enjoyed working on assigned tasks. Rachael sewed curtains. Ray Delworth, Charlene Frenette, Ross Paterson, Matt Billy, Midge Van Duyn and Len Stephens pruned fruit trees. Gerald King and Stan Risen built book shelves. Rich Erickson and Ron Duncan did much needed electrical

upgrades. My husband and Don Boone worked on old farm equipment that hadn't run in years, swapped parts around and got them running again. I have to say that when, as the newbie, I was assigned the task of feeding the pigs, my understanding of the story of the prodigal son was deepened, though there was never a time I was hungry on



this trip!

We had great times of devotions and songs together, not to mention crazy games each evening. We learned

several songs in

Spanish to sing to the children on the night we had a dinner for them and the staff. After dinner was cleared away, we gathered around a large fire pit and sang old favorite hymns beneath the stars. It was the perfect ending to a perfect week.

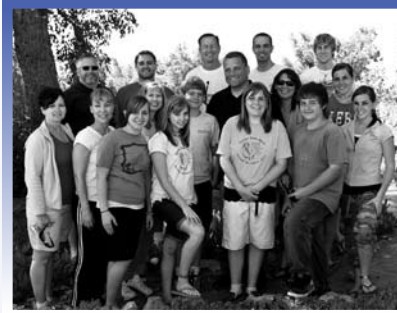
God showed me He can use anyone willing to step out in faith and say "yes" to Him. So, next year maybe He will lay on your heart to make the trip to Rancho Santa Marta. If He does, say, "Si!"



April At Rancho Santa Marta

A second First B group just returned from an April trip to Rancho Santa Marta, demonstrating again how God uses all our gifts and life experiences when we're surrendered to Him. From basketball to dental care to building repairs, team members gave of themselves and their skill.

Every few years, dentist Corey Acree and his wife, Bonnie, a dental hygienist, take a group to Santa Marta to provide dental care for the children and staff. This was Corey's sixth trip. He has left dental equipment there, bringing more portable parts each year. Their team not only lovingly



offers this assistance, but they also are creating a permanent dental clinic – no small task!

Jeff Bradshaw e-mailed this message from Santa Marta: "We have had a number of obstacles which God has overcome. I hit a tire iron south of L.A. which

damaged the car and blew out a tire. We got it fixed and went on our way. Two small but

critical dental parts were left behind, but three young adults left Modesto Sunday evening while two from here headed north. They met in Santa Ana.

The parts were here about 7:30 Monday morning. It didn't even slow us down."

This team was made up of several entire families and many students. Their dental ministry went on all day, with two chairs in operation.

The team helped prepare the dental office for the week, did some concrete work in the new boys' dorm, fixed corral fences, cleaned and organized a wood shop and a place they call "home depot" where they store just about everything, fixed screen doors and helped in the kitchen.

Pastor Claude joined the April team, encouraging Santa Marta's directors, Bill & Kaye Lawrence. A former NBA player, Claude offered two very popular basketball clinics with 95 kids eagerly participating. This was a great time for him to update his understanding of how our church can help with the needs of the school and the ranch.

And everyone fell in love with the children of Santa Marta!





MAY 2008

**National Day of Prayer
Thursday, May 1**

**7 am - 7 pm
The Family Room
Prayer guides available**

S.H.A.P.E. Class

New Six-week Class

- Sunday, May 4
- 9 am
- Pavilion Garden, rm 937
- Come and discover how God designed your gifts, natural abilities, personality and life experiences to benefit the church today

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

**First B
Saturday Night**

Chapel @ 6:00

- Kid Country programs available birth through fifth grade

**Sunday Night
Teaching Time**

The Book of Isaiah

- Sunday, 5:30 pm, Pavilion Garden

Sunday Night Teaching Time
questions? extension 2622

Home Groups

Home Groups - a place to belong

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

Home Group questions?
extension 2609

Let's Celebrate!

- Join us for one of our upcoming **BUILDING ON PURPOSE** dinners
- Hear about the progress of the multi-purpose facility
- Go to fbcmodesto.com to sign up for a dinner
- Dinner dates: Sunday-Wednesday, May 4-7

BUILDING ON PURPOSE
experience today ... imagine tomorrow.

Dedication of Parents and Little Children

Father's Day Weekend

- Saturday & Sunday, June 14 & 15
- Call Matt Schrader by Monday, June 2

Dedication questions?
extension 2632

SoulScape

Retreat For Women

- August 1-3, Old Oak Ranch
- Registration begins June 1

SoulScape questions?
extension 2623

Monday Night Church

MNC Service and Dinners

- Mondays, May 12, 19, 26
- 6 pm, Pavilion Concourse

Opportunities to Serve

- 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 2621

Membership Class

New Five-week Class

- Begins Sunday, May 4, 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 2609

Worship Ministries

Worship Choir

- Thursdays, 6:30 pm
- The Point
- High school and up welcome
- Childcare by reservation only

Worship Orchestra

- Thursdays, 7 pm
- Worship Center
- High school and up welcome
- Childcare by reservation only

Worship questions?
extension 2113



Life Rocks
RISING FROM THE RUBBLE

"How do I get out from under the pile?"
Ever felt like this? Feeling it now?

Find out how to rise out of the rubble of life
and do great things for God.

Continues through May 18

Coming
May 24/25

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?
New Sermon Series

STUDENT MINISTRIES

Fusion Junior High

Sundays

- 9 am, Chapel

Wednesdays

- 6:45-8:30 pm, Chapel
- May 21, 28

Who Wants to be a Hundredaire?

Fusion Frenzy

- Friday, May 16, 6:30 pm-1 am
- Chapel
- \$25 before May 14 (\$30 at the door)

Eighth Grade Graduate Reception

- Sunday, May 18
- 12:15-1 pm, CE Bldg, rm 315

Check Out Fusion Online

- fusionjrhhigh.com

High School

The Deep End - Sundays

- 9 am, Pavilion Concourse

128/Fuel Groups - Wednesdays

- 6:45 pm, Pavilion Concourse

Vertigo - Summer Camp

- June 9-13
- Koinonia Conference Grounds
- \$259, early price

Check Out 128 Online

- 128online.com

College Ministry

18-20 Somethings

IGNITE

- Sundays, 7 pm
- Pavilion Concourse

Check Us Out Online

- fbcignite.com

Student Ministries questions?
extension 2506/2508

The Next Level

Post-college age, single young adults

Tuesday Night Gatherings

- 7 pm, The Point

The Next Level questions?
extension 2506

Single Adults

Single Focus Sundays

- 10:45 am, The Point, downstairs
- *I Know You Are Lord, What Now?*

Single Adult questions?
extension 2618

Kid Country

Tweenage Surfin' Safari Summer Camp

- Sunday-Thursday, June 22-26
- Grades four-six (this fall)
- \$225
- Silver Spur Conference Center

The Great Treasure Hunt Day Camp

- Monday-Friday, July 7-11
- \$18 by June 22 or \$25 after
- Age four (by 12/1/08) - grade three (this fall)

Family Camp

- July 21-25
- *Chinquapin Charlie and the Hunt for the Golden Pinecone*
- Register in the Kid Country office during the week

Kid Country questions?
extension 2120

GriefShare

For Men and Women

- Thursdays through May 22
- 7 pm, 1325 11th St
- Grieving the loss of someone close

GriefShare questions?
extension 2622

Young Marrieds & Young Families

Sundays

- 9 am, The Point, downstairs
- Interactive teaching relevant for today - grow in your love for God, one another and those who don't know Him

The Amazing Race

- Saturday, May 3, 2 pm
- Teams of two couples compete
- Fun and great prizes

Young Marrieds & Young Families questions? extension 2618

Family Dynamics Marriage • Family • Parenting

Sundays

- 9 am, Pavilion Garden
Parenting: The Fine Art of Minimizing Family Dysfunction – 10 ways to improve the feel, function and future of your family
- 10:45 am, Pavilion Garden, rm 931
Considering This Thing Called Family: Figuring Out How to Play Your Position – family birth order
ALSO *The Corporate Nature of the Family* – determining profit and loss, success and failure

Family Dynamics questions?
extension 2618

Believer's Baptism

Sunday, June 29

- 9 & 10:45 am

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

Baptism questions?
extension 2609

Church Blood Plan

Information Available

- Call the church office or sign up at the local blood bank

Blood Plan questions?
extension 2621

Men's Ministries

Motorcycle Ride

- Saturday, May 17
- Sign up in the street on Sunday

Rafting Trip

- Saturday, June 21

Men's Small Groups

- Monday: *Purpose Driven Life, Epistles*
- Tuesday: *12 Ordinary Men, Through the Bible, Spiritual Leadership*
- Wednesday: *Wild at Heart, Acts*
- Thursday: *Open Discussion, God is Closer Than You Think*
- Friday: *James, Sunnier Side of Doubt, Master Plan of Evangelism, Ephesians, 2 Timothy*
- Saturday: *Man in the Mirror, Disciplines of a Godly Man*

Men's Ministries questions?
extension 2617

Women's Ministries

Fishing Trip

- Saturday, May 17
- Watch for details

New GriefShare For Women

- Wednesdays, May 28-Aug 27
- 13 weeks
- 6:30-8:30 pm
- 1325 11th St
- Contact Pat for details
pshuman@fbcmodesto.com

Small Groups

Call for times and locations

Sunday –

- Sisters *There is a Season*
- Sisters *Two Acts*

Monday – encouragement and prayer groups

- Perfect Gifts moms of children with special needs
- Grandmoms in Touch

Tuesday – childcare for morning groups

- *Do You Think I'm Beautiful?, Living Beyond Yourself, The Temple, Breaking Free, Women of the Bible, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Discerning the Voice of God, Living Your Life as a Beautiful Offering*

Thursday

- MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)
First and third Thursday; Bible study every second Thursday; childcare provided

Encouragement & Prayer Groups

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

Women's Ministries questions?

extension 2623

Single Adults

Single Focus Sundays

- 10:45 am
- The Point, downstairs
- *I Know You Are Lord, What Now?*

Single Adult questions?

extension 26

Recovery In Christ Ministries Support Groups

Substance abuse, dysfunction and dependency

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 2621

Pacesetters

Monthly Prayer Meeting

- Monday, May 5, 3:30-4:30 pm
- 818 Needham St

Sunday Lunch Bunch

- May 11, noon, Pavilion Garden
- Single adult women 60+

Calaveras Big Trees/Murphys Trip

- Wednesday, May 21
- Leave 7:30 am, return 5:30 pm

Coming Up ...

- July 3 – Patriotic Concert
- Aug 16 – Giants vs. Padres game

Pacesetters questions?

extension 2617

Park Cafe

A Great Place

- An opportunity to be a part of a fast-paced hospitality ministry
- Sign up in the Park Café on Sunday

Park Café questions?
extension 2618

World Outreach

Night of Prayer for the World

- Monday, May 5 (first Monday each month)
- 6:30, 1325 11th St

Chinese Fellowship • Sunday

- 10:45 am, The Point, upstairs

Laotian Fellowship • Sunday

- 10:45 am, 1325 11th St

Cambodian Fellowship • Sunday

- 10:45 am, CE Bldg, rms 336 & 340

World Outreach questions?
extension 2622