



MAY 2009

fbcmodesto.com

From Pastor Wade



Saturday, May 16, churches and Christian ministries all across Modesto are joining together to serve the airport neighborhood.

A little background: the pastors of our area who gather for weekly prayer and an annual out-of-town prayer summit felt impressed by the Lord to make 2009 a time when we would join together to serve our community in targeted, significant ways. We're calling it "Connections 2009."

More than 30 different congregations and Christian ministries are joining together to do as Jesus said in

Matthew 5:16 " ... let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your Heavenly Father."

The opportunities for service are very broad, some big and some small. Already, our new and young marrieds group has participated in a service project on the west side of town.

The churches and community organizations in the airport neighborhood have identified some projects to benefit the people of their entire area.

We'll gather at a designated spot in the airport neighborhood at 9 am, Saturday, May 16, form work groups and serve with joy! We will be painting over graffiti, cleaning alleys, doing yard work and kindly encourage the people of the neighborhood in various ways.

More details will follow, but for now, please reserve part or all of the day May 16, and start asking God to open doors and make a great impact for His Kingdom! The fruit of our efforts will be nurtured and continued by the congregations of that area, another great blessing!

See you there!

Wade

The following letter was translated from the Russian language. It is from Paul Hagelgans who oversees the Central Asia Project, one of our partners in ministry.

Yes, no one can have a greater influence on the world than a mother holding a child in her hands!

She lived quietly and she left quietly this morning. When I got the phone call and heard these two simple words "mom died," this news somehow speared my heart, something was torn apart.

She was a simple woman. But her honest faith, her great love for the Holy Scriptures and her prayerful

life lifted her above many other women like her.

As a young lady she agreed to marry my father, a widower. And on the next day after the wedding, she became not only a wife, but also a mother of five little children. God gave her 10 more children (we were 15 all together, I am the ninth one). Perhaps only

those who lived in the former Soviet Union and knew what life was like can fully understand what that meant ... When I was older, I often asked myself that question: where did our mom get so much love from, so much patience and power to try to see every one of us, to help every one of us, to give advice, to let us go and meet us again, to know that some needed to be caressed and some to be railed at. Each of her 15 children was close to her and precious to her heart; there was enough room in her heart for each of us.

I found the answer – it was her personal, close and daily fellowship with God! Every day (and the whole family knew that), she would close

the door to the sleeping room behind her and read the Bible, pray and relax in the presence of her Heavenly Father. On the hands of her prayers she would bring the

name of each of her children before the throne of God, she would open all her pain to Him, her worries, injustices, all her dreams and joys ... This quiet time with God was the source of her power for her daily deed of faith. It makes me wonder that despite her being so busy she would always find time for us children to read stories from the Bible and stories from the lives of people who committed themselves

Perhaps only those who lived in the former Soviet Union and knew what life was like can fully understand what that meant ...

to God, to pray, organize festivities, remember the birthdays, make gifts, enjoy life and teach us to work ...

Yes, in the eyes of other people she has probably not done

any great heroic deeds of faith. But I am convinced that in the eyes of God, she has been doing this heroic deed of faith every single day. Every day she was in the place that God had called her, faithfully and lovingly doing the ministry the Lord had given to her, and so she was doing a whole series of daily deeds of faith!

Yes, she left tracks in my life! When I was not yet born, she committed me to God for the preaching of the Gospel. When I was not yet born she made a promise to God that if her child would be a boy, then she would name him Paul and do everything possible for this boy to become a carrier of the

great news of salvation. She kept her promise. With my mother's milk, sitting on her knees, listening to her exciting stories about missionaries and biblical stories, I was nourished with the truth of God and I was burning with the desire to carry it on to others.

I was 14 when I gave my life to Christ, and only then my mother told

me for the first time about the ministry she had committed me to. I was ready for it! At that time, she had already prepared me for this ministry!

No, I had not even said one single sermon, I had not even read through the complete Bible, I had not yet organized a mission trip, I was not even a member of the church and not an active youth leader, but I was ready for the ministry of preaching the Gospel to the world that dies. The fire that was enlightened by the Holy Spirit through my mother's mouth was burning in me.

She became my best teacher in reading, memorizing and understanding the Holy Scripture. She was the most loving and the most merciless critic of my sermons. She encouraged and supported me on my very first mission trip (at the age of 16) to the very north of Russia. She lifted up my hands and inspired me for ministry when I was disappointed from failing. She would let me leave our home to go and work with Bible Mission. She surrounded my every day with her prayers. Lord, I thank You for my mother!

Thank you, mom, for everything! You are doing well now. Wait for us, we will all come and join you.

Your son,
Pavlik

Mothers, raise servants as long as they are sitting on your knees.

*Yes, she left tracks
in my life!*

*Lord, I thank You
for my mother!*

Back From The Brink of Death:

Aaron Youngman's Story

Where are your dreams/All tattered and torn
Lying on the ground/The ones that shone with grandeur bright
And far outshone the sun/Where are your dreams/What happened?
That their hope has left them bare/And now they are but empty puffs
Of heartache lying there. *poetry by Jackie Tharpe*



“The train will be arriving in five minutes.” I was ready and waiting. This was the night I had chosen to end it all. I had spent the past two days writing my farewells to each

family member, 12 pages in all. I had shaved, put on the nicest clothes I had, parked at the train station. It wouldn't be long.

The phone rang. It was mom.

“Where are you? Why are you doing this?”

“I'm not going to tell you. I can't take it anymore.”

The memories flooded my soul — hurts, disappointments, broken dreams. They surrounded me like a shroud, tightening my resolve to end my life.

I remembered sitting in the front row in elementary school. Not cool for a kid. But I had no choice. I was born with congenital cataracts. I couldn't play games either. I couldn't see. I felt the emptiness, loneliness. I couldn't talk about it, didn't belong.

I tried to please people. When I didn't, I punished myself by banging my head against the wall. When I heard voices saying I was dumb, I hit my head harder. As I grew I started cutting myself with a Swiss Army knife. I wanted to hurt myself.

I had been attending First B since 1989. I enjoyed the junior high group and was actively involved but my depression became more noticeable during eighth grade. I quit the youth group in high school because I didn't have any friends from church at Riverbank High. After high school, I became lazy and didn't do anything all day.

What I really wanted was to be a personal trainer. So I got my license and a job in a local gym. I worked 16 hours a day, loving every minute of it. I was making lots of money. I moved out of my parents' house and in with a couple of non-Christian buddies. When the gym closed, I started drinking. I told a friend, “I lost my job, hate God and want to die.” I thought about hanging myself on the willow tree in the front yard.

I became a personal trainer at another gym. One of the owners wanted to sell his 20 percent. I asked my parents to loan me the money they had saved for my college education so I could buy his share. They prayed, ran the figures and decided to give me this opportunity

Continued on page 5

to follow my dream. I was working long hours, bodybuilding, drinking and taking steroids "so I could be bigger." I was happy. Things were looking good. Until the robbery. Computers, towers, money, records ... all gone. I moved back home. The day I moved home, my sister Amber, who was a very dedicated, strong Christian, left home for Humboldt College. Now I knew I was going to commit suicide. I just had to decide how. All my dreams had come to nothing. The money my parents had loaned me was gone. I couldn't do anything right.

One morning around 2:30 am I drove as fast as I could intending to drive over a cliff. I was within 50 yards when I slammed on the brakes, did a 360, and stopped about five feet away from the barrier. Then I decided to hang myself from the basketball hoop early in the morning so my dad would be the first one to find me when he left for work. I had the rope around my neck and decided not to do it.

So here I was. Waiting for the train when my phone rang. Why did I answer it? Mom said, "Don't do it!" She had only read two sentences of the letter when she knew what I was doing. Dad got on the phone. "I don't want to lose you, son," he sobbed. Mom got back on the phone. "Tell us where you are." I said, "I'm at the train station. You have five minutes to get here." I walked out to the tracks. Then they arrived. The train came a minute later.

Dad took me to see the college pastor. Two weeks later I attended a

summer camp with the theme: *What if you only have 58 seconds to live?* I thought about the 58 seconds I had 'til the train would have demolished me. I came home with the song lyrics "I'm desperate for You, I'm lost without You" stuck in my head.

I gave my life to Jesus. My dad not only kept his son, but I heard God saying He wanted me for a son, too. God has forgiven my sin; my father has forgiven my debt. I love 2 Corinthians 12:10 which reminds me God's strength is shown in my weakness. He is so good.

I feel called to full-time ministry. I have a passion for junior high kids because that is when my troubles began. I'm a ministry intern and going to school.

Leave them lay/Don't pick them up
And thus destroy your soul/With wailing and with pining
Over memories grown cold/Turn your heart to Jesus,
The Keeper of all dreams/And in His warm embrace relax.
He's nearer than He seems.
poetry by Jackie Tharpe

Epilogue: After I began living for God, I noticed my sister Amber's postings on the Internet were filled with the same sorrows I had experienced when I was away from God. She had become involved in Asian philosophies and drinking. I called her. Mom had kept my suicide note, so I read what I had written to her: "Amber, please don't lose your faith in God." Two days later she moved back home and is now involved in the college group, living for Jesus.

Understanding In Another Tongue

In 1989, after his wife passed away, Mitch Ratipat made the exodus from the Maesot District in the Tak Province of Thailand to Oakland, California.

In 1995, Mitch moved to the Central Valley, commuting to the Bay Area for work. After two years, he decided to stop the daily travel and open a Thai restaurant in Turlock.

by Claude Terry

After establishing the business, Mitch searched for a group of people with whom he could speak his heart language – Thai, but there are few Thai speakers in this area. Happily, he met Boulao (Peter) Veulvilavong, who leads the First B Laotian ministry. Boulao invited Mitch to the Laotian ministry, and in 2000, that invitation was accepted.

Because Thai and Laotian are similar languages, Mitch listened intently to the Lao messages each Sunday. He began to hang out with people at the church. He had grown up Buddhist, but the teaching of Christ began to rock his thinking. The next year Mitch accepted Christ as his Savior.

He began to grow in his walk with the Lord, studying and serving in any way needed. Greatly desiring to grow in his knowledge of God's Word, Mitch, along with Boulao, enrolled at Golden Gate Theological Seminary where there is a Thai-Lao extension. In 2007, both graduated with a diploma in Theology!



Mitch along with leaders of the Samarnsamuki Church

Though God was doing great things in his life here in Modesto, God began to speak to him about the millions of people in Thailand who have never heard about Christ. With the support and affirmation of the church, Mitch returned to his home province in Thailand from May 2008 through January 2009. Mitch partnered with the Samarnsamuki Church where he taught Bible at the church, trained leaders and initiated small groups in unreached villages.

Today Mitch preaches and teaches regularly in the Lao ministry and is one of the key leaders God is using to grow the Laotian-speaking congregation. Though he speaks Thai, he communicates the Gospel to the Lao congregation, and they understand, just as he heard the message of the Gospel in Lao, and he understood!

On March 15, Mitch returned again to his native land for another eight months where he will continue with the same ministry responsibilities.



Mitch teaching in a small group

Further, his goal is to initiate a radio station in order for the Gospel to be taught in Thai throughout the surrounding villages. He is praying that God will bring understanding in their heart language!

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ.
Romans 10:17

Thank You So Very Much!

On March 21, we hosted the memorial service for 1st Lieutenant Daniel B. Hyde, killed in Iraq. Daniel's family attend Grace Lutheran Church whose building was not large enough for the service. Our Veteran's Ministry and other church members assisted in making this special event run smoothly. They ushered, attended the parking lots, set up, helped and cleaned up after the reception and provided help for other community volunteers. This was yet another way for us to reach out to our community. Here are two letters of thanks from the family and from Grace Lutheran Church:



*First Baptist Church,
We can't thank you enough for the help and concern and caring in putting together the beautiful service to honor our son and brother, Lt. Daniel B. Hyde. Please be sure that everyone who shared their time, talents and love for a soldier knows how much we appreciate all you have done. At a time when help is counted on **greatly** our brothers and sisters in Christ were right there for us. We will always be so grateful.
Thank you so very much!
Sincerely,
Glenda, Brian and Andrea Hyde*

*Dear Members of the Body of Christ at First Baptist Church,
We would like to thank you for the generosity, kindness and graciousness of the Christian love shown to us during the memorial celebration of life for 1st Lt. Daniel Hyde at your facility on Saturday, March 21. You truly made both the service and reception beautiful and meaningful. It will always be remembered and appreciated.
Thank you again and God bless you.
Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
The members of Grace Lutheran Church*



MAY 2009

GriefShare for Men and Women

Begins May 7

- Thursdays, 7 pm
- 1325 11th St
- For men and women grieving the loss of someone close to them

GriefShare questions?
extension 2350

Membership Class

New Five-week Class

- Begins Sunday, May 3, 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

Home Groups

Home Groups – a place to belong

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

Home Group 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 B Saturday Night

Worship Service • 6:00 • Chapel

Today's music with a guitar-driven feel

Live teaching brings practical information from the Bible that will make a difference in your life!

Children's programs

First B Saturday Night questions? 521-0181

Family Camp 2009

Camp Chinquapin

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

Family Camp questions?
extension 2120

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 fbcmodesto.com or call the church office during the week for more information

First Impressions questions?
extension 2806

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 May 10

Sunday Night Teaching Time
questions?
extension 2320

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

Kid Country

Totally Tweenage Wacky Game Night

- Friday, May 15, 6:30 pm, Chapel

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 To Serve In 2009

- 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

Wipeout Summer Camp

- June 14-18
- Check the website for details

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

Summer Camp

- June 8-12
- Koinonia Conference Grounds

The Deep End - Sundays

- 9 am, Pavilion Concourse

New Freshman First Deep End

- Sunday, May 24
- Swim Party, 12:45 pm, details on the web

128/Fuel Groups

- Wednesdays
- 6:45 pm, Pavilion Concourse

New Freshman First 128

- Wednesday, May 20

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

fbcmodesto.com

Check Us Out On The Web

- Easy to use
- Register and even pay for camps
- Listen to weekend messages
- Find information on classes and events
- Read back issues of *Around the Rock*
- Connect with others in groups of all sizes

Single Adults

Single Focus

- Sundays, 9 am, The Point, upstairs
- This month *How Big Are Your Dreams?*

Santa Cruz Boardwalk/

Mystery Spot

- Saturday, May 16

Single Adult questions?
extension 2373

Young Marrieds & Young Families

The Amazing Race

- Saturday, May 2
- 1 pm, First B Sports Court
- \$15 per couple, includes dinner

Sundays

- 9 am, Pavilion Garden
- After Easter we'll look at *Resolving Marriage Conflict*

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

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*
- Series led by Terry Benner

Family Dynamics questions?
extension 2373

Pacesetters

Sundays

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

Monthly Prayer Meeting

- Monday, May 4, 3:30 pm
- Office Bldg, Fireside Room

Filoli Gardens and Lunch

- Tuesday, May 19, 7:30 am–5:30 pm
- Cost to be announced
- Mark your calendar for this fun day

Lavender Hollow Farm Luncheon

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

Please Note

- Sunday Lunch Bunch will not meet due to Mother's Day, May 10

Pacesetters questions?
extension 2355

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

Monday Night Church

Service and Meal

- Monday, May 11, 18, 25
- 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

Men's Ministries

Men's Small Groups

- Various times and locations
- *Romans, Epistles, Quest for Authentic Manhood, Proverbs, The Faith, Living From the Heart Jesus Gave You, Every Man, The Life You've Always Wanted, The Sayings of Jesus, When the Game is Over it All Goes Back in the Box, Men's Fraternity, Wild at Heart, BattleZONE*

Motorcycle Ride

- Saturday, May 30

Men's Ministries questions?
extension 2355

Worship

Worship Choir (high school age and up)

- Thursdays, 7 pm
- The Point, downstairs

Worship Orchestra (high school age and up)

- Thursdays, 7 pm
- Worship Center

Worship Ministry questions?
extension 2113

Women's Ministries

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

Small Groups

- Call for times and locations
- Various groups available

Kindred Hearts Creative Hands

- Friday-Sunday, May 1-3
- Space is limited, register in the office

Informational Sunday for Mommies and Babies (birth-one year old)

- May 3, 10:45 am
- Office Bldg, Fireside Room
- Meet with other mommies and find out what's available for you

A Girlfriends "Day in the Garden"

- Saturday, May 16, 9-11 am
- Learn techniques making your own hanging baskets
- Annual basket.....\$35
Perennial basket....\$40
- Call office to register

Save the Date - SoulScape

- July 31-Aug 2
- Registration begins Sunday, May 31
- \$135, July 1 cost goes to \$145

Women's Ministries questions?
extension 2316

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 fbcmodesto.com

World Outreach

Night of Prayer For The World

- Monday, May 4 (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 336 & 340

World Outreach questions?
extension 2320

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.

Search For Significance For Women

- Thursdays, 7 pm, Pavilion Garden

Recovery In Christ questions?
extension 2350