



# THE CORNERSTONE

Volume 20, Issue 1 & 2

First Baptist Church Newsletter

January and February

Building Together On Christ Alone

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastor Wayne	1 & 4
Brock Ewing	3 & 5
View from the Ridge	2 & 4
Pastor Don	5 & 7
B-days & Anniv.	6



## HOW TO PROSPER IN THE NEW YEAR

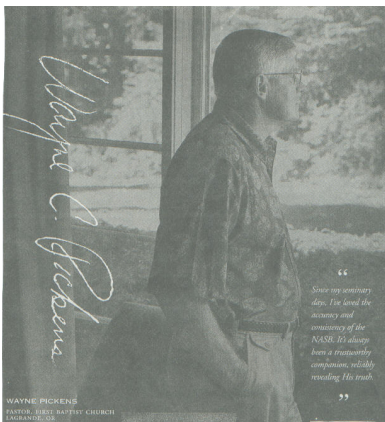
It is an easy phrase to say to someone as we enter the new year... "God Bless you". But who does God bless and how does God bless? Who and how does God prosper someone? Psalm one gives us the answer to these questions:

*How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,  
Nor stand in the path of sinners,  
Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!  
But his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
And in His law he meditates day and night.  
He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water,  
Which yields its fruit in its season  
And its leaf does not wither;  
And in whatever he does, he prospers. Psalms 1:1-3*

If we take our counsel from God and delight in His commands, we will be blessed and prosper. If we meditate on His word day and night, we will be like a tree planted by a stream that bears fruit and stays green.

Prospering involves much more than money. A person can be prosperous, and yet have very little money. Poor people can be rich in so many ways that rich people would envy to possess what they have.

So, if we want to be blessed by God and prosper, we must meditate daily on God's word, letting it shape our thoughts and guide our actions. God is a wise Counselor. His truth protects us against lies. His truth protects us against temptation. His word helps us to make wise decisions.



Continued on pg.4

## VIEW FROM THE RIDGE

Mike Query



*1<sup>st</sup> Chron. 16:8-11 Give thanks to the LORD, proclaim his greatness; tell the nations what he has done. Sing praise to the LORD; tell the wonderful things he has done. Be glad that we belong to him; let all who worship him rejoice! Go to the LORD for help, and worship him continually.*

As I write this, it is just days before Christmas, and while there is every prospect of a white Christmas at home, there is none where we are in Santa Paula, California. It is now the fourth day of constant rain which has amounted to about five inches so far, but we are on high ground and I have not seen anyone building an ark yet.

This will mark the second Christmas in 36 years that we have not spent Christmas on the ranch with family, both times due to my health. It was not an easy decision to leave home two months earlier than normal, yet I knew that I would not be able to contend with the winter weather this year. And from the reports of friends at home I made the right choice. But with every choice there are consequences, some good, some bad.

The down side of this choice was not having Christmas with out kids and grandkids. I have long stressed the importance of family, and holidays have always been a great time of interaction and reconnection. Jeri and I will miss that this year.

Yet there is an up side of my choice in that we will be able to share Christmas with my sister and brother-in-law and their family for part of the day, and then we will spend the rest of it with our niece and her family along with Jeri's sister and brother-in-law and her mother. This will be a special treat since it has been many years since we have been here at Christmas.

As the year comes to a close, it has been a year that in many ways I would like to forget. Health wise, it has definitely been the worst. But if I were to forget all of this year, then I would also be forgetting all the ways that God has blessed me and I would not want that to happen. How could I forget how so many friends and family prayed and ministered to me and Jeri. This has been a year of watching God meet our every need, of having friends and family give of their time to unpack our trailer when we arrived home in May, pruning our raspberries, weed whacking fence rows, fixing our built in vacuum, crawling under the house trying to find the shorted wire, cutting and splitting firewood, welding a gate, checking the flu on our wood stove, packing wood to the garage, winterizing the house and repacking the trailer so we could leave. How could I forget the four months that my daughter and her family put up with us parked in their driveway while I went through surgery and radiation. I will never be able to forget their worried looks and concern, will always remember their loving care and attention. Then there are the doctors and nurses at OHSU who have been fantastic. They have been so supportive, encouraging, yet brutally honest when we asked them to be. I can't number the times that they saw me on short notice or took my calls when I know they were busy.

But most of all, there is Jeri, my life partner, the love of my life. She has been most supportive, ministered to my every need, put up with all the ugliness of post surgery and radiation, the many nights when I could not sleep, listening to all the unpleasant noises that come with not being able to breath through the nose, the flushing and blowing of the nose, etc., etc., etc. Long suffering does not even begin to describe it. There has to be saint hood in her future if there is any justice at all.



## Youth Ministry Update

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to the FBC family!  
How about an update on our youth ministries:

### Hi-Life

It has been an encouraging fall season at Hi-Life. The Lord has granted us a group of good kids. They've been attentive students, willing servants when asked, and they have treated each other well. As a group they've also been quite consistent in their attendance. We can count on seeing a lot of the same faces every week.

Not only that, but as the fall has gone on we've seen some growth in our numbers. The kids have been good about inviting friends and several who came have continued with us. The importance of peer to peer ministry cannot be overstated. People (kids and adults) go where their friends go. Personal relationships are crucial. As Pastor Wayne often says, "God uses people to reach people."

If memory serves, on the week before our Christmas party the Lord brought us seventeen junior highers. The following week we extended an invitation to some of kids from the J-House. Many came and we had twenty six kids in the gym for the Christmas party on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Ron Garinger gave an excellent gospel presentation. Pastor Dave led us in singing "How Deep the Father's Love". Sissy Garinger put together an incredible holiday spread and had a game planned for us to boot. I must confess that it was a little bit hard to pull myself away from the table to spend time with the kids.

Join me in giving praise to the Lord for the privilege of seeing Him work! And please join me in praying that He would continue to grow us—first and foremost in holiness and faithfulness, but also in number. Pray that some of the kids we have a connection with from the J-House would stick around and find a home here.

### AMPLIFYD

It's been a good fall at Amplifyd too. The dynamic in our group has changed considerably since last year due in large measure to five incoming freshman boys. It's a little livelier than it used to be and sometimes a little harder to keep discussions on track. But they're a good group and it's been fun.

We had a good trip to Camp Elkanah in early November for the East by Northeast youth conference. Pastor Dave did a great job speaking on the subject of "Developing a Christian Mind" and the conference was excellent in all respects. The musicians were skilled and their choice of songs was God-glorifying. The food and activities and leadership were all very good.

In conjunction with our attendance at the conference, we were blessed to welcome Amelia Kowing to our Amplifyd staff. She's a godly young lady with a servant's heart and has been a great addition to our group. Chris and Erin Wunz are still with us and have been a continual source of encouragement to me personally. We're now back to having two men and two women serving on staff at Amplifyd.

Probably around the first of February we'll transition in our lessons from our study of God and His attributes to some eschatology as we undertake a study of heaven based on Randy Alcorn's book.

In the meantime, our sights are set on preparations for our Spring Break mission trip to Mexico. We'll again be going with Kevin Rainey and Youth For Christ to build homes for needy families and to help a local church with their Vacation Bible School. In addition to passports and fundraising, we hope to prepare ourselves for the trip by learning some conversational Spanish, including how to share the gospel in Spanish. Hopefully it will bear fruit in our interaction with the Mexican people.

[View From the Ridge continued from pg.2](#)

Yes, this has been a bad year in some ways, but a very good year in many ways. One always questions why something like this has to happen, yet God promises that there is a purpose for adversity. I am sure that there were lessons for Jeri and me to learn, and I am sure that others learned something from observing. But it also allowed others to use their spiritual gifts, and that is a good thing.

I am not sure what all I was expected to learn from this year, but I did realize how important family and friends are in a time of crisis. I came to a better understanding how to be a friend when someone is ill, how to minister to them, how important it is to just be there and maintain a continuity of friendship.

But more than anything, I learned first hand that even when bad things happen, there are good things happening at the same time and in the end they may out number the bad things. It just seems like at the time that the bad things are overwhelming and we fail to see the good that is happening.

As this year closes, I am looking forward to what God has in store for us, as I hope you all are also. It may be a good year, it might not, but I know that there will be good things happening no matter what, and there will be blessings from God if we take the time to look for them.

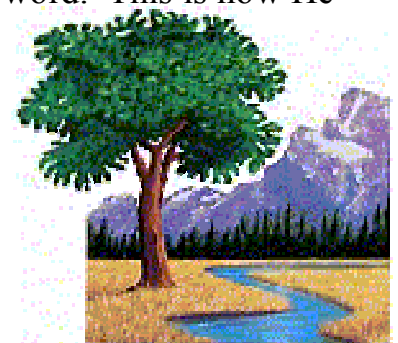
As I go into the New Year, I am feeling better this month than any since February and that is encouraging. Besides, first time out playing 18 holes of golf in four months I shot 87. Jeri and I wish you all the best in 2011.

[Continued from pg.1—How to Prosper...](#)

His promises empower us to remain strong and not give up. The word of God teaches us, convicts us, corrects us and convinces us as to what is right and what is wrong. We desperately need such a compass on such a stormy sea.

To meditate on God's word, we must slow down and take time to listen as we read it. The picture is that of a cow chewing the cud... chewing up every phrase, every word, squeezing the juice out of every bite, tasting the sweetness, swallowing the nourishment, delighting in delicious, life-giving promises. Why not make it a resolution to spend time everyday listening to the voice of God speaking to you personally from the pages of His word. This is how He blesses and prospers His people.

God Bless You,  
*Pastor Wayne*





Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year from our AWANA program and our Heidi Ho School! AWANA had our Sparky store night just before Christmas break and we are now planning for AWANA Bible Quizzing, AWANA Games and AWANA Camp for 2011. We continue to see many kids each Wednesday night and we are always open for new volunteers. This is also the time that I would ask for your prayers as to who would be our next AWANA Commander for the fall of 2011. Thanks again

for all of you that volunteer with the AWANA program as you are truly needed and appreciated! May God continue to be Glorified through this amazing ministry of planting His word in children's hearts.

At Heidi Ho, December has been a very busy month as we prepared for Christmas. Gifts of Grace had the opportunity to meet spiritual and physical needs for a number of our Heidi Ho families and our fundraiser involving the light up Christmas/Easter crosses produced over \$300.00 in funds for the school. There are more crosses available for \$15.00 each if folks would like to purchase some for the upcoming Easter Holiday. In January we will be welcoming Pat Seggerman to direct our Extended Day program and we wish his wife Dawn well with her upcoming studies. We so appreciate both Pat and Dawn for all that they bring to the Heidi Ho ministry. Also during December, the teachers shared the 'Good News' of Christ's birth and all the events surrounding our Savior's coming into the world with their students. We had a day at the Christmas tree farm to play in the snow and, of course, we had our yearly Christmas Chapel program for all the Heidi Ho families. The Christmas Chapel not only exhibited the singing talent of our children, but especially shared the 'True Meaning' of Christmas with all the family and friends in attendance.

*continued on pg.7*

[View From the Ridge continued from pg.4](#)

Please pray for guidance in all our preparations for Mexico. Please pray for a powerful work of the Spirit as we meet on Thursday nights—that there would be an ever deepening commitment to Christ in all of our hearts, students and staff alike.

## Seminary

Lastly, a brief update on Seminary for those of you who are interested: It was a taxing fall for me trying to balance studies with ministry. But the Lord has been so gracious to answer prayers time and time again. I finished finals on the first week of December and am enjoying the break. At the same time I'm trying to focus more intently on ministry and I'm making an effort to be self-disciplined in planning ahead so I'm better prepared when school starts up again at the end of January.

Thank you all so much for your support and your encouragement and your prayers. As Paul Rowan is fond of saying, "Prayer is the work of the ministry."

*Brock*



**January Birthday's.....**

- 2) Lorraine Bates
- 3) Christine McLean
- 4) Elizabeth Thieme
- 5) Chris Wagner  
Kathy Rust
- 6) Jane Hegele  
Isabella Coulter  
Zane Ricker
- 7) Katie Brown
- 9) Anita Fager
- 12) Don Henry
- 14) Brian Leigh
- 16) Don McLean
- 17) Craig Hopper
- 18) Mike Whitmore
- 21) Lindsey Haye
- 23) Laramie Ricker
- 26) Clint Smithe  
Doug Barton
- 28) Mike Query  
Bob Kretschmer
- 30) Marie Moran
- 31) Bertha Thompson  
Vivian Burford  
Aaron Umpleby

**January Anniversary**

1/30/60 George/Beverly McDonald



**February B-Days**

- 2/1 Connie Vermeer  
Carrie Wallace
- 2/2 Curtis Roper  
Bob Fager  
Bill Spittler
- 2/3 Gary Hart
- 2/6 Veva Johanson
- 2/7 Marlene O'Rourke
- 2/8 Brenda McGirr
- 2/9 Luke Stonebreaker  
Nathan David Steele
- 2/10 Pastor Wayne Pickens  
Rebecca Whitmore
- 2/11 Hulda Kalmbach
- 2/16 Melody Gabler  
Elizabeth Cashell
- 2/17 Kathy O'Neal
- 2/20 Michael Jaeger
- 2/21 Bob Coulter  
Kelly Martin
- 2/25 Jonathan Thieme  
James Ridley
- 2/26 Phyllis Routt  
David Nafziger
- 2/27 Joan Robinson

***& Anniversaries***

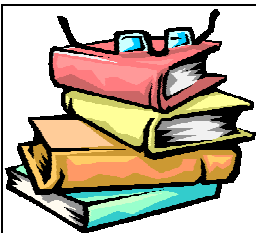
- Sam/Roberta Shorb 2/1/47
- Harry/Marie Moran 2/11
- Elrman/Lorraine Bates 2/14/49
- Michael/Marilyn Jaeger 2/21/70



*continued from pg.5*

Between a morning and afternoon program, we had over 600 people come and watch. Our prayer is that God would open the eyes and ears of many that don't know Him through these types of children's programs. We will be having another program in the Spring to look forward to if you missed the Christmas one. I want to say that our Heidi Ho staff, teachers and extended day folks are just the 'Best'!! God continues to bless this ministry to parents and children and I appreciate everyone who works with us.

'Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them. Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.' Matt. 19:13-14



## T O L L E L E G G E

We have an array of books available. A book makes a great gift.

Choose from a large selection of quality books. If you are looking for a particular book, let the person manning the bookshelf know and we will do our best to order it for you at the very best price possible.



Attention all Young Mom's  
A Bible study, "Attributes of God", will begin January 13, 2011 on Thursday mornings at 9:00 a.m. at the church.

Led by Bonnie Pickens  
Call if interested 541-963-2552

Dear Ladies,

**The Ladies Literary Circle** will be meeting again this winter, on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m., in order to accommodate those who work during the day. We will begin the 21st of January, as I will need to find out how many books to order. After they arrive, there will be time to read the first few chapters before we meet.

I hope you will be pleased to read Elizabeth Gaskell's *North and South*, a book set during the rise of European industrialism. Through the relationship between Margaret Hale, a pastor's daughter who has moved from the agrarian south of England, and John Thornton, owner of a cotton mill in the industrialized North, Gaskell explores class inequality and human suffering.

Come join our circle to think critically among friends and engage in discussion, while sharing the classics together.

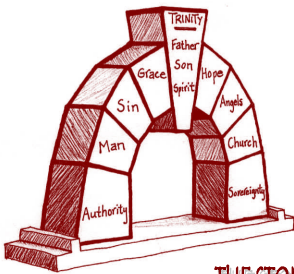
Please call Mary DeViney at 541-963-9424,  
or e-mail at [devinem@eou.edu](mailto:devinem@eou.edu) by January 9th.



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THE STONES  
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