



Volume 2, Issue 7

July 2007

From Pastor Bill . . .

Dear Folks ~ Summer is one of the busiest times of the year for us down here! I know that sounds crazy, seeing our population almost is cut in half, but it is true. **We do not slow up on getting the Gospel out to the lost one little bit.**

I mean - that in the month of June, we attack the neighborhoods with visitation and with Vacation Bible School flyers. We do a “blitz” on the bus routes, and look for kids who will come to Sunday School and VBS. **This is like a Bus revival really. Our bus routes get a “shot in the arm” like no other time of the year.**



This year's theme was **“Wild Bill's Western Rodeo.”** We had a skit every night with five segments, one each night, lasting about 5-10 minutes.

The purpose of this is to bring the kids back the whole week, if possible. Through the years of doing VBS, I have discovered that getting a full five days of attendance was very difficult - to almost impossible. Our low nights were Thursday and Friday.

God gave me the idea of a thematic skit that encompassed the entire VBS and causes all the workers (about a 100 adults) to get in the spirit of the thing.

Well, it worked past my expectations! The adults get a little “crazy” with their costumes, hair and even make-up.

I try to lead the way by doing something “out of the box” myself. This year I bought western wear, wore cowboy boots, a scorpion encased belt buckle, cowboy hat, and grew a “goatee” to boot! John, Marty and the whole crew went plum wild, too.

They all acted like kids again and the spirit of the adults transmitted down to the kids! Why kids came in full western wear, fake guns (I hope) and you name it!

Our attendance on Thursday and Friday was the largest of the week, and we saw 501 kids come, at least once, to hear a clear presentation of the Gospel, at least twice, in the night.

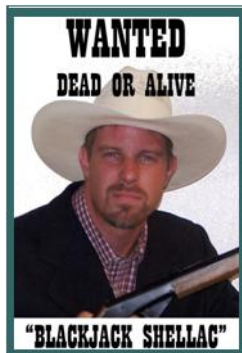


This method of thematic, adult-led, get-crazy, let-out-the-stops, no-holds-barred, act-like-a-kid, dress-stupid type of system works great. Through the years we have had many themes and we do repeat them about once in seven years or so. Making VBS fun, and putting a huge effort on decorations, prizes, and outfits **has allowed many young people to see Jesus for the first time in their lives, and many to trust in Him.**

This year, after careful counseling and serious explanations, some 115 kids trusted Jesus, as far as we can tell. Our counselors are deeply committed to making sure that the kids are really ready and understand the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I believe we will see some of these kids in Heaven someday because of these five days of being a “fool for Christ’s sake.”

Love you all, Bill

Pastor John Boutchia, Assistant Pastor



I cannot express to you what a great time we had during the week of Vacation Bible School. The week was busy, but certainly flew by fast.

Four teams competed this year to be the winning team and the *Showdown Kids* pulled out on top over the *Gospel Gunslingers*, the *Bible Buckaroos* & the *Cow Pokes* (3, 4 & 5 year old kids). The children memorized Scripture, invited children along to hear the fabulous missionary & Bible story and had fun performing their team cheer.

But, the most fun I seemed to have was with the skit that Pastor Moon, Pastor Lytell, Sandhya Firoz & I put together. It was not fancy and it sure would not make it onto Broadway, but I'll have to say it held the kids each night. Sandhya played Pocohontas and Marty & I were two bad westerners known as “Bad Moon” & “Black Jack Shellack”!

We were spoiling the fun by stealing the special jewels and by capturing Pocohontas on Wednesday night. Thursday night we came in to burn her at the stake and Wild Bill came up on us and we started a shootout. Bad Moon was wounded and Wild Bill was able to lead him to Christ. But, Black Jack Shellack would have none of it and challenged Wild Bill to a duel on Friday night at the O.K. Corral.

I suppose you would be surprised if I told you Wild Bill was mortally wounded and evil won out! No! Black Jack got saved on Friday night and everything ended on a good note. It was fun and the kids really enjoyed it. The only thing I have to comment about next year is that I hope I get to play a “good” guy.



Please enjoy the pictures of VBS and look over the statistics provided . . . phenomenal results and we give all the glory to God. We thank Him for safety for the buses and the mighty army of helpers that came through.

Take care and stay in touch! John

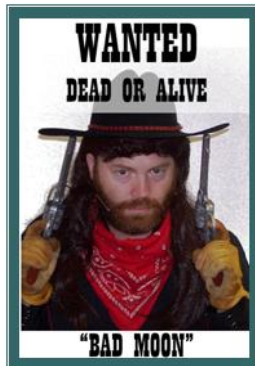
Vacation Bible School Totals for the Week

Combined English - Spanish Teams

- 506 children attended one or more times during the week
- 115 salvation decisions
- Love offering of \$1,484.89 to support Missionary Susan Edge (Bangladesh)
- The Spanish team offering went to support Missionary Juan DeDios Garza (Monterrey, Mexico)



Marty Moon, Youth Pastor



We say hello to all you snowbirds! The summer has come with lots of rain and beautiful sunsets. **June has been a very busy month for the teen ministry.**

The month started with the graduation of Crawford Wiley, Sarah Brayton, and Erica Sanchez from high school. Please pray for Crawford and Sarah, as they will be attending Bob Jones University in the fall. After graduation, we held a banquet in honor of the seniors. It was a great night of fellowship filled with laughs and sweet memories.

Finally, our teens had the opportunity to help in this year's VBS called Wild Bill's Western Rodeo. Yours truly, along with Pastor Boutchia, were "the bad guys" (as usual) in the skit!

Meanwhile, the teens helped out with crowd control on the buses, as well as helping the younger ones memorize verses.

What a joy to see our young folks faithfully serving the Lord with a good attitude. We pray many boys and girls entered into the kingdom of God through our love gift to Christ.

As always, our big focus during the summer months is our annual trip to camp. As I have mentioned in previous newsletters, this year we will be going to Camp Mt. Moriah near Knoxville, TN. We currently have 21 teens signed-up to go to camp. The special speaker this year is Pastor Tom Sexton of Gulf Coast Baptist Church in Cape Coral.

Our whole purpose in going to camp is to place our teens in an environment where they can make the next step spiritually. For some, that next step may be salvation or getting right with God.

We pray that all of our young folks will make decisions to surrender to the Lord and follow His will for their lives. Also, please pray for wisdom for Doug Smith, Shirley Swett and I as we lead the teens during that week.

Angie, I, and the youth staff appreciate your prayers for us and the teen ministry. These next few months will be packed with camp, a youth retreat, and the beginning of school.

We miss seeing your smiling faces and pray that your summer is filled with God's richest blessings.

In His Grip, Marty





Upcoming Events

July 25, 2007	Academy of Arts, Greenville, S.C. @ GBC
October 28-31, 2007	Creation Seminar w/Grady McMurtry

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