



Let's Roll

Make a difference

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From Pastor Bill . . .

Dear People ~ For years I have been thought of as "not liking kids" just because I didn't kiss slobbering babies, hold them with wet diapers against my Sunday suits, and many other things not mentionable in this type of format!!!! Ha.

Mommas can be tough when approaching this subject and have especially high standards for preachers and how they reference children in their sermons, conversations, and actions.

It is true that, personally, I prefer older kids over younger ones. I really start liking kids from about 10-18 years old. Small babies are like puppies to me . . . rowdy, sloppy, loud, misbehaved, out of control, disobedient, messy; cute, but they chew the sofa up!!! Ha. Oh, you get the picture.

"Pastor Lytell, some ladies think you do not like kids . . ."

One day, a wise, middle-aged lady came up to me from our church family and made a very observant, and if I may say . . . *astute* statement. She said, "Pastor Lytell, some ladies think you do not like kids, but I have been watching you and your life for some time now... and here is my conclusion . . . you love kids, really love kids where it counts." Needless to say, this was one of the smartest women I had ever met, bursting with deep truth.

What she went on further to explain was this: My life's work has in great part been in reaching boys and girls for Christ.

A majority of my efforts as assistant pastor, senior pastor and as a Christian have been in children's ministries, starting with calling on a bus route at 17 years old, and being a bus captain and driver at 19.

Since my dedication to Christ, Cathy and I have always been in some type of outreach to children, whether in Junior Church leading songs, teaching lessons, or just crowd control.

The space here is not large enough to enumerate all the individual ministries we have helped reach kids for Christ. When God promoted me to a position of authority, I used it to promote kids' ministries in many avenues of outreach and edification.

In other words, what the woman noticed was my *"walk talked louder than my talk talked."* I admit to being guilty of being afraid of small babies, slobbering two-year-olds, and messy, sticky-handed five-year-olds . . . I am guilty!! I am also guilty of not letting that hinder my "love" for their souls.

I could say it like this with a little tongue in cheek, "I don't like small kids . . . I love them." Well, confession is good for the soul, and there you have it!! Of course, most of the folks here already know it, but for those who may have been wondering, I hope this clears all this up! Ha.

Gospel Baptist is going full blast, in every way we know how to, to reach boys and girls and Christ. We spend whatever it takes, work relentlessly year-in and year-out, invade Satan's neighborhoods progressively and see some of these kids come to Jesus regularly!!

Souls for Jesus, Bill Lytell

What's Happening at Gospel

Revival has come and gone. It is hard to believe that with all the work, prayers, and planning that this great annual event is now over. All I can tell you is we had a great time. It was the first time we had Ron Comfort and I certainly hope it will not be the last.

The church was blessed by the preaching of Brother Comfort; the Christian school was blessed by the daily chapel services with Ambassador Baptist College graduate, David Cajuat; the children were blessed by the evening services directed for them by Mrs. Comfort and Mrs. Brubaker; and the choir was mightily blessed by the music ministry of Larry Brubaker. Did I tell you we were blessed? ☺ Wow! We made some new and great friends and count it a real privilege to have had such wonderful and Godly people in our midst.

Thank-you for praying for these meetings. We saw about 12 people trust Christ as personal Savior, as well as many personal decisions made. Dr. Comfort is a powerful, Bible-centered preacher and each message was used to convict and challenge us.

The offering taken up this year was the greatest in the history of our church. A total of \$33,675 was collected. Out of that, we were able to cover the expenses of the meeting, designate \$16,000 to the building of a men's dormitory at Ambassador Baptist College and still give a great personal offering to Dr. Comfort, Larry Brubaker and the Christian School evangelist. I believe their socks were knocked off and their souls were blessed.

The ladies had their annual meeting, *A Time Apart for Ladies*, on February 16th. There were just over 100 ladies in attendance. Mrs. Cindy Jayne, daughter of Loren and Frances Lane, was the speaker and I heard great feedback on her ministry to the ladies.

About the time you will be receiving this letter, two big events at GBC will be taking place. Our Anniversary Service will be held on March 2nd and our Annual Missions Conference will begin on Sunday, March 9th. This anniversary will mark 28 years in which God has miraculously worked. From a little group of about 29 people to the now 600+ people who attend in the wintertime sure gives us much to praise God about.

***"To God be the
glory! Great things
He hath done!"***

We praise Him for the land He placed us on, the buildings that have been built over the years and the multitudes of people who have been saved and challenged to live for Jesus. The Missions Conference will be exciting for us. Ron Grossman, veteran missionary to the Jewish people in Canada, will be with us. We also are pleased to have three national pastors from NOW Ministries out of North Carolina. The pastors are from Myanmar, Cambodia and the Philippines.

Danny Whetstone of Worldwide New Testament Baptist Missions will be our keynote speaker and we are definitely asking God to increase our burden for worldwide evangelism. It is our prayer that God would call some people to the mission field and that more people would get involved in local evangelism.

On March 21st, Gospel Baptist Church will host a Passover Seder with missionary Mark Robinson. This will be two days prior to Easter and it should be a great opportunity to invite our Jewish friends. Please pray that God would use this to win our Jewish friends to Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

Easter comes upon us early this year (March 23rd) and we will once again be hosting a Sunrise Service at Bonita Beach Park. As much as I despise getting up early for such a service, I gladly look forward to the grand opportunity to get the gospel to several hundred people who will not come to church, but will attend a simple Easter service on the beach. Please pray that God would stir hearts and that we would see people saved.

Thanks for keeping this church in your prayers.

Your friend and co-worker in Christ, John Boutchia

What Awana Means To Me, Judie Cronin, Member, GBC

Awana means teaching children Bible verses which will be with them for their whole lives.

Awana means explaining the Word of God to the children, why it is important for them to learn these verses, and what the verse they are learning actually means.

Awana means getting to know each child individually. Getting to watch them as they mature and begin to grow in the Lord.

Awana is singing with the children and playing little games which help them to learn God's Word.

Awana is giving attention to a child who may be from a broken home and needs that little, extra bit of attention from a worker who shows them that we love them and God loves them even more.

Awana is explaining the plan of salvation to each child as we have the opportunity. Some of the children have no knowledge about the Bible at all when they first start coming. It is a privilege to be able to explain God's Word to them.

I am truly grateful for the opportunity to work with Awana and with the dedicated people who are involved with this great ministry.

*"A child of 5, if properly instructed, can as truly believe and be regenerated as any adult."
Charles Haddon Spurgeon*

GBCS Took 1st Place With Both Teams!



Youth News

Wow! Here we are already in February and it seems we just celebrated New Years. The youth ministry has been busy with both opportunities to hear the Word of God and also to serve Him. During revival services we had over 30 teens come on Friday night for youth night. Several young folk came forward that week to make professions of faith and rededication. After the Friday service, several of the youth staff and I took the teens to join about 100 other teens for the Southwest Florida youth rally hosted last month by Emmanuel Baptist Church and Pastor Matt Booher. The teens enjoyed ice skating and basketball till about 1:00 am. What a great way to wrap up a wonderful week of spiritual blessing.

Being this month's focus is on the Awana ministry, I wanted to take the opportunity to share how Awana is a blessing to our teens. The Awana program provides an outlet of service for our teens on a consistent, weekly basis during the school year. Paul instructed Timothy in II Timothy 2:2, "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

"One of my goals as youth pastor is to duplicate what I have been teaching from the Word of God into a few, faithful teens so that they will pour that same teaching into the lives of others."

As every parent has the opportunity to spiritually reproduce themselves in their children, we who work with youth have an awesome responsibility and privilege to share what we have been taught by faithful men. How wonderful it is to see our young folks reproduce themselves and be a blessing to the next generation of servants to our Lord!

Next month we again have the opportunity to support the Lee Women's Center in Ft. Myers in their endeavor to help young ladies who are considering abortion. For the past six years the youth ministry has participated in the "Walk for Life" which raises funds to support this ladies' ministry. There is no measuring the value of a life, so we pray that we will be used of the Lord to save many innocent lives in our area.

Because He Lives, Marty

"The future is as bright as the promises of God."
Adoniram Judson

Upcoming Events at Gospel

March 2nd	28th Anniversary Service
March 4th	Ladies' Just Because Tea
March 9th - 12th	Missions Conference with Danny Whetstone
March 21st	Passover Seder
March 23rd	Easter Sunrise Service at Bonita Beach

Recommended Sermons

By Pastor Bill Lytell
Preached on September 29, 1996

Which Hat Will You Wear?
By Pastor Bill Lytell
Preached on October 20, 1996

Sermons can be downloaded at
www.gospelbaptistchurch.com