



From Pastor Bill . . .

Hello again from the deep south!! This month's theme is the "nursery" and all that means. **This ministry is past my vocabulary in describing how important and vital it is to seeing people saved and dedicated to Jesus Christ . . . and I mean that!!**

My wife has had the privilege to serve in the nursery at every church we have been part of for the last 38 years. She "got to" serve and it was an opportunity of a life time. We only had one child, so for most of that time, we did not have any children in the nursery of our own. **It was an "act of service," totally unselfish, and with a desire to see parents of young kids saved.**

As a preacher, I have learned a few things. One is that parents often use children as a "shield" in the preaching services, to hide behind, and keep their minds off of what is being said. More than this, the kids often "shield" 10-15 other people around them, who use the kid's beauty, cuteness, and lovability as a reason not to listen, too (and that is when the kid is "nice and quiet!" Ha!). If the child is "normal" and cries or makes normal "baby" sounds, it really "shields" folks from what is being said.

Here is the situation: **When a preacher is preaching, and the Holy Spirit is moving, the Word of God is being spoken . . . just one sentence that pierces the darkness and enters into the "long term memory" of the listener . . . can literally change their lives!!!**

There are very few other occasions in life that are that important. God chose the "foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." That is a fact, and we should and do act on it.

The nursery allows the parent a few minutes of undisturbed, totally concentrated, noise and distraction-free time to allow the Holy Spirit to work His work. Is that important or what?????!!!!!!

If you are one who works or are thinking about working in the Nursery Ministry, please be encouraged to either do it, or keep it up, until Jesus takes you home. It is worth it . . . and an opportunity, like few opportunities, to make "life changing difference" in people's lives. Love you all.

Nursery Ministry Highlight



We have many helpful ladies in Gospel Baptist Church who take care of the little ones during the service. **Our main purpose is to provide a safe and clean environment for babies so that Mom & Dad can go to church and be able to participate in the service without being distracted or distracting those around them.**

We have great team leaders: Sandy Dodd, Jayma Gillaspie & Terri Plemons. **I am thankful for the work these ladies do** in overseeing their respective shifts and helping to manage the 44 regular workers and the 19 substitutes. That may seem like a lot of ladies, but we do our best to spread the work around so ladies do not serve more than once a month.

If you would be interested in helping us with the nursery ministry upon your return next season, I don't believe we would refuse your help. Special meetings are a good time to receive extra help and sometimes it may be good to give the regulars a small break.

Talk to our church secretary, Sandy Dodd, if this interests you and may the nursery ministry continue to **help the overall mission of this church: To reach people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

Pastor John Boutchia

Terry Plemons, Nursery Shift Leader, GBC

Nursery workers many times have the joy on a Sunday of hearing the testimony of parents who were saved, comforted, or convicted to do right as a result of having uninterrupted time in the service to hear God's Word preached. This makes the ministry of nursery service well worth our time.

But the women who serve in the nursery should not feel that they are missing out on the prompting of the Holy Spirit that day. There is nothing like a room full of children to bring either comfort or conviction.

I have often found comfort in reading a picture Bible to a toddler on my lap. And I have found conviction on a busy nursery day about planning and patience. **The Lord is good to always provide His presence whether we are in the service or elsewhere serving Him.**



**“The repetition of
small efforts will
accomplish more
than the occasional
use of great talents.”**

From John Boutchia, Assistant Pastor

Gospel Baptist Church is still trying to recover from the mass exodus of all you winter folks. **What a thrill it is to have you here and it is certainly hard to see you go.** May the Lord cause you to prosper and be a blessing to your church up north.

We have been busy here and waste no time even in these summer months. April was busy with the Easter Sunrise service at Bonita Beach Park. **We passed out about 900 tracts which means we had at least 1,000 people in attendance for this service.** It was a thrill for me to have the opportunity to preach to such a large crowd and give the Gospel. We trust decisions have been made for eternity.



We are wrapping up our school year and have two graduations coming up. **The senior graduation will be held on June 1st** and will celebrate the graduation of Sarah Brayton, Erica Sanchez & Crawford Wiley (home school student and church organist).

We are excited for these kids and what God has in store for them. Sarah & Crawford are committed to going to Bob Jones University in the fall and Erica is contemplating about college.

The kindergarten graduation will be on June 7th and 10 students will don a cap and gown and walk the long aisle of the GBC auditorium and receive a diploma.



I know that many of you are laughing inside about this “big” accomplishment, but you would not believe how these parents get so enthused about it. *There are so many pictures being taken you would think the paparazzi is around.* Well, this will take place the night before the last day. **We thank the Lord for our teachers and what they have accomplished this year.**



June 18-22 will be the week for our annual Vacation Bible School. *Wild Bill's Western Rodeo* is the name of the week and as you can guess we will be *westernizing* this part of town. Kids and adult workers will be showing off all their western gear.

Aside from all the fun, we look forward to the grand opportunity of seeing boys and girls come to trust Christ as their personal Savior. **Please pray with us as we make efforts towards this big week.**

Thank you for your prayers for us as you are away. We covet them and ask that you stay in touch with us. If you have internet access, visit our website @ www.gospelbaptistchurch.com. You can get the latest sermons and keep up with what is going on.



If you don't have internet access and would like copies of the sermons on either tape or CD, feel free to call the church office @ (239) 947-1285 and ask. Many people have gotten on the mailing list and it wouldn't hurt to add you to it.

Until next month, keep at it for the Lord Jesus Christ! He's coming soon!

From Marty Moon, Youth Pastor

It is hard to believe that most of you snowbirds are back in your northern nest, and the summer is upon us here in Southwest Florida. **We all miss seeing your smiling faces and the fellowship and encouragement you all bring by just being here.**

This month I would like to share with you some of the highlights of the youth ministry from the past month and inform you of some of the upcoming events this summer.



In April, we hosted a Southwest Florida Youth Rally. Five local churches of like precious faith brought their teens for this event. The Wiley boys, the Chapin girls, Jayla Gillaspie, and Sable Hicks sang special music for the event. Juan Rivera preached a short message, and Sable Hicks sang a solo before Pastor Boutchia challenged the teens from the Word of God.



Afterwards, we all enjoyed good fellowship and pizza in the McKinney Hall. **My heart was blessed to see our young people serving the Lord with the gifts He has given them!**

We rewarded the teens for their hard work by having a sleepover for the girls with my wife, Angie, and Donna Larson at my house, while Doug Smith and I took the guys and one brave girl out to play paint ball.

In May, we have the opportunity to attend another youth rally at Seagate Baptist Church in Naples, and to pass out Gospel tracts after an arena football game at Germain Arena in Estero.



In June, our teens will have the privilege of helping out in this year's VBS called *Wild Bill's Western Rodeo*.

We will conclude the summer by taking the teens to camp at Mt. Moriah outside Knoxville, TN in July, and attending the Southwest Florida Youth Retreat at Gulf Coast Baptist Church in August.

As always, Angie and I, with the youth staff, appreciate your prayers for us this summer. **We pray that God would do a great work in the teens' lives, as well as our own, during these special opportunities.** May our Father bless you richly.

