

Let's Roll

Make a difference

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From Pastor Bill

Hello Folks ~ Years ago, I began to approach problems in the ministry that just simply defied solving. I came to Jesus in prayer and asked for His creativity. After all, with God all things are possible, right? I know that this has been worn out, but prayer really works!

Finding kids in the bus ministry is an ongoing challenge. I mean, there are not many ways of finding them, except door-to-door, or by just looking at the houses for outside signs of kids, then stopping and asking if there are any kids there. This is extremely time consuming and has limited results. Don't get me wrong, we do it with a smile, and by God's Grace, will not stop these time-tested methods of reaching kids for Christ. **I just believed there had to be a better way of identifying a neighborhood's kids and getting to them for the bus ministry, that's all.**

One day while calling, I heard the familiar sound of an "ice cream truck," and noticed that doors up and down the street began to open, and kids began to run out to meet the ice cream truck! I had an epiphany, as it were, and God seemed to say... **"Look, why don't you have an ice cream truck and get kids to come out of their homes?"** Duhhhhh!!!

Man! Why don't we have an ice cream truck, use the same music, paint it wildly, and instead of selling ice cream, give it away? Why, we could paint the truck with "Gospel Baptist Bus Ministry," and register with the local Sheriff's department, health department, and get kids to church on Sunday!

Dear people, that is exactly what we have done. **We not only have one truck, but two ice cream trucks!!** One professional truck was donated to us and is painted in a "green monster" motif. One is our old "airport bus" that we were going to give away. Instead, we painted it, took the seats out, and added a cooler.



How do we keep the ice cream cold? We go across the street to the Publix grocery store and buy some dry ice, put it in the cooler with the ice cream and "bim, boom, bam," it is done!! The professional one plugs in all night to an electric outlet and pre-cools its ice cream holder. We buy cups of ice cream @ about .25 cents per cup, and give away about 100 each Saturday. Almost any church could afford that to get kids to hear about Jesus!

There were other problems that had to be solved before this ministry could fly, though. Pedophiles are so in the news and on the minds of parents today that we had to somehow overcome the reaction of parents, seeing our men giving away ice cream to the kids, and asking where they lived and if they could come to Sunday School on the bus next week! Again, God has answered our request for creativity.

I asked the women of our church to take this ministry on as their own! I mean, *take it over*. Well, 15 women have decided to take one Saturday or weekday evening a month, and team up in groups of at least four, to run the ice cream buses. This will have the ice cream buses on the road every week with different crews. No one crew will bear all the load, and it will not be overwhelming to any.

What are the benefits of giving away ice cream in our neighborhoods? Well, if Jesus said that our reward in Heaven would not be lost if we gave a cup of cold water, in just the name of a disciple . . . what reward will there be for giving a precious "little one" a cup of ice cream in Jesus' name???

Matt 10:42: *And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.*

One anticipated problem that may just be unsolvable is all our workers gaining hundreds of pounds eating up our excess ice cream cups!! Oh, well, we will just have to suffer through that! **Encourage your church to consider the "ice cream bus ministry."** We would be glad to help in detail, any interested church, that is willing to get out into the highways and hedges and "compel" them to come in.

Love you all, Bill

What's New at Gospel

It is hard to believe we are into the fall months. Not that we see leaves changing color or the weather changing dramatically, but school is now under way. Wow! Where does the time go by?

We are off to a good start for school and excited about what has taken place so far. There are **97** students enrolled and we are still seeking more. We need more students in the 4 year old class and are praying to that end. The new teachers, Mr. Dan Kammeraad (5th & 6th grade) and Mrs. Gwen Kammeraad (kindergarten) have adjusted very well and are doing a superb job. **We are grateful to God for supplying these people for this year.**

Pastor Lytell left for vacation on August 20th and has been having a good time. Pastor Marty and I have been splitting the preaching duties on Sundays. Jeff Larson has been teaching Pastor's Sunday School class while I have been preaching on Wednesday nights. **I am thankful to have a staff of people as we do, to help lighten the load.**

We are in the process of replacing all the ceiling tile in the McKinney Fellowship Hall. A few months ago, the church voted to do this project and we finally have been able to work everything out with our neighbor, Rice Insulation, and the electrical company. We will be getting rid of the 2' x 4' tiles and replacing them with the 2' x 2' tiles which will not bow. I know it will look good and I am excited for you all to see it when you return this season.

We are gearing up for a Creation Seminar with Dr. Grady McMurtry. This will be held October 28-31, 2007. Please pray for us as we seek to do a lot of advertising for this. We want to get the word out to the university (FGCU), the radio stations and throughout the business community. **Our prayer is that people will come and will respond to the Gospel as it is presented in each session.**

Please pray for us and plan on getting down here soon. We miss you all and look forward to a great "winter."

In Christian love, John Boutchia

"Nothing good or great has ever been accomplished without enthusiasm."

David Livingstone

Youth News

It's hard to believe that school is in full swing, the fall, or at least cooler temperatures, are here, and you snowbirds are slowly making your southern decent back to Florida. **As usual for this time of year, the young folk at Gospel Baptist have been up to their ears in books, sports, and activities.** With the beginning of the school year comes flag football for the boys and volleyball for the girls.

Paul instructed Timothy that "...bodily exercise profiteth little..." (1 Tim. 4:8). Certainly sports are over emphasized in America, but there are some good principles that sports teach. Athletes learn the importance of team work. **Every decision a team member makes affects the rest of the team.**

We are all members of the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12). **What I do not only affects me, but also my family, my church, and other Christians.** Just as there is no "I" in team, there is no "I" in church. **Every member, associate member or seasonal visitor is vital to the health of the church.**

This is such an important principle to teach to teens that will be making the biggest decisions of their lives over the next ten years. **Please pray that God will give us wisdom to bring good spiritual applications such as "teamwork" to our student athletes.**

On Saturday, September 29th, the teens went to Lake Placid to assist Pastor Luke Knickerbocker in getting the word out concerning the start of a new church there, Bethel Baptist Church. Pastor Knickerbocker has requested that youth groups come to help pass out brochures about the church and give out Gospel tracts. **We are so thankful for the opportunity to be witnesses not only in our Jerusalem, but also in our Samaria.**

Thanks again for your prayers for Angie, the kids, and I, as well as the youth ministry. **If you haven't had the opportunity, visit the church web site and read our new Youth Position Statement that the pastors wrote and presented to the church recently.** I believe it clearly defines why we have a youth ministry at Gospel Baptist church.

May God bless you and we look forward to seeing you all real soon!

Pastor Marty Moon

Testimony of Wendy Stone, Member, GBC

Many of the ladies at Gospel Baptist Church have organized an Ice Cream – Bus Ministry. Juan Rivera is our team captain, I am the driver, and Sandy Dodd, Agnes Stone and Hannah Stone are the workers.

We started the Ice Cream Ministry in August and found that going out on a weeknight between the hours of 6:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. works the best. The children are home from school, have worked on homework and are usually outside playing for a few hours before dark. **Each team picks an area in the community to distribute free ice cream and tries to get names and addresses of children to attend Sunday School and Church.**

The first time we went out, we really didn't know what we were doing, but after driving around a local apartment complex a few times with the ice cream music playing, the children started to come out. We had a young girl that was approximately 10 years old come over to the bus to get some ice cream. She was so excited, she started riding her bike around the apartment complex telling other children to go to the Gospel Baptist Ice Cream Bus for free ice cream! **That first night we got 17 names, addresses and phone numbers of children. The following Sunday, seven of the children rode the bus to church.**

In September, we went out a second time. We thought we weren't going to have a very good turn out because it started to rain really hard. **But, we all decided that Satan was not going to get the best of us and we were still going to give out free ice cream.**

Even with it raining, we had success. Instead of just driving around the apartment complex hoping for the children to come out in the rain, we got off the bus and started knocking on doors. **Hannah, Juan and the girls knocked on doors for over two hours, giving out ice cream, tracts and inviting people to come to church.**

Although none of the new children rode the bus to church that following Sunday, our team has determined not to give up. **We are going to be faithful and show the community that at Gospel Baptist we all are giving and are here for the community. We are trying to reach the unsaved.**

We will be going out again on October 8th. **Pray that our ice cream ministry will continue to be successful in reaching the lost in the communities of Bonita Springs, Estero and Naples.**

GBCS Teachers – 2007/2008



Recommended Sermons

“What Is True Repentance?” by Pastor Bill Lytell

“Formula for Failure” by Pastor John Boutchia

*“How Do You React to Trouble? Bitter or Better:
It’s Your Choice?”* by Pastor Marty Moon

Upcoming Events at Gospel

October 28-31, 2007	Creation Seminar with Dr. Grady McMurtry
November 6, 2007	Ladies’ Just Because
November 14, 2007	AWANA Farm Festival
January 20-25, 2008	Revival services with Ron Comfort
March 2, 2008	28th Anniversary Service for GBC
March 9-12, 2008	Mission’s Conference with Danny Whetstone