



SNOWBIRD NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2006

Journey To Jerusalem - A Special Note From Pastor Bill

Dear Folks: Wow! Another month has passed again!! I want to challenge you to come with me to Israel for a trip of a life-time. I am taking the first 30 people to sign-up and put their \$350.00 down payment with us. This "unheard of" 15 days "in the land" touring, including three free days of exploring and/or shopping, is truly unique. Cathy and I went in the nineties and have copied the basic itinerary for you. Most tours are only 10 days and that is including travel, etc. They only spend 6-7 days in the land touring. Our trip will be double the common tours seen in Christian magazines or offered by schools. Mark Robinson, a saved Jew, who was with "Friends of Israel" for many years will be the main host, and Cathy and I will be the co-hosts. We will also have a tour guide who will explain in detail the sights that we are at. Mark and I will preach short informative messages and have some Bible studies at night for the next day.

I say this in all seriousness . . . if you have to borrow the money to go on this trip, it will be worth it. We borrow for cars, boats, houses, lands, and other much more temporary stuff. This trip will change your perspective on the Bible, and make the Bible stories "come alive" and be visualized in your mind. Tears will often be shed as you walk, look, and sense the settings that you have read about for so long. Most of our time will be spent in the north, because that is where Jesus spent most of His time. The sites are authentic and the people friendly, with little to no Arab population.

(A note on the war) We will not endanger you in any way. I am ignoring the present conflict and keeping to the schedule, hoping for some peaceful solution. Why not sign up? Put your down payment and application in, and if the tour company thinks it is too dangerous, they will refund the money and cancel the trip long before we go, but we need to start the process of enrollment now.

The returned down payment or cancellation date for us is in mid-December. They may cancel at any time, but we cannot after December. There is travel insurance, that is relatively cheap, and is available almost anywhere, which could protect your investment once on the trip, if you get sick, or a close relative dies at home and you must leave early. The insurance will pay for your trip loss. Please read this brochure and call me or email me (blytell@earthlink.net). For many years, folks have pushed me to do this, so here we go . . . on an adventure of a life time!!

Love you, Bill

What's Happening

John Boutchia, Assistant Pastor

My family and I have recently made it home from a trek up north where some of you are. We had opportunity to visit my family in Massachusetts and then spent one week in the beautiful Adirondack Mountains of New York. A total of three weeks was spent up that way and we are so grateful to the church for allowing us this wonderful time of relaxation.

As I was getting ready to split town, the July 4th parades were taking place. The Bonita parade was held on July 1st and the San Carlos Park parade on the 4th. Pastor Marty's group took home 1st place in the San Carlos parade's "float/vehicle" category. Pastor Bill and the Bonita parade group, well . . . another year has passed without a trophy for Pastor Bill. I guess we will have to evaluate his decorating skills . . .

Forty-five to fifty people helped in the parades and managed to pass out 4,113 tracts. Not bad for a couple of hours of work. We are asking God to use these tracts to help bring people to Christ.

Speaking of tracts, it would be beneficial for me to talk to you about our annual tract ministry. As many of you know, we take a weekly count in our Sunday evening service of how many tracts we individually pass out. To date, we have distributed over 79,000 tracts and are looking to meet our goal of 150,000 by the end of the year. This ministry is a great way of getting the Gospel into the hands of people.

Just last week, we met Andy Coy who is running for Lee County Commissioner and he shared his testimony of how he came to know Jesus as his personal Savior through a Gospel tract. Hallelujah! That is what it is all about.

With that said, if you are passing tracts out, call us up or write to us and we will include your count. And if you are not passing them out . . . well, it's time to get fired up! What a great and easy method of giving the Gospel.

As I close this article (I know I am short, but when you go on vacation, I guess you get squeezed out on space), let me also remind you about our Bible reading board. If your name is up there, please feel free to call or write and inform us as to where you are and we will gladly put those stickers by your name.

Keep at it! With all that's going on in this world, Jesus may come . . . today! Are you ready?

John Boutchia

Youth News

Marty Moon, Youth Pastor

Hello again from the Sunshine State. Though it is sunny here, we hear many of you up north are experiencing hot temperatures, as well. "Hot" certainly characterized the weather and the preaching at camp this summer. We were privileged to take eighteen teens and four

sponsors up to Bill Rice Ranch in beautiful Murfreesboro, TN. Though we had an unexpected breakdown outside Atlanta at 6:00 a.m. Sunday morning (thankfully at a McDonalds' parking lot), God provided our transportation by sending us a bus and driver from where the Todd Wipf family attends church (Berean Baptist Church, Lilburn, GA). We are so thankful that God met our need and allowed us to arrive at camp safe and on time. Camp week went very well. The main speakers were Evangelists Ron Reilly and Tim Thompson, as well as Evangelists Bill Rice III and Will Rice. The messages each day from these Godly men both challenged and encouraged the hearts of our teens. Though the camp kept us busy with hikes, horseback riding, fun games and both sports and music contests, the preaching of God's Word became the highlights of each day. Several of our teens went forward during invitations to speak to a counselor about a decision for God. Please pray that these decisions for God will be lasting.

Finally, we will attend the Southwest Florida Youth Conference at Gulf Coast Baptist Church on August 3rd -5th. Teens from churches of like precious faith gather for a great time of activities, fellowship, food, but center on the preaching of the Bible. This year we are again privileged to hear the Word preached by Brother Scott Pauley from Crown College. This event is always special to me because it was the first youth event I was involved in five years ago.

I am so grateful to be able to partake in and take teens to these youth events. God promises in Isaiah 55:11, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." We look forward to what He will do in and through the lives of our teens. Thank you again for all your thoughts and prayers. May our God richly bless you and keep you.

By God's Grace, Marty