



Snowbird Newsletter

June, 2006

FROM PASTOR BILL

Wow . . . time is rushing by and here is our second newsletter. Many of you remember when the subject of "alcohol" was a moot point because no "real Christian" would ever partake of such a horribly harmful substance that had historically destroyed so much and caused so much heartache among so many people.



In the last 30 years of preaching, I have noticed a "slide" to the "left" that is just crazy. I hear conservative-sounding Christians that say they believe the Bible, telling me that "drinking socially" is acceptable for the Christ-like ones. They state "Jesus made water into wine, so then it must be okay."

On our web site is a sermon that answers the question . . . "Is drinking alcohol, as a beverage, okay for the Christian?" It is an accumulation of many years of Bible study, common sense, experiential knowledge of the consequences of alcohol, and statistics from world sources. This sermon was prepared as an official "position statement" on this subject, and to explain to all those who believe otherwise, that we, who are "tea totalers," have real reasons for being so.



Let me encourage you to copy this sermon from the web and give it to those who are "wondering" about this currently debated subject, or just give them the address (gospelbaptistchurch.com) and let them listen to it there. For you that are ordering sermons on CD, my current sermons will be placed on the web and can be listened to there, or downloaded to your CD of choice, or just your hard drive.

I studied all the verses on alcohol in the Bible before preparing and delivering this sermon. At least 98% of the verses in the Bible on alcohol are negative, or in other words, warning, prohibiting, rebuking, or forbidding the use of this ancient troublemaker (all the way back to Noah).



Love you all, and see you this fall!!! Pray for our hurricane season, and the mercy of God on this area.

Love you all, Bill Lytell, Senior Pastor

WHAT'S HAPPENING . . .

I trust that you thoroughly enjoyed the first newsletter of this 2006 summer season. This should make you feel as if you were right here with us, although, we would enjoy it much more if you *were* here! Enough said! You folks are away and we'll have to make do till you come back down.



Again, much has happened and will happen at the old Gospel Baptist Church. From May 22nd-27th, the church hosted the **Institute of Basic Life Principles** seminar. This was a 25 hour seminar which was attended by some 50+ people. There were many grumblings going into the seminar because of the time commitment, but each person that walked away from there was thrilled at what they learned and how they grew in the process.

The seminar deals with such topics as tracing surface problems to their root causes; learning how to resolve guilt; how to conquer anger and bitterness; how to discover purpose in life; how to deal with tension and conflict in marriage and many other fascinating topics. Now, I bet that since I have mentioned those things, it has tweaked your curiosity.

If you would like to find a community seminar in your area, you may go to their website @ www.iblp.org or call their headquarters in Oak Brook, Illinois @ (630) 323-9800. If you don't have a seminar taking place near you, GBC will be hosting this on two more occasions. The dates for these seminars will be July 17th-22nd and October 23rd-28th of 2006. For those of you who come early enough, the October dates may work out for you.

This past month has closed out a few events for us. Our AWANA year ended on May 31st. That evening we had our awards night with some 60 children in attendance and many parents looking on. What a blessing it has been to see these children learn verses and be part of this program. I am grateful for the 35+ workers who have given their Wednesday nights to help these children grow in Christ.



If you would like to help us next season, we could use your help. Even if you attend the prayer meeting service, you can come at 6:30 p.m. and spend one-half hour listening to verses. For more information about the program or how you can help, feel free to call me or e-mail me @ jboutchia@earthlink.net.

The other big event winding down is this school year. GBCS officially ended on June 9th. We had a kindergarten graduation on June 8th, as well as a senior graduation on June 2nd. What a great night it was when we graduated our three seniors: Kevin Carr, Jessica Rivera and Melissa Smith. These kids have been at this school for at least four years and have been a real asset. They have grown in Christ by leaps and bounds and we are encouraged by their testimony.



Kevin is going on to be a fireman and will be taking some courses at Edison Community College. Jessica will stay in town and work and Melissa has plans to go on to Pensacola Christian College and major in elementary education. Both Jessica and Melissa have been involved in our bus ministry and will continue to do so.



Our annual Vacation Bible School is the next big event on the calendar and its working its way to being a grand one! **"Aloha Bill's Hawaiian Adventure: War of the Islands"** is the name of the week and it will happen June 19th-23rd. Most of the McKinney Fellowship Hall has been decorated. We have heavily decorated the ceiling, made a tiki hut and have plans of making a beach. Danelle Carbon, our resident artist, will be painting the backdrop. She will create a scene of Waikiki Beach and Diamond Head. For a 3-D effect, Bob Morris and his employees have made a volcano. We will place a fog machine inside the volcano which will give a real great effect for the kids. I can't wait to see it all in place.

Pastors Lytell, Moon and I are gearing up for the nightly skit which is always a hit with the kids. You wouldn't believe how real the kids think our characters are. Well enough said on all that. Please pray for us on this event. ***Our main goal is to reach new children and give the Gospel.***

We will update you in the next newsletter and also let you know about the July 4th parade. We'll participate in both the San Carlos Park & Bonita Springs parades and pass out Gospel tracts. We also covet your prayers for this, as well. Thanks for your friendship and support of this work.

John Boutchia, Assistant Pastor

YOUTH NEWS

Hello again, dear Snowbird friends! I hope this newsletter finds you faithfully following our Lord Jesus Christ. Much has happened since I last wrote you a month ago. At the end of April, Pastor Boutchia and I took a group of teens and adults to a Tampa Bay Devil Rays baseball game. We enjoyed a great game between the Rays and the Boston Red Sox. After the game, we had the privilege of passing out almost 1800 tracts to fans coming out of the stands. What a great joy it was to see our teens enthusiastically giving out the Gospel to those in such desperate need.



Another opportunity the teens had recently was to attend the **Basic Life Seminar** here at Gospel Baptist Church. The **Basic Life Seminar** (or Basic Youth Conflicts Seminar) stemmed from Mr. Bill Gothard's many years of working with youth in the streets of Chicago. During this seminar, Mr. Gothard shared seven universal principles of life taught throughout Scripture. Angie and I had been blessed by attending the Basic Seminar two years ago in Naples, and we wanted our teens to be exposed to the same great truths.



Angie and I are very thankful that 17 teens attended the seminar, most of which were there for all 25 hours of Biblical teaching. We are also thankful that many parents of teens attended the seminar and many of them have expressed to us how God used the seminar in their lives. To God be the Glory! In closing, please be in prayer for our youth ministry this month as we have another opportunity to pass out tracts after a local arena football game, as well as the opportunity to help out with VBS again this summer. Our "Winner's Circle" program is almost over! We will be announcing the winners to you next month. Also, please be in prayer for our teens during the summer months as many temptations to sin will come their way. My prayer is that this will be the greatest summer of spiritual victory in their lives. May God bless you as you seek Him this month.

Through Christ, Marty Moon, Youth Pastor

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT: NURSING HOME



Over the past two years, Pastor Lytell has given me the privilege of working with the youth ministry, as well as the nursing home ministry. These two ministries are naturally quite different (about fifty years of difference 😊), but both, I believe, are of great importance in the local church.

We learn in James 1:27, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." A great opportunity that we have been given here at Gospel Baptist Church is to visit the "widows (and a few widowers) in their affliction."

Twice a month, on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, a group of believers from Gospel Baptist Church visits local nursing homes and/or assisted-living homes. Currently, we visit five homes every month. On the second Tuesday, we visit the Summerville, Canterbury, and Aristocrat homes, and on the fourth Tuesday, we visit Vanderbilt and Imperial homes.

One may ask what we do for the residents of these homes. We provide for them a "mini church service." We begin by spending time greeting each resident that comes to the meeting in order to get to know them and their particular needs. Then we sing the old songs of Zion like "Amazing Grace", "In the Garden," and "Rock of Ages," just to name a few. Finally, we share the wonderful words of life found only in the Bible. We conclude our service with a presentation of the Gospel, and a final hymn. The whole "mini church service" lasts only about a half hour, but brings great encouragement to those who seldom receive visitors, and to those who can no longer attend a regular service at a local church.



The heart of the nursing home ministry is those who volunteer to go each month to the homes. Without the many volunteers, this ministry would suffer greatly. I am so thankful for many volunteers who faithfully participate each month, as well as

several who come down during the winter and get involved in this ministry. Some volunteers play the piano, sing, preach, or maybe just greet the residents. To all of you who have had some part in this ministry, "Thank you!" I am often reminded of Paul's words to the church in Corinth. I Corinthians 15:58: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

Marty Moon, Youth Pastor