



SNOWBIRD NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER, 2006

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

Bill Lytell, Senior Pastor

Dear Ones ~ It is so good to be able to write another newsletter to my friends scattered throughout this world. Once in awhile, I re-evaluate my whole ministry and the church's ministry. I call it "reading my biography."

Through the years many people who have left us for one reason or another have spread rumors that "lots of folks are leaving Gospel," or something like . . . "the church is really declining." These rumors, if believed, could harm us in the ongoing mission to reach our community by scaring away folks who would normally want to visit us and see what God is doing. Let me set the record straight and tell you in brief what is happening here.

Our Missions' giving has never been better, higher, or stronger than this last year. \$239,000 was given to 76 missionaries. We bought a truck for a Haitian missionary and a car for a Romanian missionary. We blessed the financial socks off of the missionaries visiting us this year.

Our outreaches have expanded to an Addiction Recovery program led by a new deacon named Michael Chapin. He and his family have blessed us beyond belief, with his wife contributing to the complete renovation of our web site (gospelbaptistchurch.com).

Our outreach by CDs, cassettes and sermon downloads from the internet has expanded tremendously. The range of our influence with the Gospel is ever widening to literally anyone who logs-on to the internet.

Our church has added new personnel. Warren Brown is an expert audio/visual technician. He is getting us cable-ready for television in the near future. For the last year, we have been running 50 to 75 - 30 second commercials on four different cable channels every weekend. These ads are professionally done by Faith Highway and have a "punch" for the Gospel. No sissy stuff . . . they tell people about us and make folks think about where they will spend eternity.

Folks are joining the church almost weekly and we're seeing people saved almost every week. We have distributed over 80,000 Gospel tracts so far this year, with a possible 150,000 by the end of December. Just recently, a young teen came to church to tell us that she found one of our tracts on the ground, took it home, read it, and asked Jesus to save her ! ! ! She came to tell us that ! ! This is just the tip of the iceberg on the fruit that is being produced by the Holy Spirit from His written word.

Attendance is good. Youth Worship (4th-6th grade) is blowing the doors out with 60+ kids attending every Sunday morning. Jeff and Donna Larson are heading that up and accomplishing great and mighty things in Jesus' name. Miss Miley is seeing 60-80 kids in Junior Church (K3 – 3rd grade) every Sunday with many of them trusting Jesus.

The Flea Market evangelistic ministry is being run by Gloria Stevens, Eve Broughton, and other widows who have found a home in that avenue of getting the Gospel out. It is a great way to end your golden years . . . winning souls for Jesus and sharing the Gospel!

Time will not allow me to share any more of the blessings that are happening here at the "Gospel." I apologize for talking about it, but I am forced to by those who talk about our "decline." There is no declining here. We are so grateful as God raises up more and more men and women to serve Him in ways we would have never imagined possible just a few years ago.

In every way, things are growing and going. We are humbled that God would entrust us with this great opportunity in this "fun-in-the-sun" mission field.

Take any rumors that you hear about us with a grain of salt, or just call me, and I will take an hour or so to share with you how God is manifesting Himself in accomplishing the great commission here in Bonita Springs. Love you so much, Bill, Sr. Pastor

WHAT'S HAPPENING . . .

John Boutchia, Assistant Pastor

It is amazing that the summer has drawn to a close and we are well into our way in the month of September. Where has the time gone? I may not be able to answer as to where the time has gone, but I can guarantee you that we have been very busy around here.

I want to take time in my article to discuss with you the opening of the 21st year of Gospel Baptist Christian School. We are excited about what God is doing. We began school on Tuesday, September 5th. The teachers had already come in one week prior to that in order to prepare their rooms and materials. I met with the

teachers most everyday and we had great meetings and prayer time. I have never felt such a unity and a freshness going into a school year as I have felt for this year. The teachers are all excited and this looks like it will be one of our best years yet.

Let me talk with you about our staffing and how everything shook out with regard to placement. Miss Jessica Rivera, a recent graduate of GBCS, has joined the staff and is the teacher for our three year old class. She is under the direct supervision of Mrs. Pat Ott, who teaches the four year old children. Darla Boutchia has contracted to teach kindergarten this year until Paula Monroe is able to return to the United States. I appreciate (especially, as her husband) her gracious willingness to help us fill the class. She is very capable and has taught for us before.

A change we made in the first and second grade class will be a great benefit all around. Our elementary classes have always been multi-grade (i.e. 1st & 2nd combined; 3rd & 4th combined & 5th & 6th combined), but this year we have made an actual physical split of the first and second grade classes.

We arranged it to where the classes are in adjoining rooms, but each have a separate teacher. Miss Miley is the primary teacher for both classes and Mrs. Santangelo is the teacher's assistant. When Miss Miley is teaching one class, Mrs. Santangelo is working with the other class on their homework and drilling them with the material. What a great blessing and we look forward to the great results at the end of the year.

Miss Richards is back with us again teaching our third and fourth grades. She just completed her master's degree in education at Pensacola Christian College this past summer. She has come in with so many fresh ideas and things to enhance what we are doing.

We are pleased to introduce to you a new teacher by the name of Carol William. She recently finished a master's degree in education at Bob Jones University. She, like Paula Monroe, is from St. Lucia Island in the Caribbean. It is a miracle as to how God directed her our way and for all of it we are thankful.

Great improvements have been made in our secondary classes of grades 7 – 12. Mrs. Regina Brown has assumed the position of oversight in this class. The Homsat/Linc program from Bob Jones University is utilized in these upper grades. Mrs. Brown and her husband, Warren, have worked hard at making individual workstations for these students as they partake in each of their subjects. Along with serving as the teacher/monitor, she will be personally teaching English which is her expertise. Your friend, John Boutchia

And last, but not least, God has provided a new secretary for us. Mrs. Alicia Cavazos, whose husband is our full time janitor, has filled in where Jodie left off

the last seven years. Alicia has two children in the school and has already been a blessing.

Many good things have been supplemented this year to round out the experience these kids will receive. We are offering an orchestra/band class, sports, and a Character First class. I don't have time to even go over the particulars, but it all has been good and even in these first couple of days, there has been a lot of activity. Please pray for the teachers, the administration and the families of GBCS. Our theme this year is "A Heart for Christian Education." May these families catch the vision!

Please check out our website if you have internet access (www.gospelbaptistchurch.com) and see all the neat things being added. We have moved ahead on our sermon database so I would encourage you to either download or just listen to it online. If you don't have a computer or internet access, feel free to call and we'll be glad to get you set up on a mailing list for the sermons preached here at Gospel Baptist.

We shall see you soon. I know this newsletter brings us one month closer to your arrival . . . that makes me glad ! ! ! Your friend, John Boutchia

YOUTH NEWS

Marty Moon, Youth Pastor

It's hard to believe the summer is over and the school year has begun for the teens here at Gospel Baptist Church. The teens finished the summer with two great activities that I would like to share with you.

The first activity was our annual youth retreat at Gulf Coast Baptist Church in Cape Coral on August 3rd-5th. This retreat is one of the highlights of each year for the teens. The retreat not only offers great opportunities for fun with roller-skating and bowling, it offers the teens a spiritual "shot in the arm" right before school starts.

This year, Brother Scott Pauley from Crown College in Powell, TN was our guest preacher. Brother Pauley challenged our teens from the Word of God in the areas of salvation, obedience, surrender, and soul winning. Several of the teens made decisions for the Lord during the retreat. Please pray that the teens will remember these decisions as they start the coming school year.

The second activity I would like to share with you is our recent visit to the Fort Myers Rescue Mission on August 26th. Every year we endeavor to take at least one trip up to Fort Myers to serve the homeless, hapless, and hopeless of our society at the mission. This year, we again had the opportunity to serve the residents at the mission by preparing the meals, washing the dishes, and cleaning

the cafeteria. We also rode along in the "meal bus" that goes out every day to feed the homeless on the street.

The teens sang songs from the hymnals to the homeless who boarded the bus for a meal, as well as helped serve them food and water. The founder of the mission, Rev. Walker, was so impressed by the girls singing that he invited them back to sing for the residents during an upcoming Sunday night service at the mission. I am so thankful for the teens' willing spirit to serve the Lord by serving others.

August has not only been a busy month with activities with teens, it marks the fifth year Angie and I have had the privilege serving the Lord here at Gospel Baptist Church. We are so grateful to be able to be a part of this ministry. Thank you for all your prayers for us and the teens here. We look forward to seeing you all again in the months ahead. May our Heavenly Father bless you and keep you.
Marty Moon

HOME WITH THE LORD

Wally Doane, a longtime friend of Gospel Baptist Church, passed away on August 27, 2006. Wally and his wife, Retha, were married for 16 years and attended faithfully every winter. The obituary in their Michigan paper had this to say: "In his church in Florida, Gospel Baptist, he served in the Flea Market Ministry. The church has a booth in the Flamingo Island Flea Market, and Wally would pass out tracts and talk to people about the Lord's saving grace."

What a testimony. We are grateful for Wally's service in the Flea Market and other areas. He truly will be missed. If you would like to write or call Retha, you may do so at 5308 Circle Dr. NE, Belmont, MI 49306-9001 (616) 874-6007.

Charles Buck, Charlie, as he was commonly known, passed away on June 10, 2006. Along with his wife, Marjorie, who passed away February 25, 2002, this fine couple were real friends of Gospel Baptist Church. Charlie spent the last several years of his life in a nursing home located in Naples, Florida.

Prior to moving to the nursing home, Charlie had demonstrated beautifully to us all what it means to care for your spouse. Day and night he did what he could to care for his wife almost to the time of her passing. Charlie and his wife came to Gospel Baptist Church around 1982 and for a number of years he served on the Trustee Board helping out with various maintenance projects.