

# May Newsletter

Calvary Chapel of Fernley, Faith Bible

*"A Family of Believers, Growing Together"*

(775) 575-2834 FBCNewsletter@hotmail.com Volume No. 2006 Issue No. 5 May 7, 2006

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

- 5/10 Last regular night of AWANA
- 5/13 Men's Breakfast
- 5/14 Mother's Day
- 5/17 AWANA Closing Ceremony  
Fiesta Theme with Tacos and Spanish rice to follow
- 5/21 Visiting Missionary Ellie Driesenga will be here
- 5/21 Board Meeting 4:00pm
- 5/21 Last Sunday night before youth moves to summer schedule
- 5/24 Deadline for Newsletter Submissions.
- 5/31 Project Linus in MPR 9:00am
- 5/31 First Wed. of Youth (7:00pm)
- 6/9-11 Women of Calvary Retreat
- 6/11 Final day of the Take it to Heart challenge.
- 6/12-16 Vacation Bible School
- 6/18 Father's Day
- 6/21 Visiting Missionaries Tim Davis and family will be here
- 7/9 Israel Trip Meeting
- 8/12 Fernley Faith Festival
- 9/29-30 Women of Faith
- 10/14 AWANA Leadership Training

## **PERPETUAL CALENDAR**

### **Sundays**

- 8:45 AM Sunday School (k-6<sup>th</sup>)
- 9:45 AM Morning Service
- 6:00 PM Home Bible Studies

### **Tuesdays**

- 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study
- 7:00 PM Systematic Theology Bible Study

### **Wednesdays**

- 1:00 PM Sr. Bible Study and fellowship
- 3:00 PM Project Linus meets in the MPR on the last Wed. of the Month
- 7:00 PM Youth Group [starting May 31<sup>st</sup>]

### **Thursday**

- 6:30 PM Worship Team Practice  
Married Ministry Fellowship  
[2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays]
- 7:30 PM AA meets in the MPR

## **PJ's Corner - Pastor Joe's Ramblings...**

Recently it has been again brought to my attention about passing out information about our activities through the schools. There is such a colossal fear for the administrators in our public schools to violate 'Church and State'. We need the administration to set policy and take the decision out of the individual administrator's hands.

One of our AWANA Sparkies tried to pass out invitations to Sparkies at his school. In his zeal he tried to do it during class time, which is not proper, but it started a maelstrom of administrator's nightmares. "He cannot do that!" "It is proselytizing!" I think that they thought a first grader was attempting to create a revival or the ink and paper was going to force a child to accept a religion against his or her will. But the bottom-line is: Yes, they can. The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled a child can give out information to another child but not during class time. But we as a church or even as adults cannot go on to school grounds and pass out invitations or information.

But the bigger problem is the sending home of information, and it is a battle we have fought for quite some time. Any and all youth activities, Football, Cheerleading, Soccer, Little League Baseball, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Drama Clubs, etc., all can send information home, but when we tried to send information home about VBS or AWANA home the fear of a violation of 'Church and State' raised problems. Principals, without guidelines from the district and armed with nothing other than personal bias and the misinformation provided by the press, refuse to send the information home. However, the bottom-line as established by the U.S. Supreme Court is if they send home information from one non-school activity they must send it home from all. But, fear and the lack of policy from the District paralyzes local school administrators.

I, personally and as pastor, have sent several letters to the School Board just asking for clarification of these rules so when we went to the principals we would have policy to support our request. All I asked for from them was Lyon County School's official policy on what can and cannot be sent home and who can send it, but I have never received any responses at all, not even an acknowledgement of receipt. They have to be made to make a decision, and I believe external pressure is beginning to force them to do it. But I have heard from a reliable source the knee jerk reaction of the Superintendent of Schools is to stop all information from being sent home. This is so wrong. It is so wrong in so many ways. This tried and true method used throughout our nation has such a great community impact for many good organizations, including churches. The rationalization that 'one person' might be offended seeing something from a church may eliminate this useful community practice. I think as a Body we should pray about this, and I believe we should do as the Spirit leads. The practice should continue. I was wondering if it would be more acceptable and less likely to offend, if they kept the practice but required everyone to put a 'cover sheet' on information being sent home that read: "This 'invitation' or 'information' from (whoever) is not provided by, nor is it endorsed by, the Lyon County School Board." I think the extra step would not be too burdensome if we got our information about AWANA and VBS to nearly 1800 children. The parents could take one look at it and toss it without even looking at the actual page if they do not agree or do not want their children to participate as many of us have done or currently do with the stuff the schools send home. Maybe some (many) prayerfully and lovingly sent notes would encourage the School Board and the School Administration to act. Just ask them to make a decision in accordance with the complete ruling of U.S. Supreme Court, which the principals can enforce and the citizens can understand. But make a decision that does not penalize good organizations from reaching the parents of the groups they desire to serve.

Being active in this manner is not wrong. Paul when pressed would always fall back upon his Roman Citizenship. We are not out of line Biblically if lovingly, prayerfully and in His image we use the constitutional processes available to us.

PJ

## May Birthdays

5/1 Raymond LaMarch  
5/1 Mark Nichols  
5/18 Mary (Pat) Cobb  
5/21 Shannon Allen  
5/21 Kelly Robertson  
5/23 Monique Auger  
5/31 Joey Alessi  
5/31 Christina Herron

## May Anniversaries

5/21 Eric & Lisa McElroy  
5/22 Dave & Jessica  
Dunham  
5/30 Mark & Carlyn  
Grocholski  
5/31 Ransé & Toby  
Herzinger

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## Church Leadership

Church office hours Mon.-Thurs. 9:00-2:30

Pastor: Joe Gale

Assoc. Pastor: Jeremiah Loubet

Elders: Ted Saxe, Tom McKay,  
Leland McIlvain

Deacons: Dave Tustin, Andy Breen, Bill  
Criss, Dave Dunham, Robert  
Herron, Flint Smith, Bob  
Wilson

Admin. Assistant: Shawna Miller

Awana Commander: Andy Breen

Bible Study Leaders: Vicki Gale, Robert  
Herron, Lois McKay,  
Ron McKay, Ted Saxe,  
Bob Wilson

Dir. of Christian Ed.: Jerald Miller

Financial Secretary: Linda McIlvain

Food Closet: Christina Herron

Hospitality & Food Serv.: Fran McKay

In-reach Outreach: Kanisha Criss, Anne  
Tillman

Married Ministry Fellow: Bill Criss, Dale &  
Della Dunham

Rotating Fellowship: Charlene McFarlane

Secret Sisters: Becky Sturgeon

VBS Director: Michelle Mackler

Welcome Ministry: Robert Herron

Worship Team Leader: Flint Smith

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“Knowing God without knowing our own wretchedness makes for pride. Knowing our own wretchedness without knowing God makes for despair. Knowing Jesus Christ strikes the balance, because he shows us both God and our own wretchedness.”

Blaise Pascal, *Penses*

## Honeybee Trivia

According to Bruce Bower of ICR, honeybees:

- Are excited by the color black
- Travel 1 to 2 miles from their hive.
- Fly an average of 13 to 15 miles per hour.
- Travel an average of 1600 round trips in order to produce one ounce of honey. These round trips can be as long as six miles each.
- Visit about two million flowers to make one pound of honey.
- To produce two pounds of honey the bees will travel a distance equivalent to four times around the earth.
- Bees from the same hive will visit approximately 225,000 flowers a day.
- Honeybees are the only insects that produce food for humans.

**Worker bees will only live about six weeks. In that short time they will go thorough four stages:**

0-5 days – nurse bees - produces royal jelly to feed the queen, drones and the larva.

5-15 days – building bees – build the combs and the captive cells used to store pollen and nectar. They also heat and cool the hive and remove dead bees and other debris.

15-20 days – guard bees - have developed their poison glands and operational stinger and remain near the entrance of the hive to defend it.

20 days through end of life – field bee – collect honey in the field and have fully developed muscles and the ability to converting nectar into honey.

**With all of this in mind, and the fact that the bees need no instruction to carry out their tasks, but rely on instinct and God’s wonderful design, consider the following statement by Charles Darwin from his famous book *The Origin of Species*:**

“Many instincts are so wonderful that their development will probably appear to the reader a difficulty sufficient to overthrow my whole theory”

There is no possible way that evolution could produce the incredible interdependent complexity of the humble honeybee. Therefore, some call it the “sting of death” to Darwinism.

## Vacation Bible School

VBS is integrating a new program called Operation Kid-to-Kid this upcoming year and all of us are excited about this new component. Here is a short explanation of the project this year. Millions of children throughout Latin America are forced to live on the streets. Most of these children suffer from hunger and the cold. Some children have been abandoned-others running from a life that's abusive and harsh. For many of these children, this is the only life they have known. This year at VBS our kids will learn, among other things, what it means to help others as they create a hand-tied “Jesus loves me” fleece blanket and a personalized Spanish Bible book to give to an impoverished child in need of warmth. Because of this years’ Operation Kid-to-Kid partnership with International Bible Society, the blankets and Bible books will reach children in desperate need. So please pray for our upcoming VBS. We need this support most of all.

***If you want more information on operation kid-to-kid, talk to Michelle Mackler, or go to [www.ok2k.org](http://www.ok2k.org).***

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## Correspondence & Updates

Do you have questions or comments on the newsletter, or perhaps something you would like to see added? Are you in charge of a ministry or an event you would like promoted? Please e-mail or to talk to Pastor Jeremiah. The e-mail address for newsletter items is [FBCNewsletter@hotmail.com](mailto:FBCNewsletter@hotmail.com) Please put “newsletter” as the subject. You can also send snail mail to:

FBC Newsletter  
875 Fremont Lane  
Fernley, NV 89408

## Project Linus

You may have noticed Project Linus in past newsletters and bulletins, but are wondering, "What is it?" Project Linus is a 100% volunteer and non-profit organization that provides homemade blankets to seriously ill or traumatized children. The organization is named after the adorable security blanket toting character from the *Peanuts* comic strip. Project Linus now has over 300 chapters and has delivered more than 700,000 blankets to children worldwide.

The local Project Linus chapter, in the two and a half years since our beginnings, has distributed approximately 1800 blankets to Washoe Regional Medical Center, Northern Nevada Medical Center, Lovelock Hospital and Carson Tahoe Hospital, the Lyon Co. Sheriff, Search and Rescue, Lovelock Police Department, Rye Patch Volunteer Fire Department and Fernley Volunteer Fire Department. Many of these blankets came from the local volunteers here in Fernley. We take donations of yarn, washable cotton fabrics, fleece and, of course, money. Thank you for your interest. If you would like more information, please call Fran at 575-2556, 846-2583, or at the office (575-7336).

*The local chapter currently meets in the MPR on the last Wednesday morning of each month.*

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### FERNLEY FAITH FESTIVAL

THE FESTIVAL IS ON AUGUST 12<sup>TH</sup> AT OUT OF TOWN PARK. THE NEXT PLANNING MEETING IS JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup> AT THE CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING TO HELP WITH THE FFF PLEASE CONTACT MARK G FOR INFORMATION @ 575-4230 OR MOZEPY@SBCGOLBAL.NET.

## Spring Has Sprung!

Time to clean out the pantry? Consider donating all unopened non-perishable foods to our food closet. We help many families in need in our community. We are in need of healthy cereals (Corn Flakes, Bran Flakes), peanut butter and jelly.

### Congratulations!

**Vicki Lynn Gale**

Graduated Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup>  
From Grand Canyon University  
With a

**Master of Arts in Education**

**Anne Elizabeth McKay**

Graduated Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup>  
From Shasta Bible College  
With a

**Bachelor of Arts in Bible &  
Theology**

### VBS Moment

May 7<sup>th</sup> – Jessica Dunham

May 14<sup>th</sup> – Renee Breen

May 21<sup>st</sup> – Mark Grocholski

May 28<sup>th</sup> – Tammy Saxe

It has been called to our attention that some of the deacons are relatively unknown to the church body. Over the next few months they will take turns being introduced and opening our Sunday morning services in prayer.

### Elder/Deacon Opening Prayer

May 7<sup>th</sup> Dave Tustin, Deacon

May 14<sup>th</sup> Bob Wilson, Deacon

May 21<sup>st</sup> Andy Breen, Deacon

May 28<sup>th</sup> Bill Criss, Deacon

June 4<sup>th</sup> Dave Dunham, Deacon

June 11<sup>th</sup> Ted Saxe, Elder

June 18<sup>th</sup> Flint Smith, Deacon

June 25<sup>th</sup> Dave Tustin, Deacon

## Commander's Corner

**Whoa!!!** I can't believe that the end of the club year is here. We only have two more weeks of club to go, May 17th will be our Awards Night and closing ceremony. I once again would like to invite you to this event to come out and show your support for those clubbers that have worked so hard this year. We will be presenting the awards at 6:00 and then all share in a Fiesta Dinner. We will be using this opportunity to promote VBS and spend some time with our clubbers and their families. Oh yeah and lets not forget about watching some leaders get smacked with a pie.

If you didn't know, one of the awards each clubber that completes their book earns is the opportunity to "pie" any one of the Awana leaders. This event alone is worth coming out to see.

This has been an awesome year and we have seen our Lord do amazing things in the lives of both the clubbers and leaders this year. This is a great ministry but also requires a large commitment and I would like to express my thanks to all of the leaders, directors and all that have been praying for us. Please continue to pray for this ministry, pray that the clubbers grow in their walks with the Lord, that the leaders enjoy this respite, and pray for the club that will be starting in the fall. My goal for the next year is to reach further & deeper into our community. Also continue to pray for the upcoming summer camp. As I mentioned last month this could very well be the last Summer Camp that Awana sponsors. There has been a desire expressed by other Awana clubs in Nevada and California to continue with this program even if Awana does not sponsor it. This has been a very successful program in our area and we don't want it to stop.

Thank you again for your support and prayers, I hope to see you at our closing ceremonies.

Serving Him,  
Andy Breen

## Thinking on Thinking

We live in a day and age when Christianity in America is viewed in increasingly negative ways. One only has to spend a short time digging through mainstream media to find that Christians are seen as reactionary, though often apathetic, harsh, and sometimes hateful, inconsistent, intolerant, dangerous, greedy... The list goes on, but one of the most common criticisms of modern Christians is that they are uneducated, and "blindly hold on to what little they know of their beliefs without thinking." In all fairness, the world has had plenty of ammunition to come to such a conclusion. Too many people know very little about why, or even what, they claim to believe.

**"He [God] told us to be not only 'as harmless as doves,' but also 'as wise as serpents.' He wants a child's heart, but a grown-up's head. [He wants...] every bit of intelligence we have to be alert at its job, and in first class fighting trim."**

**"God is no fonder of intellectual slackers than of any other slackers. If you are thinking of becoming a Christian, I warn you you are embarking on something that is going to take the whole of you, brains and all."**

**C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity***

So, what am I getting at? As Christians we are to be salt and light in this world. Part of that is interacting with our society in a loving and well thought-out manner. We cannot do that without a good grasp on the word of God. I am thankful to be part of a Church that is encouraging its people to dig deeper into the Word of God, and know what and why they believe. The home Bible studies on Sunday nights and the Systematic Theology study on Tuesday nights are two great examples. There people are encouraged not only to read their Bibles and Systematic Theology books, but also to ask questions and to consider what they are reading rather than merely accepting the teachings of men. They are encouraged to think.

Why is it important to be thinking people? There are several important reasons.

Failure to think leads to spiritual instability. One of the biggest dangers in the American Church today is that people neither know nor want to know the foundations of their faith. They

want an easy "McDonald's" religion where they can "come, get their ten bucks worth of God, and go home." The result is a shallow faith that has no real root in understanding. As a result, these people are "blown about by every wind of doctrine." But Christianity is more than just a Sunday activity. It is a relationship with God. I am convinced that the vast majority of kids who "lose their faith" in college were never grounded in scripture to begin with.

There has been a big stir about *The DaVinci Code* and *The Gospel of Judas* lately, and to some there is genuine danger, not because there is any truth to the claims these sources make but because people don't know enough about what they believe to know falsehood when they see it. To a thinking believer who knows the foundations for their faith, these are no threat at all. The beauty of true Christianity is that it stands up to close scrutiny and hard questions.

Another reason Christians need to be thinkers is to enable them to witness to the people around them. If you have not explored the hard questions in your own mind, you will have difficulty answering those of another. You cannot really share a faith you hardly know. When it comes to witnessing, there is no substitute for knowing God's Word. We are told in 1 Peter 3:15 to "always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you..." This requires knowing the Word. We don't have to master the world of apologetics, but we do need to know

**"When someone tells us the only reason we believe is because of our parents and our religious background, we must be able to show ourselves and others that what we believe is objectively true, regardless of who told us."**  
Paul E. Little, *Know Why You Believe*.

the basics of why we believe what we believe.

Jesus said that the first and greatest commandment was to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37, italics mine). Notice that our relationship with God requires the use of our brains beyond the emotional level. This is not to say that emotions are wrong, but that they should not override our minds. There has to be a balance.

So where is the best place to start? Study your Bible on your own, and if you are not already involved, join a Bible study. The Lord has promised that He will bless the man "whose delight is in the Law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night." Thinking about, studying, dwelling on, God's word, has eternal value.

Check up on your pastors, and Bible study leaders. Be a Berean (Acts 17:10-11). We are fortunate to have a very biblically solid senior pastor, but that may not always be the case. Our leaders are responsible before God for what they teach us, but we are responsible before God for how we handle what we are taught. If the Bereans were to be commended for checking up on the Apostle Paul, there is certainly no excuse for us blindly following our earthly leaders.

Think, pray, read, dig, and don't be afraid to ask questions.

Pj

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## Youth

Well, it's that time of year again. Awana is coming to a close, and that means that the Youth group will move to its summer schedule. *Starting May 31<sup>st</sup> the youth will meet on Wednesday nights at 7:00pm* at the normal location. May 21<sup>st</sup> will be the last *Sunday* meeting.

This summer we are working on several events, from days at the lake to movie nights to a backpacking trip, so stay tuned for information in upcoming bulletins and newsletters.