



# Light of Faith

Faith Baptist Church of Godfrey, IL

## PRAYING GRATEFULLY

by Pastor Tom Olney



Our U.S. Supreme Court refuses to review a lower court ruling that banned a high school football coach from bowing his head and knee during prayers led by his players. Marcus Borden had been forbidden to take part in such a prayer by the East Brunswick, NJ school district's policy which bars all school employees from joining in any public prayer. This policy was upheld by the state's Court of Appeals. Coach Borden had prayed

with his boys and had often done so since 1983. Suddenly a policy forbade it.

When I read this news on the internet I wondered what great harm would come for those folks to simply pray for God to help them do their best, to keep them from any injuries, and whatever else might be on their hearts.

We have all seen the wonderful picture of our country's first president kneeling in the snow beside his horse, praying to God for His blessing, provision, and protection of our rag-tag revolutionary soldiers. George Washington knew how much we need God and His guidance and blessing.

How nice and refreshing it is to meet with our MVCS staff each morning to bow our heads and hearts in prayer to God for His help and wisdom, and to know that every class begins with the teacher leading the students in prayer. I have begun to wonder if this country will so disdain the Lord Jesus Christ and our prayers to God that the government will determine that there should be no such school as ours. If we keep going in the direction we are going at present, I fear it is only a matter of time. This is certainly a matter about which we had better all be praying!



*Christ does not save men by His life,  
Though that was holy, sinless, pure,  
Nor even by His tender love,  
Though that forever shall endure;  
He does not save them by His words,  
Though they shall never pass away;  
Nor by His vast creative power  
That holds the elements in sway;  
He does not save them by His works,  
Though He was ever doing good—  
This awful need was greater still,  
It took His death, His cross, His blood!*

- The Gospel Herald.

# REAL CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINE

by Mr. Jerry Fair, Administrator

Biblical discipline is the means whereby the individual is brought to willful obedience to properly constituted authority with the ultimate goal being obedience to the Word and will of God. The aim of Christian education is to “disciple.” The fact that discipline and disciple come from the same root word meaning “trained in orderliness” suggests the positive meaning of discipline. Anyone can punish a person, but only those who can make disciples of them can truly discipline. Hebrews 12:10 says that our earthly fathers “chastened (disciplined) us after their own pleasure (as seemed good to them); but he (God) for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.” God’s purpose in disciplining His children is motivated by His ultimate purpose—holiness of life, Christ-likeness. All Christian discipline, then, must have this same goal.

Christian discipline includes both a complex of orderly conditions under which learning is possible and a training process which guides the individual to progress from external



(imposed) control, to self (inner) control, to ultimate Spirit (infused) control. When we see discipline as a positive directive in life, we no longer do something to a person, but we do something for or with him so that he will want to change for the better. *“For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant; later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it” Hebrews 12:11.*

Ephesians 6:4 says that Biblical discipline involves nurture and admonition. The two primary uses of nurture can refer to instruction and correction. Disciplining involving instruction and correction is more suitable for younger people. This type of Biblical discipline is based on subordination of younger or immature Christians.

The two primary uses of admonition can refer to counseling and confrontation. Admonishing involving counseling and Biblical confrontation is more suitable for older people. This type of Biblical discipline is based on coordination of older or more mature Christians. This person’s understanding has developed to the point of personal accountability.

The transition from nurturing to admonishing is gradual, occurring at various rates depending on the person and circumstances. Remember that nurturing and admonishing are interrelated and interdependent acts of disciplining. They should often be taking place simultaneously to accomplish God’s ultimate purpose of making disciples Christ-like (Romans 8:29).

# THE IMPORTANCE OF SCRIPTURE

by Pastor Brent Van Sickle, Youth & Assistant Pastor

I trust the Bible is becoming more precious to you each and every day. Hebrews 4: 12 tells us about the power of the Word, “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” The power of the Word is demonstrated revealing the knowledge necessary for salvation. 2 Timothy 3:15 says, “And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”



What is the purpose of Scripture aside from the power of God through salvation? It reveals the “Word made flesh and dwelt among us,” as written in John 1:14. Ultimately, the Scripture is of utmost importance because that is how we are introduced to God and how to continue to develop that relationship. Paul’s desire in Philippians 3:10 was, “That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.”

Lastly, the Word was given to us, not only to know God, but to know how God would have us to live. Psalm 119:9,11, and 105 say this: “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word,” “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee,” and “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” 2 Peter 2:2 says, “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”



*“The rule that governs my life is this: Anything that dims my vision of Christ, or takes away my taste for Bible study, or cramps my prayer life, or makes Christian work difficult, is wrong for me, and I must, as a Christian, turn away from it. This simple rule may help you find a safe road for your feet along life’s road.” —J. Wilbur Chapman*

# What's Happening

## April

4	Easter Sunrise Service, 7 a.m.
6	School resumes at MVCS
10	Sports Banquet
16	Men's Camp-Out
18	Outreach Care Supper & Mtg.
21	Jr. High Fine Arts
24	Sr. Class Trivia Night
30	MVCS Spring Concert, 7 p.m.

## May

1	Jr./Sr. Banquet
2	Spring Sing, morning & evening
8	Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7-8 a.m. School Work Day, 8 a.m.-noon
9	Mother's Day
10	Senior Class Trip
14	Kindergarten Graduation, 7 p.m.
15	Mother/Daughter GREAT time!
21	MVCS High School Graduation
26	AWANA Closing Program
30	Youth Night & SNAC

## June

2	Children's PATCH program begins
5	Men's Prayer Breakfast, 7:30
19	Youth Activity



## Dates to Note

### APRIL 4

The 7:00 a.m. *Easter Sunrise Service* will be held at the church, followed by breakfast at McDonalds. The 9:00 a.m. *Sunday school* and 10:00 a.m. *church hour* will be vibrant with the songs, music, and rejoicing that accompany our Lord's Resurrection Day!

The 7:00 p.m. *Easter service* will be the compelling story of JT Pace, a man whose life is a trophy of God's resurrection power. Relating it first-hand to Dr. Bob Jones, the humble yet Jacob-like tenacity of this man's spirit as he hungered after God's Word, coupled with the grace of God, will both challenge and inspire you. The Lord's Table will follow.

### APRIL 30

#### MVCS Spring Concert

"*Evening extraordinaire*," the entire student body once again presents award-winning speeches, monologues, choral and instrumental music under the direction of Wendy Allan and Donna Thaxton. This is one of those rare occasions to leave babies and toddlers at home with a capable sitter so that you can relax, listen, and enjoy!

### MAY 2

#### Spring Sing

Brimming over with music and praise to God, our a.m. and p.m. church services move closer together, this Sunday only, connected in the middle by a delectable noon fellowship pot-luck!



July 3 and 4 promises to be the biggest celebration in the history of Faith Baptist Church. Jubilant reunions with friends of over five decades—friends who have joyfully given of their time, talents, self and substance for the furtherance of the Gospel through the ministries of FBC.

**July 3 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.** Fellowship, fun, & lunch at MVCS campus.  
**6:30 p.m.** Great music & preaching by visiting friends and the MVCS Staff Choir.

**July 4 9:00 a.m.** Sunday School hour with more of the above!  
**10:00 a.m.** Morning Church Hour: Recognitions, preaching, & music followed by a Baptist pot-luck on the church lawn!  
**5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.** Horse-drawn wagon rides and snow cones!  
**6:30 p.m.** Sunday Evening Jubilee: Glorious music from 6:30-7:00 before opening the Word.

# Faith Baptist Church

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**(618) 462-1071**

www.faithbaptistchurchgodfrey.org  
Pastor Tom Olney

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## Got a Minute, Ladies?

by Lee Olney



To me there is little in life more comforting than the rumbling, rhythmic sound of a husband's deep sleep in the dark of night, or the warm and delicate wisps of a baby's soft breath on your neck. Perhaps these have been your lot, and you, too, have mentally captured such inexpressible treasures, thanking God for the moment and for the man or infant; aware that such times are God-given, only momentarily ours, soon to fly away. Time is ever moving, the scene changing, like chips in a kaleidoscope.

Life on earth is encapsulated in this thing called *time*. Genesis 1:1 brims over with the huge and incomprehensible magnitude of *who God is*, the One true and eternal God of all, the great I AM. *I am so-o glad I am His and He is mine!*

And then there's that *speck* of God-created, God-breathed-into dust, infused with a marvelous, God-designed purpose and plan which is the unique, one-of-a-kind: *you!* To know that God wants *you* to walk and talk with *Him* is really, really big.

When I prayed and asked Christ to be my personal Savior and began my new life in Him, God blessed me with a dear lady who shared a very helpful hint to Bible-living.

To this young believer with little knowledge of God's Word, she said that whenever a choice arose as to whether something was right or wrong to *do* or *say*, if in doubt, choose "*no*". Always give God the benefit of the doubt. Wow! That one bit of advice has served as a great lighthouse to a learning-to-walk child of God, right up to this present moment!

The question, "*Does God care?*" has long been helpful with regard to my thoughts, actions, attitudes, words, values, and even friends, books, music, eating, dress, viewing, entertainment; and, last but *definitely* not least, TIME! Everything about me is important to God. Everything about God ought to be important to me. *Do you know how very special you are to the heart of God?*

*"In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth.*

*~Genesis 1:1~*

## the Gospel in a Nutshell

*"For God so loved the world,  
that He gave His only begot-  
ten Son, that whosoever  
believeth in Him should not  
perish, but have everlasting  
life." (John 3:16)*

### Attention Ladies

Any ladies wanting future information on our "Ladies' Spring Interlude 2011" please e-mail your home mailing address to: **lmolney@sbcglobal.net** or mail it to the church.

## Weekly Services

### Sunday

Bible Study Hour . . . . . 9:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship . . . . . 10:00 a.m.  
Evening Service . . . . . 7:00 p.m.

### Wednesday

Bible Study . . . . . 7:00 p.m.