



# Light of Faith

Faith Baptist Church of Godfrey, IL

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## FROM THE TOP

by Pastor Tom Olney



Jesus of Nazareth is the only person in the history of the world whose birth and life and death and resurrection were prophesied in explicit detail as far back as seven centuries before it all came to pass. How can anyone read the Bible carefully and not believe that He was indeed God incarnate?

The apostle Peter tells us specifically in his second epistle, 1:21, that the prophecy “*came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*” This is true of only one man; this man who was the God-man.

In Isaiah 7:14, the old prophet declared to the world of men in 758 BC: “*Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign: Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel.*” Immanuel in the Hebrew means: **God with us.** Jesus proved himself God in his perfect life, His miraculous deeds, His divine teachings, and His sacrificial crucifixion and supernatural resurrection. Twenty-five different authors over a period of fourteen centuries revealed in unmistakable detail over 500 specific prophecies that were perfectly fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth.

Because this is true, we know we can believe in those many prophecies about His return to this earth and all that will unfold into eternity. How important that we believe in Him and call upon him for forgiveness of our sins! How important that we live for his honor and glory! “*He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to be become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.*” (John 1:12)

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## THE NEW YEAR

Grace Noll Crowell

*The New Year lies before us, white and clean:*

*So many lovely days in which to live,*

*So many hours to spend like silver coins,*

*So many precious moments God will give*

*For us to use in service and in love,*

*In friendliness and sympathy, until*

*Our lives may be like fountains, lifting up*

*To sparkle in the sunlight and to spill*

*In radiance and beauty all about,*

*That other lives may catch the gleam and shine*

*Of spring fountains, lifting, filled with light,*

*That will be your life, friend, that will be mine.*

*O help us live so beautifully, God,*

*This year of all the years, that we may be*

*Like showers of blessings, falling on mankind—*

*Bright fountains, lifting high and clear to Thee.*

# THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

by Mr. Jerry Fair, Administrator

*“Lo, children are the heritage of the LORD...”*

—Psalm 127:8

God entrusts children to parents and makes the family His basic training institution to raise children for the purposes of God. (Deuteronomy 4:9, 6:7; Proverbs 6:20-23) It is God’s intention for parents to accept the responsibility for the teaching and training of their children.

One serious fault in the Biblical training of children, a fault which causes frequent failure, is the reliance on “teaching” only. God’s promise in Proverbs 22:6 is contingent upon **training, not merely teaching**. Part of the reason why parents are often times disappointed is that they leave the training of their children to the Christian school and/or church. The Christian school, primarily a **teaching** institution and not a **training** institution, supports and reinforces the Biblical principles by which the parents train their children. While the Christian school can teach the child, the moral training and ultimate responsibility of Christian education belongs to the parents.



Biblical child training, the supreme duty of parents, is the only God-appointed method which can be relied upon to develop children into godly men and women. It can be stated that when a child is Biblically trained by his

parents (not discounting the child’s free will), he will become the type of Christian which God desires. Biblical child training will produce morally and spiritually trained young men and women who are qualified to fulfill all those purposes for which they were created.

Many Christian parents are choosing the Christian school as an alternative to public education. *“Cease, my son, to bear instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge”* Proverbs 19:27. The Christian school correctly understands that it is impossible to *“train up a child in the way he should go”* and at the same time turn him over to the humanistic, secularized, governmental education. Although this choice may be wise and good, the decision does not alleviate the Christian parent from their divine responsibility of training and teaching their children.

*“And, ye fathers...bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”* Ephesians 6:4

# A BIBLICAL LOOK AT DATING

by Pastor Brent Van Sickle, Youth & Assistant Pastor

As a young one enters his teenage years, he becomes increasingly aware of the opposite sex. Those who once were “yucky” or had “cooties” are now seen in a totally new and intriguing light. Here are some Biblical and practical principles to help in this area:



1. Glorify God in all that you do, including your dating life. I Cor. 10:31
2. Don’t date anyone you would not want to marry.
3. Don’t date anyone that your parents would not approve of; obey your parents. Eph. 6:1-2
4. The Bible tells believers not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers, so don’t even consider dating a non-Christian. II Cor. 6:14
5. This is my opinion: the purpose of dating is to find a spouse; so don’t date until you are prepared to be married—old enough, mature, financially and spiritually ready, etc.
6. Pray for God to bring you just the right spouse in His timing.
7. While in high school, do plenty of group activities so you can cultivate relationships with the opposite sex.
8. Don’t date in high school aside from special banquets or functions intended for such an opportunity.
9. Remember standard-wise that you are dealing with a fellow brother or sister in Christ. Don’t do anything to scar that person emotionally or physically.

I remember when I was in high school and feeling kind of “left out” when several of my friends began pairing off and dating. I rejoice now though, having avoided all of the drama, expenses (dating isn’t cheap!), heartache, and even scars from those young relationships. I can now proudly and thankfully say that the only girl I have ever dated (aside from banquets) is now my wife, Jennifer.

# What's Happening

## January

7	Ladies' Bible Time resumes
8	MVCS Homecoming, 6 p.m.
9	Homecoming Banquet
16	Youth Activity
17	Youth SNAC
18	No School

## February

5-6	MVIT
13	Adult Valentine Banquet
21	Youth Night
28	Missionary Nathan Owens

## March

6	Men's Prayer Breakfast
8-15	Early Registration, MVCS
10	MVCS Open House
14	Daylight Savings
21	Men of Valor/Ladies for Christ
22	Church's Spring Sprucing 6:30-8:30 p.m.
29	MVCS Easter Vacation (Classes resume on April 6)



## Dates to Note

### JANUARY 8

#### MVCS Homecoming

This year's Homecoming court will be presented at 6:00 p.m., followed by MVCS vs. Bethel in basketball at 6:30 p.m.

### FEBRUARY 5-6

#### Mississippi Valley Invitational Tournament

Always a great and exciting time for all, seven teams along with the MVCS Warriors go at it in basketball competition.

### MARCH 8-15

#### Early Registration at MVCS

During these eight days only, parents can save \$50 per student off the activity fee by registering their children this week. Open House is scheduled for Wednesday, March 10, 8:30-11:00 a.m. for those interested in visiting the school, seeing the classrooms, viewing textbooks, and learning more about MVCS.

## Deborah Lee Olney—Cancer Free!

Two-year-old Deborah Lee Olney has deeply affected and become a very real part of the families of Faith Baptist Church and friends far and near who have bonded in prayer for her. With an inexplicable sense of growing nearer to God through the quiet, steady testimony of this little struggling "rose bud" as relayed to others via their website, many feel she is somehow theirs; and indeed, she is.

Having just completed 19 months of chemotherapy following three tedious operations to remove aggressive, malignant tumors from and within her brain, the direct heart-line apparatus taped across her chest throughout the chemo is now removed. The treatments and hospitalizations have

ended. Pricks, drug reactions, and pain are slowly fading from all she has ever known as normal. Having very nearly died with staph infection in mid-November, she is well now. *Doctors have pronounced her cancer-free!*

*"I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth."*

Beautiful it is to God, and to this Pastor, to witness a people united in such an outpouring of consistent prayer and love. "God is great; and greatly to be praised!" He has given Deborah each new day,

just as he does each of us. Truly, "our times are in His hand," Psalm 31:15. How we thank you--each one of you, young and old--for all of your prayers on Deborah's behalf! "Let all the people praise Him forever, and forevermore!"



# Faith Baptist Church

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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Pastor Tom Olney

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## Got a Minute, Ladies?

by Lee Olney



*"I wear the chain I forged in life. I made it link by link, and yard by yard. I girded it on by my own free will..."*

Loudly, and with blood-chilling lament, the anguished spirit of Dickens' Jacob Marley in *"A Christmas Carol"* grieves over the eternal chains dragging heavily upon his ankles and wrists.

Ah, this business of *"my own free will"* is lamentable. Selfish, self-centered, bitter, angry, jealous, proud, unbridled thoughts, smutty viewing, evil speaking, ignoring God's word—*links* forged together by the methodic hammering of *"my own free will."* And, yes, we will each stand alone before God. *"It is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgment..."* (Hebrews 9:27).

To those who know not Christ, Marley's chains are but feathers. The place called Hell was often spoken in warning by the Lord Jesus because He is *"not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."* (II Peter 3:9) *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him, should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved."* (John 3:16, 17)

Christian lady, let us be sure we are among those who *walk, talk, look, and live* as daughters of the Lord Jesus Christ! Do we love and obey His Word? Do we serve Him well? Is Christ our Captain or do we push him away from the steering wheel? Have we embraced the ways of the world instead of the ways of the Lord? Do we clothe and keep our bodies (His holy temple) as sacred and with choices that say to all: *"God himself owns and lives within this body"*? Do our eyes, ears, and tongue please the One who bought them with His own blood? *Do others see Christ in us?*

*"Let not sin, therefore, reign in your mortal body that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members (mind and body) as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin, but yield yourselves unto God as those that are alive from the dead..."* (Rom. 6:12, 13).

## the Gospel in a Nutshell

*"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten 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.