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Read the Bible in a Year — July, 2010

Date	Morning	Evening
1	Job 21,22	Acts 10:1-23
2	Job 23-25	Acts 10:24-48
3	Job 26-28	Acts 11
4	Job 29,30	Acts 12
5	Job 31,32	Acts 13:1-23
6	Job 33,34	Acts 13:24-52
7	Job 35-37	Acts 14
8	Job 38,39	Acts 15:1-21
9	Job 40-42	Acts 15:22-41
10	Psalms 1-3	Acts 16:1-15
11	Psalms 4-6	Acts 16:16-40
12	Psalms 7-9	Acts 17:1-15
13	Psalms 10-12	Acts 17:16-34
14	Psalms 13-16	Acts 18
15	Psalms 17,18	Acts 19:1-20
16	Psalms 19-21	Acts 19:21-41

Date	Morning	Evening
17	Psalms 22-24	Acts 20:1-16
18	Psalms 25-27	Acts 20:17-38
19	Psalms 28-30	Acts 21:1-14
20	Psalms 31-33	Acts 21:15-40
21	Psalms 34,35	Acts 22
22	Psalms 36,37	Acts 23:1-11
23	Psalms 38-40	Acts 23:12-35
24	Psalms 41-43	Acts 24
25	Psalms 44-46	Acts 25
26	Psalms 47-49	Acts 26
27	Psalms 50-52	Acts 27:1-25
28	Psalms 53-55	Acts 27:26-44
29	Psalms 56-58	Acts 28:1-15
30	Psalms 59-61	Acts 28:16-31
31	Psalms 62-64	Romans 1



Men's Camp Highlights



64 Men Meet at Wood's Canyon Lake



The annual Men's Camp was a huge success. We met to study the book "Four Pillars of a Man's Heart" by Stu Weber. Pastor Dave, Roger Robinson, Dave Williams and I each taught a pillar. They were Mentor, Friend, Warrior and King. Each pillar is a Biblical truth men need to establish in our lives to be godly men.

Our activities were paint ball, kayaking, fishing, hiking, and worship. Eddie Burlew caught the first fish. Chris Weemes was "Ironman of the Weekend." Trey Valentine was the Frisbee golf champ.

Of course the food was fabulous! Ivan had his forge going and gave a great demonstration of blacksmithing.

VBS was a huge success. Thanks to Cindy & Stacie Self and the many great volunteers that made that happen. I was pleased with the amount of new families that attended. Which is more important...the Cross or the Resurrection? That is a trick question, for of course both are equal in importance. The cross of Jesus gives us forgiveness of sin. His death is our death. His punishment should have been ours because of our sin. Jesus died in our place. 1 Corinthians 15:3 says "Christ died for our sins." But, the cross is just the 50 yard line. That's not all Jesus came to do. Romans 6:5 says "If we have been united with Him in His death, we will certainly be united with Him in His resurrection." So the cross and the resurrection are a whole. Though separate events, they are like salt and pepper. The cross enables us to enjoy the resurrection, but we can not enjoy eternal life without sin being eliminated. Thanks be to God

Mesa Christian Academy Now Enrolling
Mesa Christian Academy (OUR school!) is now taking applications for enrollment for the 2010-2011 school year. Please check out the school website at www.mesachristianacademy.org. It is very important to pass this website along to all your friends and

neighbors. Due to the lengthy conversations with the classical school that decided to close instead, we are behind in marketing the school. It is up to all of you to help get the word out!!! There are brochures and registration forms available in the daycare and church offices, as well as the lobby and online.

The History of one of Arizona's OLDEST churches
First Baptist Church of Mesa (118 years old and counting)

(Taken from the archives in our modern library –part 3 of 3--Ron Dissly historian)

The years of Change

In early 2007 due to unconstitutional and unbiblical actions of the American Baptist Convention's leaders, First Baptist Church of Mesa and a majority of ABC churches of our region severed ties with the national ABC and voted to join a regional newly organized Transformation Ministries who headquarters is in Covina, CA. Transformation Ministries has set up their own constitution and organization. "The goal of Transformation Ministries is to strengthen churches to change their worlds for Christ. World changing impact requires disciples who are unconditionally and enthusiastically sold out to Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 4:11-13)

Also in July 2007 our Senior Pastor Rob Perkins followed the Lord's call to the First Baptist Church of Ventura, CA. During the period without a Senior Pastor our church went through the process of taking many surveys and going through much self analysis on our needs, wants, and praying to seek God's leadership in seeking a senior pastor and acquiring a new vision for our church. Transformation Ministries (TM) helped us form a Pastor Search Committee. While the Search Committee was doing their job TM helped us secure an interim pastor. Dr. Robert Orr came to us and we loved having him help us keep focused on church improvements and getting our church moving into the twenty-first century with our church organization. In the waning months of the year our church converted from a Ministries Board to a Council of Elders. This conversion of leadership was dramatic and rather hard for our church. The Council of Elders started training in "Biblical Eldership" immediately but they still took over a year to complete their study.

In 2008 our church began a tedious task of addressing the new governance of the Elder Council system, and updating our by-laws and guiding principles for our church. By implementing the many steps in the process we converted our church to make it more of a "theocracy", a rule by God and less a rule by democratic majority of members. The moving forward from the old style mindset of "church" was a large hard step for our church to absorb. But we are slowly seeing the Lord

helping and leading our church in this area. After about nine months of much praying and deliberating, our search committee brought the name of Pastor Rod Layman to the Council of Elders for consideration. After meeting with Pastor Rod and his wife Karen, the consensus of the Council was to place his name before the congregation in view of a call. After coming before the congregation to preach, a vote was taken and Pastor Rod Layman was called to become our Senior Pastor.

The year of 2009 was filled with many, many changes with our new Senior Pastor coming on board, with the departing of two Associate Pastors and then the recession hit our church. We were told by Transformation Ministries that leadership changes are to be expected when a new Senior Pastor arrives. At the beginning of the year Bobby Stephens left to form his International Ministry, and JD Tutell was called by another area church. With a new system of governance established, an addition of David Jenkins as Associate Pastor and Dr. Paul Patrick as Seniors Minister helped complete our staff. With the beginning of our economic recession, our church had to scale back on our budget for all our ministries. Many budget cuts and expense changes had to be implemented to keep our church operating. But no personnel had to be laid off. Praise God for that!

The year 2010 started out with a 2% across the board reduction on paid personnel and in March that was followed by another 6%. Our two worship leaders switched to volunteering their leadership. And thanks to our congregation on being faithful in their offerings, we are now showing a better balance sheet and are doing better in many areas of our ministry. With a new positive appraisal of our properties, a balanced budget, and a possible refinancing of our mortgage by a Credit Union, the First Baptist Church of Mesa has a prospective bright future. (To be continued.....)

I will extol thee, my God and King, and bless thy name for ever and ever. Every day I will bless thee, and praise thy name for ever and ever. Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. Psalm 145:1-3 The Revised Standard Version

July Birthdays

1 Donald Pearson	16 Helen Roberts
4 Genella Hawker	17 Paul Cocking
5 Stephanie Johnson	17 Lew Webster
5 Helen Printy	18 Jennifer Andino
8 Marilyn Predmore	19 Donald Higgins
9 Jenni Jo Street	20 Mickie McKay
10 Jean Sinsley	21 Jane Leiva
12 Carol Schroeder	23 George Escobedo
15 Deanna Harder	29 Andrew Rosales
15 Ted Martin	29 Kathryn Williams
15 Claudia Weemes	30 Christopher Raibourne
16 Fidel Holguin	31 Mabel Deshommes
16 Alice Reil	



THE PARENT EXCHANGE!

First Baptist Children's Center has started a parent exchange for children's gently used clothing. You may donate clothes your children have outgrown, and you may select and take any clothing you would like to take for your children - free of charge!

The Exchange box is located in the front office of the Children's Center. Check it out frequently as each month we will donate to Sunshine Acres any clothing that has not been taken, so our inventory will always be changing.

Just another small way to help parents make ends meet.



July Anniversaries

July 12 "Doc" and Darlene Gheen
July 13 Fidel Holguin and Xochitl Ramirez
July 25 Edwin and Carol Burlew



July 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
		12 Step Recovery Mtg 7:00 p.m.	Youth Group 6 p.m. Shape Up Sisters 6:30			
4 Happy 4th of July! 10am Service 	5 Church Office Closed Pie Therapy 7 pm Village Inn	6 12 Step Recovery Mtg 7:00 p.m.	4 Youth Group 6 p.m. Shape Up Sisters 6:30	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		Kids Camp - UCYC				7:30 am Men's Breakfast
		12 Step Recovery Mtg 7:00 p.m.	Youth Group 6 p.m. Shape Up Sisters 6:30			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		Jr Hi/Sr Hi Camp Prescott Pines				
		12 Step Recovery Mtg 7:00 p.m.	Youth Group 6 p.m.			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	Pie Therapy 7 pm Village Inn	Lit 'n Latte 6:30 pm 12 Step Recovery Mtg 7:00 p.m.	Youth Group 6 p.m. Shape Up Sisters 6:30			

Hello! Dumela! 3ApaBo! Kent and Jordan are back in the States!

Mafikeng, South Africa

Jordan Sickels



On June 10, after forty-eight hours of travel, my team and I returned back to beautiful, scorching Phoenix. Along with four close friends, I visited the town of Mafikeng, South Africa, and a few of its outlying villages with the

organization Helping Hands in Africa. Even though the people live in great poverty and desperation, they truly rely on God's provision and truth. It was an honor to walk through the villages with the locals, visit primary schools to teach Bible stories, play soccer with pre-schoolers, and feed hundreds of children at a Helping

Hands feeding project.

During the VBS program my team and I led, we had a chance to actually meet children and learn who they were. We got to share how special they were to God, because he created them and has a plan for them. Just simply asking what they want to be when they grow up opened them up to dreaming of a better life than what their families have been subjected to. My deepest revelation on the trip was the simple fact that God is on their side. Just as I know that God has plans for great things for me, I know that He is fighting for each of them.

It was an unbelievable experience, and I cannot wait to go back. THANK YOU to the whole church family for raising over \$3500 for my team. Now on behalf of Helping Hands in Africa, I would ask that you consider supporting the African Orchard project, which provides feeding projects, HIV/AIDS awareness, grief counseling for orphans and assistance to local church leaders. More information can be found at www.donations.helpinghandsinafrica.com/

Shutka, Macedonia

Kent Stephenson

The first week was spent with Convoy of Hope preparing, running, and tearing down the Days of Hope event. Our first Saturday in Macedonia we held a huge carnival for the kids while parents had the chance to get hair cut, obtain food and water, have someone pray over them, and get connected with many of the ministries that serve in Macedonia. Then we traveled back to Skopje and every day of that next week we helped out around the soup kitchen, served the kids and played with them midday, and ran a VBS on the armor of God during the evening. Seeing the kids every day for so long was a really cool experience. We really grew close to some of them and had a great time playing with them. Although we could have only the most basic of conversations with them, the time that we spent with them was priceless. Our final week there was different from anything that I have experienced. The Thomas family is moving back to the states for a couple of years to teach, raise support for the soup kitchen, and spend time together as a family. We helped them in this moving process – mostly transporting large boxes from place to place.

This is my second year traveling to this country



and I was startled by how drastically different the experience was for me. I noticed more of the small details since I wasn't so bombarded by the newness of it all. After leaving Macedonia, we also spent a few days in Greece. Shawn (our team leader) was not able to travel with us during this time so a significant portion of his responsibilities were passed to me. I

learned a lot about leadership during the days in Greece and traveling back home. We came across difficult situations, but there were always people that God sent our way who were patient with us and helped us accomplish anything and everything that we needed to.

THANK YOU for supporting me. Know that your prayers were well answered and that I was truly blessed by this experience.

We ask that you keep our group Chi Alpha in your prayers as we plan for the upcoming school year at Arizona State University and next summer's missions.



The Kingdom of God

Lately in church, Pastor Rod has been preaching sermons on the Kingdom of God. I think that is such a fitting topic because Jesus was constantly referring to the Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Heaven in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The Kingdom as Pastor Rod has explained is the rule and reign of God, and that's good news for us who are in Jesus Christ!

If you have not noticed how many times the word 'Kingdom' is used throughout the gospels, I would recommend to you reading through the book of Matthew and paying special attention to where and how it is used. You will see that the message of the Kingdom is Jesus' central message.

Look at the very beginning of Jesus' ministry in Matthew 4:23, it says "Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news about the *kingdom*, and healing every disease and sickness among the people". This is telling us that when the reign and rule of God comes things are going to be different! One day there will be no more sickness or disease, and evil will be completely destroyed. Jesus' ministry was the in-breaking of the Kingdom of God to the world. Describing the Kingdom a famous scholar once coined the phrase, "The Kingdom of God is here, but not yet". What He was trying to explain is that God has triumphed over evil, but there is still a time when evil will be allowed to exist before it is completely destroyed.

I am writing about the Kingdom because it has many implications for our church. First, it tells us that this present age of evil will one day pass away. Such a truth gives us great hope and encouragement living our daily lives. Second, the in-breaking of the Kingdom explains the battle we are presently going through as Christians. Yes, Christ has defeated Satan but the battle rages on until the coming and judgment of Jesus Christ. We cannot sit back as a church basking in the triumph of Jesus Christ because a battle is still going on, and we must extend the Kingdom of God militantly. We, First Baptist Church of Mesa, are called to be Kingdom builders.

In many ways our church is already extending the Kingdom of God. However, our church and the church worldwide still have much work to do. I would encourage you to look further into what Jesus said about the Kingdom of God. Read the gospel of Matthew all the way through keeping in mind how Jesus talks about the Kingdom of Heaven or the Kingdom of God. It will be a fruitful study that will help you grow in your faith and purpose in Jesus Christ.

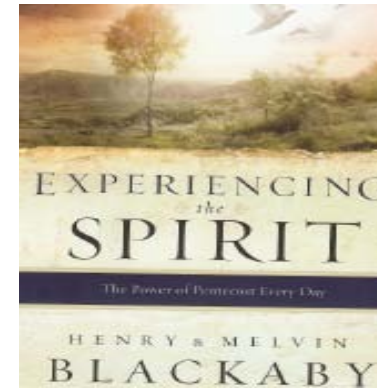
Pastor Dave

The Beginning of a New Chapter

It seems to me like the end of an era but it is the beginning of an exciting new chapter for me and First Baptist Church of Mesa. God gave me an opportunity to go back into the paralegal business and so I start my new job on June 28th. We've been thru lots of changes in the 11 years I've been in the church office including my kids who are taller than me now! When I first started in the office the computer was something new with membership rolls and financials newly computerized. Now we have e-mail addresses and cell phone numbers in our database; we do online banking and we send out our newsletter, The Proclaimer, electronically!

Our governance at the time I started was a Board of Trustees; Deacons & Deaconesses and committees. In Sept of 1999 we changed to a Board of Ministries of 12 people overseeing various ministries. We started an outreach program called FAITH and the Deacons began the Deacon Family Ministry to minister to the families in the church. (cont. on next pg.)

Have you "Experienced God" Lately?



Do you really know God? Have you experienced Him in your daily life or are you just "playing church", going through the routine? Have you, your spouse, family or close friends experienced the peace and the joy you should have in life in these tough "end times"?

Can you honestly say your life has purpose and you have confidence in God's promises that you will have power in an abundant life here on earth right now?

If you can't truthfully answer these questions you need to know how to really "Experience God". God wants an intimate relationship with you, but you need to ask and be willing to open yourself up for that relationship. Just like when you became a new believer, you had to ask Jesus to come into your heart. A new Christian is always excited and bubbly and wants to share the

excitement. But you may have grown older where it seems the excitement is gone and you have settled for routine. Dealing with problems at home, with your children, grandkids, or with finances is hard without guidance from the Holy Spirit and listening to God.

Our Pastors want the small groups and Sunday School classes to go back to the basics of "Experiencing God". We also think everyone needs to be revived and review, whether reviewing "Experiencing God" again or taking the next steps in the intimate relationship into having confidence and the power God promises through the resurrection of His Son. Or to activate the Holy Spirit that is already within you so that you can experience the reality and guidance of the Holy Spirit. We will be offering you through books authored by the Blackabys that build upon the first book "Experiencing God". We will share with you our own experiences as missionaries how we obeyed God and really "Experienced God" in Poland where we did not know that language, knew very few people, and had to trust God for all our finances for five years.

Join us in the Sunday School hour beginning August 1st in the personalized "Experiencing the Resurrection" and "Experiencing the Spirit". Ron and Jane Dissly Co-Leaders

(Continued from pg. 4) We started to track attendance with our new computer program and were able to follow-up and minister to families that had not attended for awhile.

The Lord led us to build a new Education Building with a building campaign to raise funds with fundraisers including brick engraving. Construction was started and the building was completed and occupied in Oct 2005. Our daycare moved from the B-Bldg to the new building and shortly thereafter FAITH Christian School started with grades K-12.

After God called Pastor Rob Perkins to a new church in Ventura, CA we had an interim pastor, Dr. Bob Orr who led us during our search for a permanent pastor. During his tenure we changed from a Board of Ministries governance to governing with an Elder Council, Pastor and Deacons. The pastoral search committee, with God's leading, called Pastor Rod Layman to guide and direct our church. The church office got a makeover and changes will continue in the future.

We are a growing and changing church that God planted at this location 25 years ago and we are still ministering to our neighbors around us and in the mission field. We have a thriving daycare and a new Christian School, Mesa Christian Academy that will start in August. God has truly blessed His church!

I will always feel that this is my second home and will always remember the love and encouragement I have received working in the church office. I plan to keep in touch and will be excited to hear of the new happenings here FBC Mesa. I love and will miss you all.

Carol Johnson



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