



THE MESSENGER

Family Celebration

November 12, 2006 5:00 p.m.

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Play the piano? Sing? Write poetry or prose? Draw or paint? Do skits or monologues? One of the most delight-

ful events of our church year is this time when we share our talents and just enjoy one another. If you have a gift you would like to share with the congregation, see Pastor John. . . and stay for the dessert auction following the celebration!



Youth Dessert Auction

November 12 — 6:30-8:00 pm

Support our young people as they raise funds for Winter Youth. Each participating teen will bake their own creation and make it available for your bidding. Buy desserts just in time for your own Thanksgiving feast!

OFFICE HOURS
8:30 AM-5:00 PM, M-Th
8:30-Noon, F

Rev. Brian Early, Senior Pastor

John E. Baker, Associate Pastor

Dave Charlson, Director
Youth Ministries

Becky Pyles, Director
Children's Ministries

Director of
Church Administration
Frank Hoffman

Elder Board

Rick Gill
Aaron Hibbs
Frank Hoffman

Jeff Leach

Don Megrath, Chairman

Joel Pyles

Ron Taylor

Family Thanksgiving Feast

November 19, 2006 5:00-7:00 p.m.

We are having a Thanksgiving feast for the whole family. On Sundays, November 5, 12, and 19, you will have an opportunity to sign up to attend the event and/or to be a host/hostess. Each host/hostess will be responsible to bring a salad for their table of 8 only. Tablecloths, table decorations, and napkins will be provided.

If you are planning on attending the feast, please sign up so the right amount of food can be prepared. If you need transportation, please indicate that need when you sign up.





Bridging the Gap to Jesus—Here and in China Becoming a “Glocal” Church

Pastor Brian Early

Dear Church Family:

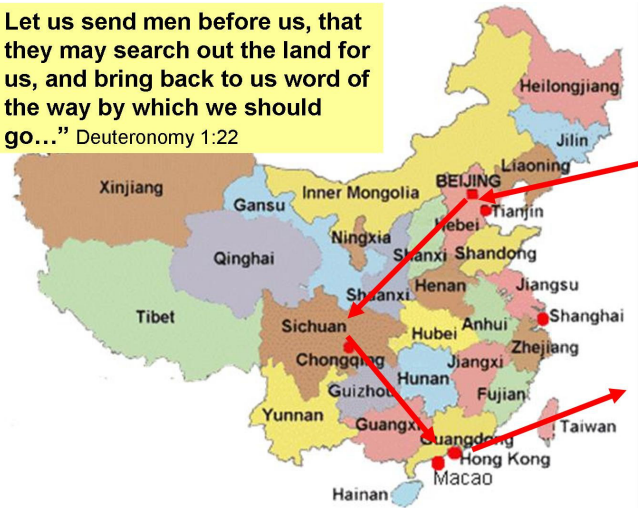
One of our elders, Joel Pyles, and I have a very wonderful privilege to go to China from October 30-November 13. This trip was initiated by an invitation from Ron Willett, one of our missionaries who serves on the China field. We will be seeing the area he supervises as well as ministries our other extended staff (missionary) Paul Mayhugh oversees from Macau. Finally, we will also observe the ministries of another WorldVenture missionary, Allan Smith from Hong Kong.

The purpose for this trip is to seek God’s will as it relates to how we are going to target intentional ministry from Gladstone First Baptist Church to China. This is in fulfillment of our “China Connection” which you have heard about for several months. This China Connection can best be summarized through our purpose statement:

The purpose in “China Connection” is to develop strategic ministry from GFBC to those needing the Gospel in the Chinese culture. The intent is to establish both short and long range goals that include our resources and ministry teams in partnership with existing work. The goal is also to see life-change in our church and its people as we engage in short, mid and long term missional response in obedience to the Great Commission.

To be honest, this trip was not a planned trip, but we believe God laid it before us. We have been prayerfully seeking God regarding His leading in a way to begin to reveal how our church can become more intentional in mission, that is more deliberate in reaching out with the Good News to

Let us send men before us, that they may search out the land for us, and bring back to us word of the way by which we should go...” Deuteronomy 1:22



both our neighborhood and local area (also called our “Jerusalem” in Acts 1:8), as well as finding ways we can make a difference on a global level (also called “the uttermost parts of the earth” in Acts 1:8).

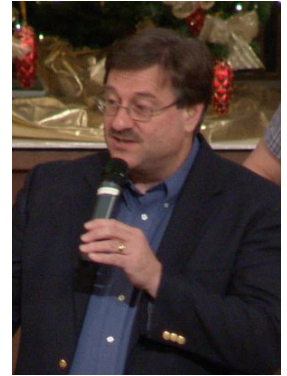
There has been a term coined that describes this. It is learning how to **become a “glocal” church**. What this means is if we are obeying the Great Commission in spreading the Good News, we should have expressions of that at the local level, as well as abroad on the global level. Many churches are starting to focus their attention in this fashion. They are seeking to win the lost where they live, but also seeking to find expression in global mission to an un-reached people group, a church in another country, or work side by side with one of their missionaries. This is what we have been prayerfully seeking to do. It has been amazing to see other churches are doing the same.

As this relates to China, it is our hope that we will begin to develop ministry expressions to some area in China (which could include Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau). We pray this mobilization of people from our church to do this will also **awaken our need to reach more fervently the field of harvest that is right around us**. Testimonies of those who go on short term mission trips reflect a life-

(Continued on page 3)

The Pumpkin Gun at the North Pole

Pastor John Baker



I just returned last night from a two-day Prayer Summit for pastors at Camp Tadmor where we talked about the ministry of reconciliation—how Jesus became that bridge of relationship to God for us and how we need to follow His example with those around us.

When it comes to loving our neighbor as we love ourselves, I want to encourage you to take time to put that into practice as we head into the holiday season—through your small group, through your family, as individuals—be willing to love by simply being who you are and using the gifts God has given you. No big program required!

At the Prayer Summit, one of the pastors shared how he was able to build that bridge of relationship in his community. He found a large propane tank, an eight foot metal tube, and various other valves and attachments that he used to build a gun to shoot pumpkins.

An important part of this gun was the air compressor that shot 160 psi of air into the tube, propelling the pumpkin in a most unusual manner.

One problem—he couldn't find pumpkins. Why? Because his church is located at North Pole, Alaska. So he took some bowling balls, painted them orange, and was able to shoot these bowling balls over a half mile—and he had over 1,000 people come to watch. They found an old trailer and painted a bull's eye on it and hit it on the second try—as well as taking down a couple of trees behind it.

So what gifts has God given you to love your neighbor? Wild and crazy is ok. In fact, it's more than okay to have fun as you find ways to share God's love. And if you find a place that sells pumpkin gun permits, let me know—I'm looking!



Bridging the Gap to Jesus (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

change for themselves as well as seeking to bear fruit where they ministered.

Please pray for Joel and me during this trip. Pray that we will have discerning eyes to see what God may have for our church regarding ministry partnership. Pray also that our church will understand and embrace this great opportunity for us to have a strategic

impact for the Kingdom through this type of focus. I am excited about how God has been leading. I pray we will continue to be yielded to His movement!

My love to you and prayers for you,

Baker





The Mundane Life

by Bryce Wescott

Life is so mundane. We wake up in the morning rushing to that pot of coffee or the nearest Starbucks in hope of our daily dose of emotional morphine. That coffee is supposed to be a “pick-me-up”; it is supposed to mask the problems we are having in our marriages, our relationships, or in our socioeconomic status. Sometimes it is not the coffee, sometimes it becomes alcohol or that soap opera. Before too long we wake up and we are 40 and it is time for that mid-life crisis.

I am sure if you asked anyone if they wanted to accomplish something great in their life they would say yes. Yet we get stuck in these ruts—financially, socially and spiritually. Most Americans only attend church because they have nothing better to do on Sunday mornings. Is that you? Or do you attend church because your church is doing something great in the community around it, and it shines with the love of Christ?

When are we going to wake up and realize that God has something so much greater for our lives than this mundane day to day survival? God wants your life; He wants your heart. Why? So He can place in you a deep passion and a desire to see lives changed. Imagine what would happen if each morning you awoke excited about what God was going to do; you longed to see God’s hands working in your every moment. What if each moment with your kids was a moment to see how God has blessed you with someone who will always

look up to you, will always long for your love and praise?

God is calling you to a life of greatness, not a life of mundane moments bridged by copious amounts of coffee. A.W. Tozer once said, *God looks for men through whom he can accomplish the impossible*. Do you want to accomplish the impossible? Do you want to see this church radically change the face of Gladstone? Do you want to see God glorified in all you do?

It starts with you. Stop waiting for the church to replace your morning coffee. Stop waiting for the church to be what motivates you. Start living daily for Christ. Let Christ motivate you. Let Christ replace your coffee, your lusts, your need for alcohol, your need for love in all the wrong places. *I can do all things through Him who gives me strength* (Philippians 4:13).

Men and women, if you want to join me in doing the impossible, in changing the world one life at a time, then it starts with your life. It starts with placing Jesus at the center of your desires, thoughts, and actions. God wants you! God desires to use you to do the impossible. **Dream BIG** for God, brothers and sisters!!!

May you meditate and dwell upon the greatness of our God. May you offer up your dreams and desires in expectation of adopting God’s. May the Lord bless and keep you. May the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May the Lord lift His countenance upon you and give you peace. May you **do the impossible** through Christ who gives you strength.

The Sounds of Christmas Christmas Dessert

All ladies of GFBC are invited to the annual Women’s Ministries Christmas dessert on **December 1 at 6:45 pm**. Tickets for the event go on sale November 12—26 as long as tickets are available. Cost is \$7.00.

Sign up beginning November 12 to use your creative gifts to be a hostess and decorate a

table for the event.

Ladies, bring your neighbors/friends/family members for a delicious start to the Christmas season.

Program this year includes music by Sonya Kaye.



Christmas Dinner




November 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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After this issue, The Messenger will not be published while we evaluate a variety of methods of communication. If the Messenger has met a need in your life, please let us know... and let us know how you would like it to change. It is possible we will bring it back in a modified form; your input will be the deciding factor!

			1 9am MMO 7pm Elder Board	2 4pm Worship Tm 7pm 24/7 7pm Choir	3 9am MMO Hispanic Family Conference CBNW Growth Getaway	4
5 Growth Getaway 8am 1st service reh 9 & 10:45am Worship Hispanic Family Conference 7pm Children's Choir Rehearsal	6 7pm Women's Study @ N. Fisher's	7 9am MMO 6:30pm Youth 7pm Ensemble	8 9am MMO 6:30pm AWANA	9 7pm 24/7 7pm Choir	10 9am MMO 12:30pm Prime- timers Potluck	11 8am Men's Event 4pm Worship Team 5pm Hispanic men in Chapel
12 8am 1st service reh 9 & 10:45am Worship 5pm Family Cele- bration 6:30 Youth Auction 6pm Hispanic Wor- ship 7pm Children's Choir Rehearsal	13 6:30pm Sparks Ldrs Mtg in chapel 7pm Women's Study @ N. Fisher's	14 9am MMO 6:30pm Youth 6:45pm Men's Min 7pm Finance Team	15 9am MMO 6:30pm AWANA 7pm Elder Board	16 6:45pm Fellowship Team Meeting 7pm 24/7 7pm Choir	17 9am MMO	18 GFBC ladies in kitchen all day 4pm Worship Team
19 8am 1st service reh 9 & 10:45am Worship 5pm Thanksgiving Feast 6pm Hispanic svce 7pm Children's Choir Rehearsal	20	21 9am MMO 6:30pm Youth 7 pm Ensemble	22	23—Office Closed  6pm Hispanic Thanksgiving Din- ner	24 Primetimers Day Activity	25 4pm Worship Tm 5 pm Hispanic men in Chapel
26 8am 1st service reh 9 & 10:45am Worship 6pm Hispanic svce 7pm Children's Choir Rehearsal	27 7pm Women's Study @ N. Fisher's	28 9am MMO 6:30 pm Youth	29 9am MMO 6:30pm AWANA	30 GFBC ladies in Kitchen all day 7pm 24/7 7pm Choir		



The Impact of Children’s Ministry

by Becky Pyles

If you work in Children’s Ministry, you may wonder some days if you are making a difference. The hard part is that you might not get to know the difference you’ve made in a child’s life until you get to heaven! Below, read an account from someone whose life was impacted by an adult who invested his time in Children’s Ministry. This man was blessed to get to see the difference that he made in Bryce’s life.

plished man in the business world. Or that he was this magnificent man adept in the knowledge of theology and soteriology. Or even that this was a man that everyone in the church looked up too. Rather, he was just another man in the church.

The Story of “Little Ross”

by Bryce Wescott

As a young boy, I had way too much energy. (In fact I still have too much energy!) Around the children’s ministry at my church, I was known as Dozer (short for Bulldozer). I was known to run over smaller children and anything that got in my way. As I grew older into the AWANA ministry, there was rarely a game time that I was not in trouble for trampling one of my fellow AWANA clubbers.

What impacted me then as a child, and even now as a young adult, was that each Sunday he would walk up to me and call me “little Ross.” This was unique and important to me because it was unique to me only, and I admired my father and wanted to be like him. Here was this man who each Sunday took time to say hello to the one kid that made his Wednesday nights agony.

This year at Men’s Round-up, I ran into one of my old AWANA leaders at the shooting range. To my great thankfulness, he didn’t hold any grudges over the fact that I was his most difficult student to this day. Rather, he was encouraged by seeing me. We talked for a little bit amidst the myriad of shots being fired around us. It was a great time of encouragement for both of us.

For many of the kids in this church and in our daily lives we expect everyone else to impact their life, teach their Sunday school, or lead their AWANA group. What would you say if I told you that the future of this church lies in how you treat the kids? To some child you can mean the world now and even 10 years down the road by how you’re setting aside time on Sundays, Wednesdays, or even Tuesdays to give them special attention that is unique to them.

In fact, this man today holds a unique place in my life. It’s not because he is an accom-

plished man in the business world. Or that he was this magnificent man adept in the knowledge of theology and soteriology. Or even that this was a man that everyone in the church looked up too. Rather, he was just another man in the church.



Sermon on the Amount

GFBC FAMILY GIVING

1/1/06--10/16/06

General Fund YTD

Budget \$290,766
Giving \$250,468
(86%)

Missions YTD

Budget \$50,694
Giving \$44,244
(87%)

What matters when you give, is that you give of yourself, all your loving concern, your affirmation of devotion to God, your good will to humankind, and your service to Christ... then you are giving the fullest capacity of your spiritual, physical and mental resources. A true gift is a portion of your self. When you give in this manner, you become an instrument of God. It is the gift of love.

—The Newsletter Newsletter

Family News and Notes



Dear Gladstone Family:
I stopped by Pastor Brian's office today and he gave me the check that represented your farewell love offering to us. We were over-

whelmed by your generosity and greatly encouraged. The funds were very much needed at this time as we make our transition to California. Thank you so very much! You have been a very warm and supportive church family for us these past three years and we are grateful to have been a part of you. May you ever continue to grow deeper and to reach further until He comes. Sincerely, /s/ Pete & Jill Stuck

Thank you so much for the support you gave Gladys Gassoway over the years. It was a blessing to her and to us. Sincerely, /s/ Dan Gassoway

Dear Gladstone First Baptist: Thank you so much for the beautiful quilt. It will keep baby Ryan nice and warm this winter. It was so sweet of you to think of our family. Thanks again. /s/ Scott, Christina [Gill], and Ryan Ernst

Dear Church Family:
Thanks to all of you who have supported me through Ed's illness with cards, phone calls and prayers. I feel so blessed with our church family. Pastor Brian and Pastor John have visited Ed with their concern and prayers. At the end Ed saw the light of Jesus and his last two words were "wonderful, wonderful."

Thanks to all who helped with Ed's memorial service—the cookie bakers, the kitchen help, the sound tech, the usher, the set up and the clean-up crew. Many thanks to Ardith for all the time she put in on the memorial folder. It was perfect and beautiful.

It's wonderful belonging to such a caring church family full of love. From the bottom of my heart I give praise of thanks. /s/ Dreamis [Bliquez]

To Our Dear Church Family,
In our time of deepest sorrow, because of Marcus' death, and our greatest praise to Our Heavenly Father, whom Marcus now beholds in glory, we thank you for your caring prayers, flowers, cards, kind words, hugs and numerous other expressions of comfort, support and sympathy to the Bennett family! In Christian Love,, /s/ Al, Donna & family "*...But the greatest of these is love.*" I Corinthians 13:13



We express our sympathy to Chuck and Margi Pio and their family as they mourn the loss of Robert Hagner, husband of their daughter Kathy, who passed away on September 22.



We mourn with Sue Warden at the passing of her husband, Paul, on September 29.

Marcus Bennett went home to be with the Lord on Saturday, October 7, as a result of injuries sustained in an automobile accident. In his memorial, contributions may be made to GFBC for the *Marcus Bennett Youth Mission Trip Scholarship Fund.*



Maggie Walker is mourning the loss of her husband, John, who died suddenly on October 11.

Ed Bliquez, dear husband of Dreamis Bliquez, passed away on Monday, October 9. Memorial contributions may be made to GFBC or the American Diabetes Association.



Please share your love and prayers with the various family members during this time of sorrow and loss in each of their lives.



Congratulations to Rick and Debbie Gill on the birth of their grandson, Ryan Anthony Ernst. Ryan was born September 19 to Scott and Christina [Gill] Ernst and weighed in at 7 lbs, 6 ozs.



Notes of Thanks

The students at Candy Lane Elementary School say “Thank You!” for the generous donation of backpacks that came from you as a result of the Women’s Ministry “Free to You” event.

Thank you soooo...much! Thank you. It meant a lot to the kids that got backpacks! It also meant a lot to moms & dads whose kids got them! Thank you. Love, Annika

Thank you for the backpacks. Your help makes families feel good. Guadalupe

Dear Supply Donators: Thank you for giving people a chance to learn! From Claire

Thank you for the backpacks and school supplies. I am really grateful. Skyler

Thank you so much for donating school supplies and other supplies like glue sticks or pencils or backpacks and more. Thank you from Charly

Donating backpacks was really cool. Thanks, I’m sure their parents feel really great now, and I’m sure they do, too. ♥ Kortnie

Thank you for those back packs that you donated for us. Some kids really needed them. You have made many parents relieved because they couldn’t buy school supplies once again. Thank you Franchesca

Thank you for donating school supplies for our school. You made some kids smile. Josh

Adan—Thank you for the 32 backpacks for the people that could not buy one.

Thank you for the backpacks you donated for kids in our school. from Jeremy

