



# The Broadman Beacon

Broadman Baptist Church 350 E. Bath Rd  
Cuyahoga Falls, Oh 44223

*A Church That Makes A Difference!*  
Published Monthly

The Broadman Beacon Vol 58 Issue 3

March 2009

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Anniversaries
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**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS  
BEGINS  
MARCH 8TH !**

## Special Points of Interest

- Youth News
- Salt & Light
- VBS
- Dates to Remember
- Bonus Recipe
- New to the Family
- Humor Corner
- Rent-A-Youth
- Wednesday Meals



Join us on this weekend for a time of intense discipleship, powerful worship, fun activities, constructive fellowship and great fun. All designed just for men. See full details on page 5.

## AN IRISH BLESSING...

May you have  
walls to keep out the wind,  
a roof to keep out the rain,  
warm drinks by the fire,  
laughter to cheer you,  
those you love near you,  
and all that your heart may  
desire,  
including the love of God  
within.



## EVERY NUMBER MATTERS ...

Did you know that only 1 out of 10 Christians shared their faith with someone who did not know Christ last year? Did you know that an estimated 7,200 people die every hour around the world without Christ? Did you know that 2,800 additional Southern Baptist missionaries are needed to engage all the unreached people groups around the world? Did you know that a portion of every dollar you give to Broadman goes to the Cooperative Program supporting Southern Baptist Missionaries nationally (NAMB) and internationally (IMB)?

Now that we have realized every number matters globally, what about locally? How many people have you invited to Church lately? How many people have you engaged with the power of God's Love? How many people are you praying for to receive Christ? How many people are you trying to share the Gospel with? Are you participating in the ministries of the church? Are you tithing to the church? Do you come to worship God with your fellow believers weekly?

The truth is I am a number freak because I believe every number matters, every dollar matters, every moment mat-

*(Continued on page 2)*

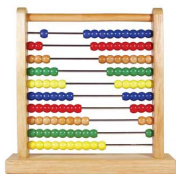
**EASTER CANDY SALE:** Back by popular demand, the youth will be selling Easter candy again this year. Orders will be taken March 1, 8 & 22<sup>nd</sup>. Candy can be picked up on March 29 and April 5<sup>th</sup>. Extra candy will be available for sale March 29<sup>th</sup> & April 5<sup>th</sup>. Order forms will be available at the kiosk or see Sandy Mouser for more information.



## PASTOR'S CORNER CON'T...

(Continued from page 1)  
PASTOR'S CORNER..

ters - why? Because it impacts lives and advances God's Kingdom. The fact is numbers represent people and we are in the people business. We want to see lives changed, that is why every number matters!



Let's be real for a minute. Our numbers at Broadman are down. Our giving is down, our Sunday School attendance is down, our Wednesday night attendance is down, our worship attendance is down, and our volunteers in the ministries of the church is down. What does this mean? Our faithfulness and commitment to the Lord are down! Some of us have lost our passion and zeal for the Lord. But most importantly our impact for God's Kingdom is down as well when we do not serve the Lord as we are called to serve.

No matter what your struggles, excuses, or justifications I hope you will realize that every number matters...because you matter to God! God has called us to share, give and live life in such a way that every number matters. May every number matter to you so that everything you do will matter to Him!

Be Blessed... **Pastor Chris**

## YOU CAN'T READ THESE AND STAY IN A BAD MOOD!...

► How do you catch a unique rabbit?

Unique up on it.

► How do you catch a tame rabbit?

Tame way.

► What do you call a boomerang that doesn't work?

A stick.

► What do you call cheese that isn't yours?

Nacho cheese

► What do you call Santa's helpers?

Subordinate clauses.

► What do you call four bullfighters in quicksand?

Quattro sinko

► What do you get from a pampered cow?

Spoiled milk.

► What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?

Frostbite

► What lies at the bottom of the ocean and twitches?

A nervous wreck.

► What kind of coffee was served on the Titanic?

Sanka

► Why did pilgrims pants always fall down?

Because they wore their belt buckle on their hats

Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha!

## HUMOR CORNER...

## THE GOLDEN YEARS...

► Two elderly gentlemen from a retirement center were sitting on a bench under a tree when one turns to the other and says: Eddie, I'm 83 years old now and I'm just full of aches and pains. I know you're about my age. How do you feel?

Eddie says, I feel just like a newborn baby.

Really!? Like a newborn baby!?

Yep. No hair, no teeth, and I think I just wet my pants.

► An elderly couple had dinner at another couple's house, and after eating, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen. The two gentlemen were talking, and one said, Last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was really great. I would recommend it very highly.

The other man said, What is the name of the restaurant?

The first man thought and thought and finally said, What is the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know... The one that's red and has thorns.

Do you mean a rose?

Yes, that's the one, replied the man. He then turned towards the kitchen and yelled, Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?

► A couple in their nineties are both having problems remembering things. During a checkup, the doctor tells them that they're physically okay, but they might want to start writing things down to help them remember.

Later that night, while watching TV, the old man gets up from his chair. Want anything while I'm in the kitchen? he asks. Will you get me a bowl of ice cream?

Sure.

Don't you think you should write it down so you can remember it? she asks.

No, I can remember it.

Well, I'd like some strawberries on top, too. Maybe you should write it down, so's not to forget it?

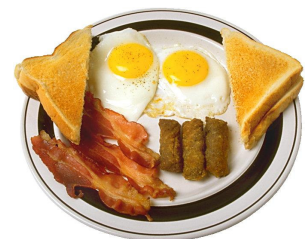
He says, I can remember that. You want a bowl of ice cream with strawberries.

I'd also like whipped cream. I'm certain you'll forget that, write it down? she asks.

Irritated, he says, I don't need to write it down, I can remember it! Ice cream with strawberries and whipped cream - I got it, for goodness sake!

Then he toddles into the kitchen. After about 20 minutes, the old man returns from the kitchen and hands his wife a plate of bacon and eggs. She stares at the plate for a moment.

Where's my toast ?



**NEW TO THE FAMILY & MORE...**

**RECIPE OF THE MONTH...**

**THANK YOU....**

A super big thank you to all who helped take down the Christmas decorations in the church. It was done in record time. Also, thanks goes out to all who donated clothing for the Haven of Rest. Several bags of coats, hats, gloves and underwear were delivered.

Thanks You,

**-Pat Groetz**

**NEW TO THE FAMILY OF GOD...**

Rebecca Johnson - A native of Stark County, south of Alliance, Rebecca has lived in Portage Lakes and Texas, and now resides in Cuyahoga Falls. A single mom with two daughters -- Haylee, age 9, and Hannah, age 13, she is with West Point Market in Akron, loves horse shoes and other outdoor activities, and enjoys cooking. Rebecca's testimony is that she was seeking a church where her family could worship God and meet supportive and wonderful Christian friends. Incidentally, she discovered our church through our website!

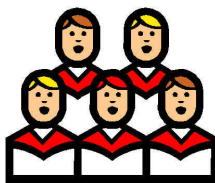
**Dedications**

Sabreena Marie Jarosz - Daughter of Michael and Jen Jarosz, Sabreena was born January 12<sup>th</sup> of this year and has two sisters -- Kayleigh, age 2, and Erica, age 5. Her dad, deployed in Egypt with the Ohio National Guard, was unable to be here for her birth. However, the thrill of Sabreena's dedication was that Michael was able to come home and be present on this special occasion. Jen's best friend, Cari was also present. Jen's desire is that Sabreena will grow up to be a healthy, mature Christian.

**MARCH CHOIR NEWS!**

Come and join us as we prepare for the Easter services by rehearsing every Wednesday beginning promptly at 8:00 p.m. for

one hour and every Sunday morning at 10:45 a.m. We always welcome new members. No audition is necessary just a willingness to sing praises to the Lord.



**IRISH POTATO CAKE**



**INGREDIENTS...**

- 2/3 cup shortening
- 2 cups white sugar
- 2 eggs
- 3/4 cup milk
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons ground cloves
- 2 teaspoons ground nutmeg
- 2 cups mashed cooked potatoes

- 1 cup chopped walnuts
- 1 cup raisins

**DIRECTIONS...**

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C). Grease and flour a 10 inch Bundt pan. Sift together the flour, baking powder, salt, cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg. Set aside.
2. In a large bowl, cream together the shortening and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the eggs one at a time. Add the flour mixture alternately with the potatoes and milk. Stir in nuts and raisins.
3. Pour into a 10 inch Bundt pan. Bake in the preheated oven for 90 to 120 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the cake comes out clean.

<http://allrecipes.com/Recipe/Irish-Potato-Cake/Detail.aspx>



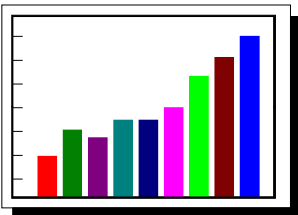
**QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

Only I can change my life.  
No one can do it for me.

**Carol Burnett (1936 - )**

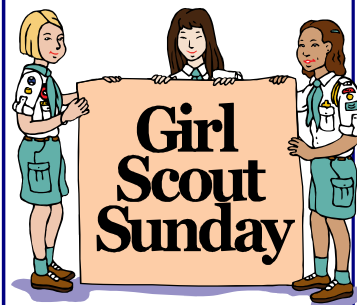
**TRACK OUR ATTENDANCE...**

Jan 25.....	164
Feb 1.....	158
Feb 8.....	169
Feb 15.....	148



**March 8th !**

**March 8th**



**BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & MORE...**

**MARCH**

• **Christian Symbols +**



**VIOLET**

The violet, a symbol of humility, is most often used in reference to the Virgin Mary. St. Bernard described Mary as "the violet of humility." The flower is also used to express Christ's humility in assuming human form.



- World Day of Prayer, March 6, 2009
- Daylight-Saving Time begins, March 8th
- Girl Scout Sunday, March 8, 2009
- First Day of Spring, March 20, 2009

**BIRTHDAYS**

- 3/2 NELSON L. BALSINGER
- 3/4 STEVE THOMPSON
- 3/6 ANTHONY PARKS
- 3/6 KRIS PARKS
- 3/7 JANIE LINDSAY
- 3/7 LORI BETH THOMPSON
- 3/11 ALEXANDER MOORE
- 3/11 KAITLYN RIGHTER
- 3/11 DAVE TRIPP
- 3/13 LAUREN WILKINSON
- 3/18 ED KUBE
- 3/19 LUKE JOHNSTON
- 3/20 ELDA McVAY
- 3/21 CORBIN GRIGGS
- 3/22 ELLIS SOLOMON
- 3/22 AARON WILKINSON
- 3/27 NATE BEETLER
- 3/27 WAYNE NICHOLS
- 3/29 RODNEY HALL
- 3/31 CHARLES RUSSELLA

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 3/14 CHRIS & SHAWNETTA McCOMBS
- 3/17 GEORGE & JULIA JOHNSTON
- 3/17 BILL & ELAYNE STOCKDALE
- 3/21 ERIC & TIFFANY SLABAUGH
- 3/22 ELLIS & LILLIAN SOLOMON




**T.U.F.F. MAN...**

**GFS...**

**WB WEDNESDAYS...**

**BIBLE QUIZ...**



**WHEN:** MARCH 27TH - MARCH 28TH

**WHERE:** SENECA LAKE BAPTIST ASSEMBLY

**COST:** \$40 PER PERSON\*  
DUE BY MARCH 1st

**WHO:** All Real Men & mature teens.

**TOPIC:** Pillars of a Godly Man: God's Man, Family Man, Work Man, Free Man, Finance Man, Church Man.

**SCRIPTURE:** "A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART"... Acts 13:22

JOIN US ON THIS WEEKEND FOR A TIME OF **INTENSE** DISCIPLINESHIP, **POWERFUL** WORSHIP, **FUN** ACTIVITIES, **CONSTRUCTIVE** FELLOWSHIP, AND **GREAT** FOOD. PLEASE COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION FORM **BY MARCH 1** AND ENCLOSE A CHECK OR MONEY ORDER (\$40):


**BROADMAN BAPTIST CHURCH; Memo: TUFF MAN WEEKEND**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 330-923-6127 or see Dave Baughman or Tony Parks.

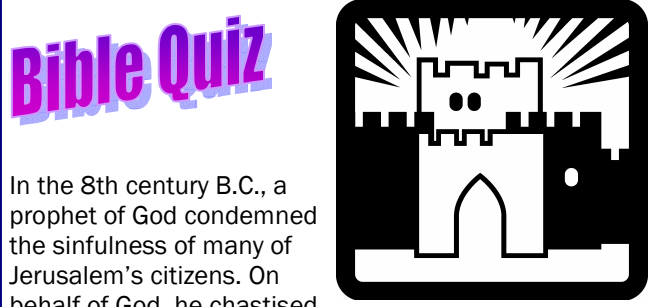
**\*COST INCLUDES T-SHIRT, 3 MEALS, LODGING, AND CONFERENCE FEE. WE DARE YOU TO ATTEND THIS CHALLENGING WEEKEND. DINNER BEGINS FRIDAY AT 6:30 PM. WEEKEND WILL CONCLUDE BY 2:00 PM SATURDAY.**

**GORDON FOOD SERVICES:...**

**"A Great Way To Give Back To The Lord!"**



Are you a part of the GFS "Fun Funds" program for our church? Did you know you could buy some great food and products at a great price and give back to the Lord? Well you can! Find out more at the church information kiosk in the sanctuary. IT IS FREE!!!!



In the 8th century B.C., a prophet of God condemned the sinfulness of many of Jerusalem's citizens. On behalf of God, he chastised anyone who abused power, was unjust toward the poor and used bribes and position to gain money and status. He even condemned prideful women who walked "with outstretched necks, glancing wantonly with their eyes, mincing along as they go, tinkling with their feet." (He was referring to little bells attached to women's ankles.)

Who was that prophet?

- A. Isaiah
- B. Amos
- C. Hosea
- D. Jeremiah

(See 3:16 ff, NRSV, of the book with the prophet's name.)  
*(Answer on page 7)*

**JOIN US FOR SUPPER**

**Every Wednesday**

Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:15 pm

- March 4: Salisbury Steak & Mashed Potatoes
- March 11: Hot Ham & Cheese Sandwich & Potato Salad
- March 18: Biscuits & Gravy
- March 25: Hot Dogs & French Fries




**After a delicious meal stay for the WBI!**

## VBS 2009...

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2009...

## Boomerang Express

"IT ALL COMES BACK TO JESUS" is what we will learn this summer as we take the Boomerang Express to the Land Down Under, July 19-24, 2009.

It is time to start planning and preparing for VBS. Pastor Chris and Mary Reagan will serve as co-directors and Linda Romo and Karla Farrell as assistant directors for 2009. As always, we will need leaders over every section: outreach (4<sup>th</sup> of July parade & VBS community outreach), decorating team and work days, recreation team, craft team, snack team, administration team, music/worship team, missions team, nursery class, toddlers class, preschool class, K-1 class, 2-3 grade class, 4-5 grade class, & family night. Not only do we need leaders over all of these areas we also need volunteers to serve in all of these areas.



## Important dates:

**April 18, 2009**, 10 a.m. to 12 noon will be our VBS planning meeting. This is time to get together and start to focus on VBS as a church. We will pray for all the leaders and have a prayer walk through the church. We will pass out materials and meet with others who will serve with us for VBS 2009. This is an important meeting so please mark your calendars now and let us start VBS 2009 off on the right track for the "Boomerang Express."

**April 25, 2009**, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. is the VBS Clinic at Parma Baptist Church. This is where we receive hands on training and ideas for VBS. It is an awesome time and adventure. We will leave the church at noon. All leaders and helpers are highly encouraged to attend the great training opportunity.

So as you pray about the "Boomerang Express", remember "it all comes back to Jesus." Good day mates!!!

## LITTLE ONES MINISTRY...

## FROM THE INFANT &amp; TODDLER MINISTRY...

Since cold and flu season is upon us, we need to stress the following guidelines in the infant and toddler rooms:

- 1) Workers, please use the Purell on the wall before your shift begins, and again when you leave the rooms.
- 2) All bottles and sippy cups MUST be labeled with the child's name before handing it over to the nursery or toddler worker.
- 3) Any personal items (blankets, dolls, etc) will not be permitted in the areas any longer because of sanitary reasons. Sorry.
- 4) Please make sure to follow our "healthy child guidelines"- Please keep your child home if they have any of these signs or symptoms: temperature of 100 F, excessive coughing, vomiting or diarrhea within 24 hours, yellow or green nasal discharge.

\*Our goal is to keep our little ones healthy and happy, so please do your part!!!\*\*\*\*\*

Just a reminder:

\*\*\*\*Workers, please arrive a few minutes before your scheduled shift.

\*\*\*\*If you are scheduled for toddlers, there are prepared lesson plans in the plastic folders all ready to use!!! Just look for the correct date.

\*\*\*\*This is a very important ministry and the children depend on the workers, so please if you cannot make your shift, please find an acceptable substitute.

\*\*\*\*Please note, the snacks in the infant room are hypoallergenic and can be had by our all of our babies. Only rice and corn products are allowed in this room. Please do not get snacks from toddler room, or bring in any other snacks due to a severe food allergy.

We are looking for additional workers because this ministry is growing. Praise Him! If you feel led to be an infant or toddler worker, please see Liz and we will see if this area is right for you. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me" for He knew the importance of teaching even the tiniest ones.

**Liz Wilkinson**

Infant and Toddler  
Ministry



## CULTURE...

## PARKING METER...

## MORE...

## KEEPING AN EYE ON CULTURE...



## THE INAUGURAL PRAYER

As Christians' and as Southern Baptists we should be familiar with the name – Rick Warren. If you don't know who he is, he wrote the "Purpose Driven Life" and is the pastor of Saddleback Community Church in California, one of the largest SBC church's in the world. He also had the honor to pray the pastoral prayer over our nation during the swearing in of our 44<sup>th</sup> President, Barack Obama. This was a historic moment not only for our nation but for our denomination.

When President Obama chose Rick Warren for the inaugural prayer I was thrilled. However, it stirred up great controversy in both liberal and conservative circles. It is the controversy that I want to address in this edition of "Keeping an Eye on Our Culture!"

I praise God that Rick Warren accepted the invitation to pray the inaugural prayer despite conservative evangelicals speaking out against his decision. I understand their concern. Why would Rick Warren, who holds totally a different worldview than President Obama want to look like he is supporting the new President? The fact of the matter is that Rick Warren supports the President of the United States in prayer. We are all called as Christians to pray for our President. Rick was not condoning President Obama's position on abortion, homosexuality, the economy or a variety of other issues. In fact Rick Warren has clearly stated that his views do not align with the President's, but he is still our president. So I think Rick Warren did good for our faith and our nation this day, for Rick Warren was a true man of God praying for the good of our nation, and, for God's will to prevail on President Obama, his family and his presidency. Therefore, any Christian who opposed Rick Warren doing the inaugural prayer was flat out wrong. If Rick Warren would have turned down the invitation, true Christians would have missed an opportunity to impact our nation. This was a victory for our nation from my perspective.

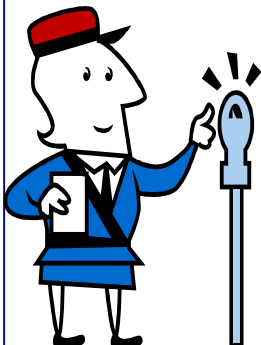
Now let's consider the liberal side, for they have a different twist. They were outraged at President Obama's choice to have Rick Warren say the inaugural prayer. Why? Because Rick Warren is a messenger of God and he speaks the truth on the morality of America on issues of abortion and homosexuality. This did not sit well with those who got President Obama elected or with the many platforms he espouses. As a result President Obama made a compromise and elected to have a gay bishop from the Episcopal Church (Gene Robinson) say the prayer at the Lincoln Monument to kick off the inaugural events the day before in an attempt to bring peace. President Obama also went on record and said that his views as President on the matters of abortion and gay rights are "absolutely contrary" to Rick Warren's views. Then he went on to say that he would be "a fierce advocate for equality for gay and lesbian Americans." Regardless, this did not appease the liberal critics. Also, I believe the President's choice to choose a bishop who has divided the Episcopal Church for the selfish reasons of promoting his own sexuality was a poor choice. Having a bishop who openly advocates homosexuality as sacred was an abomination to God and bad for our nation. I think that the President's views are unbiblical and pray that God will change his worldview on such matters for the good of our nation.

All I can say is that I hope the prayer Rick Warren prayed for our President and many that I have prayed will be answered by God. I am praying that God Blesses America by causing us to change our ways. I am praying for my president – President Obama - asking God to change his heart and mind on these matters of abortion, homosexuality and many other cultural issues. It is in God's hands now...I do believe that was the point of Rick Warren's prayer on inauguration day!

–Pastor Chris

## PARKING METER...

In 2009 let's remember to keep feeding the meter!...



Don't forget to pay the meter! We currently have about \$51,000 in parking lot debt. We need to make it our goal to pay off the debt in less than five years if possible. So long as we can pay at least \$1,000 a month or more we can accomplish this. Paying off the parking lot is not part of our budget; it is an offering above the tithe. I am calling on all of us to give something regularly to this. I realize our gifts may not be equal, but we can have equal sacrifice. Please seek God's face and ask what you are to give beyond the tithe. Thanks to all who are already giving and



MARCH 20TH

MARRIAGE WORKSHOP...

PRAYER...

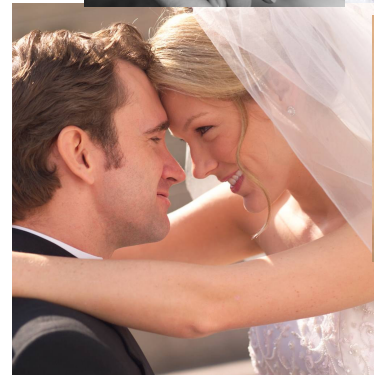
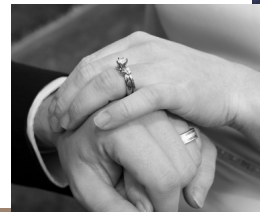
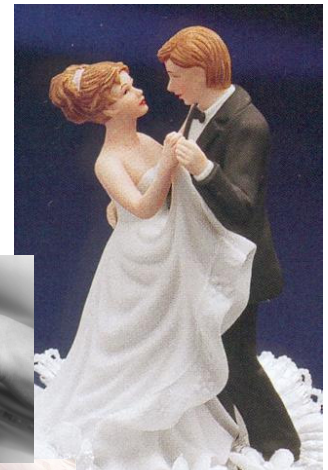
# Marriage Workshop

Building a Marriage Work Ethic  
Saturday, March 14th, 10am

## Schedule

10:00am	Donut and Coffee Registration
10:15am	Session 1: Presentation <i>Five Love Languages</i>
11:00am	Break/Fellowship
11:15am	Session 2: Applications <i>Five Love Languages</i>
12 noon	Lunch
12:45pm	Session 3: Presentation <i>His Needs; Her Needs</i>
1:45pm	Break/Fellowship
2:00pm	Session 4: Application <i>His Needs; Her Needs</i>
3-6pm	"Date" Time

**COST: \$10 per person: \$20 per couple**



First Southern Baptist Church  
1300 Pittsburg Ave.  
North Canton, OH 44720

Cost includes a copy of *Five Love Languages* by Gary Chapman and *His Needs; Her Needs* by William F. Harley Jr. (1 copy per couple), lunch with other couples, and childcare for the day.

**RSVP to [pastor@broadmanchurch.org](mailto:pastor@broadmanchurch.org) or by calling 330-923-6127 Deadline is March 8th**

## WHAT IS PRAYER?...

If the Bible is our food, then prayer is our air. It's the way by which we draw in the atmosphere of God.

Prayer is rich and varied. Sometimes we confess our sins in a prayer of penitence. Sometimes we praise God in worship and thanksgiving. Sometimes we ask God for help and grace to meet whatever comes our way. Sometimes we pray for other people. Sometimes we're quiet, knowing that when we stop clamoring and pleading our case, there comes a sense of God's reply, some intimation of his will, some message from him to us.

Remember that nothing God can ever give is comparable to himself. It is God we seek in prayer. Everything else is secondary.



**MISSION OF THE MONTH...**

**BONUS RECIPE...**

**GOODSEARCH...**



Help advance the Kingdom of God by using GOODSEARCH for all of your web searches and purchases on line.

All you have to do is go to:

<http://www.goodsearch.com/> and make Broadman Baptist Church your "charity" of choice and we get money every time you search or purchase on line for free. We get about \$ .01 for each search and 3% for purchases. So sign up today and place GOODSEARCH as your toolbar selection as your search engine and begin searching the web knowing that every search helps the Kingdom of God by giving back to Broadman Baptist



**BONUS RECIPE...**

**Annie Armstrong Gingersnaps**

- 8-9 cups flour
- 1/2 pound butter
- 1 heaping tablespoon ginger
- 1/2 pound lard
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 pint molasses
- 1 teaspoon cloves
- 1/2 pound brown sugar



Mix all with a spoon as long as possible, then with the hands until sufficient flour (8-9 cups) is used to make a delicate dough. Roll out thin and bake in a quick oven (375 to 400 for 7-10 minutes, less for very thin cookies). Keep ingredients in a cool place until mixed.

Note: This recipe makes between 100 and 150 cookies, and the dough should be rolled very thin to make them crisp. Woman's Missionary Union in Birmingham tested these cookies and declared them "good." The taste is similar to the Moravian cookies from Old Salem in North Carolina.



**BROADMAN MISSION OF THE MONTH FOR MARCH**

Week of Prayer for North American Missions

March 1-8, 2009

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

2009 Goal: \$65 million

2009 North American Missions Emphasis Theme:

Live with Urgency: Sowing Together for Harvest



**NAMB North American Missions Board...**

The North American Mission Board assists Southern Baptists in their task of fulfilling the Great Commission in the United States, Canada and their territories through a national strategy for sharing Christ, starting churches and sending missionaries, in cooperation with Acts 1:8 Partners.

Learn more online at:

<http://www.anniearmstrong.com/>

**ON MISSION MAGAZINE :**

**- please personally subscribe**



Become an "ON MISSION" follower of Jesus Christ. Jesus gave us the "Mission" to go into the world and make disciples. "On Mission" magazine equips you to do that. You can subscribe to "On Mission" magazine at <http://www.onmission.com/> or call 1-888-239-3990. It is a **FREE** subscription and is published by the North American Mission Board (NAMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

**BE ON MISSION FOR GOD!**

## SALT &amp; LIGHT...

**THE PERSECUTED CHURCH...**

This edition of Salt and Light hits close to home....actually Stow! There is a church called Xenos in Stow that made the front page of the Akron Beacon Journal on February 6, 2009. Why? Because they are accused of being a cult! I will confess that I don't personally know the pastor or members, but their statements of faith and mission seem legitimate. It appears that this is a group of believers who truly want to reach this generation with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and see lives transformed. They are, in my opinion, a persecuted church right now.

I can only speak to what was in the article, but it seems there are many issues involved. The gist is that there is a young man who is 18 years old that has been born again and was baptized at Xenos. He invited his family to attend his baptism but his mother, who is Catholic, went on a rampage calling the Xenos Church a cult and even worse. I don't want to turn this into a Catholic vs. Protestant issue...for it is really about true Christianity and that true Christianity will be persecuted. The mother's assault on the church is because (Xenos) took her son away. She said the church teaches young people to go to church weekly if not more, promotes Bible reading, praying and taking

notes during the sermon! Did you catch that...this church actually asks their people to read God's Word and pray to God? I do think that is kind of the point of Christianity!!!!

So what does this mean for us? Is this just a mother who is upset and started attacking the church she accuses of stealing her boy? Is this a case of a cult? Or is this a case of persecution? It is truly sad to see a family broken over faith...but Jesus told us we have to be ready to leave our father, mother, brother and sister to follow Him. It is also sad to see people of the Catholic faith attack so viciously an evangelical church. But Jesus did say, "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake."

There are some other issues involved in this case that you do need to be aware of so you know that my assessment is fair. The father of this young man sells pornography and the mother's life has a lot of drama including threats against the pastor of Xenos. There are also some issues with some things the son has done to get in trouble with the law. But when you remove these issues, we are still left with the reality that true followers of Jesus Christ are subject to persecution in America and I believe that is what is happening here and that incidents like this will only get worse.

As we strive to be Salt and Light in our homes, neighborhoods, schools, workplace, communities and so forth. We must understand that there will

always be people who do not understand the ways of God or the teachings of Jesus...they will always scoff at the Truth. However, the most painful part is that a lot of times this persecution does not come from the world, but from people who claim to have faith in Jesus Christ. I think the hardest persecution to embrace is when religious people who say they are believers in the same God, turn against God and the church. We must realize that the more we allow Jesus to transform our lives, the closer we will get to God, but also the more ridicule we stand to face. In the end, the Church prevails and wins. But this victory will come with persecution.

Let me say that Broadman has experienced similar persecution and I am sure we will be subject to such persecution again. I have had people question our teaching of Scripture as absolute truth, belief and promotion of believer's baptism, salvation through Christ alone, God as the Creator, and so forth. It breaks my heart that people think they know Jesus but are so far from Him. It is kind of like the Pharisees of Jesus day...they knew about God, but did not know God.

So as we become "Salt" and "Light" in our culture, may we realize that being a Christian sometimes comes at a great cost. I think Jesus said it best, "If you are going to follow me, then deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me."

**-Pastor Chris**

## CHRISTIAN COWBOY...

**BUCKLE ON THE STRAPS...**

A cowboy once offered this sensible notion of living the Christian faith:

"Lotsa folks who'd really like to do right think that servin' the Lord just means shoutin' themselves hoarse praisin' his name.

"Well, I'll tell ya how I look at that. I'm workin' here fer Jim. Now, if I'd sit around the house here tellin' what a good fella Jim is, and singin' songs to him, and gettin' up in the night to serenade him, I'd be doin' just like a lot of Christians do. But I wouldn't suit Jim, and I'd get fired mighty quick.

"But when I buckle on my straps and hustle among the hills and see that Jim's herd is all right and not sufferin' fer water and feed, or bein' off the range and branded by cattle thieves, well then, I'm servin' Jim the way he wants to be served."

**HUSH...HUSH...**

Seven-year-old Kathy tried to quiet her younger brother during a church service. "Hush ... hush," she warned him. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church." "Why?" asked the brother. "Who's going to stop me?" Kathy pointed to the rear of the sanctuary. "See those men standing back there? Well, those are the hushers!"

YOUTH NEWS...

# YOUTH NEWS MARCH 2009

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



*Sign up rosters and permission slips for all youth activities are available in the youth room.*

### SUNDAY MARCH 1, 2009

Bowling at North Lanes on State Rd. in Cuyahoga Falls

Youth will leave the church after the worship service, eat lunch and bowl and return to the church around 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$10.50

### SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2009

Parents and youth volunteers are needed to help out at the T.A.S.S.E.L. lunch following the worship services.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 10-SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2009

Youth Evangelism Conference and Indoor Water Park Trip

Youth will be going to Dayton (leaving at noon on Friday) and attending the Youth Evangelism Conference on Friday night. They'll spend the night in Dayton and then go to the Fort Rapids Indoor Waterpark Resort in Columbus, Ohio. Arrival back at church will be around 7:00 p.m. on Saturday evening. The cost is \$75.00 which includes dinner on Friday, YEC conference, hotel, and waterpark. Additional spending money will be needed for meals on Saturday. The **FIRM** deadline to sign up (including payment) is **SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2009**. No exceptions as we need to make hotel reservations, secure chaperones, and order waterpark tickets!!

### FRIDAY, APRIL 24-SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2009

Mission Activity at Faith Ranch

Youth will be helping with spring clean up and repairs at the farmhouse on Faith Ranch.

**Jackie Forcina**

Youth Council



**Youth Accounts & Fundraisers:** As a reminder, youth who work at church fundraising activities have an "account" with their earned money that can be used to defray the costs of youth activities. See Brad Mouser any time you would like to know the balance in your youth's account. Upcoming opportunities for youth to earn money are the T.A.S.S.E.L. lunch on Sunday, March 15, 2009 and making Easter candy during March. Sign up sheets are in the youth room for those who want to volunteer.

**RENT-A-YOUTH:** Spring is right around the corner and soon it will be time to start spring cleaning and yard clean up. In April and May, youth will be available to help church members with their spring cleaning, yard clean up or gardening. Love donations will be accepted. Look for more details in the April newsletter.





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**We're on the  
Web**

## Scripture of the Month

### Worship Schedule

9:00am Prayer in Sanctuary

9:30am Coffee & Fellowship

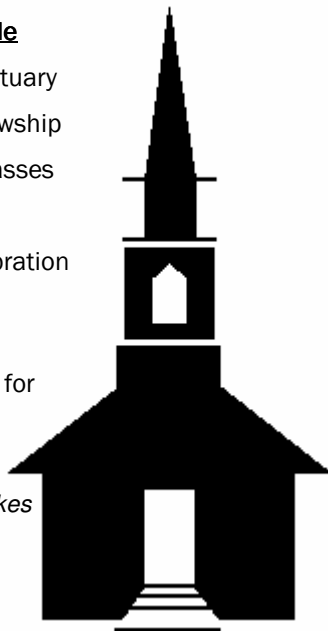
9:45am Life Impact classes  
for all ages

11:00am Morning Celebration  
Service

### Wednesdays

6:30pm WB Something for  
everyone

*A Church That Makes  
a Difference!*



### James 1:5 (HCSB)

Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God,  
who gives to all generously and without criticizing,  
and it will be given to him.

### MEDITATE ON GOD'S WORD

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