

CEDAR GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER — AUGUST 2014



We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ plus nothing. His precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. The salvation of the ill-deserving sinner is based on the finished work of Jesus Christ, who became the sinner's substitute before God and died a provisionary sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

THE PASTOR'S CORNER

Since Pastor Marty is on a Mission Trip this week—and since we just completed VBS—it seemed appropriate to use this space for a brief discussion of God's instruction to Israel as to how they were to train the next generation.

WE HAVE COME ACROSS other passages dealing with the importance of passing on the heritage of biblical truth to the next generation. That theme lies at the heart of Deuteronomy 6. Fresh points that are especially underlined include:

(1) The ancient Israelites were to teach the next generation *to fear* the God of the covenant. Moses teaches the people “so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live” (6:2). When in the future a son asks his father what the laws mean, the father is to explain the background, the Exodus, and the covenant: “The LORD commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the LORD our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive, as is the case today” (6:24). We might well ask ourselves what steps we take to teach our children *to fear* the Lord our God, not with the cringing terror that is frightened of whimsical malice but with the profound conviction that this God is perfectly just and does not play around with sin.

(2) Moses underscores *the constancy* with which the next generation is to be taught. The commandments Moses passes on are to remain on the “hearts” of the people (6:6; we would

probably say *minds*). Out of this abundance, the next words follow: “Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up” (6:7). Even what they wore and how they decorated their houses should serve as reminders of the law of God (6:8–9). We might well ask ourselves how constantly we teach our children the content of Scripture. In ancient Israel children usually learned their vocational skills from their parents, spending countless hours with them, which provided many opportunities to pass on the blessings of the covenant. Our more fragmented culture means we must *make* opportunities.

(3) Above all, the older generation was *to model* utter loyalty to God (6:13–19). This consistent modeling was to include an utter repudiation of idolatry, obedience to the demands of the covenant, revering the name of the Lord God, doing “what is right and good in the LORD's sight” (6:18). How faithfully have we, by our own living, commended serious God-centeredness to our children?

(4) There must be a sensitive awareness of the opportunities *to answer questions* our children raise (6:20–25). Never bluff. If you do not know the answer, find out, or find someone who does. We must ask ourselves if we make maximum use of the questions our children raise.

D. A. Carson, *For the Love of God: a Daily Companion for Discovering the Riches of God's Word*, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1998), June 2.

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AMAZING GRACE

Perhaps you'll be surprised to learn that "Amazing Grace" is a New Year's hymn. On Friday morning, January 1, 1773, John Newton, former slave trader and infidel, preached a New Year's message from 1 Chronicles 17:16–17 in his church at Olney, England. Newton opened his sermon, saying, "The Lord bestows many blessings upon His people, but unless He likewise gives them a thankful heart, they lose much of the comfort they might have." He told his church to look back at God's goodness, look around at God's promises, and look forward to future usefulness. In concluding, Newton introduced a poem he'd written for the occasion, the hymn "Amazing Grace."

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That sav'd a wretch like me!*

*I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears reliev'd;
How precious did that grace appear,
The hour I first believ'd!*

*Thro' many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;*

*'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.*

*The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine;*

*But God, who call'd me here below,
Will be forever mine.*



ANNIVERSARIES

Michael & Dawn Bell	15 August
Scott & Kerry Bidlespacher	22 August

*Who am I, O LORD . . . that You have
brought me this far?*

– 1 Chronicles 17:16

Robert J. Morgan, *Near to the Heart of God: Meditations on 366 Best-Loved Hymns* (Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2010)

Six years later—in 1779—Newton dropped that fourth verse and added:

*The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.*

No one is sure who added that marvelous last verse—or even when it was added:

*When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shinning as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.*

Sometimes, you can find an old hymnal that contains all six verses.

Newton was himself an extraordinary testament to God's amazing grace. Once he was so vile and blasphemous that he even scared his fellow sailors. But one day during a terrible storm, he turned to God and was transformed by that Amazing Grace. He is reputed to have worn his sailor grab under his clerical robes as a constant reminder of just how amazing that grace proved to be.

Visit the Cedar Grove Baptist Church website
<http://www.cedargrovebaptistchurch.net>

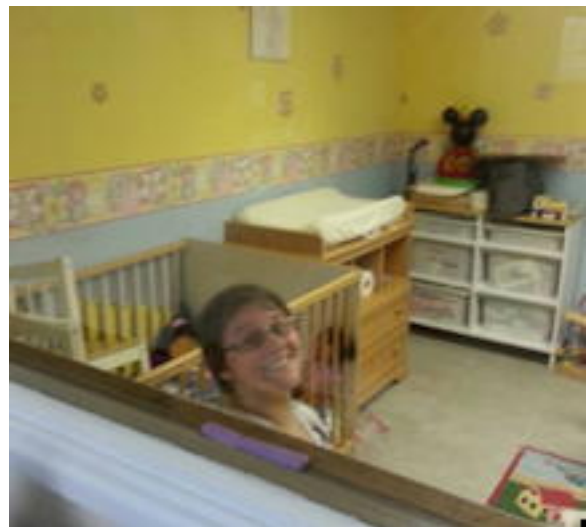


BIRTHDAYS

Brenda Johnson	02 August
Donna Franklin	05 August
Marty Grainger	06 August
Laurin Owens	14 August
Nancy Brenner	15 August
Amber Grainger	18 August
Anita Grainger	29 August

TEEN MISSION TRIP

The first week in July four of our teens took Kerry to New York City so they could work in Vacation Bible School



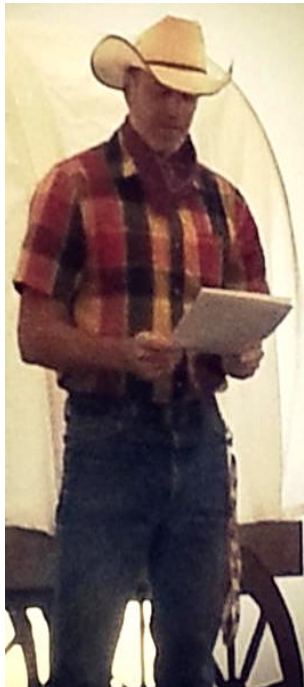
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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL—JULY 13-18, 2014**



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