

Calvary Connection

July 2017

Summer Outreach

At a recent planning meeting for this year's Vacation Bible School, team members acknowledged that it is usually 'churched' children that attend. A suggestion that we 'take VBS to them' was discussed, and the Webster Phillips Village Apartment complex became the focus.

Each Monday* at 6 p.m., the team will use the Webster Harmony Park Bandstand for music, a weekly message, and games. Here is how you can help:

- ✓ Supervise games
- ✓ Distribute food
- ✓ Assist leaders
- ✓ Set up & take down

Call Scott Shiels (585-545-8435) or Ann Byerts (585-265-9879) to learn more.



* July 17 – Aug. 7

America and the Drug Culture

America is being awakened to the fact that our beloved country is being overrun by a drug culture of heroin and its younger sister opiates. The media calls it an epidemic. Having grown up in the city of Philadelphia, I saw first-hand the devastation of drugs and its impact on the streets and among my friends. Perhaps the chief motivation for joining the marines in a time of war was that at least I could more readily identify my enemy on the battlefields, even as I look back, I think that I actually chose the safer of the two.

On a recent trip to Philly, we stopped at an old friend's home to pay him a visit. He and I grew up together, attended parochial schools together, and pretty much hung out together until high school graduation. We went our separate ways, did our military service, came home, and each got married. His career is police work, mine in a lab and later in ministry.

Close to ten years ago, my old friend told me that his two sons had fallen into drug addiction of the worst sort. As I arrived at his home, one of his boys greeted me, informing me that his Dad wasn't home. But what caught my attention was the wild-eyes look on his face, which spoke to me of the sad reality of a potentially tragic future for this young man. My heart felt so much compassion for my old friend.

It was a needed reminder of what I believe that you and I need to do, and that is to pray and to act! You might wonder what you can do in the face of such a plague. First of all, ask the Lord how to pray in a specific manner for this scourge in our nation. The need for help may be much closer to you than you know - your neighbor, a family member or relative, a friend's son or daughter. And pray for wisdom on *how* to act. Getting involved may be, and often is, the last thing we want to do. But if God is leading us, He will also protect and guide us.

I would like to close with a few thoughts on this subject from author John Stonestreet.

And pray that God will mobilize us, His people, to follow the examples of Christians throughout history who, finding themselves in times and places of significant crisis, social brokenness, and suffering, ran into the mess – not away from it. May we not be like the priest and Levite who walked around the beaten, bloody man on the road. May instead we be like the Samaritan, willing to get our hands dirty to help the multitudes of half-dead people left on the side of the road across this country. And please, forward this message to your friends so that they can be in prayer, too.

Pastor Ray



Omission – In the June newsletter, the weekly Tuesday night prayer time was not mentioned in the 'typical week' at our church. This unique group started with the purpose of ministering to Doug Rutter during his hospital stay. Since then, it has grown to include up to twelve prayer warriors who meet at the church at 7 p.m. to bring the needs of many to the Lord in prayer.

Ministries We Support

Far Reaching Ministries (FRM) - In 1996, Pastor Wes Bentley, Founder and CEO of FRM, began serving as a missionary in the war torn regions of Africa. Offering love and hope to orphans and widows who had lost their families, FRM serves the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those most affected by ethnic and religious cleansing. The ministry has rapidly grown to include men, women and children in many 'far-reaching' places.

Soldiers – FRM trains soldiers to be chaplains, returning to their native armies. They've earned a reputation among the Islamic enemy forces for being brave and fearless. The Jihadists call the chaplains, "The army of God that is not afraid to die for their faith." Wes thinks of them as David's elite "mighty men of valor"—men who count their lives only worth living to glorify Christ and fulfill His Great Commission.



Ghost Operations - In the twenty-first century world of foreign missions, danger is the norm, not the exception. FRM operates in unique parts of the world where they are able to train up native missionaries to go into 'closed' countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Europe. Many are former Muslims who have converted to Christ. They understand Islam very well, know multiple languages, can withstand harsh living conditions, and are thus better equipped than most Western missionaries to blend in.

Women & Children – The FRM ministry's priority with this area is to address the spiritual needs of the women by leading them to Jesus. Women with little or no education are taught about the Gospel message to lead others to the transforming work of the cross. They learn to be self-reliant through literacy training and a tailoring school that is centered on the teaching of the Word. Through these training programs, the ladies have created a beautiful line of hand-crafted gifts to earn money to support their families.



The children of Africa are the voice of the future, and FRM pours God's love into their lives. They have seen many of these precious ones leading their parents to church and to Jesus Christ. The unique evangelistic program, called 'Love Covers', literally covers them with clothing, blankets, and mosquito nets. Wes states, 'We look for schools, churches, or youth groups of

impoverished children. We then design a three to four-day Vacation Bible School format of teaching, games, and music for the children. The teachings are all done in the local dialect to make sure the children clearly understand how much God loves them.' Please visit the Far Reaching Ministries website to learn more or to support their work: frmusa.org



Enriching Your Bible Vocabulary

Christophany – preincarnate appearance of Christ. *Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.* (Dan. 3:25) *Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby.* (Gen. 18:1) *Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak.* (Gen. 32:24)

Circumspect – to be cautious. *See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise.* (Eph. 5:15)

Contrite – deeply affected with grief and sorrow. *The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.* (Ps. 34:18)

Cornerstone – an important quality or feature on which a particular thing depends or is based; a stone that forms the base of a corner of a building, joining two walls. *...having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone.* (Eph. 2:20)

Countenance – appearance of the face. *And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered.* Luke 9:29

Covet - to long after; to try to gain. *For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.* 1 Tim. 6:10