



GETTING BACK TO THE CHURCH THAT WORKS!

This week we will jump back into Acts 3, picking up where I left off, looking at verses 12 through 26. I appreciate Brother Robert filling the pulpit in my absence and must say it was good to grab a week of vacation as the summer draws to a conclusion. I got the opportunity to do some reading about the early church while I was on vacation; I sure am excited about walking through the book of Acts on Sunday mornings. The early church struggled with some of the same things we struggle with as the people of God. At times they struggled with the painful distinction made between their identity in Christ and others around them. We, like them, are the products of God's gracious creation as He as poured His Spirit into us. By that act, we derive our identity uniquely from Him. We are His new creation which the apostle Paul reflected as he wrote 2 Corinthians 5:17-19. *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation."* (ESV) The new creation is corporate, as well as individual, as we all seek to reflect His image to the rest of the world around us. Just like them we have to work out this common life. We are encouraged to interact with each other in a Christ honoring way that brings glory to God and reflects our shared status as Christ followers, Christ's disciples and Christ's friends. The Lord should daily be at work in our lives, smoothing out the wrinkles and cleansing the spots and blemishes from our lives. His desire is that we be a holy, called out and set apart people. I pray God grows us and uses us to be the church that works among ourselves and in south OKC, and Moore and across the globe as we learn more about who we are in Him!

The challenge for all of us is to be good advertisement for His church! Be a good example of His work so others will want what you have!

I hope you had a great week and I look forward to seeing you this Lord's day! Love my church family! Come ready; "Lord speak to us, your servants are listening!"

Love you and striving to fill your bucket!

Bryan

AUGUST

- 12 - Prayer Warrior Rally, 4pm
 - 13 - Back-to-School Bash, 8:30pm
 - 16 - Senior Adult Breakfast at McDonalds, 8:00am
 - 18 - Food Bank, 9:30am
 - 19 - Promotion Sunday; 6th Grade Luncheon, 12pm;
Finance/Personnel Committee Meeting; Business Meeting, 5:00pm
 - 21 - Giddens' Baby Shower, 7:00pm
 - 25 - Kids Reading Program Outing, 11:30am
 - 26 - Ministry Committee, 4pm
- FOOD BANK
Volunteer Day
Saturday, August 18
9:30am-noon

Bible Forensics: Cultural Studies

A new Sunday morning bilingual (English/Spanish) Bible study class started last Sunday morning at 8:15am. Yes, it's bilingual, but no, it's not just for Hispanics. This class is for you. English speaking Christian who wants to learn another language, learn to use his personal testimony to communicate the gospel to those of a different culture or way of thinking. This is for you, the one that has a coworker, friend, family member of a different culture who you've been praying about inviting but didn't. This is for you, the one who feels lead to sharing the gospel here and over there. This is for you, the one who sees that the harvest is ready. Join us Sunday! The harvest is ready! Are you?



Sky Ranch Ministry

Help provide encouragement to the staff and teachers at Sky Ranch!

We are looking for sponsors again this year for Sky Ranch Elementary. There are approximately 65 staff members and \$25 is all it takes to sponsor and help provide a quarterly gift for a staff member for the school year. See Heather Sanders to sign up.

We will also be having a teacher supply closet drive. Be on the look out for a supply list!

Giddens Baby Shower

A baby shower for Adam and Molly Giddens will take place on Tuesday, August 21 in the fellowship hall. They are expecting a girl and are registered at Target and Amazon.

Children's Ministry New!

TeamKid on Mission KICK-OFF, August 22 @ 6:30pm!

- *Now That I'm A Christian* class for kids who made recent decisions for Christ - August 12 & 19, 4:00-4:45pm
- 6th Graders Promotion Luncheon - August 19, 12pm-1:30pm (for students going into 7th grade)
- Kids Reading Program participants are invited to an outing on August 25, 11:30am-1:30pm
- First Grade Bible Presentation - September 9 @ 9:30am

Christmas at Prestonwood

Deposit needed by September 2

Those who signed up for the trip to the Prestonwood Baptist Church Christmas production need to turn in a \$50 deposit by September 2. The deposit is to secure your spot as we have several on a waiting list. If a deposit is not received or if arrangements aren't made to secure your spot, it will be given to someone on the waiting list. Please see Faye Griffin or Kelly Anderson for any concerns or additional information.

Upcoming Fall Conferences...

Parenting Conference

September 15, 9:00am-5:00pm at First Southern, Del City

Featured Speakers: Dr. Hance & Julie Dilbeck, Nick & Libby Atiya

Plus many more speakers and breakout sessions

Cost: \$25 per person (childcare \$10 per child)

Register online at www.bgco.org/ministries/family/parenting/

Marriage Retreat

October 12-13 at Falls Creek

Featured speakers: Abraham & Marjorie Wright, Cody & Dara Evans, Rick & Stephanie Sowell

\$159 per couple - All inclusive (lodging, meals, activities)

\$99 per couple - Program only (meals, activities, NO lodging)

Register online at www.bgco.org/family/marriage-retreat/