

The Bethany Messenger February, 2012

Bethany Baptist Church
9250 FM 391 Hearne TX 77859
Phone: 979-279-5556
Pastor Randy Aly 979-587-3536
Mrs. Ramona 979-587-3534

FEBRUARY WORSHIP & MINISTRY

Sunday, February 5

9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship
7:00 PM Evening Bible Study

Monday, February 6

1:00 PM Women in Mission
Wednesday, February 8

6:45 – 8:00 PM AWANA's
7:00 – 8:00 PM Adult Bible Study
Sunday, February 12

9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship
7:00 PM Valentine's Concert
Wednesday, February 15

6:45 – 8:00 PM AWANA's
7:00 – 8:00 PM Adult Bible Study
Sunday, February 19

8:45 AM Men's Breakfast
9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship
6:00 PM Business Meeting/Covered Dish
Wednesday, February 22

6:45 – 8:00 PM AWANA's
7:00 – 8:00 PM Adult Bible Study
Sunday, February 26

9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship
7:00 PM Evening Bible Study
Wednesday, February 29

6:45 – 8:00 PM AWANA's
7:00 – 8:00 PM Adult Bible Study



Welcome New Members:

Paul & Linda Berry
8989 Old Hearne Rd
Hearne TX 77859
979-587-2690

Marsha Swallow
5925 Scotty's Lane
Hearne TX 77856
979-906-8711

*We're so glad you're a part of the
Family of God.*

**Membership Reminder:
Contribution statements
for 2011 are ready to be
picked up on the table in
the foyer!**

8 Reasons Why Some Churches Never Grow

By Perry Noble

Submitted by: Pastor Randy Aly

Matt 20:28 ... just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Perry Noble: "Too many times, we become so concerned with offending people that we actually offend Jesus."

1. The Vision Is Not Clear

If people don't know where a church is supposed to be going, then it will attempt to go everywhere and eventually wind up nowhere. (Interesting experiment – ask people this coming Sunday at your church, "What is our vision" and see if people give you the same answers or different ones.)

2. The Focus Is on Trying to Please Everyone

There is NO church on the planet that will make everyone happy every single week—and according to the Scriptures, that isn't really supposed to be our obsession. Too many times, we become so concerned with offending people that we actually offend Jesus.

3. Passionless Leadership

When a leader does what he/she does for a paycheck and not because it's their passion...it's over. I've said it before...I want difference-makers, not paycheck-takers.

4. Manufacturing Energy

If a program is dead in a church...then it needs a funeral, and the people need to move on. Investing time, energy, and money into something that is dead will not revive it. Celebrate the fact that "that" program had its day...and then move on. AND quit trying to fire people up over events that you would not attend if you were not on staff.

5. Lack of Prayer

Many times, we work so hard putting our ideas together that we actually think there is no need for the supernatural power of God to be involved. Prayer should not be the good luck charm that we stick at the beginning or the end of what we do...but rather it should be our constant desperation to see God do the undeniable among us. Intense desperation often brings undeniable revelation!

6. Unwillingness to Take Risks

When our focus becomes to play it safe rather than to do whatever it takes to reach people far from God...it's over. NOWHERE in the Scriptures did God ever ask anyone to do anything that didn't involve an "oh no" moment. We've GOT to be willing to embrace the uncertain if we want to see the unbelievable.

7. Disobedience to the Scriptures

Mark 16:15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."

Luke 24:48 You are witnesses of these things.

John 20:21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

2 Cor 5:16-21 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

...I could go on and on...but we MUST understand that Jesus didn't come to Earth, live here for 33 years, give HIS life for us, and then return back to heaven to intercede for us so that we could get in really little circles and talk about ourselves and condemn those who are not as good as us. We are called to REACH PEOPLE FOR GOD—PERIOD!

8. Selfish Attitudes

Matt 20:28 ... just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." says it all...and if we are going to be more like Jesus, we've GOT to serve others rather than expecting the church to be our servant all of the time. When a person (or group of people) refuses to embrace that a call to follow Jesus is a call to serve...then we've lost sight of who He is, and eventually, we will make being a Christian all about Jesus following/serving us rather than us taking up our cross and following Him!



**Beginning Wednesday,
February 1**

The Road to the Cross



**Wednesday Evenings
7:00 – 8:00
Adult Couples Classroom**

A Study in the Life and Times of Jesus
Presented by Pastor Randy Aly



SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTES

The co-ed Adult Sunday School class led by Gene Bates has been going through the book of Joshua...chapter by chapter...verse by verse.

What can you learn in Sunday School?

This is pretty amazing...and interesting! For all the scientists out there, and for all the students who have a hard time convincing these people regarding the truth of the Bible, here's something that shows God's awesome creation, and that He is still in control. Did you know that the space program is busy proving that what has been called 'myth' in the Bible is true?

Mr. Harold Hill, President of the Curtis Engine Company in Baltimore, Maryland, and a consultant in the space program, relates the following development. 'I think one of the most amazing things that God has done for us today happened recently to our astronauts and space scientists at Green Belt, Maryland...They were checking out where the positions of the sun, moon, and planets would be 100 years and 1,000 years from now. We have to know this so we won't send up a satellite and have it bump into something later on in its orbits. We have to lay out the orbits in terms of the life of the satellite and where the planets will be so the whole thing will not bog down.

They ran the computer measurement back and forth over the centuries, and it came to a halt. The computer stopped and put up a red signal, which meant that there was something wrong

with either the information fed into it or with the results as compared to the standards. They called in the service department to check it out, and they said, 'What's wrong?' Well, they found there is a day missing in space in elapsed time. They scratched their heads and tore their hair out. There was no answer.

Finally a Christian man on the team said, 'You know, one time I was in Sunday School, and they talked about the sun standing still.'

While they didn't believe him, they didn't have an answer either, so they said, "Show us." He got a Bible and went to the book of Joshua where they found a pretty ridiculous statement for any one with 'common sense.' There they found the Lord saying to Joshua,

12 On the day the LORD gave the Amorites over to Israel, Joshua said to the LORD in the presence of Israel: "Sun, stand still over Gibeon, and you, moon, over the Valley of Aijalon."

13 So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the nation avenged itself on[b] its enemies, as it is written in the Book of Jashar.

The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day.

14 There has never been a day like it before or since, a day when the LORD listened to a human being. Surely the LORD was fighting for Israel! (Joshua 10:12-14)

The astronauts and scientists said there is the missing day! They checked the computers going back into the time it was written and found it was close but not close enough. The elapsed time that was missing back in Joshua's day was 23 hours and 20 minutes...Not a whole day.

They read the Bible, and there it was "about" [approximately] a day. These little words in the Bible are important, but they were still in trouble because if you cannot account for 40 minutes, you'll still be in trouble 1000 years from now. Forty minutes had to be found because it can be multiplied many times over in

orbits. As the Christian employee thought about it, he remembered somewhere in the Bible where it said the sun went BACKWARDS. The scientists told him he was out of his mind, but they got out the Book and read these words in 2 Kings that told of the following story: Hezekiah, on his death bed, was visited by the prophet Isaiah who told him that he was not going to die. Hezekiah asked for a sign as proof.

9 And Isaiah said, This sign shalt thou have of the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing that he hath spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten degrees, or go back ten degrees? 10 And Hezekiah answered, It is a light thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees: nay, but let the shadow return backward ten degrees. 11 And Isaiah the prophet cried unto the LORD: and he brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down in the dial of Ahaz.

2 Kings 20:9-11 King James Version (KJV)

BACKWARD! Ten degrees is exactly 40 minutes!

Twenty-three hours and 20 minutes in Joshua, plus 40 minutes in Second Kings make the missing day in the universe! Isn't it amazing?



**JOIN A SUNDAY SCHOOL
CLASS THIS SUNDAY!
YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DID.**

Women on Mission



Meeting time:

1:00pm on the first Monday of the month.

Last month we sent our used greeting cards out for a ministry to children in Nigeria and Phillipines.

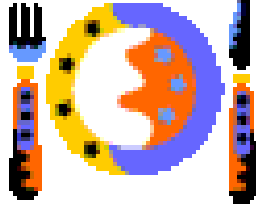
This month we will study about missionary Dr. Martha Myers, "Living the Dash" (1945 – 2002)

who was slain because of her love for Jesus.

Our ongoing mission project for this year is crocheting hats for the homeless. We are partnering with ladies from Cottonwood Church to have 500 made by December. If you have crochet skills and would like to help please contact me or if you would like to donate yarn please feel free to do that.

Come join us as we serve Him.

***Sincerely
Polly Morgan***



WHAT'S ON YOUR PLATE?
Ladies Night Out
By Ramona Aly

To kick off the new year, 28 ladies met to celebrate 2012 with Ladies Night Out on January 14, 2012. The theme for the evening was "What's On Your Plate?" The fellowship hall was beautifully decorated with a variety of plates.

Have you ever uttered the phrase, "I've got too much on my plate?" What we mean is that our lives have become too busy. Isn't it funny that we teach our children not to take too much food, other than what they will eat, on their plates. Yet, many of us as adults have way too much stuff on our plates. Psalm 46:10 says, "*Be still and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.*"

Personally, I enjoy being busy....I'm not good at being lazy. But sometimes we get so busy that life seems to consume us. When we do get in the busy, busy mode of running, running, and running, we tend to let those nutritious things that should be on our plate slide off the side, especially Bible study and prayer. Sometimes if we do keep them on our plate we treat them like salt and pepper and only flavor our lives with them and not really have a full course meal of the things that can give us protein and help us survive.

Some "stuff" that crowds our plates are:

S – "SELF" – we become so wrapped up in our wants, our way, all we care about is me – we push others off our plates.

T – "TATTLE" - it's always someone else's fault – we blame others for mistakes and will go to any extreme to make sure everyone knows it is someone else's fault and there is no room for the truth.

U – "UNCLEAN PLATE" – There is nothing worse than a dirty plate. We must begin with a clean plate – a relationship with Jesus Christ.

F – "FOOTHOLD" – Satan loves to edge his way in our life and crowd our plate with little things like gossip, anger, bitterness. When we give Satan a foothold he takes over the whole plate.

F – "FALSEHOOD - "FAKE" – so much disguise that you can't tell what's really there. God wants us to be real – our walk and talk much match!

God wants us to scrape the STUFF off our plate so He can fill it with a balanced spiritual nutritious plate. Christ gave us a plate of forgiveness. A great invitation!

As we start 2012, let's look at what it will take to have a balanced plate this new year.

- 1) **RELATIONSHIPS** – How is my relationship with my husband, children, friends, and especially with the Lord?

- 2) **TIME** – Where am I spending my time?
- 3) **ACTIVITIES** – What am I involved in? Is what I am doing pleasing God? Do my activities reflect a positive, growing relationship with Christ?
- 4) **PRIORITIES** – What are my priorities? Do I keep the important things where they should be?

As we clear our dinner plates, we often hear “Keep your fork” – that usually means something good is coming – that special dessert. God always has something better to offer us!

This year as you clear the STUFF off your plate, replace it with a balanced Christ centered plate and ... keep your fork!

Ladies Night Out is an outreach of Women’s Ministry of Bethany Baptist Church which allows us to reach in and reach out as we fellowship and minister to ladies in our church and community.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY WISHES!

- 2nd – Jennifer Bohler
- 5th – Mark Atwell
- 19th – Jonathan Atwell

Bethany Members in the News!

On December 7th, Bethany Baptist Church members, Keith & Lou McDaniel, KELUMAC Christmas Tree Farm, celebrated 20 years of tree sales with an Open House serving Chili, hotdogs and live praise music in December. Chris St. Clair entertained for 4 hours. Keith said, “That shows how much Chris loves his music and Praising God. We are blessed to have him as our music director at Bethany.”
...as is Bethany to have Keith & Lou.



Keith says, “Here is a picture of some children and their teachers from Brazos Christian School that came out for a field trip to our farm. The children were an example of well-behaved children from Christian homes as well as attending a Christian School. I gave them a short talk and demonstrated the planting of a Christmas Tree Seedling and then off into the field they went to pick out a tree. Once the picked their tree out they came back to our Gift shop area and Lou sang a Christmas song in French (Saint Nicholas) to them. We will probably be doing more of this next year... “



Note: On September 6, 7, 8 and 9th, 2012, the Texas Christmas Tree Growers will be having their State Convention in Franklin Texas.

Valentine's Concert!

Featuring

Myra Green



Bethany Baptist Church

Feb. 12, 7:00 pm

9250 FM 391, Hearne

979-587-3536 for info

Childcare Provided!

A beautiful day at Latham Springs enjoyed by Bethany Members in January, 2012, for the Senior Day Celebration.



Mary Martin and Carolyn Callen ready to participate. Watch for notices of next Senior's Gathering!

IN HIS HANDS

F.I.R.M Area Ladies Retreat

Saturday, April 21, 2012

Miracle Farms



Cost: \$20.00

Registration due by April 1

Sign-up Sheet in Foye