

The Bright and Morning Star

“All the Good News
That's Fit to Print”

Volume XVIII, No. 2

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, TARRYTOWN, NY

Spring/Summer 2010

A Parent's Nightmare

By Pastor Torrey Robinson

When I answered the phone in my office that November afternoon, I knew something was wrong. I couldn't identify the number on the caller ID, but I immediately recognized the voice. It was my oldest son, Carey. He was calling from Nicaragua.

A few months before, we had sent Carey off for a semester abroad study program in Central America. During those months, conversations with our oldest son were primarily conveyed over the Internet. Carey's cell phone didn't work in that part of the world and phone calls to land lines were expensive. Talking on the Internet was free. Most of those Internet chats with Carey were limited to nights or weekends when Carey could get to a local Internet café. This call didn't come via the Internet. This didn't come at night or on a weekend. This call was made to the church office, not to our home. Consequently, as I picked up the phone, I already suspected that something was wrong. Carey's voice sounded anemic and exhausted. He explained that he was in a hospital in Nicaragua. That was not news that I wanted to hear, but the doctor's diagnosis alarmed me even more. Carey told me that the doctors said that he had Dengue Fever. Though I knew very little about this awful disease, I had heard enough to understand that our son could die from a severe case of this hemorrhagic fever.

Carey could have called his mother on her cell phone, but he chose to call me instead because he thought that I would be cool, calm and collected. He was wrong. Although I played my part as the composed father, I was much more concerned than I let on.

During that time, a radio advertisement for a pharmaceutical company had already introduced me to Dengue Fever. The radio spot featured a woman from Africa who suffered from this painful fever. She said two things. First she explained, "There is no cure for Dengue Fever." Then she said, "I wouldn't wish this on my worst enemy."

Before Carey's phone call, I had never thought seriously that he might face a life-threatening situation while away from us in a third world country. But later I wondered aloud to Sue, "If Dengue Fever has no cure, was there any hope for Carey?"

That's when we felt compelled to recruit a prayer team. We called members of Sue's family and mine. We notified people at church. We shot off e-mails and made phone calls to Christian friends across the country. And Carey passed the word along to Christian friends at college back in Illinois.

We assembled a small army of people to pray for our son. And God answered. In so many ways we knew God was watching over Carey. Carey met friends we didn't even know he had in Nicaragua. Maria Herrmann's cousin from Nicaragua went to visit Carey in the hospital. Wanda Meyers called her parents in Nicaragua and they offered their home for Carey to recuperate, if needed. It turned out that Carey did not have to take them up on their gracious offer. Instead, he spent the better part of a week either in the hospital or in a nearby hotel sweating out the fever.

The doctors monitored his blood platelet levels to make sure he didn't bleed to death. Some of his fellow students stayed with him in the hospital and in the hotel until he began to feel better. By God's grace, this nightmare situation became a testimony of God's goodness.

The radio spot says that there is no cure for Dengue Fever. But while there is no medicine currently available to cure this disease, we discovered that those who don't die from Dengue do eventually recover. Carey returned home in December and his doctor in Sleepy Hollow gave him a clean bill of health.

Chapter 21 of the book of Revelation speaks of a new heaven and a new earth in which God will wipe away every tear and where there will be no more death or mourning, no more crying or pain. We in the Robinson family praise God for His quick intervention on Carey's behalf.

The worst of this frightening ordeal lasted less than two weeks. More than that, this nightmare situation gave us opportunity to taste something of the very joy of heaven. ★

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Reflections on the 2010 Men's Resurrection Breakfast

By Art Baulch

At 8:00 am, Saturday, April 3, approximately 200 men from numerous evangelical Westchester County churches gathered at the 24th Men's Resurrection Breakfast at the Tarrytown Marriott. The event was organized by Ridgeway Alliance Church. Doug Morton arranged for FBC Tarrytown to participate. Pastor Torrey and six other men from our church attended.

Following an "all you can eat" buffet, all participating churches were recognized, scripture was read, and Easter hymns were sung. The musical agenda was led by Bob Hendrickson (singer), Joe Picciano (tenor saxophone), Jim Novak (Acoustic Guitar), and Dr. Andrew Lenhart (Keyboard).

The breakfast speaker was **Adam Burt**, a former NHL champion player. Burt played junior hockey in North Bay, Ontario at age 16. He was chosen by the 1987 NHL draft in his hometown of Detroit. Drafted by the Hartford Whalers. Burt quickly established himself as a consistent stay-at-home defenseman. He stayed with the Whalers until 1998 when he joined the Philadelphia Flyers. After the Flyers, he spent the rest of his NHL career with the Atlanta Thrashers.

Burt recalled a Philadelphia Flyers game that went on for a protracted number of hours. Through it all, the team stuck together and kept working until the final winning goal was achieved.

Burt encouraged men at the breakfast to live in the same spirit as Christians. Burt accepted Christ as a child, however,

he admits that only after the 1987 NHL draft, which was disappointing, he decided to go "100% for God".

Adam Burt encouraged men to go all out to witness for and serve Christ in the spirit of 2 Timothy 4:7: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

On a personal note, as I was singing the hymns, hearing God's Word spoken, and listening to Adam Burt that morning, the Lord was preparing me for some unexpected news that I would receive that afternoon. A few hours after I returned home from the breakfast, I learned that my beloved dad, Charles A. Baulch, had passed away in Lake Worth, Florida at age 90.

A similar experience happened to my wife Terry when her dad passed away in June, 1996. We had just returned home from a beautiful evening coffeehouse concert at our church when Terry received a phone call that her dad had just lost his long battle with bone cancer.

My dad was a man who truly "fought the good fight" and "kept the faith" in the spirit of Paul in 2

Timothy 4:7.

As a husband, father, grandfather, college and MBA student, World War II veteran, businessman, college professor, and, above all, as a Christian, my dad believed in giving 100% of dedication and effort to all that was undertaken. My dad set an example and a standard for which I will be always grateful.★



The men line up at the all-you-can-eat buffet.

Missionaries to a Religious Country

By Doug Morton

With about 5.5 million people and a land area measuring twice the size of New Hampshire, it would be easy to overlook a country like Slovakia. The nation is landlocked in central Europe with the Czech Republic and Poland to the north, Hungary to the south, Austria to the west and the Ukraine in the east. Most of the country is rugged and mountainous. The people are well educated (99.7% literacy rate) and religious (greater than 75% Catholic). They are proud of their heritage, independence and advancing status in the European community.

At the close of World War I, the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire allowed the Slovaks to join the closely related Czechs to form Czechoslovakia. Following

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Michael Lapcak speaks in the FBC Tarrytown Fellowship Hall on Palm Sunday

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The Bright and Morning Star is seeking contributions for the next issue on any topics of interest which glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. Please send articles to: The Bright and Morning Star Newsletter at the address above. ©Copyright 2010 The Bright and Morning Star.

Michael Turay and The Aletheia Ministry

By Jacques Cowart II

Through 21 years of serving the Lord and over 11 years of missionary work, Michael Turay has established the “Aletheia Ministry” in Sierra Leone, Africa.

Aletheia Mission Statement:

With the mandate from our Lord Jesus Christ to make disciples, Aletheia Ministries, a non-profit ministry exists with the objective of evangelizing unbelievers, providing categorical Bible teaching for the edification of the saints, and equipping the body for service. This ministry continues to exist due to the free-will offerings of believers who desire to be part of our outreach. Michael firmly believes all Christians are called to be active participants in reaching the lost and building the faith of fellow believers. Each believer is spiritually gifted for a specific role in the body. To operate effectively in that gift, the believer must be given clear biblical instruction on how to fulfill his spiritual responsibilities. These include fellowship in a local church, prayer, giving, and service. Since the Bible is the final authority for all matters of faith and conduct, it becomes the textbook for

an active and productive Christian life. We work to accomplish this through Church planting and the establishment of Bible training centers and providing of study materials without cost to those who desire them.

The goal of Aletheia Ministries is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ by proclaiming His sacrificial death, burial and resurrection. All doctrines in the New Testament compliment and perpetuate the work of the cross of Christ in our lives. To accomplish this goal, we rely on the Spirit of God to motivate the grace giving of believers whom God is pleased to make part of this effort. With Sierra Leone as our primary focus, and the whole world as our arena, the Word of God as our authority, and the Holy Spirit as our guide, we are confident that we cannot fail! By Michael’s side in proclaiming the Gospel in Sierra Leone he has his loving family. Wife, Georgiana. His daughter, Simone. His son, Donald. And their new baby boy, Nathan!★



Fundraising...Who said you shouldn't sweat a little?

Well folks the fundraising for the mission team has officially begun! For the first time in FBC history we have online donations now setup!! This is an exciting venture for the church and very 21st Century-if I may say. You can donate online by visiting the Into Africa website. (www.intoafrica2010.org)

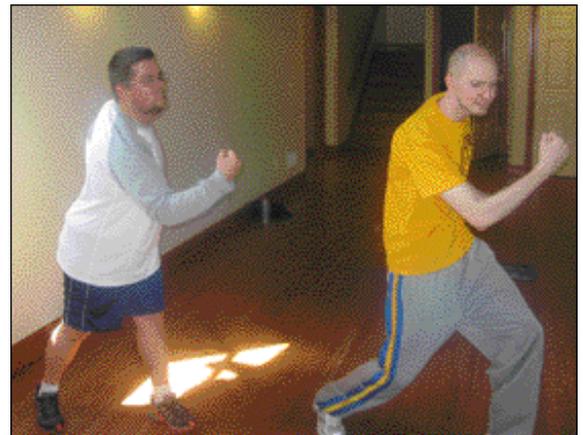


Katie Cowart and Omaira Diaz working hard with a smile at the Into Africa Fitness Fundraiser

Every month we plan to set up our ‘Into Africa 2010’ mission table in the back of the church with plenty of ‘Love Africa’ t-shirts given to those that donate over \$30. (Sorry, we’re not selling them.) The table will be manned by different members of the team each month. This is a great time to get to know the team members more and find out updates on our trip.

In the month of April Jacques and Katie Cowart began their fundraising by holding a fitness hour every Saturday. They are glad to say that it was a great success. People came and everyone had a great hour of fellowship with plenty of sweating!

If you haven’t had the opportunity to give you have plenty of time to do so. Keep your ears open for other fundraisers coming to FBC!★



Ken Hahn and Dan Mark are channel their hidden Ivan Drago.



After all that work it's nice to sit and rest!

The Rose Window

By Dan Rizzi

On Sunday morning after one has become acclimated to the FBC sanctuary and has become comfortable in his/her seat, he/she may look up and witness the magnificent, majestic Rose Window of the First Baptist Church.

This beautiful work of art was a labor of love by the dedicated artisan who meticulously supervised the intricate process and installation of his amazing creation until completion. The replacement window (the original was destroyed in the fire) was installed at great expense after much anguish deciding on the proper distribution of our resources. I am grateful the leaders made what I believe to be the proper choice. We have an absolutely beautiful remembrance of Christ permanently embodied in our majestic edifice prominently placed for all to see.

One might inquire, "Why a Rose Window?" Upon closer examination one will observe there are five large circular forms within the grand circular window. These forms represent the petals of the rose "the queen of flowers". No flower is more durable than the rose. It has been said, "A rose is forever." More importantly, these petals signify the five stages of our Lord's human life on this earth.

The first petal reminds us of the miraculous birth of Jesus. The second brings into memory the precious three years of Jesus' ministry that began at Cana. The third petal memorializes the cowardly nighttime trial, false testimony, the predetermined verdict and ruthless cruelty and persecution of our Lord. The fourth petal commemorates the finish, "It is finished." The



mockery, shame, curse, pain and humiliation come to an earthly end with the crucifixion at Golgotha, the excruciating death on the cross. The fifth petal is our great promise of the resurrection and new life as Jesus Christ arose from the tomb, defying death and returned to the Father.

Within each petal are three crosses circled in red (blood). Two crosses (criminals) are separated from the third (Jesus Christ). Directly in front at the foot of the crosses are five light colored blue forms with one whiter (Mary mother of Jesus) than the others. These represent the five brave loved ones John, Salome, Mary (wife of Clopas), Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus. The darker blue and green forms depict the members of the Sanhedrin, temple authorities and Roman soldiers. The surrounding purple configurations represent the mob, the Jews that demanded a Roman crucifixion. In the middle of each petal is a bright yellow form portraying the new life, the resurrection of Christ and the new life we are promised.

In the very center of our awe inspiring Rose is the descending dove, the Holy Spirit to remain within us and on earth until Christ's return. This short essay was presented with the desire to inform, but more importantly to promote a greater appreciation for our astonishingly beautiful Rose Window and what it represents. It is our visual display of the great gifts our God has so graciously granted us. Look up and remember our King who gave up His throne to be with us in human form to give us the greatest gift of all, eternal life.★



How I Found Peace with God – Easter 2010 Testimony

By Yolanda F. Johnson

I would like to talk to you today, not only about my finding peace with God, but also about the role of God in my life – a "biography" of God, if you will.

I have been a believer from a very young age, primarily raised by my grandparents. My grandfather was a "fire and brimstone" Baptist minister from the south, and my grandmother a truly God-fearing, beautiful woman from Arkansas. While most of us have childhood memories of parents perhaps giving us medicine while sick, I can recall waking up in the middle of the night with a fever, and my grandmother praying fervently over me – hands stretched out over my little body, beseeching God to heal me. Since I guess I would say that I turned out okay, there are several people who might claim to have raised me, but honestly, I was raised by a "village" of strategically-placed people whom God put into my life at each and every turn.

I always knew I was not alone, and through all the trials I experienced, even in my youth, I truly came to realize God as my **FATHER** – my "Dad," quite honestly. We as humans are innately wired to know that God exists and I can say that

my dad watched over me through my youth right up until now.

My musical career also began in the church, where I sang after my grandfather would preach and I have been playing the piano since the age of 4. I had my first classical singing audition at the age of 9.

I continued performing through high school and I would make my money through talent shows. I then went on to attain a Bachelor's degree in music/vocal performance and a Master's degree in arts management, while still studying voice at the graduate level. Throughout my life as a musician, I have also come to know God as the wonderful **ARTIST** that he is. I truly believe a quote that appears on my professional website – that music is truly a gift from Heaven. Something Heavenly that we are allowed to experience while on earth. I also can see God's role as an artist by looking at nature and especially in the poetic texts of the Old Testament.

While I was in high school, I experienced several trials, most notably the death of my grandmother. This was one of the most difficult times in my life, and yet, I knew I was never

(continued on page 7)

God's Ministering Spirits

By Greg Laurie

And when Peter had come to himself, he said, "Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people."

— Acts 12:11



The Old and New Testament contain at least 300 references to angels. Everywhere in Scripture, we see examples of angels at work. Story after story tells us about the work of angels. When Peter was arrested for preaching the gospel, the first-century church prayed.

And in answer to their prayers, God dispatched an angel to deliver Peter, who was in such deep sleep, the Bible tells us, that the angel had to strike him to wake him up. The chains fell off his wrists, the prison door opened automatically, and Peter walked out. Often when we pray, it might be an angel who is actually dispatched to help bring about the answer to

our prayers. Angels straddle both heaven and earth, and it would appear that although they are created beings, they never die. Jesus said of people who have gone on to heaven, "Nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection" (Luke 20:36).

And as Hebrews 1:14 tells us, angels have a special work they do in the lives of believers: "Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?" Generally we don't know what angels are doing and when they are doing it. They are sort of like an elite fighting force: they are dispatched on a mission, they go in, they take care of business, and we are never aware of it.

As Billy Graham put it, angels are God's secret agents. They are His ministering servants, protecting, delivering, and sometimes guiding. You don't know it is them. You don't need to engage them. You don't need to try and communicate with them. They are simply doing the work that God has called them to do. ★

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If one of your goals for this Summer is to get more inspired through music and books, well, we've put together the following Top Ten's for you to make it easier.

You can find these CDs and books at **Christianbook.com** 1-800-CHRISTIAN

Top 20 Contemporary Christian Songs

June 2010

- 20 **Walk On The Water** – Britt Nicole
- 19 **If We Ever Needed You** – Casting Crowns
- 18 **Better Than A Hallelujah** – Amy Grant
- 17 **Love Has Come** – Mark Schultz
- 16 **Can Anybody Hear Me** – Meredith Andrews
- 15 **Safe** – Phil Wickham W/Bar Millard
- 14 **Beautiful, Beautiful** – Francesca Battistelli
- 13 **Until The Whole World Hears** – Casting Crowns
- 12 **More Like Falling In Love** – Jason Gray
- 11 **Hold Us Together** – Matt Maher
- 10 **Healing Begins** – Tenth Avenue North
- 9 **Something Beautiful** – Needtobreathe
- 8 **There Is A Way** – Newworldson
- 7 **Forgiven** – Sanctus Real
- 6 **What Faith Can Do** – Kutless
- 5 **Healing Hand of God** – Jeremy Camp
- 4 **Our God** – Chris Tomlin
- 3 **Before the Morning** – Josh Wilson
- 2 **Get Back Up** – Toby Mac
- 1 **All of Creation** – Mercy Me

Top 10 Bestselling Christian Books

June 2010

1. **Know Your Bible: All 66 Books Explained and Applied**, George Knight, *Barbour Publishing, 2008*
2. **How to Pray: The Best of John Wesley on Prayer**, John Wesley, *Barbour Publishing, 2008*
3. **Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God**, Francis Chan, *David C. Cook, 2008*
4. **199 Treasures of Wisdom on Talking with God**, Andrew Murray, *Barbour Publishing, 2007*
5. **So Long, Insecurity: You've Been a Bad Friend to Us**, Beth Moore, *Tyndale House, 2010*
6. **199 Promises of God**, *Barbour Publishing, 2007*
7. **Storm Warning**, Billy Graham, *Thomas Nelson, 2010*
8. **Do Hard Things: A Teenage Rebellion Against Low Expectations**, Alex Harris, Brett Harris, *Multnomah Publishers, Inc., 2008*
9. **What on Earth Am I Here For?** Rick Warren, *Zondervan*
10. **Facing Your Giants**, Max Lucado, *Thomas Nelson*

Help Wanted

FBC Tarrytown believes that everyone who belongs to Jesus Christ has been gifted in a way to bless the rest of the people in the church. Where do you fit in?

Senior's Luncheon

Commitment Level: Occasional (once every 2 months)
Needs: People who enjoy cooking and serving food and people available to help set-up and clean-up.
Contact: Barbara Morton (bjkaess@optonline.net)

Doorkeeper's Ministry

Commitment Level: Occasional (once every 6-8 weeks)
Need: Warm, welcoming individuals who will greet and pass out bulletins to those who attend Sunday worship.
Contact: Yolanda Parker Johnson
(parkerjohnson11@verizon.net)

Children's Ministry

Commitment Level: High (12 week commitment)
Need: Caring, organized, patient individuals who feel led to teach children from ages 3-12.

Nursery

Commitment Level: Moderate (once every 6-8 weeks)
Need: Caring, nurturing individuals who can take care of 0-3 year olds during the Sunday worship service.
Background check required + at least 6 months of attending the church.

Youth Ministry

Commitment Level: High (weekly)
Need: Confident, caring, spiritually growing people who are able to interact with and lead bible studies for students in grades 7-12.
Background check required + at least 6 months of attending the church necessary for all positions that work w/children + youth.
Contact: Steve Armstrong (armstrongsc@yahoo.com)

Trustees

Commitment Level: High (Meetings 1x month + other specific duties)
Need: Organized, detail oriented church members who will help care for the facilities of First Baptist Church. (Handy people welcome!)
Contact: Brian Rush (brush777@aol.com)

Visual Ministry

Commitment Level: Low (once every 4-6 weeks)
Need: People willing to run the premade slideshow for the projector on Sundays. Moderate computer knowledge helpful.
Contact: Amy Dietrich Mark
(amydietrichmark@gmail.com)

Audio Ministry

Commitment Level: Moderate (once every 4-6 weeks)
Need: Detail oriented people who will control sound levels during worship. Attendance at Sunday morning worship practice necessary.
Contact: Amy Dietrich Mark
(amydietrichmark@gmail.com)

Worship Ministry

Commitment Level: Moderate to High – depending on responsibility (attendance at practice required the weeks that you sing or play)
Need: Musically gift individuals who can sing and/or play instruments for Sunday worship service.
Contact: Chip Lotierzo (chplot7@hotmail.com)

Missions Committee

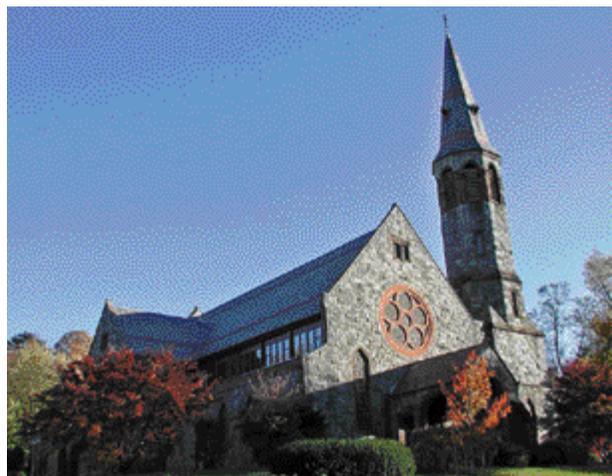
Commitment Level: High (meetings 1x month)
Need: Globally conscious believers who would like to help support our church's missionaries and communicate the importance of missions to our church.
Contact: Doug Morton (SaltFive@juno.com)

Women's Ministry

Commitment Level: Varied
Need: Women who like to help grow the women's ministry at FBC through Bible studies, fun events, and other creative ways.
Contact: Jenna Velez (jenna916@gmail.com)

Bright and Morning Star Newsletter

Commitment Level: Moderate
All the Good News! Need: People interested in writing articles about church activities, testimonies, recipes, Christian music, television or DVDs, or other spiritual matters.
Contact: Art and Terry (terbaul@aol.com)



Freeing Women – One Bag at a Time

By Amy Dietrich Mark

Freeset is a company located in Sonagacchi, an infamous sex district in Kolkata, India. It is estimated that 10,000 women sell their bodies daily in this area. Many are trafficked from Bangladesh, Nepal and rural areas of India. Others are forced into this lifestyle because of poverty and their responsibilities to their families.

Freeset was founded by Kerry and Annie Hilton, who moved from New Zealand to India with their four children in 1999. They moved in faith, knowing that God was leading them to this specific area, although they did not know what they would be doing once they arrived. They signed up for an apartment during the day and it was only when Kerry took a walk at night that they discovered they had moved into one of the largest red light areas in Sonagacchi. They were determined to make a real difference in these women's lives, something that would offer them an alternative way of making money and supporting their families. After experimenting with different products and testing the market, they decided to make jute bags for export.

In 2001, Freeset opened its doors with 20 women eager to seize the opportunity of leaving the sex trade industry behind. It was difficult to teach unskilled women to sew at a quality acceptable for export and in the beginning the average daily output was less than two bags each. Through training and the grace of God, Freeset now produces around 1,000 bags a day. The women are being paid twice the going rate for an equivalent job elsewhere and part of their employment package is health insurance and a pension plan.

Freeset works to provide literacy classes, child care and budgeting and debt management services to its workers. Today, Freeset is employing more than 140 women who are



on their journey to freedom. Freeset has coupled with Justice Ventures International to start the Freedom for 500 program. Their goal is to have 500 churches purchase 500 bags, thereby gaining freedom for 500 women. During this year's joint Thanksgiving service at Calvary Baptist Church, members of New Hope Fellowship displayed some Freeset bags and described their ministry. Soon after, I met with Kyu Hwang and discovered the details of how we could be involved in this ministry. The Kang Small Group has purchased 250 bags and has been selling them since March. We have had amazing success so far and are excited about the possibility of continuing our relationship with Freeset. If you are interested in purchasing a bag, talk to anyone in the Kang Small Group, or email me at amydietrichmark@gmail.com.

Audio/Visual Ministry *By Amy Dietrich Mark*

Iwould never have imagined that I would be a person even involved in the technological aspects of a church, however in just a short time after joining FBC, I have become the leader of such a ministry. As the Audio/Visual Ministry Leader, I am responsible for scheduling people to run the soundboard and the lyrics slide shows each Sunday, as well as preparing the announcement loops and the slideshows themselves in advance.

I became involved in this ministry through Grace Soong. Grace had asked me to join the soundboard team and, soon after, the Worship team. A short while later, Walter Neumann moved to North Carolina and the responsibilities of the soundboard fell on Grace. It became apparent that there was a great opportunity to reach out to people strictly through the audio/visual aspect of the service and it was a natural progression when I began to lead it.

I am very appreciative of the team of people who have volunteered to be a part of this ministry. If you are interested in running a slideshow or learning about the soundboard, please let me know either during service or through email (amydietrichmark@gmail.com). I am thankful for the opportunity I have to serve our congregation and am excited about being able to use the audio and visual aspects of our services to bring people closer to Christ.★

(Yolanda continued from page 4)

alone – and I knew that God was my dad, who wouldn't leave me, an artist, so that means he's sensitive and understands the things I go through – and I found that I could really, honestly trust him with my life, as the **LOVER OF MY SOUL**.

Going on to college, my priorities did a backwards shift and God became, let's say, 4th or 5th on my list. It was a time of new experiences and the Lord knows I made my share of mistakes. Still, I always knew He was there and even when making less-than-perfect decisions, I could feel the Holy Spirit's urgings and warnings, something for which I am eternally grateful. From late in college through graduate school, one of the least wise decisions I made was in a relationship I was in – to someone unequally yoked, until finally, at the Spirit's urging, I had to let go of that relationship. My dad saw his daughter in a wrong situation and got her out of it.

During graduate school was probably one of my closest, most beautiful times with God. My relationship became long-distance and I had such a wonderful peace and communion with the Holy Spirit – it was one of the best times of my life. After graduate school, I moved back to Oklahoma, where I eventually became the director of a new music conservatory. I actually started the music school programs from the ground-up and during the process became a bit of a hot-shot, who thought she knew everything. I made some bad, pompous decisions, which eventually brought me to my knees. I then saw God as, well, the **GREAT HUMILIATOR**. Let's also call this the **GREAT HUMBLER**.

It can be a very good thing to be humbled. I suppose I'd needed it. Since my walk began at such an early age, I realized that I also could be a bit arrogant where my faith was

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Where We Lay Our Heads

By Jacques Cowart II

In September of this year, 7 of us will leave from JFK airport to Sierra Leone, Africa. We will be there for 10 days to serve and work with Michael Turay, a missionary that FBC has supported for over 8 years.

Are we excited? Of course we are!

None of us have ever been on the continent of Africa. We have never seen an African night sky, or been bitten by an abnormally large African mosquito! (Personally I can't wait for this to happen.)

Foreign mission trips often have a 'exotic/sexy' attraction to them. I mean let's admit it. Its more interesting to tell your family and friends that you're going on a mission trip to Africa, rather than tell them you will be serving at a housing project in say...Rochester NY.

In many ways we are attracted to serve in foreign countries more than we are in our own neighborhoods. So as great as it is, and it is a great and amazing blessing to travel to Africa and spread God's Word, I want to make sure that everyone-mission team, family, friends, and the family at FBC-understands that we are not going there to see Africa. We are not going to have an adventure. We are going there to serve and share God's word.

In "Serving with Eyes Wide Open" by David A. Livermore, he speaks of the mindset that American churches often hold on international missions. "Let's be honest. Along with the seemingly more noble reasons for going on a short term mission trip, many of us love the adventure of it all. It's fun to fill up our passports with international stamps...Going to Mexico or Africa is much sexier than going downtown." He even goes as far as to give an example of one church's mission trip announcement.

"...we'll spend a week in Guadalajara Mexico, where we will have the incredible opportunity to minister to, pray for, and teach women in a vibrant church community. And this trip isn't a "rough-roach-in-your-bed" kind of experience either- we'll be housed in a nice clean hotel rooms, eat lots of salsa, and have plenty of time to shop! If you're remotely interested in this adventure-or if you're just in the mood for Mexico after all this winter weather-call for more details about this fantastic outreach opportunity."

This is a major contrast to young China missionaries that he sites a couple of sentences later, "In their words, "The Muslim and Buddhist nations can torture us, imprison us, and

starve us, but they can do no more than we have already experienced in China...We are not only ready to die for the gospel, we are expecting it."

When I read these two examples of missions I can't help but think of our greatest example of a missionary, our savior, Jesus Christ. He is the truest example of a missionary because He came to serve a world that he knew would reject him. A

world he knew he would have to die for to save. In Luke 9, in the middle of his mission, we are told that a man tells him, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus' response was simple, heartbreaking and inspiring all at the same time. He says, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

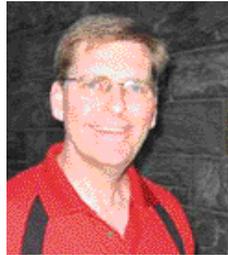
I believe that Jesus is saying, if you're going to follow and serve others like me don't expect to stay in comfy hotels. If you want to be a missionary for me, be prepared to put your comforts and need for adventure aside, and put the people you are going to serve, their culture, sensitivities, and need for the Gospel before yourself. Talk about a true mission trip!

The scripture is also inspiring. Here we are in Westchester NY, and (believe it or not) we are all missionaries, and look how good we have it! So if the Lord of Lords, King of Kings, could sacrifice for me so many of the comforts that I

take for granted on a daily basis, why can't I sacrifice having a co-worker look at me 'strange' when I tell them about Christ?

As a team we are praying that we can soften our hearts to be more like Christ, and the Chinese Missionaries. We, of course, would love to remain safe...safe in the Lord's Arms. But we also understand that this trip is not meant to be an 'Africa get away'. No, its meant to be an extension of God's church here in the West, to our brothers and sister's in Africa. So this will mean us having a servants heart, remaining flexible and understanding of what we may encounter there. (We have a lot of training to do!)

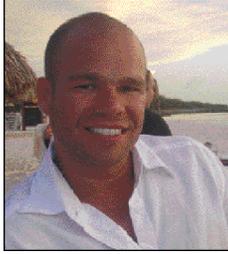
We hope that you will join the mission team in continuous prayer these next couple of months as we prepare for our trip. Also please pray that the Body of Christ here in Westchester can understand what it means to be a missionary where we live. Spreading the Gospel is not just meant to happen whenever we leave the country, but its should also be happening here where we are blessed enough to lay our heads.★



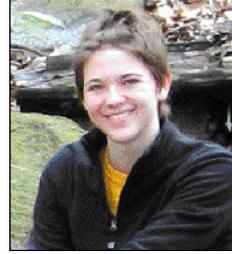
Pastor Torrey



Lisa Baugh



Aaron Morton



Amy Dietrich-Mark



Julie McKeon



Jacques Cowart II



Katie Cowart

THE FBC MISSIONS TEAM

God Heard: The Koslowsky Adoption Story

By Kevin and Laura Koslowsky (Jen Kang's Sister and Brother-in-Law)

Our Family

God heard our prayers and has answered us. We are excited to bring Samuel home soon. Kevin and Laura were married in 1999 and shortly thereafter began to see the possibility of growing their family through adoption. David, 7, and Leah, 5, are excited to meet their little brother. Kevin and Laura are high school sweethearts and enjoy their ministry together at Faith Presbyterian Church. Kevin serves as Associate Pastor for Youth & Children's Ministries; Laura is a stay-at-home mom and actively involved in children's ministries at church. David is an active first grader who enjoys reading, legos, soccer, and exploring God's world. Leah is a sweet and creative preschooler who loves to sing, dance, draw, and snuggle. As a family we are excited to add Samuel to our family. Samuel is described as a cute and brave boy who comes into our family from the care of a foster family in Korea.

Our Samuel

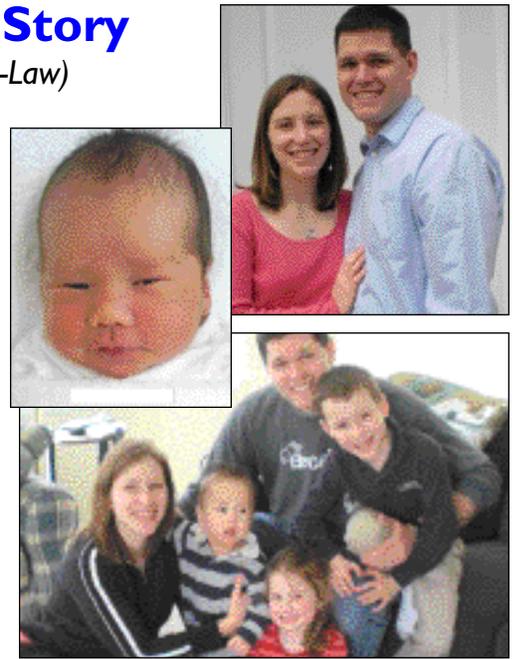
Our Samuel was born in April of 2009. In the Bible, Samuel's birth was the answer to his mother's prayers. "She named him Samuel, saying, 'Because I asked the LORD for him.'" (1 Samuel 1:20) Our Samuel is also an answer to prayer. Samuel means "God heard." And his biblical name fits well with the names of his brother David and sister Leah. We were also inspired by Samuel Moffett, a missionary in Korea who helped the Korean church become self-propagating, self-governing, and self-supporting. He saw the need for each church member to engage in intensive Bible study and personal evangelism, and he took a strong stand for the church against imposed Japanese Shinto worship (see Ruth Tucker's *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya*). His trust in Jesus Christ is what we pray for in our Samuel. Samuel's Korean name most likely means Righteous-Clever or Righteous-For the Country. Samuel resided with a foster family in Seoul after his birth in the south of the country. He is described as a cute and brave boy who is tenderly cared for by his foster family. He has minor correctable special needs which cat-

egorize him as a "waiting child." This archived post gives more details about his beautiful feet. We are excited that God has brought him into our lives.

Our Adoption Story

God began working in our lives preparing us for adoption early in our marriage. Kevin was attending Covenant Seminary learning about the theological foundation of our adoption as sons of God, Laura was teaching in an urban St. Louis school and came face to face with the challenges of teen pregnancy, and we became members of a church that was committed to adoption and foster parenting. When we moved to Wilmington, DE we met with a representative from Bethany Christian Services to inquire about adoption. From this point God was working in our lives preparing us to welcome a child into our forever family. Our first informational meeting with Welcome House was in February of 2008. That put us on a waiting list for adoption through South Korea. We chose to adopt through South Korea because of our family connection which gives us a link to the history and culture of Korea. We began the paperwork and home-study process in the spring of 2009. We accepted a match for our Samuel in September 2009, and we brought Samuel home in March 2010. ★

Visit Kevin and Laura's blog at www.godheard.wordpress.com



(Yolanda continued from page 7)

concerned, because – I tell ya, I was the "Bible Memory Verse" champion with trophies from all the passages I'd memorized. If you wanted to tell me about it, I already could quote it to you. I "already knew that." But God has shown me so much more. Remembering – He's my dad, an artist, humiliator, the lover of my soul and He forgives us. Sometimes I give thanks unto Him for not being like us. I mean, really. There's a quote from a song I love, entitled, "God." It goes like this:

Whatever you do with me, it's alright.

You have my total trust.

All glory and honor, dominion and power.

God, you are my God

He is our God. He is ours and we are His and if you trust

Him – you'll have peace, because He will be your personal savior, your God.

In my adult life, the Lord has blessed me with many opportunities somehow to represent Him and actually defend the faith, if you will. One of these places is at work, where I've been truly grateful, in my circle of fellow artists, and just in life in general. I take this very seriously and am so grateful that I was raised in the way I should go, and as I thanked my grandfather in recent years – I have not departed from it.

One other thing I'd like to share is an incident that happened last year. I was on my way to sing and perform in Germany and it was just a few days after that awful AirFrance crash, so I, being a nervous flier, was quite jittery and downright scared. The weather wasn't that great

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(Yolanda continued from page 9)

and I began to have an outright panic attack. Steve and I went into the chapel to pray and asked God to be led to a word regarding the situation. Almost immediately, we turned to Psalm 46. Now, this being a very, very modern translation of the Bible, we went directly to the verse, which read, "Calm down! Remember that I am in control." Talk about amazing laughter that filled that chapel. It would be equivalent to the KJV of "Be still and know that I am God." Point taken, Dad. We really can trust him! He really does care!

One of the greatest testimonies of my life so far, is how the Lord has brought me through several health difficulties. A few years ago, I was diagnosed with endometriosis – a painful condition which often leads to infertility and the stage at which the disorder had grown to in my body meant an emergency surgery. Many people said, "Oh, how sad." Praise the Lord that my response, however, was "Thank God that He showed me what was going on in my body and led me to healing." It wasn't easy, but I now see the blessing in it all. And then, an even more difficult

thing happened last year, in that I was diagnosed with cancer. But praise the Lord, while I am still being watched, right now I can say that the cancer is gone and I have been healed. This was daunting and physically challenging and painful, but I also know that the Lord saw me through everything and I count it to him as faithfulness.

HOW I FOUND PEACE WITH GOD. The one way I would truly recommend doing so is to give things up to Him and try your hardest not to take them back. Lay them at the Throne of Grace. He's aware, He sees us, He knows for sure what's going on and there's no better place for things to be than in His hands. Our Father, Our comforter, the Lover of our Souls, an immaculate Artist, the Great Humbler. God is so many things and most of all – He decided to come down here and join us as a human being and if only we would believe in the great TEACHER who came to save us, we'll have peace.

Thank you for allowing me to share my story with you.★

(Missionaries to a Religious Country continued from page 2)



the chaos of World War II, Czechoslovakia became a Communist nation within Soviet-dominated Eastern Europe. Soviet influence collapsed in 1989 and Czechoslovakia once more became free. The Slovaks and the Czechs

agreed to separate peacefully on January 1st 1993. Slovakia went on to join both NATO and the EU in the spring of 2004 with the euro becoming the national currency on January 1st of 2009.

While the country has been progressing politically and economically, the people have remained rather stagnant as far as any major shifts in their denominational mix. According to the 2001 census in Slovakia, 0.2% of the people in Slovakia claim to be a part of an evangelical denomination. Now not all that claim to be part of that 0.2% are practicing any kind of faith. Also, there are

certainly "non evangelicals" that are true believers. Any way you slice it, that's a really small number when you compare it to the 25-30% that claim to be evangelical in the United States.¹ Our recent Palm Sunday visit by Milka and Michael Lapcak shed an interesting light on this fact. When Michael was asked about the approximate number of Baptist in the country, he gave an estimated number of 1000 (the Wikipedia² site makes reference to 2,335 members in 26 congregations). He went on to say that the Slovakian people view Baptists as they would a cult.

Milka and Michael are working to plant a church in the 3rd largest city in the country – Presov. Supported primarily by their mother church in Kosice (kosice.baptist.sk), they work out of a rented community center in a variety of ways to connect with the community in the city of 100,000. We here at First Baptist Church in Tarrytown have partnered with the Kosice church in supporting the small church plant. Pray that God will work in the hearts of the Slovak people to change attitudes toward evangelical Christianity. Pray that God will grant wisdom to Christian believers sharing their faith in a country that takes pride in their religious traditions, but are too often blind to the true message of the gospel. ★

¹ <http://www.toddjana.com/2010/05/13/counting-christians/>

² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baptist_Union_in_the_Czech_Republic



Today's Christian Music

24/7 Evangelical Christian Television on Cable TV
Channel 134, TBN Network (Trinity Broadcasting Network)
Channel 136, Daystar

UPCOMING FBC EVENTS

Youth Group Missions Trip, July 4-9, 2010
Vacation Bible School (VBS), August 9-13, 2010

Please call the Church office for more events and times 914-631-6372 or visit www.fbctarrytown.org

With God's help we seek to be "A Community where God is at work, lives are changed, broken hearts are healed, hopes are real, and people are on fire for God and His Word."

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