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**March 2011**

***The POWER TEAM crusade begins March 23***



The POWER TEAM is coming to Virden/North Mac on Wednesday March 23 through Sunday, March 27. They will present their program 7 PM nightly at the North Mac High School New Gym in Virden. There will be a special meet and greet on Tuesday, March

22 at 7 PM at the Prairie Temple Assembly of God church in Virden.

Special prayer meetings will be held on Thursday, March 3rd at 7 PM at New Beginnings Baptist Church in Girard; Saturday, March 5th at 6 PM at First Christian Church, Girard; and on Thursday, March 10th, at 7 PM at First Baptist Church in Girard. These prayer meetings are meant to help prepare the hearts of all who attend or are a part of the crusade for the Holy Spirit's anointing. This event is being backed and sponsored by the churches of the North Mac school district. Our own church is one of those sponsors.

The POWER TEAM is a group of world class athletes who have performed exhibitions of power, strength, speed, inspiration, and motivation in every state and in over 40 countries for over 30 years. They have been praised for their positive contribution to the lives of America's families.

The POWER TEAM became the "Original" strength team and evangelistic association in 1976. They utilize visually explosive feats of strength to communicate positive messages to audiences all across the nation and the world. These giant men, many weighing over 300 pounds, can blow up hot water bottles like balloons, snap baseball bats like twigs, lift telephone poles overhead, rip phone books and license plates like pieces of paper, and smash walls of ice and concrete. Believing that inspiration and motivation equals academic and personal achievement, they tackle the tough issues of drugs, alcohol, violence, abstinence, peer pressure, and suicide.

From elementary ages to high school, young people all over the world have been challenged and changed by their positive messages. Plan now to attend this powerful, life-changing event filled with messages of hope and inspiration, and make sure you take a young person with you to experience extreme fun and extreme gospel truths.

***It's time to plan for church camp!***





Lake Springfield Baptist Camp managers Doug and Jennifer Brady are ready to welcome 2011 summer campers with a variety of choices including a Music Workshop for grades 4-7. For the Kindergarten - 3rd grade crowd there is a choice of one of two day camps OR a new overnight 24 hour mini-camp! There is a camp for every age from Kindergarten all the way up to Senior Highs grade 12. Volunteers have worked hard preparing the camp for the summer and even hope to soon have the swimming pool back up and running.

First Baptist church will help parents to pay for church camp fees, if their child is a regular attendee of Sunday school or Wednesday Night kids club. Early registration is required to receive a discount, so camp forms must be returned by May 1 to qualify for the church to help with the cost. Camps are based on the school grade just completed for the 2010-2011 school year, and are processed on a first-come basis.

Camp forms have been distributed to the children, and there are more in the church office if needed. Please see Debbie Kershaw for more information or to register a child. But don't wait—summer is just around the corner!



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	<b>1</b> <b>Exercise Class</b> 6:30 PM Diane DeSmidt	<b>2</b> <b>Supper &amp; Kid's</b> <b>Club 6 PM</b> 'No Bible Study' Ralph Berriman	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Lonnie Crawford	<b>5</b>	
<b>6</b> Wedding shower for Alicia Kirchner noon in Pitman Hall North Mac Back to school event Planning meeting 2 PM	<b>7</b> Aiden Snodgrass	<b>8</b> <b>Exercise Class</b> 6:30 PM	<b>9</b> <b>Supper &amp; Kid's</b> <b>Club 6 PM</b> <b>Business</b> <b>Meeting 7:15 PM</b> Jane Primrose <b>Lent Begins</b>	<b>10</b> <b>ABWM</b> <b>Meets</b> <b>At</b> <b>noon</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  Time to Spring Ahead <b>Forward one</b> <b>hour tonight!</b>
<b>13</b> <b>Area II Annual</b> <b>Meeting</b> 3 PM Winchester	<b>14</b> Bob Dibler	<b>15</b> <b>Exercise Class</b> 6:30 PM	<b>16</b> <b>Supper &amp; Kid's</b> <b>Club 6 PM</b> <b>Bible Study</b> 6:45 Cole Langley	<b>17</b>  Bart Rogers	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <b>Food Pantry</b> <b>Sunday</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>Exercise Class</b> 6:30 PM Kaye Liles	<b>23</b> <b>Supper &amp; Kid's</b> <b>Club 6 PM</b> <b>Bible Study</b> 6:45	<b>24</b> <b>Pulpit</b> <b>Committee</b> 7 PM	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Patty Sloman	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Exercise Class</b> 6:30 PM	<b>30</b> <b>Supper &amp; Kid's</b> <b>Club 6 PM</b> <b>Bible Study</b> 6:45	<b>31</b>		

### **Area II Annual meeting planned**

The 2011 Area II Annual meeting will be hosted by the First Baptist Church of Winchester on Sunday, March 13. This year's theme is "My Face - God's Book."

Speakers for the evening worship service will be Kate and Taku Longkumer candidates for Mission service in North East India. Registration will begin at 2:30 PM and the afternoon session and workshops will begin at 3 PM. Registration is \$10 including the catered dinner or \$5 without the dinner. Dinner will be served at 5 PM. If you would like to attend, please see Pastor Jerry so that all registrations can be turned in at the same time. Child care will be provided. The afternoon offering will be for Lake Springfield Baptist Camp and the evening offering will be for Katie & Taku Longkumer.

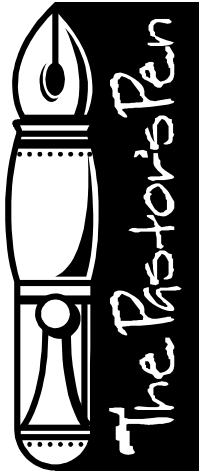


### **Say yes to God**

"Many think of self-denial as giving up something during the Lenten season. Others have said that it is to be dead to self, or even to hate self. I disagree with these opinions. When Jesus referred to self-denial (Mark 8:34), he was not talking about denying ourselves some luxury item or denying the reality of self or the needs of self. Rather, he was focusing on the importance of renouncing self as the center of our life and actions."

"In other words, self-denial is the decision of each of his followers to give over to God his body, career, money and time. A true disciple is willing to shift the spiritual center of gravity in his life. Self-denial is the sustained willingness to say no to oneself in order to say yes to God."

-Bill Hull



## THE BIGGEST MISSION FIELD IN THE WORLD

The United States of America is the largest mission field in the whole world. Within our national boundaries we find a mix of more nationalities, ethnic groups, language groups, colors, etc., than anywhere else in the world. It is this huge “field” that we address with our prayers, dollars and energies in the **AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING**. While no one group can do all that is needed, we do our best to make an impact for Christ on this nation we call our own.

There is still a certain mystique in doing “foreign” mission work. That is understandable. When someone goes to a foreign mission field there are huge cultural challenges and changes that make the task uniquely difficult. We salute any and all who make a life commitment to peoples in the remote corners of our world. While that work may seem a bit more glamorous it is not any more important in God’s economy than “home” missions work. Both are **very** important and, thankfully, Jesus didn’t ask us to choose one mission field over another. He simply said, “*be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the uttermost parts of the earth.*”

A closer look at the work carried out through our **American Baptist Home Mission Societies** will reveal that many types of ministries are carried out in the name of Jesus. We are called as a church, a denomination—and as individuals—to “*reach across cultural, social, economic and racial lines with practical acts of love...Holistic ministries should address physical, social, psychological and spiritual needs of individuals—particularly the needy, forgotten and defenseless.*” If we take on this task in the power of the Holy Spirit, we will be **Touching Lives, Transforming People.**

Our Church Missions Committee has set a goal for our church this year of \$700. That is a little more than we gave last year. During the month of March we will be talking about our Home Missions enterprise. We will be encouraging you to give as generously as you can to help “touch lives.” It is true that a portion of your regular offering for March will go to the **AFC Offering**. However, the needs are so great that only with our personal, sacrificial giving can we reach our goal and help make a spiritual impact on our great mission field.

Thankful that “*He Touched Me,*”  
Prayerful that He can touch others through us,

Pastor Phillips

### ***Pray without ceasing***

“Faith is to the soul what life is to the body. Prayer is to faith what breath is to the body. How a person can live and not breathe is past my comprehension, and how a person can believe and not pray is past my comprehension, too.”

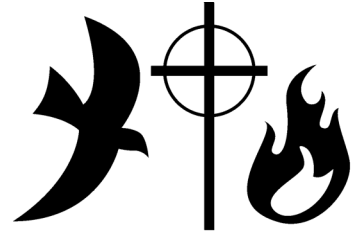
–J.C. Ryle

Attached to this month’s newsletter is an envelope for the America for Christ offering that will be collected through the month of March. You may use it, or you can simply designate a portion of your monthly giving to the America for Christ offering by indicating that in the memo section of your check.

***“The birth of Christ brought God to us, but it took the cross of Christ to bring us to God.”***

–Author Unknown

## Pastoral Search Committee continues efforts



The Search Committee will meet on Thursday, March 24th.

For those of you who do not know or remember what the process of selecting a minister is in an American Baptist Church, here is where we are at:

The committee has met with our Area II representative and has obtained “profiles” of different pastors that seem to be a good fit for First Baptist. Their next step is to interview the person, where they usually meet and talk one-on-one. This may be one meeting or several. Next, a “neutral” pulpit is arranged where the entire committee goes to a location convenient for both the pastor and the committee. There the committee is able to hear the minister speak in front of a congregation on a Sunday morning and see how he or she interacts in the church setting. It is important at this point that you refrain from asking the committee members many questions about where they were or other details, because if the committee feels after all of this that the candidate is not a good fit—then the whole process begins again.

If they do like what they see and hear, the minister is issued an invitation to come and preach for our own congregation. When that time comes, the committee will make sure that all of our congregation has plenty of advance notice so that you can plan to be here on that important Sunday. After the service, the committee will usually host a pot-luck meal and give the membership a chance to meet and ask questions of the candidate. The final step comes on the Wednesday evening following the Sunday the candidate is presented. It is then that the membership is invited to attend a special business meeting in which a secret vote is taken to determine if a call should be extended to the candidate.

To make a successful call we need to remember to lift the Pulpit Committee up in prayer daily. Their job is a difficult one that will likely affect our entire church body for years to come. Please pray for them and for the person that God has already chosen to be our next pastor.



First Baptist Church  
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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

