

SONLIFE NEWS

SonLife Community Church

www.sonlifecc.org

July 2008

Shepherds discuss church growth plans

How best to grow the church was the focus of the July Shepherds meeting with a guest specialist, Kara McClymont. In doing that, the Shepherds discussed our message to non-members and methods of getting it out.

There are many considerations for our message to people such as we are approachable, accessible, real and loving; we have an applicable message for real life; our goal is friendship with God and friendship with people. As a body our church has a broad spectrum of beliefs but are united in essential truths.

Some of the slogans mentioned were: "Connect"; "Real answers for real life"; "Loving God and loving people"; "Real people in a real world loved by a real God"; and others.

Some ideas presented included printing T-shirts with the church tag theme, yard signs, direct mail, using custom post cards signed by members of the church, foam board signs over Sonlife Sign for special events, and a table at community events.



SonLife's Worship Team leads the July 6th salute to freedom and America. They include Glenn Knutson on drums, Gilda Wiseman on piano and singers Rhonda Lenehan, Sally Choquette (hidden), Ann Wiseman, Estrella Knutson, Bill Duck on guitar and Marshall Wise (foreground) with the cornet.

Clare Edmonds' father died on Thursday on the western shore and the funeral will be Sunday there.

At the age of 93, he had fallen and broken his ankle. Following surgery, infection had set in and his leg had to be amputated.

As a result of the discussion, a plan is being put together for final discussion with an anticipated launch time right after Labor Day. It is anticipated that everyone in the church will have an opportunity to participate.

In other action, two committees were named to assist with upcoming projects. Marshall Wise, Kati and Dan Semans, and Tom and Rose Merryweather will be planning a special outreach and Sunday Service and events in conjunction

with Bike Week in September. Many of the bikers will be at Winterpark Place, near the church.

Another committee, headed by Estrella Knutson, will develop a business plan for launching the SHINE ministry in anticipation of receiving a grant to start it. Committee members include Craig Larson, Maria Waller, Rose Merryweather and Marshall Wise in an ex-officio capacity.

The SHINE ministry involves physical fitness develop in both youngsters and adults and is intended to reach out beyond the church. It is anticipated that grant funds will allow the space in the church that is needed.

HomeBuilders start second group, met July 9th

Couples who missed the opportunity to learn how to apply biblical truths to their marriage, have a second chance to study Keeping Your Covenant! This study consists of four sessions and started last Wednesday July 9th at 7 p.m. at Pete and Inge Frost's home in Fruitland. The other three meetings will be scheduled on weekdays with the group. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Pete or Inge Frost at 410-860-2411.

On June 7th, the current HomeBuilders group reviewed the third chapter of *Sacred Marriage*. This chapter gave us food for thought on how marriage teaches us to love. In Matthew 22, God's Word tells us that we must love the Lord with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our mind (the greatest commandment), but it also tells us that we must love our neighbor as ourselves.

Gary Thomas believes that marriage creates a climate where this love is put to the greatest



The HomeBuilders picnic on July 4th was at Pete and Inge Frost's home. Right, Pete and Inge prepare the hamburgers. At left, enjoying the picnic are Pete Frost (bottom left, then clockwise) Phil and Louise Luft, Christine and Don Mattson, Craig Larson, Gilda and Marshall Wise, Ann Wiseman, and Inge Frost.

test and, therefore, is such a great practice ground to learn to love someone that is so different from you. He also feels that in the context of marriage we have no excuse. "God lets us choose whom we're going to love. Because we get the choice and then find it difficult to carry out the love in practice, what grounds do we have to ever stop loving?"

God doesn't command us to get married; he offers it to us as an opportunity. Once we enter the marriage relationship, we cannot love God without loving our spouse as well. He finishes the chapter with the following encouragement: "If you truly want to love God, look right now at the ring on your left hand, commit yourself to exploring anew what that ring represents, and love passionately, crazily, and enduringly the person who put it there. It just may be one of the most spiritual things you can do."

From Josh and Tiffany Mitchell in Hawaii

A couple of weeks ago we had the privilege to have my parents come and visit! They stayed for a week and we got the opportunity to do a lot of fun things. Things that we don't get to do on a normal basis, because of money, but my parents were able to bless us with some fun adventures!

Thankfully the weather was beautiful the whole time they were here!

The highlights of the visit were, horseback riding in Waipio Valley and a luau in Kona at the King Kamehameha Resort! On Saturday we journeyed to Waipio Valley. The drive alone was worth the money! We had an excellent tour guide who drove us deep into the belly of the valley and he had us laughing and a little bit nervous the whole time. There were no guard rails and



OK, where is Dan Blocker? Oops, this is Hawaii. Right out of Bonanza and coming in from the hot and dusty trail ride are Josh Mitchell, Marshall and Gilda Wise, and Tiffany Mitchell. That can't be right, It's Hawaii!

the drive down was 33 percent grade. For those of you who do not know what that means- that's STEEP!!!

Once we got down into the valley, he brought us to the barn after driving through a river, to introduce us to our horses. The trail ride was so much fun and Josh and I realized how much we love to ride horses. We got to trot through rivers and streams and it was a ball!

The next day was Sunday, so after church we packed up and headed over to Kona, for the luau. Josh and I have been to a luau before but this one was really special. This particular one is known as the best on the island, but the cool part was that the entire luau was Christian based. The people who worked there were all Christians. We could see them before they went out to perform all in a circle praying. It was really neat. Also, before we ate dinner the host of the evening said an awesome prayer over our food and the food was great too! We had lau lau (pork wrapped in banana leaves) ,kahlua pig, poke (which is raw fish with spices I don't prefer this dish!), poi (ground taro made into a pudding like substance), and so many more delicious things! My favorite part of the whole evening was they did a hula to " More love, More power " in Hawaiian, then they sang it in English. It was so beautiful and it has inspired me to learn hula. So, I have been searching for a place to take classes.

The newest news we have is that Josh and I are going to be starting to take ballroom dancing classes! I am so excited about this! I have been wanting to do it for a long time and Josh finally agreed! As you can tell we have had a lot of exciting things happening. It can be hard living here, especially with the cost of everything. But, the Lord always continues to be faithful and we have learned when you give up everything to serve Him , He will bless you in more ways than you can ever imagine! We are so thankful for the many opportunities that He has given us! Thanks for reading!

Couples' Night Out – all couples are invited!

All couples are invited to join the HomeBuilders' group for a night out in Ocean City at Phillips' Restaurant on Friday, July 18th to enjoy listening to Rhonda and Dale perform in their professional role! It will be a great night and lots of opportunity for fellowship.

Women of Faith Conference On September 12-13

Ladies, it's not too late yet to buy a ticket for this year's Women of Faith Conference in Philadelphia, September 12-13. This year's theme is "Infinite Grace" for the main event and the theme for the pre-conference on Friday with Patsy Clairmont, Anita Renfroe and Jan Silvius is "I Second that Emotion."



Madison Faith Skibenes was dedicated at SonLife on July 6th. Below, the family stands in support during the ceremony. At left, "Grandma" Sheila beams.



Prepare yourself for lots of laughter but also tears because these ladies have a God-given ability to touch hearts with both emotions. The special guests for the main event are Nicole C. Mullen and Max Lucado!

This is a conference you don't want to miss! There are 3 tickets remaining. Please see Inge for more information or if you are interested in purchasing a ticket. The tickets are \$99 each.

Weekly team meetings

One of the strengths of our church is the opportunity to build relationships with each other and the first place that can be done is through the weekly team meetings in a member's home.

Monday evening, 7-9 p.m., The Mattson Team. Contact Christine Mattson at (410) 548-7557 or Lee Still at (410) 742-0675.

Wednesday evening, 7-9 p.m., The Wise Team. Contact Pastor Marshall or Gilda Wise at (410) 548-5688.

Thursday evening, 7-9 p.m., The Larson Team. Contact Craig or Linda Larson at (410) 742-5134.

Report from the Peipons

Celebrating graduation in the Ukraine

This time of year is known for graduations. Our family is celebrating two graduations here in the Ukraine. Our son, Jamie, finished his course of study at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory of Music. In his final concert, he finished at the top of class with a perfect 5 and was invited to continue his studies there in their post-graduate program. Dasha, Jamie's wife, completed her studies at the Ukrainian National Linguistic University, also receiving 5's. As parents, we are extremely proud of them both. They each use their God-given gifts to the glory of God. Dasha often writes human interest stories about Christians in the women's magazine of which she is an editor. Jamie is the director of the worship group at church.

Also graduating in the Ukraine are about 18,000 medical students. We being to focus on preparations for what we think will be the first conference for Christian medical students and recent graduates. These young doctors are the future of Ukrainian medicine. The purpose of this conference is to encourage and strengthen these young leaders in their faith, helping them to realize that they are not alone on their journey. Jim will be joined by Dennis Gorenko, co-director of the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship in the Ukraine, and physicians from Belarus, Russia; and America...challenging and teaching how to develop medical fellowships in their schools and hospitals to reach their fellow students and colleagues for Christ. The conference will address dealing with ethical issues that arise everyday and how to assess their personal walk by taking their spiritual vital signs.

Please pray for the organizers and speakers to be able to effectively share God's love to these students. Pray that the students' hearts will be open and burdened to share their faith boldly, in order that the medical system and the patients they care for will be transformed by God's grace.

Finally, we thank God for your continued and sacrificial support of God's work through us and the Ukraine Medical Outreach.

Jim and Marianna Peipon

You may contact the Peipons through International Faith Initiatives, Inc., 5592 Pinecrest Circle, Noblesville, IN 46062.

This is your newsletter...item deadline August 3rd

This is your chance to tell the rest of the church about others in the church and yourself. Your own spiritual insights are welcome also. E-mail info and photos to Ann Wiseman at Bdenver234@comcast.net or by giving her the information at church.