

INTOUCH

January 6, 2008

Redeem the Time

By Jill Carattini

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY – JANUARY 6

| | | |
|--------------|---|-----------------|
| 12:30 PM | Nursing Home Ministry – meet at | Fellowship Hall |
| 2:00 PM | Nursing Home Ministry – Service of Worship | Osborn H & R |
| 5:00-5:55 PM | CBC Ringers (Older Youth into High School) | 208 |
| 5:00-5:55 PM | Campanitas Ringers (Grades 1-4) | 207 |
| 5:00-5:55 PM | Bell Canto Ringers (Grades 5-8) | 209 |
| 6:00-7:15 PM | Sanctuary Bells (Adults) | 208 |
| 6:00 PM | New Song Singers (Grades 4-6)) | 209 |
| 6:00 PM | <i>Jonathan Edwards: Religious Affections</i> Study | Library |

MONDAY – JANUARY 7

| | | |
|---------|--|---------------------|
| 9:00 AM | Women's Aerobics – <i>Circuit Training</i> | Fellowship Hall |
| 7:30 PM | Community Bible Study – <i>Romans</i> | F. Hall, Classrooms |

TUESDAY – JANUARY 8

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|---------|
| 7-8:30 AM | Women's Prayer/Study | Library |
| 9:00 AM | Women's Precept Class | 207 |

WEDNESDAY – JANUARY 9

| | | |
|---------|---|-----------------|
| 9:00 AM | Women's Aerobics – <i>Stretching Exercises</i> | F. Hall |
| 5:45 PM | Carol Choir (Grades 1-3) | 208 |
| 6:45 PM | LOGOS Kids Club | Classrooms |
| 6:45 PM | EXCEL Midweek | Fellowship Hall |
| 6:45 PM | Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal | Choir Room |
| 6:45 PM | <i>How to Think Rightly About the Faith</i> - Teleios Study | Library |

THURSDAY – JANUARY 10

| | | |
|---------|---|---------------|
| 9:00 AM | Women's Aerobics – <i>Pilates Strength Training</i> | F. Hall |
| 6:30 PM | College Ministry dinner together | The Delnoce's |
| 7:00 PM | College Ministry – study in Ephesians | The Delnoce's |

FRIDAY – JANUARY 11

| | | |
|---------|---|-----------------|
| 9:00 AM | Women's Aerobics – <i>Step Aerobics</i> | Fellowship Hall |
|---------|---|-----------------|

SUNDAY – JANUARY 13

Plan ahead for getting around the P.F. Chang Marathons being run on the 13th and blocking access to CBC from the south! See the attachments to this morning's IN TOUCH (1-6-08) for needed details

| | | |
|-------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 9:00 and 10:40 AM | MORNING WORSHIP Dr. Tim Savage <i>THE LIFE OF GOD IN US</i> <i>"Growing Up As A Child Of God"</i> 1 John 2:26 – 3:3 | Sanctuary |
| 9:00 AM | Nursery (infants – 24 months) | 301-304 |
| | Children's Discipleship (2 yrs–6 th grade) | 102, 201, 203, 206 |
| | Adult Fellowships | 208, 209 |
| | <i>Foundations</i> Study | Church Office |
| | <i>God's Way of Handling Money</i> – Teleios Study | 207 |
| | Children's Baptism Class | TBA – call the office |
| 10:40 AM | Nursery (infants – 24 months) | 301-304 |
| | Children's Church (2 yrs–6 th grade) | 101-104, 203, 207-208 |
| | EXCEL (Jr. High & High School) | Fellowship Hall |
| 5:00-5:55 PM | CBC Ringers (Older Youth into High School) | 208 |
| 5:00-5:55 PM | Campanitas Ringers (Grades 1-4) | 207 |
| 5:00-5:55 PM | Bell Canto Ringers (Grades 5-8) | 209 |
| 5:30-9:30 PM | Sanctuary Bells (Adults) | 208 |
| 6:00-7:00 PM | New Song Singers (Grades 4-6) | 209 |
| 6:00 PM | <i>Jonathan Edwards: Religious Affections</i> Study | Library |

The world is full of beginnings and endings. We begin a new year with a certain hope – another year, another chance, a new day. But we carry with us the same fears, the same longings, the same resolutions. Is there ever really anything new about a new year?

There was a particular time in my life when the past felt so broken that its shards seemed to reach into the future. I saw the end of a difficult situation, but I couldn't see a beginning unmarred by the residue of the past. Is there really such a thing as a new day? This was the question I held disconsolately, until a friend gave me the following scripture and asked me to hold it instead:

*Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed,
For his compassions never fail.*

*They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness.
I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion: therefore I will wait for Him."*

Lamentations 3:22-24

Spoken in a time of exile, I imagine these words were as pungent for Israel as they were for me. The writer of Lamentations held fast to the assurance of things new, even in the midst of a situation that blinded him from what that could even mean. In all of the sin and sorrow surrounding him, it would not have been unreasonable for him to admit he saw no way out. With all the damage that had been done, with the uncertainty of exile, and the finality of a destroyed Jerusalem, no one would have blamed him for seeing new mornings as nothing but a promise of more of the same.

But this was not the lament on his lips. Written in the style of an ancient funeral song, the writer's words, though consumed with death, call to the Lord by name. Because of Yahweh's great love we are not consumed; his mercies are new every morning. What the writer saw in his own lamentation and taught me to see in mine is that only God can truly make a new beginning. New mornings in and of themselves are useless and worse than useless if they are not seen as belonging to the one who makes all things new.

And often, it is in the midst of a definitive ending that God brings new beginnings to life. In a poem called "Ash Wednesday," T.S. Eliot describes redemption as a figure moving about ashes and endings: *"The new years walk, restoring through a bright cloud of tears, the years, restoring with a new verse the ancient rhyme. Redeem the time. Redeem the unread vision in the higher dream...."* Perhaps there is something restoring about a new years walk, something fresh in a new day, because there is a particular new day that God has made us to know. Perhaps the hope promised in the new mornings, the assurance of new mercies and new beginnings is only a hint of the promise of a new earth. God is the dreamer in this higher dream, redeeming worlds, redeeming time, and God's redemption is the great love that prevents us from being consumed.

It is no coincidence that the ending chapters of Scripture are aimed at describing the beginning of something more. Depicting the vision of "a new heaven and a new earth," John reports a voice crying out from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away" (Revelation 21:3-4).

This day is new because the God of new beginnings has willed it to be. Christ has come to live among mortals; he is the portion God extends every morning. Behold him come, for he is making all things new.

Jill Carattini is senior associate writer at Ravi Zacharias International Ministries in Atlanta, Georgia. From *A Slice of Infinity* daily devotionals, Slice #1582, December 31, 2007. Copyright © 2007, Ravi Zacharias International Ministries (RZIM). Reprinted with permission.

Baptismal Preparation Class

For 4th - 6th Graders
Sunday Mornings
Jan. 13th, 20th & 27th

We will call you with the time and location

Parents, please prayerfully consider enrolling your child in this important class.
Call the church office by Tuesday, January 8th, to sign up.

SYMPATHY is extended from the CBC family to former elder Gary Grover and his family following the homegoing of his mother this past Tuesday night. Gary was at her side and we thank God for that provision. Services will be held this afternoon in Tucson, Arizona. (This past year Gary and his wife, Karen, relocated to Flint, Texas, just south of Tyler, Texas, east of Dallas. Their address is: 19063 Falls Creek Drive, Flint, Texas, 75762. Gary's email address is ggrover48@yahoo.com.)

WE PRAISE GOD for the beautiful ministry that 40 of God's people (20 from CBC and 20 from the new church home of Jon and Melissa Sanborn) had on Sunday evening, December 16th, at Osborn Health and Rehabilitation Center. In the words of David Hanke, one of those involved in our ongoing nursing home ministry at the Center, "We brought homemade chili, bread and lots of sweets for the staff, and with all the voices, brought bright rays of light and hope in the form of song to all of the residents. It was a very special time! All praise and glory to God. May hearts be given to Him.

WHEELS FROM ABOVE is still in desperate need of a new location within which to work. The need is for new donated space (800 to 1,000 sq. feet in north Phoenix, cooled, with ceiling lighting, electricity, running water and rest room access). PLEASE, call Partners in Christ at 480-731-9170, or Dan Uhlik at 623-581-2524.

TUESDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Tuesday Mornings in the Word studying *Nehemiah, Esther & 1 Timothy*

January 15 – April 29, 2008, 9:00 AM, in the Library

Come join us beginning the 15th for a continuing study of Nehemiah, God's chosen leader to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. We learn much from God's men who faithfully loved and served God. If you were not with us in the fall now is a good time to come and join the women each Tuesday. Books may be picked up in the office for you to prepare before your first class of 2008.

Precept Bible Study

Studying the book of *Isaiah*

January 8 – May 20, 2008, 9:00 AM, Room 207

Come join the inductive study of God's timeless message of redemption to all mankind through his prophet Isaiah. Here we learn of Jesus Christ in all his glory as the promised Messiah and Savior who was obedient unto death on the cross. Materials can be obtained in the church office.

CHILD SAFE CLASS is being offered on **Sunday, Jan. 20, 2008, from 6 PM to – 7:30 pm in Room 209.** Children's Ministry Workers who have not yet taken this class are requested to attend. Please RSVP to Renee Zuck in the church office. Thank you!

REMINDER: There will be no Small Group leadership meeting this Tuesday evening, January 8th. Instead, Small Group facilitators only will be meeting on January 15th in Fellowship Hall from 6:30 – 7:45 PM. Mark you calendars.

WE BEGIN A NEW YEAR, WITH 51 MORE SUNDAYS in which to provide and enjoy the floral bouquets that adorn our pulpit for Sunday services. Should you wish to contribute the flowers for any given Sunday or Sundays in the coming year, please contact Mary Gayle in the church office. Thank you.

MARATHON WEBSITE

For those who would like more details about the marathons being run next Sunday, log on to www.rnraz.com. With proper planning, you can work around the roadblocks and be with your church family next Sunday morning as we worship and glorify our great God together!

The Lord's Supper

GOD OF ALL GOOD

I bless thee for the means of grace;

teach me to see in them thy loving purposes
and the joy and strength of my soul.

Thou hast prepared for me a feast;
and though I am unworthy to sit down as guest,

I wholly rest on the merits of Jesus,
and hide myself beneath his righteousness;

When I hear his tender invitation

and see his wondrous grace,

I cannot hesitate, but must come to thee in love.

By thy Spirit enliven my faith rightly to discern
and spiritually to apprehend the Saviour.

While I gaze upon the emblems of my Saviour's death,
may I ponder why he died, and hear him say,

'I gave my life to purchase yours,
presented myself an offering to expiate your sin,
shed my blood to blot out your guilt,
opened my side to make you clean,
endured your curses to set you free,
bore your condemnation to satisfy divine justice.'

O may I rightly grasp the breadth and length of this design,
draw near, obey, extend the hand, take the bread,

receive the cup, eat and drink,

testify before all men that I do for myself,

gladly, in faith, reverence and love, receive my Lord,

to be my life, strength, nourishment, joy, delight.

In the supper I remember his eternal love, boundless grace,

infinite compassion, agony, cross, redemption,

and receive assurance of pardon, adoption, life, glory.

As the outward elements nourish my body,

so may thy indwelling Spirit invigorate my soul,

until that day when I hunger and thirst no more,

and sit with Jesus at this heavenly feast.

From *The Valley of Vision: A collection of Puritan Prayers & Devotions*,
Banner of Truth Trust, edited by Arthur Bennett, page 197.

WE THANK GOD: for the continuing recovery of the **Mark Donaldson family** in Tennessee, and with them praise Him for His amazing grace and hand of protection which covered them in their car accident; for God's gentle hand on the life and treatment process of **Erin Bailey**; and for His healing hand on the heart of newborn **Teddy Miller** whose aorta has opened up into normal range!

PLEASE UPHOLD IN PRAYER: Pastor Bryce Morgan's sister, **Liz Morgan**, who was hospitalized at Mayo for several days over last weekend for unexplained abdominal pain – and although better and since released, the cause has yet to be diagnosed – pray God's continued healing, Doctor's wisdom and Liz' peace; **Blanka Luedtke** who is suffering constant, intense and yet to be diagnosed back pain; **Karl Wagner** who is in real need of employment, preferably in sales, and for his wife, **Darlyne Wagner** who is still suffering significant pain in one of her legs following necessary vein removal surgery in 2007; **Paulette Stravitz** who tomorrow will be having outpatient joint replacement surgery on her left thumb, followed by a three-month healing process to full recovery; **Zach and Darcy Stravitz** (Mark and Paulette's son and daughter-in-law) who welcomed their first child, Colton, on Dec. 29th and are seeking employment in Arizona and relocation to be near family here; **Jerry Baldwin** who has been hospitalized with intestinal difficulties and is undergoing testing – prayer for correct diagnosis, recovery and no adverse affect on his military career or status on the special forces team with which he serves.

CBC WEBMASTER is looking for a skilled assistant. If you possess web skills and have a willingness to serve Christ by using those skills to advance the CBC website, please contact Pastor Ron.

CBC GIVING UPDATE

The final figures for year-end 2007 will be available within a week or two.