

INTOUCH

June 15, 2008

Pro Ecclesia: For The Church Praying for Church Leaders

By Dr. Robert M. Norris

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY – JUNE 15

12:30 PM Nursing Home Ministry – meet at Fellowship Hall
2:00 PM Nursing Home Ministry – Service of Worship Osborn H & R

6:00 PM in Room 209

The CBC Family in Prayer Together

“And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”
Acts 2:42

MONDAY – JUNE 16

8:00 AM Women’s Aerobics – *Circuit Training* Fellowship Hall
7:00 PM Maryland Boy Choir Concert (free admit.) Sanctuary

TUESDAY – JUNE 17

7-8:30 AM Women’s Prayer/Study – Summer Schedule Taylor’s Café
(Through July 22nd, we will meet for breakfast together at Taylor’s, 5053 North 44th Street, east side of 44th just north of Camelback)

WEDNESDAY – JUNE 18

8:00 AM Women’s Aerobics – *Stretching Exercises* Fellowship Hall
6:45 PM EXCEL Midweek Fellowship Hall

THURSDAY – JUNE 19

6:00 AM EXCEL Summer Camp attendees be at CBC for departure
8:00 AM Women’s Aerobics – *Pilates Strength Training* F. Hall
6:30 PM College Ministry dinner together The Delnoce’s
7:00 PM College Ministry – study in Job The Delnoce’s

FRIDAY – JUNE 20

Continuing EXCEL Summer Camp Biola University in California
8:00 AM Women’s Aerobics – *Step Aerobics* Fellowship Hall
7:00 PM MOSAIC (Young Adult Fellowship) The Downer’s home
A time for 20’s and 30’s, singles and marrieds
to come together for Bible study, fellowship, and friendship

SUNDAY – JUNE 22

Continuing EXCEL Summer Camp Biola University in California
9:00 and 10:40 AM MORNING WORSHIP Sanctuary
Dr. Tim Savage
“Future Glory”
Colossians 3:3-4
9:00 AM Nursery (infants – 24 months) 301-304
Children’s Discipleship (2 yrs–6th grade) 102, 201, 203, 206
Adult Fellowships 208, 209
9:00 AM Intergenerational Sunday School Class 207
A summer study for adults & children together, age 4 to 94!
An opportunity for families to come together, learn together & grow together
as we study *The Ten Commandments* together.
9:00 AM Foundations – Teleios Study Church Office
10:40 AM Nursery (infants – 24 months) 301-304
Children’s Church (2 yrs–6th grade) 101-104, 203, 207-208
EXCEL (Jr. High & High School) Fellowship Hall

I am not used to being considered a heretic. Yet recently, when a colleague and I visited a friend who teaches theology at a famous British university, we found ourselves faced with this charge! In a conversation that had quickly turned to the subject of theology, we found ourselves defending the idea that the death of Jesus Christ was that of a penal substitution in which He in our place bore the wrath of God that rightfully should have been visited upon us. This understanding is both biblical and the historic confession of the church, yet it was this that earned for us the charge of heresy from one who is a self-confessed evangelical theologian. Subsequently, I have realized that this doctrine of penal substitution is increasingly being challenged both by theologians and preachers as an example of “cosmic child-abuse” with no part in an authentic proclamation of the Christian Gospel. This situation provides insight as to why it is important to pray for church leaders.

Yet it is symptomatic of a sad truth. If praying for church leaders seems to have gone out of style, perhaps an underlying reason for this is that the church often adopts the standards and ideas of the world. In our pursuit of success where the obvious mark of that success is size, influence, power, and money, church leaders are under constant pressure to produce evidence of growth, and technique and program are the obvious means by which this is achieved. In this framework there is no place given for prayer, which speaks of a supernatural framework of thought that is alien to the modern world.

In order to be successful, congregations look to their leaders to be endowed with entrepreneurial spirits and the necessary charisma to meet all expectations. Superstars are exalted and those who do not have that magnetism nor share in those gifts are compared unfavorably with those who can generate success. Thus, criticism, not prayer, becomes the norm for congregations. Nor is the blame to lie solely with congregations because often their leaders are the very ones who have reduced Christian ministry to techniques and programs, and have substituted methodology for the ministry of the Holy Spirit, looking to human plans rather than divine guidance and blessing. As a consequent, they do not look for prayer as the vital need for their ministries. Divine blessing is seen only in terms of human success.

This is a very different picture than the one offered by the apostle Paul who understood that the nature of his ministry was essentially spiritual. It was because of this understanding that he sought the prayers of the congregations to which he ministered.

His requests were marked by urgency because he knew that he both wanted and needed the prayers of God’s people. The apostle was well aware that the work in which he was engaged was spiritual and had eternal consequences. He was aware that entrusted to his care was the proclamation of the Gospel, the careful unfolding of God’s truth, and the diligent defense of that Gospel against all distortion. He recognized that such a ministry required more than human ability and could not be undertaken without prayer. The partnership with the congregations to whom he ministered was vital: “I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in you prayers to God on my behalf.” (Rom. 15:30).

Paul was aware that he needed the prayers of the congregations that he served because he was a sinner and was aware that he could be tempted and could easily give in to those temptations. Clearly Paul knew that he faced intimidation and the ever-present temptation to compromise the nature of the Gospel message in the interests of peace and tolerance, which is why he requested and needed the prayers of God’s people. He saw the role of those he served to support him with their prayers. In fact, when writing to the church at Ephesus he was clear that the role of prayerful support created a partnership in the work of the Gospel ministry. As such, he clearly regarded it as a high privilege that involved “striving,” and, far from being passive, was an active and vital ministry: “[pray] also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel” (Eph. 6:19).

He saw that the work of the Gospel is an essentially spiritual work. Paul knew nothing of being dependent upon technique or program to accomplish his work, and his appeal was for spiritual support because he knew that he was battling spiritual powers that were arrayed against him and were hostile to God and His purpose. Today it is easy to be seduced by the secular mindset into dismissing the spiritual nature of Christian ministry and fail to see that there is a combating of dark and hostile spiritual forces that can be met only with humble dependence upon God, diligence in the study of His Word, and devotion to the Gospel of Christ.

Continued . . .

It is the role of the church leader to keep watch over the souls of God's people. **And to be effective in this role, as in all the other aspects of ministry, he needs the prayers of God's people** [Emphasis ours].

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DIRECTORY INFORMATION NEEDED by June 22: In May we sent out a mailing to all our CBC family, asking that you fill out our *Information Form* to insure that we have your family's correct data for our next church directory. Many have been turned in – Thank you! However, if you did NOT receive this mailing, it means we don't have your family information. So if you consider yourself to be part of our church family and would like to be included in our directory, please pick up a blank *Information Form* at our *Welcome Center*. Fill in the form and turn it in at the *Welcome Center* on Sundays, to the church office between 9 and 4 during the week, or 3 mail it with "Attention: Joy". We look forward to including all who are a part of our growing church family.

MARYLAND BOY CHOIR PERFORMANCE, June 16. We are excited that the Maryland Boy Choir from the Washington, D.C. area will be singing a short concert in our sanctuary tomorrow evening, June 16 at 7:00 PM. Their previously scheduled festival appearance in Tucson was unexpectedly cancelled, and they have reached out to us for a place to give a short performance so they can still travel to Arizona. The free concert will feature both sacred and secular music, and should be only about 45 minutes long. Please come out and support these boys! Invite others!

An Invitation to CBC Families

You and your families are invited to come fellowship and enjoy music with our friends at the Osborne Rehabilitation Center (at 3333 North Civic Center Drive in Scottsdale) on Sunday, June 29, at 2 PM. Lauren Fye will be entertaining us indoors with music; we will visit and fellowship with the residents, and gather for ice cream after!

Many of the residents are elderly widows; some are young and suffering in some way. There are tragic stories. All are in deep need of encouragement and love! We just love these special people and our little family has been soooo blessed by our time there (and we have only been involved a couple of months). Many are desperately lonely and lack visitors and caring people in their lives. You will be so glad you and your children came!!!! They love these little children!!!! And the children love them!!!!

When you come, please bring any donations you have (See the paragraph below this box) to help fill the needs of these residents. We will have a closet ready on June 29th for such items. They need our help! The staff at Osborne, with our help, wants to open a little store there at the center, where the items are free to the guests to come and shop for their needs. Think of the joy, dignity and love they will feel as they experience their new little store. Let's pool together what we can. See the paragraph below for details on what things you and your children can be collecting (and please know, there some of the residents are men).

We hope to see you and your family on June 29th

Jennifer Frey and family

CLOTHING FOR OUR FRIENDS AT THE NURSING HOME . . . NEEDED! It has come to our attention that many of the folks who are living at the Osborne Rehab Center (the nursing home that CBC serves) are in desperate need of all types of clothing and wardrobe essentials. Many of the residents are dependent on state case workers and have few resources. They have approximately 100 patients with an even number of men and women ranging in very small sizes to X Large. We are looking for any gently used or new items in the following list: shirts/blouses, comfortable dresses, Pants/shorts, lounge pants/pajamas/robes/slippers, socks, shoes, sweatshirts, tee shirts, handbags, costume type jewelry, perfume, cologne, hats (especially baseball type caps), and anything else we take for granted in completing a wardrobe. Please keep in mind that many of the residents are NOT elderly and for those that are, this is their home and they like to get dressed everyday just like we do. The items should be clean and mended and placed in one of the brown barrels marked for the nursing home around the welcome center anytime before July 6th. If you have questions about the nursing home ministry, please contact David Haneke @ 602-339-5639, or if about the clothing drive, please contact Trinetta Keffer @ 602-418-5184. Thank you for your support of this ministry.

PRAYER

Please be in prayer for: those of our **College Ministry** in attendance at *Resolved 2008 Bible Conference* in Palm Springs this weekend – may God be hallowed, His kingdom expanded, and His will be done: our EXCEL students and staff as they prepare for, travel to, and participate in the **EXCEL Summer Camp** in Southern California this next weekend – God's protection, blessings and miracles: **Lance Corporal Rob Baxter, USMC**, who is to be deployed to Iraq on or about June 20th and will be facing the isolation and hazards of deployment; **Doug & Marina Landro** in Ukraine who have learned she must return to the U.S. once a year, by July 6 this year, for one or two weeks to maintain her green card, a must to obtain a U.S. visa for the next 8 years – such a trip not budgeted for/no funds.

Praying Together This Evening at 6:00 PM in Room 209

"With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel...."

*Paul to the Church at Ephesus (Eph. 6:16-19
and to us at CBC – prayer for our people and our pastors/leaders*

CBC Family Camp, July 11 – 13. Join us for our *first ever* Family Camp! It will be held at Pine Valley Bible Conference Center, in beautiful Pine Valley, CA. Brochures/Registration forms are available in the church office or on-line at www.cbcaz.org/childrencamping . Questions? Please contact Pastor Jason at 602-955-6370 or doughty@camelbackbible.org

CAMELBACK BIBLE CHURCH offers only one event for men only and that is the annual Men's Retreat in October. Some men never miss this retreat. Some men have never attended. Why do you think that is? While you ponder that, here is another question to ask yourself: Have I got the Men's Retreat marked on my calendar for this year? October 10-12. Pastor Scott Maxwell will challenge us in three areas of Male Leadership. You won't want to miss it.

THANK YOU to all who participated in the Food/Swimsuit Drive for Neighborhood Ministries over the past month. Their summer now begins with food pantry shelves full and swimsuits supplied for the Kids Club outreach at this vibrant urban ministry. Your assistance is very much appreciated. Our church is involved with Neighborhood Ministries on an ongoing basis in a variety of ways. Did you know that various members from our church help out at the Neighborhood Clinic using their medical, nursing or Spanish translation skills to assist the urban poor? Want to hear more? Please contact our Neighborhood Ministries Liaison, Don Swierenga, 602-315-1698. **NOTE: The tan collection containers will remain on campus to support the clothing drive that has been announced for the ministry to Osborne Rehab Center – see the "An Invitation to CBC Families" in the column left.**

HANDBELL JAMBOREE 2008 (Handbell/Music Camp for Youth) is fast approaching and a discounted rate is available for our CBC children. The camp will run Monday through Friday, June 23 through June 27, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, and is open to children/youth from Grade 1 through Senior High (must be age 5 by July 1, 2008). The clinicians include: our own Kay Cook, handbells; Michelle Case, handbells; Julia Perry-Clark, orff and handbells; and Pete Jones, percussion. Registration forms are available in the church office or by calling Desert Bells at 602-494-7464. Discounted rate for CBC is \$140.

SENIOR HII! (55+) LUNCHEON will be held in two weeks on Sunday, June 29th. *"Israel – Focus of the World"* will be the theme. Our own Gordon Donaldson has recently returned from a trip to Israel and will be our speaker. You will hear the latest on the conditions of this historic land and see Gordon's photographs on the big screen. Join us for wonderful fellowship, delicious food, and a great program. Lunch will be served at approximately 12:30 PM following the 2nd worship service. The meal will be catered by Boston Market.

CBC GIVING UPDATE

Budgeted Giving through 6/8	\$767,809
Actual YTD Giving through 6/8	\$644,534
Remaining Need	\$123,275
Last Week's Giving	\$ 17,831