



Pastor's Ponderings

“But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” (James 1:22)

How do you process and apply what you read or hear? This question recently returned to my mind as the result from an email. Daily, as Christians, we are to dialogue and commune with God. We do this through prayer, devotions, Bible classes, sermons, and other forms. How we process the information becomes the next question to spur us beyond being “hearers only.” At times in my own devotional life, the processor is working at peak efficiency, and communication with God leads to life application. At other times, the processor is overwhelmed, or preoccupied, with other items on the agenda for the day and the devotional moments become an ineffective routine. It takes vigilance and focus to become “doers!”

The recent email that brought this thought to mind came from one of our own members—Tricia Lipscomb. She shared with me her process of dialogue and application done during a recent sermon. I share that email with you now:

Deny, Apply, & Follow 4/11/2010

Tricia: If I remember right, Todd Bradbury taught us a way to have a relationship with God: write down something we read or hear from the Bible, a devotion, or sermon and then dialogue about what we think God is saying to us. I'm going to try that with Ron's sermon.

God: You can live for nothing or die for something.

Tricia: In the sermon, Ron talked about a man who predicted 9-11. There was an evacuation plan in the Morgan Stanley employment. That preparation saved all but six lives.

God: A person can make a difference when they are willing to die for something.

Tricia: How can I be affective?

God: Your attitude should be that of Christ. By little acts of love, you give Christ everything.

Tricia: I see love at the church. A hug from AJ, the birthday party they are going to have for Jacob and Morgan, and people praying for the mission team when they went on the Mexico Mission trip.

God: Deny yourself from this moment on making your life goal about Me and not you.

Tricia: Sometimes that's hard to do.

God: When there is perfect submission all is at rest. All have sinned. All need a Savior. Must Jesus bear the cross alone?

Tricia: Lord, let the desire of my life be to deny self, apply myself, and follow You. You, O God, are where life is found! Amen

Tricia's reflections and implicational desires brought another scripture to my mind: **“I will meditate on Your precepts and think about Your ways. I will delight in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word” (Psalm 119:15-16).** How do you process what you read or hear?

Shalom, *Ron*



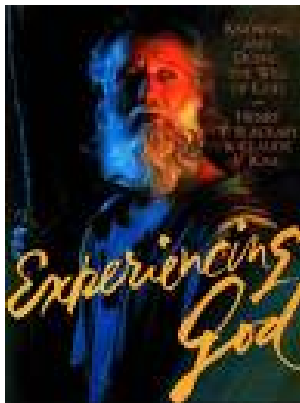
Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday Service was very well attended. It was a very impressive service with much participation from our members reading scripture, lighting of candles, then complete darkness. The Christ candle returned, restoring light and hope to all mankind. We celebrated through Communion.

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service

Easter morning was bright and beautiful. Our service started inside and continued out at the crosses, where a Roman soldier appeared and made the confession that truly this man was the Son of God. Breakfast was enjoyed by all in attendance.

Experiencing God



Back by popular demand! Many of us went through the wonderful study *Experiencing God* five years ago. After several requests to offer it again, we are pleased to announce that we will offer *Experiencing God* on Sunday nights beginning in June. Keep an eye out for this study.

EVENTS ON THE HORIZON

MAY 11: 11:00 AM - Mother's Day and Child Dedication Day - If you would like to have your child dedicated, please call the office by Thursday May 6th.

May 16 9:45 – 10:45 Pastor's Class during the Sunday School hour See page 3

June
JUNE 20th: Father's Day



Vacation Bible School

August 2-6, 2010 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

As the summer is approaching, we are preparing for our time on the ranch. Vacation Bible School this year is a cowboy-themed excursion at Saddle Ridge Ranch. We are excited for this theme because we can utilize so many local products during the VBS. We need your help to make this event a success. We need volunteers to help with food preparation, class guides, crafts, music, and other support. Please keep an eye out for ways you can help. We will be providing a supply list in the coming weeks so that you can help us gather the items we need for a great week of Bible School.

We also will need help inviting the children to come. Please begin to pray about how you can become involved in the VBS. Also, be on the lookout for the prayer calendar we will produce so you can pray daily for the volunteers and children attending VBS.

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Youth News

We are excited to announce that we are starting a Youth Praise Band. We have an explosion of interest from our young people in worshipping God through music. As a result, we are bringing these students together to form a band that will be able to help our church praise God. This band will be an excellent opportunity to reach other students and be a great outreach opportunity for the church. If you are a student in the seventh-twelfth grades and would like to join the group, please let Matt know as soon as possible.

The high school youth are starting a book study of Colossians beginning in May. This peer led group is a new approach to ministry that allows the youth to develop leadership traits as well as increasing their accountability to God's call on their lives.

The seventh and eighth graders continue to enjoy the Thursday afternoon Bible study group. Unfortunately, May signals the end of the school year, but we anticipate having a great summer together.

PASTOR'S CLASS

Pastor's Class will be held during the Sunday School hour (9:45-10:45 Sundays) beginning May 16th. This class is for new members, or any member, as well as visitors seeking to know more about Graceland Baptist Church, Baptists, goals and plans, church polity, and any other question you may have. The class will last for 6-8 weeks. Please contact Pastor Ron with your plans to attend so he can prepare the needed materials.

Young at Heart News

April Meeting: We brought dessert and the recipe! We enjoyed all the desserts prepared by our ladies. The fellowship flowed as we discussed upcoming events. In closing, we prayed for all in need.

May Meeting: Members be ready. We are going to see the "Flying Squirrels" on May 28th (Friday). We will leave the church at 3:30 PM. We're off to dinner at Joy Garden. Earl and Nelda Lodge will be hosting this event, so contact them or they will contact you regarding your reserved seats. Tickets will be \$7.00 or \$8.00 per person. We will be using the church bus. So add another \$3.00 per person for gas. See you then. "PLAY BALL."

June Meeting: Last meeting of the season will be a bonfire and cookout at Carolyn Watts home. Bring your own drinks and a chair. Meet at 6:00 PM on the 3rd Tuesday of June (15th)

Bon Appétit! Enjoy your summer! See you all in the Fall. **Fran "Leader of the pack."**

Last May, our church lost a dear member when Mariah Elwell, a fourteen year old, committed suicide. We continue to mourn her loss and remember her family in our prayers. Kevin and Sherry, Mariah's parents, would like to honor Mariah on the one year anniversary of her tragic death.

On Tuesday night, May 18, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, Kevin and Sherry invite you to come to a BBQ dinner at Graceland. We will eat from 6 to 6:45 and then have a time of remembrance of Mariah. We will invite others to share in the memorial process as we discuss our thoughts and feelings one year later. We know that all of us have many activities that pull at us daily. We ask you to make this evening a priority as we support Kevin and Sherry, as we reflect on Mariah's life, and as we look to God to continue to heal and comfort us.



A Time of Tribute
And
Remembrance





Mexico Mission News

Dear Graceland Baptist Church Mission Team,

First of all, we want you to know that each of you was a part of the mission trip to Mexico. As we traveled safely through the air, down the beautiful Texan roads, and into the arms of our Christian brothers and sisters, we knew our mission team at Graceland Baptist was responsible for making our trip possible. God used each of your generous gifts to speak His word in many different ways. These words will continue to resonate through Texas and Mexico in the days, weeks, months, and years to come. We could feel and see the loving spirit of God descend on each recipient as they held your gift for themselves. We say thank you for sharing with the men, women, and children, many of whom you will never meet. Please know that God is very pleased with your generosity as well. We always felt your prayers throughout our mission trip and knew God's hands were upon us providing guidance, protection, and assurance. YOU are a blessed team with whom we had the privilege of working and with whom we were honored to represent. Our mission trip would not have been possible without each of your prayers and gifts. Thank you, again, and may God continue to bless you.

With great appreciation from your missionaries,

**Brother Greg, Sister Christine, Brother Walt,
Pastor Matt, and Pastor Louis**



Mexico Mission Trip Results

We had a fabulous time serving God in Texas and Mexico. We appreciate all of the love, prayer, and support each of you provided for us. We want to share with you some of the accomplishments we witnessed on account of your generosity. First, you helped us raise \$450 to purchase Bibles. We handed out 309 Spanish Bibles to eight churches. Each of these churches did not have enough Bibles for their congregations, but now they can more easily host Bible studies and encourage their congregants to read their Bibles daily. Thank you for every dollar you gave for this very purpose. We had an extra \$100 at the end of the trip, which we gave to Pastor Louis Orsatti's church in Chesterfield to buy Bibles for his congregation. He also sends his thanks to each of you. Second, we prayed with hundreds of men, women, and children to encourage their walk with God and to help them draw near to God. Over fifty people received individual prayer from the team members for their calling from God. Third, at least eight adults made professions of faith for the first time, while dozens of children made professions of faith. Many adults also prayed to rededicate their lives to God during our times of worship and conversation. This mission trip was successful for these reasons, and we are forever indebted to you for trusting God to lead us to His people. We know God had His hand over us during this trip and we look forward to seeing where God will lead our church in the future.

Matt



Graceland Baptist Church

We're on the Web! Visit us at:

<http://www.gracelandbaptistchurch.org/>

975 Dorset Road, Powhatan, VA 23139

(804) 598-3481

E-Mail gracelandbc@earthlink.net

RA CAMP

RA Camp for boys ages 10-14 will take place June 27th to July 2nd. Now is the time to register. Each person can be registered online at camppiankatank.com by going to the online registration. The cost for the week of camp is \$250.00 plus spending money you wish the boys to have (one added cost is a McDonalds meal on the ride home). Pastor Ron will transport and attend the week with the boys. Please advise Ron or Matt Snyder of your registration. If you prefer Matt to make the reservation for you please let him know. We need to register ASAP to confirm we have a spot.



BLUEFIELD COLLEGE CHOIR

The Bluefield College Choir presented an inspiring concert on Friday night, March 19. They sang beautifully, and we were truly blessed to have them perform for us. They were touring Virginia in preparation for their mission trip to Austria in May 2010. We were able to have a meet and greet time with the students after they introduced themselves. We thank them for this concert and all of the hard work they endured prior to this enchanting performance.

Tricia Lipscomb

CARE TEAM NEWS

The Care Team is hosting a lunch meeting for all those interested in joining our team. The Care Team is a ministry to the members and families who endure sickness, who are in need of special attention, and who have lost a loved one. We provide care through visitation, card delivery, and meal preparation. We need your help if you feel called to this ministry. Our lunch will be held after the eleven o'clock church service on Sunday, May 23rd in the fellowship hall. Please come and hear how you can assist our church family in their time of need. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board, so we can have an idea of how much food to prepare. Please contact Wendy Norwood, (804) 561-1576 or Hazel Worsham, (804) 598-3075 with any questions.



SPRING CLEAN UP AT GRACELAND



Joyce and Ed Barden

Joyce and Ed Barden and Max Byers worked several days upgrading the **“Adult Fellowship Class.”** Ceiling, walls, and trim were painted. A chair rail was added below the rail, wall covering was applied. New drapes are now at the window. This class is the second class to refurbish their room to make it more inviting on Sunday morning. Maybe more classes will join this movement.

WOM NEWS

The annual WMU Spring meeting was held at Old Powhatan Church, Friday night, April 16th. Graceland had seven members to attend this dinner, business meeting and a very informative program. Our speaker was Maria Lynn. She spoke on the goal of the WMU for this year. “Called to Love at Standing Rock.” Standing Rock is an Indian Reservation in Oklahoma. They have great needs for the entire Reservation. The request this year was for tennis shoes, both children and adults. Many, many pair were donated.

MEN'S GROUP "SPRUCE-UP – POWHATAN"



“Operation Spruce-Up – Powhatan”

Operation Spruce-Up was completed by Graceland Baptist Church Men's Group. Our area to remove trash and debris was on Dorset Road from Stavemill Road to Clayville Road. We had a beautiful day to clean up the road. We picked up a total of 38 bags of trash. Thanks to all the men who assisted in this project!

Have a Blessed Day,

John Vincent

Southwest Virginia Mission Trip

We are excited about capitalizing on last year's successful mission trip to Louisiana with another mission trip to Southwest Virginia in August. This will be our second mission trip as a church and want you to know we have space available if you'd like to join us. At this point, our work site has not been confirmed, but we anticipate working in a construction capacity. We may be painting, building a wheelchair ramp, reroofing a home, repairing windows, fixing a plumbing system, or a variety of each of these. We will have other opportunities to minister to the men and women in Southwest Virginia that are not construction related so we will welcome all skill levels. We need men and women who are willing to trust God to use them to accomplish His plans. If you are interested in attending, please sign up on the list on Matt's office door and look for the next meeting date announcements.

Matt and Bruce



Ladies' Prayer Luncheon

The Ladies' Prayer Luncheon was held on April 18 from 12:15-1:30 PM. The ladies enjoyed a lunch which consisted of chicken kabobs, Greek-style green beans, rice, and desserts. The guest speaker at the luncheon was Ka'thy Gore Chappell, Associate Dean of Student Life/Enrollment at Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond. Ka'thy spoke on the topic of *lectio divina*, which means the "sacred art" of reading the scripture and prayer OR as the medieval monks described it..."chewing the scripture." She shared that the goal of this practice is to be in the presence of God by praying the Scripture and that the Scripture should be savored "bite by bite."

A book review on the *Why Not Women: A Fresh Look at Scripture on Women in Missions, Ministry, and Leadership* by Loren Cunningham, David and Joel Hamilton was presented by Gayle Taylor. The book traces the ministry of women from the Old and New Testaments to present day. The authors stress the important responsibility of every Christian to respond to the needs of those hurting and unsaved in our world. One of the quotes from the book that Gayle shared was this: "If we are to fulfill God's forever dream—reaching everyone with the opportunity to be reconciled to Him—every one of us must pray, profess our faith, and live peaceful and quiet lives. Every one of us should follow God's leading into whatever ministry He chooses. This is true for men and **likewise** for women" (230). If you would like to read this book, two copies will be available in the church library

The Ladies Prayer Luncheons are held quarterly and are open to **any** ladies of the church, ages 18-100.

The purpose of the meetings is to enhance our prayer lives by learning about various ways to communicate with God. Additionally, the ladies have an opportunity to fellowship with one another while enjoying a meal together.

All ladies of the church are welcome to attend the next gathering which will be held in the summer. The date will be posted in the bulletin and sign-up sheets will be posted in the fellowship hall area, as well as in the hallway just outside of the sanctuary. If you have any questions about this program, please contact Gayle Taylor.

Gayle Taylor

❖ G.R.O.W. TEAM

The GROW Team needs your help!!



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Birthday Blessings and Wishes!

5/1	Tracey	Clements
5/2	Cathy	Gordon
5/3	Preston	Burleigh
5/4	Barbara	Vincent
5/5	Aimee	Millermon
5/7	William	Williams, 3rd
5/9	Bruce C.	Bartlam
5/9	Cindy	Spain
5/9	Shannon Cooke	Janke
5/9	Kathleen	Southworth
5/12	Dawn	Bradbury
5/13	Norman	Rothwell
5/13	Shirley	Powers
5/14	Priscilla (Pat)	Lawson
5/15	Regina L.	Revels
5/15	Connie	Osborne
5/15	Melissa	Dorton
5/16	Dee	Whitlock
5/16	Cornelia	Bulifant
5/16	James	Bradbury
5/16	Macy	Dowdle
5/17	Cynthia C.	Cook
5/17	Vicky	Osborne
5/19	Gail	Wray
5/20	Sadie	Callahan
5/21	Karen	Andrews
5/21	Josh	Drake
5/22	Michael	Wright
5/23	Ashley	Andrews
5/24	Jennifer Lynn	Dehart
5/28	David	Miller
5/28	Michele (Shelly)	Starr
5/28	Kenneth Claude	Andrews
5/28	Dorothy	Younce
5/29	JoAnn	Wilkinson
5/31	Linda	Clements
5/31	Jonathan	Bailey

MAY



6/1	Jacquilan	Quinlan
6/1	William (Bill)	Rickard, III
6/2	Debra	Cobb
6/2	Denise	Packard
6/2	Torrie	Lassiter
6/6	Justin	Anderson
6/6	A. Gregg	Edwards
6/6	Elizabeth (Beth)	Dingus
6/6	Benjamin	Wingo
6/6	Robert	Pohl
	E Danielle	
6/7	Andrews	Smith
6/8	Stephen	Callahan
6/9	Kendall	Lambert
6/9	Carolyn	Watts
6/10	Mary	Drumheller
6/11	John	Hash, III
6/11	Connie	Rush
6/11	Kimberly Waters	Sneed
6/12	Olivia	Meyerhoffer
6/13	Daniel	Perkins
6/14	Kim Pike	Richardson
6/15	Andrea Nicole	Hurd
6/16	Coleman	Spiers
6/16	Lancer Todd	Lipscomb
6/17	Charles E.	Jennings
6/19	Gatlin	Snyder
6/19	Laurie	Haynes
6/21	Cherl Lipscomb	Jessie
6/22	Alexis Spicer	Scott
6/22	Chelsey	Hicks
6/22	Amanda	Anderson
6/22	Anastasia K (AJ)	Jones
6/23	Lisa A.	Seal
6/24	Brenda	Yates
6/26	Brenda	Morton
6/26	Thelma	Whitaker
6/29	John	Vincent
6/29	Kathy	Sprowls
6/30	Pamela	Hash

JUNE