



BETHEL GROVE BIBLE CHURCH

1763 Slaterville Rd, Ithaca, NY, 14850

THE MESSENGER

MAY 2011

THOUGHTS FROM DAVE

THE STREAM OF CARS DRIVING OUT OF ITHACA IS NOTICEABLE THESE DAYS. STUDENTS ARE WRAPPING UP THEIR SEMESTERS AND HEADING HOME OR TO THEIR PLACE OF SUMMER EMPLOYMENT. THOSE GRADUATING ARE FACING A MAJOR TRANSITION IN THEIR LIVES. LIKE THESE STUDENTS, BETHEL GROVE MIRRORS THIS UNIVERSITY TOWN. OUR CHURCH EXPERIENCES THE LOSS OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES EACH MAY AND JUNE, AS THOSE INTRICATELY INVOLVED IN MINISTRY MOVE ON. I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE MANY INDIVIDUALS WHO MADE BETHEL GROVE THEIR HOME CHURCH WHILE IN TOWN. WE WILL MISS THEM.

EQUALLY SO, THOSE OF US WHO ARE FULL-TIME RESIDENTS EXPERIENCE SIGNIFICANT TRANSITIONS IN OUR LIVES. CHILDREN GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL AND ENTER A NEW WORLD OF OPTIONS. AS IN THE LIVES OF OUR CHILDREN, EVERY INDIVIDUAL MOVES THROUGH VARIOUS SEASONS OF LIFE WHICH CONSTANTLY STRETCH AND PULL AT US. THAT'S THE WAY IT IS AND THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT LORD USES THESE SEASONS TO MAKE US MORE DEPENDENT ON HIM.

AS WE SAY GOOD-BYE TO OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY, PLEASE MAKE IT A PRIORITY TO SAY HELLO TO THE NEW FRIENDS IN GOD'S FAMILY AS THEY MOVE INTO OUR COMMUNITY. GOD HAS PLACED BETHEL GROVE IN THIS TRANSIENT LOCAL COMMUNITY. PART OF OUR MISSION IS TO REACH OUT TO NEW FRIENDS DURING THEIR TIME IN TOMPKINS COUNTY THROUGH EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP.

WE ARE ALSO CALLED TO REACH OUT TO THOSE WHO ARE ROOTED IN TOMPKINS COUNTY FOR THE LONG-TERM. AS WE MOVE INTO THE SUMMER MONTHS, ASK THE LORD TO KEEP YOUR HEART OPEN TO THE POSSIBILITY OF PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL IN CREATIVE WAYS IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY. DURING THESE DAYS, MAY BETHEL GROVE BECOME BETTER KNOWN AS A CHURCH THAT DISPLAYS THE TRANSFORMING GRACE OF CHRIST. LET'S PRAY TO THAT END.

BG ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, June 18

6:00PM -DESSERT

6:30PM - MEETING BEGINS



It is time for the Annual Meeting. This is an opportunity to review the past year and give thanks to God for His grace to Bethel Grove. It is also an important time to look ahead to the upcoming year and prayerfully plan and prepare. If you attend BG regularly, we hope you will attend this important gathering. If childcare is needed contact Amy Bach, amy@bg.org or 277-3333, ext. 223.

- Associate Pastor Search
- Budget Approval
- Ideas for Upcoming Year

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When: Sunday, June 12
Food is served at 12:30pm

Where: Robert H. Treman Park
Lower North Pavilion

Cost: \$7 per vehicle -
Carpooling is encouraged

Bring: Dish to pass
Your own table service
Your friends/neighbors!

Provided: Hot dogs,
Hamburgers,
Beverages

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An Interview with Zac Adams by Whit Ives

1. How long have you been part of the BG family?

Since I was 1 year old when my family started coming, I've been around for the better part of my life. I have in my possession some very embarrassing photos of fellow current college students who went through the BG mill also, so as far back as those go.

2. When did you decide you wanted to be part of the inner workings of the Youth Ministry?

Well, I was at Canadian L'Abri over the past summer, and Eric and I had discussed the idea earlier in the year. We were emailing back and forth, and he kept that option open, and coming back to Ithaca, it was pretty evident to me that God put me in Ithaca this year for a reason, and it was time to get to it!

3. What have been some of the most influential or memorable experiences for you in working with the Youth Ministry here at BG?

So many of the trips were awesome, the list would include DCLA, the Group Work Camps, the Habitat week, the Daks trips, etc...So many beautiful memories at all of those. I'd say though that run-of-the-mill youth groups and drop-ins were the most impacting upon my person. All that time spent hanging out with friends and leaders were so valuable to me.

4. Did working with the youth here at BG influence your decision to work for CSM?

It certainly was a part of it. I had thought about applying for CSM the summer before, but decided to head to L'Abri instead. Looking at my situation now, I'm so much more prepared for what I'll meet in DC this summer. I certainly have lived a lot since last spring, and the internship was a big part of that growth. If anything, this experience has solidified even more my passion for kids.

5. What exactly are you going to do in Washington DC?

My position will be titled as City Host, which means I'll be one of a team of 7 others, and we will be assigned a youth group every week. Each day we will have a tight schedule containing mostly work at service sites (including homeless shelters, soup kitchens, day care facilities, work sites, etc.), which I will be leading groups and working with them at those sites. I will also be taking them to ethnic restaurants in the area, and helping these kids to try some new, different and diverse things. Basically I am their tour guide to the city...if your tour guide was taking you through slums to work and make an impact, and you had no choice about it!

6. What part of your work for CSM are you most looking forward to?

It totally sounds like a cop-out answer, but I am so pumped to be working with the kids. Especially since a new group will be coming in each week, there will always be excited adolescents running around

for me to chase. I'll be interested to see if I can keep step with them all summer! But I am so excited to be in a unique position in these kids lives, and I cannot wait to meet them wherever they are, and show them Christ through their week with us.

7. What are some of your hopes and dreams for the future?

There are too many sarcastic and funny only-to-me things I could say here. However, setting aside dreams of children and owning a dog farm in Hawaii; my wish is first and foremost to glorify God with my life. I pine for the future that is in Heaven worshiping God, and I almost forget about the beautiful task and life ahead that pales in comparison. Whatever the future does hold, it will be bright because of the God's light next to me. AMEN!



Dear Friends of BG:

Soon we will be seeing these lovely spring flowers in the hills above Thollon - wonderful creations of our Lord.

Many thanks to you for your prayers and faithful support. There are encouraging contacts and I have been able to share the bible with some new contacts. Our "Easter Breakfast" was a real blessing with 70 from a few different churches.

Warmly in our Lord,
Juanita Elwood, Thollon, France



Housing need for the Hicks family

Over the course of the summer, Aaron and Holly Hicks, and their children are coming to Ithaca on sabbatical leave from World Harvest Mission. They need housing for one month in the Ithaca area. If anyone is able to sublet or provide housing please contact the church office (277-3333 or bg@bg.org).

30 Hour Famine



Many of you have heard of the 30 Hour Famine before. If you've been at Bethel Grove for a couple years you may have known, supported, or participated in the famine. It is an annual event hosted by the BG Youth Group in spring time to raise money for afflicted people around the globe. In the past few years, our donations have gone to various ministries in Kampala through the church partnership but this year we decided to direct our funds toward World Vision, the original creator of the event. This year we were able to request that our funds go directly to the earthquake relief efforts in Japan.



The Actual 30 Hour Famine event is always a great time of learning and fun. Our time consists of group games and competitions, hangout time, worship music, lessons and group discussions surrounding what the bible has to say about not eating and serving our neighbors.

On Saturday afternoon, we took a trip to the Farmers Market in Ithaca. Each participant was given two dollars to go out and buy the food that they wanted to break their fast with that night. This, more than anything, awakens people's hunger, with the incredible smells wafting around the Farmers Market. When you haven't eaten for 24 hours, even raw beets start to look appetizing!

But all fun and games aside, the Famine is an incredible time of learning about poverty and God's grace in giving people what He does. As one student put it, "People always say you don't know what you have until it's gone. That became a reality for me over the course of those thirty hours. I hope I won't forget what it feels like to be hungry and remember to help those around the world so much less fortunate." This message is a huge part of what the Famine tries to instill in kids. It is a sense that they are so blessed, and therefore God has given them tools to help others. Some other students had this to say:



"30 hours is a really long time to fast. But think about how many children experience it almost daily. We just did it one time but children do it many times because they don't have enough to eat. This fast has helped me understand what it is like to not eat for 30 hours. It was a great experience!" - Rebekah Stauffer

"This was my first time ever doing the 30 Hour Famine and this event showed me how blessed we are in the USA. There is always someone worse off than you." - Arin Caveny

"This was a life-changing experience for me. This was my first year doing the Famine and it has changed me in a lot of ways. I've learned that there are a lot of children out there who are starving and I can do a lot to help bring awareness!" - Sara Knapp

We want to thank all those who participated in the Famine by donating money. The lessons learned by students are valuable, but so is the tangible help raised by students and congregation members. This year, we have raised more money than ever before in BG history - \$7,265! We are excited to hear about what God does with this money, as well as this youth group equipped with the commission to think of others above yourself and your own comfort.



In the developing world, 1 in 3 children—almost 200 million—do not get the nutrition they need. **But it doesn't have to be this way.** Our students are stepping up to help write a new story for hungry children and their families around the world.

Events For Your Calendar

May 22 - May 28

22nd 9:00 & 10:45am Worship Services
Hope Alive, last Sunday with two Services
24th 7:00-8:00pm MOPS - last meeting
(mothers of pre-schoolers)
25th 7:00-8:00pm Mid-Week Worship
27th Recital - Sarah Toth

June 12 - June 18

12th 9:30am Worship Service
Visit by Renovation House
12:30pm Church Picnic - Treman Park
15th 7:00-8:00pm Mid-Week Worship
18th Annual Meeting
6:00pm Dessert Fellowship
6:30pm Annual Meeting

May 29 - June 4

29th 9:30am Worship Service
summer service schedule begins
30th Memorial Day, Bethel Grove Office Closed
1st 7:00-8:00pm Mid-Week Worship

June 19 - June 25

19th 9:30am Worship Service
Father's Day
22nd 7:00-8:00pm Mid-Week Worship

June 5 - June 11

5th 9:30am Worship Service
Communion
First Day of Summer Program (K-3)
"The Wonders of God's World"
Bible Study Fellowship (4th-5th)
8th 7:00-8:00pm Mid-Week Worship

June 26 - July 2

26th 9:30am Worship Service
Graduation Sunday
29th 7:00-8:00pm Mid-Week Worship

New Arrivals

 Lily Grace and Blake Michael born to Eric and Alicia (Switzer) Wright on April 26, 2011.

 Ava Rae born to Adams and Danielle Hillker on May 11, 2011.



CHURCH CAMPING TRIP NIGHTS OF JULY 14, 15, 16 CHENANGO VALLEY STATE PARK

\$86 per site for weekend

3 sites still available relatively near the ones we have reserved (others are available further away). Come and enjoy fellowship, swimming, hiking, golfing, boating, bonfires, s'mores, and conversation. It is also possible to come out to the park for the day.

Contact Ellen Lantz (EllenL@twcny.rr.com or 273-8109) for more information.