



www.bg.org

BETHEL GROVE BIBLE CHURCH

1763 Slaterville Rd, Ithaca, NY, 14850

THE MESSENGER

October 2011

THOUGHTS FROM DAVE: WISDOM FOR TODAY

Lately, I have been thinking about one's need for wisdom in daily life. Sure-footed wisdom is essential in our workplaces, marriages, neighborhoods, and politics. It is especially needed to navigate the interpersonal dynamics of our primary relationships. No one can deny that wisdom is often a missing ingredient in this broken world.

But what is the essence of wisdom? Is it displayed in one's creativity? Is it tied to one's intellectual acumen? Biblical wisdom is primarily defined as "living skillfully." This wisdom is practical and it means that a person knows how to live in a responsible, productive and prosperous way. It is tied to becoming more mature, more fully human as God intended.

Over the past week, I was interested in the news media's emphasis on the "wisdom of Steve Jobs." Upon his death, it became very clear that he was more than a genius, he was a culture maker. His business skill and emphasis on creativity brought about inventions that changed the way we interact, process information and enjoy many of life's pleasures. Andy Crouch, of *Christianity Today*, writes: "And Steve himself, who exuded calm and confidence and vision even when he stirred consumers to frenzies of desire and competitors to distraction, envy and imitation, represented our vision of ourselves as we hope we can be; not slaves to technology, but free and creative users of it."

As Job's "gems" of wisdom surfaced following his death, one especially made me reflect upon the underlying world-

view he espoused. In a 2005 Stanford commencement speech he stated that: "Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma – which is living with the results of other's thinking. Don't let the noise of others drown out your inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition." While this entrepreneurial culture maker lived out his creed and offered much to our world, something is missing in that statement.

Let's face it; we are not autonomous individuals who make up truth. We do not have purified hearts and intuitions. Skillful and creative individuals are made in God's image and each one of us is in need of wisdom from outside ourselves. This external wisdom provides insight for living. This wisdom puts God's wisdom at the core of all things. No wonder the writer of Proverbs put it this way: "*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding*" (Proverbs 9:10).

I am thankful for the creative genius of Steve Jobs. He has impacted this world in ways that rivals earlier inventors and thinkers. In our appreciation for his work, let us always remember that human creativity is a direct result of being created in God's image. Our work is to bless others and honor God through the work of our hands. "Fearing the Lord" holds reverence and love in tension. It leads to skillful living, which after all is said and done, is about becoming more fully human and more like Christ.

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Sunday, October 23
Quarterly Church Business Meeting
6:00pm, Church Auditorium
Come get involved in the life of BG!



Mim Friday & Faith Kembabazi

FROM SUSAN HAY From October 25 - 31, Bethel Grove will be privileged to host Miriam Friday (better known as "Mim"), Faith Kembabazi and Florence Namaganda from Kampala, Uganda. Both Faith and Mim are actively involved in the ministry of Kampala Baptist Church (KBC). Faith is a deacon at KBC, and for many years, was often one of the detail people who helped Pastor Andrew Mwenge's visionary plans for the church to become reality. For many years, she also traveled to primary and secondary schools throughout Uganda with "True Love Waits," an organization that interacts with youth about HIV/AIDS and related subjects from a biblical perspective. Since Faith and Mim share a house in close proximity to KBC, their home is often the setting for church get-togethers, including a seminar on personal finance led by Bob Jewell a couple of years ago!

Presently, Mim, a British national, Faith and Florence all work for Viva, an organization that partners with child care workers, local churches, Ugandan government agencies and international charities in order to help children at risk in Uganda. (www.viva.org)

Faith is presently leading Viva's partner network, CRANE, the Children at Risk Action Network. CRANE currently works with over 100 churches and NGOs in Kampala that, together, care for over 25,000 children. CRANE seeks to transform children's lives by building the capacity of child care workers to provide quality care for children; by helping to channel resources to children; by advocating with and for children through the use of music and media and by presenting issues to parliament; and by empowering parents to look after their own children through parental training and economic capacity building.

Florence Namaganda is secretary to the CRANE board and has set up two day centers for children with special needs.

While Faith, Mim and Florence are in Ithaca, they will be interacting with CICE, IWBS, both Sunday morning services and the youth group. These will each be significant opportunities to learn more about what God is doing in Uganda and the realities of African childhood. Many of the BG'ers who have traveled to Uganda have already gotten to know Mim and Faith and have had a delightful time with them. Be sure to spend some time getting to know these quality women while they are with us, and praise God again for the wonderful opportunity He has given us to partner with Kampala Baptist Church.



NVision is a unique, one-day encounter exposing God's people to what He is doing around the world and helping them to find their most strategic role in completing the Great Commission. This fast paced multi-media experience is informative, exciting, and life changing. The team of speakers are some of the top mobilizers in the country, having ignited vision and passion for the world Christian movement in hundreds of thousands of students and adults. As they share powerful stories, challenge with truth from God's word, and reveal sobering worldwide facts and needs, the Holy Spirit will move the hearts of your people toward greater involvement and sacrifice.

The NVision Seminar is coming to Ithaca on Sunday, November 6. David Flynn from the US Center for World Mission will speak about what God is and has been doing in the world! The Seminar runs from 1:00-5:00pm in Call Auditorium, Kennedy Hall at Cornell. Parking for community members will be free in the parking garage. Come for all or part of the sessions. The afternoon will be broken up into these sections:

- 1:00-1:50-Biblical Session
- 2:00-2:50-Historical Session
- 3:00-3:50-Cultural Session
- 4:00-4:50-Strategic Session
- 4:50-5:00-Wrap up/dismiss

For more information visit:
<http://www.vision7nine.org/nvision-seminar>

Saying Good Bye to the Olsen's



Jim and Suzy left Ithaca on Thursday, October 6 for the mid-west and further support raising. Pray for them as they connect with family and friends in order to share the opportunities with *Youth World* in Ecuador. You can keep in touch with them at jimandsuzyolsen@hotmail.com.

Hands Of Christ

Hands of Christ is an opportunity for the young and old, the short side and the long side, T'burg and Dryden, families and singles, quilters and hikers, first service and second, town and gown, to meet each other, work together, and demonstrate the love of Christ through generosity. This year 2 out of every 5 BGCers participated in the week long outreach. As we obey God's call to kindness, we furrow hard sod and plant seeds in our neighborhoods.

Sewing - Sue Hilliker gathered a group of women to prepare fleece blankets that will be donated to soldiers. Sue hopes to finish the project at the women's retreat.

Shindagin - Seventeen people joined Eric Hause and teens for a bucolic morning walk in beautiful Shindagin Hollow. The hikers were shocked to notice illegal dumping – a bed, a dresser, buckets, traffic cones, bags of trash, a toilet, a microwave, piles of tires, and too many beer cans. Everything except the kitchen sink. No, there was a sink too. The mud warriors hauled, carried, and pushed the trash up steep (did we mention it was steep?), muddy inclines, filling 5 trucks provided by GWTs. They separated two items that could be traced to owners, leading to police investigations. Bethel Grove Bible Church is the sponsor of this forest and periodically clears trash, serving as stewards of God's creation and servants in the county.



service day is planned and our church is exploring continuing this as a monthly opportunity.

Thompson Park - Anna Bennett welcomed a crew of 20 pruners to Thompson Park. By removing brush, the team opened the park so that it was more open. Neighbors expressed thanks as they park was used at night for illegal solicitation and sales. Removing hidden corners kept the area safer.

Beechtree - On October 1st, nearly 30 of our BGBC adults and children visited with residents of Beechtree Care Center in downtown Ithaca. We divided into three groups, and an activities director accompanied us to the three floors of residents. The greeting cards and posters created by our Promiseland children stimulated great conversations about God, creation, and remembered pets. It was a rewarding experience, and may well lead to regular visitation by some of us. *Contacts: Karen Fisher and Ruth Casey*

Endicott - Ashley Cristelli inspired a group of teens and adults to travel to Endicott where they spent an afternoon helping clear homes damaged by flooding.

Painting - Sandy Sorensen brought a group of home school teens to paint a storage shed on the grounds of the Brooktondale Community Center.

Dryden Lake - A project too far. Don Abb had to postpone the original date due to drizzle. He gathered materials and stood tall at the pier, waiting for a crowd who never came. Columbus weekend is not a good time for a service project. Two missions committee members finished one pier, but the rest of the project was unfinished.

Health and food drive - Joyce Jones spearheaded what is the beginning of a weekly collection of health necessities and non-perishable food. Poverty restricts choices of over 35% of Tompkins County households. We collect 393 items over the week long collection period, a value of at least \$382, for distribution in local food pantries.

Candor flood relief - Cleaning supplies were donated for Candor flood relief.



Baked Goods - WOW! Lori Marion's preschool class made cards for emergency workers and our expert bakers donated a whopping 800 cookies, cupcakes, brownies, and pieces of cake. Susan Barr was overwhelmed with generosity and had too much fun delivering cards and enormous platters of sweet thanks from our church to police officers, fire fighters, snow plow operators, and bus drivers. A simple thank you is powerful and people were touched by the kindness.

Book Drive - Literacy is a tool to help people out of poverty. Faith in Books gathers donated gently used books and places them in red book shelves placed throughout the county. Families can choose books to read or take home. In a project spearheaded by Amy Bach and Promiseland, Bethel Grove families searched their crowded book shelves and donated 320 books for preschoolers and young readers.



Salvation Army - Three people from BGBC joined nine strong Cornell students at the Salvation Army on Sunday afternoon to make tuna casserole, set tables, serve clients, and wash dishes. Marilyn Kinner reports she enjoyed interacting with students and serving the poor. A second

FOOD PANTRY donations are being received EVERY Sunday. Your individual weekly contribution, combined with others, can make a substantial impact on the hungry and impoverished in our community. Thank you for continuing to be the "hands of Christ" to those in need.

BETHEL GROVE BIBLE CHURCH NEIGHBORHOOD PRAYER WALK WEEK, OCTOBER 23-30

WHY?

1. When we walk and pray it brings prayer ideas and requests to “our mind’s eye” that we otherwise often overlook.
2. Walking and praying in a group sets a tone and gives ideas for us to use when we walk by ourselves through our surroundings in the rest of the week.
3. Prayer walks are active ...some of us whose minds wander when just sitting, remain more alert when walking and praying.

ESTABLISH THE WALK: HOST

1. Volunteer to host a prayer walk (you don’t have to be the one who LEADS the prayer time, but if not, you would need to find a leader)
2. Invite 2 or 3 families, singles, colleagues, or neighbors to form a core group of at least 2 or 3 people.
3. Select a location - home, workplace, campus, town center.
4. Along with that “core group”, select a time--early morning, noon, evening, weekend for your prayer walk.
5. Decide how long you would like to have your prayer walk.
6. Contact Don Abb (dabb43@gmail.com) to list your walk (time, time length and place) for anyone else who wants to join you.

PREPARE MATERIALS: HOST OR LEADER

1. Consider safety. if the walk is at night, gather some flashlights.
2. Research the names of local leaders to have available--mayor, town supervisor, town board, principal, pastors, deans, etc.
3. If your walk will pass a church, consider informing and inviting them.
4. Pray for your prayer walk in the days before it.

FORMAT THE WALK: LEADER

1. Gather together, meet each other, open in prayer
2. Give general instructions to the group (what we’ll be doing, how long to pray--short sentences, freedom to be silent or pray, freedom to not “pray perfectly”)
3. Distribute Scripture cards and prayer cards to your group (they will be made available to you.)
4. Form into groups of 3-6 people with a leader and designated routes.
5. Depart for 20-40 minutes (specify the time before you leave) of prayer walking.

PRAY AND WALK

1. Form groups of 3-6 and designate a leader for each group.
2. Pray quietly or silently as you walk your route. (Our goal is to be an inconspicuous, but very real, presence of God’s blessing)
3. Read scripture (on prayer cards) and use it to guide and direct your prayers.
4. Try to keep prayers short so that all continue to participate.
5. Smile and greet any people that you meet.
6. Encourage children to pray.

AFTERWARDS: HOST OR LEADER

1. Please return on time. We want to be respectful of the commitments of others.
2. Return for reports, group prayer and possibly singing.
3. Refreshments and lingering are optional.
4. An enthusiastic group might agree to meet a second time.



Attention Ladies...

Open your hearts to the love God instills...
God loves you tenderly. What He gives you
is not to be kept under lock and key
but to be shared.
(Mother Teresa)

Montrose Bible
Conference
Montrose,
Pennsylvania



Ladies, need a little help preparing for the holidays? Are there people in your life who diminish your thankfulness at Thanksgiving and your joy at Christmas? Do you know how to love difficult people?

Loving Well is this year’s topic for the 2011 Bethel Grove women’s retreat. The retreat will be held on **November 11-13** in Montrose, Pa. Anchored by four sessions of the video-based series by best-

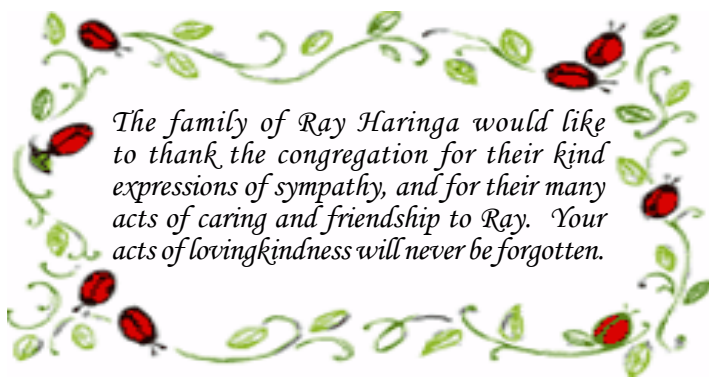
selling author and teacher Beth Moore, we’ll focus on God’s love for us and how his love can change us to become more like him; capable of loving the unlovely. Moore teaches with humor and insight, and a depth forged by her own personal struggles.

Please consider this excellent opportunity to come away with friends old and new for a time of respite, laughter, community, and going deeper with God. For details, brochures are available in the church lobby and office.



There are a span of single people at Bethel Grove Bible Church. We do not have a formal singles group, however, there is an e-mail list for events. If you would like to be on the list to be notified of events upcoming, please call or e-mail Dee Dee in the church office.

If there is an event that you would like to coordinate or host, please contact Lori Marion 351-3055, or ciara38@yahoo.com.



The family of Ray Haringa would like to thank the congregation for their kind expressions of sympathy, and for their many acts of caring and friendship to Ray. Your acts of lovingkindness will never be forgotten.

MID-WEEK ORGAN

MEDITATION

Every Thursday, from noon to 12:30p.m., there will be weekly organ mediations in the church sanctuary for anyone who would like to come

and quietly meditate, pray or relax. Feel free to come and stay for as long as you like. The organist will try to accommodate personal requests that would be meaningful to an individual.



Children's Ministry News!

Now that we have been in full gear for the fall session of Promiseland for over a month, it's time for an update. We started the fall out with a teacher training/planning session at the end of August. Our team of volunteers got to know each other a little better, received new updates and shared their hopes and plans for the year. They willingly serve up to 126 registered children each week. Since the training session, we continue to add additional volunteers to our Promiseland team. Most classes are fully staffed with the exception of the babies – preschool classrooms that still need a few more loving caregivers during the 10:45 service.

During the BG work day, volunteers installed a new gate on the playground and spruced things up a bit to make the playground more usable and safer.

We completed child registration and welcomed each family by distributing an informational letter and handouts detailing parent expectations and class descriptions. In addition, each new family that visits Promiseland receives a welcome email and a parent handbook. We are pleased that many new families have chosen to attend BG and make it their church home!

We continue to have many wonderful opportunities for children to learn what it means to be followers of Jesus. The following is a list of our teachers for each of the age groups:

Preschool- Lori Marion, Bonnie Shelford, Anna Bennett, Sally Herman, Joan Rizzo, Karla Eshelman, Renee Qamar, Melissa Reiger and Kaitlin Butler

Kindergarten/1st grade- Beth Larson and Joy Boyce

2nd grade- Mary and Frank Smalley

3rd grade- Donna Stauffer and Mary Psiaki

4th grade- Mark Psiaki and Stephanie Gumaer

5th grade- Patricia Pollock and Alan Pauling

Children's Church- Sue Caveney, Peter Lundquist, Joanna Fisher, and Dean Shea

Bible Study Fellowship- Larry Bardroff, Barrett Keene, and Dean Shea

Children in each Promiseland classroom participated in the Hands of Christ outreach by making cards for either our local sheriffs or the residents of Beechtree Nursing Home. In addition, several of the children and their families visited the residents at Beechtree or helped clean up Tompson Park. Many children and their families also donated gently used books to be shared with other children in Tompkins County through the Bright Red Bookshelf.

Children attending the Children's Church program are learning to "Run the Race of Faith" as they learn about many faith mentors mentioned in Hebrews. They are collecting money that will be used to purchase bibles and Sunday School supplies by the Hick's family as they minister to others in Spain.

We are grateful for many opportunities to serve the children and their families at BG and look forward to seeing each child learn what it means to follow Jesus each and every moment.

Amy Bach Promiseland Coordinator
Carla Smith Promiseland Administrative Assistant



Youth Ministry Kick Off 2011



Mexican Fiesta



Sow, Grow, Reap

Deepening Faith & Building Community BG Small Groups Meeting Throughout The Week

MONDAY

Newfield Bible Study/Prayer Group

Purpose: Minister to families in Newfield, study the Bible and pray for the community.

Date & Time: Starts October 17 with 6:00pm meal (call for details)

Bring the whole family, we provide childcare (games & crafts) for each meeting!

Contact: Mark & Taryn Deets, 330-2167, mtdeets@yahoo.com

3 B (Men's Group)

Location: Kilpatrick's, 6:15- 8:00pm

Current Study: *The Radical Disciple* by John Stott

Contact: Pat Wright, pmw6@cornell.edu

WEDNESDAY

Young Married Couples Study Group

Time: 7:00pm

Location: Meets in various homes of group members

Contact: Daron Westly, dawestly@hotmail.com

Single Ladies Bible Study

Location: 515 Hector Street, Ithaca, 7:00pm

Current Study: Forgiveness

Contact: Lori Marion, ciara38@yahoo.com or 351-3055

Comments: Parking is limited. Call for suggestions.

Caroline Study

Location: Varies

Time: 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, 7:00-8:30pm

Current Study: 1 John

Contact: Don Bilderback 539-6319, dhb@cornell.edu or Sue

Eggleston 200-4013, wingsofangles65@aol.com

THURSDAY

Men's Study

Location: Ramada Inn, 2310 N Triphammer Rd., Ithaca

Time: 6:45am-7:45am

Duration: Eight weeks, beginning September 29

Current Study: *The Radical Disciple* by John Stott

Contact: Dave Jones, dave@bg.org or 277-3333, ext. 225

East Hill Study for Men

Location: 210 Tudor Rd., Ithaca, 7:00- 8:30am

Current Study: *Respectable Sins* by Jerry Bridges

Contact: Charlie Cramton, 539-6337, cdc7@cornell.edu or

John Sanderson, 277-6031, jps3@cornell.edu

LADIES PRAYER/BIBLE STUDY

Location: Northeast Area

Meeting: 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 7-9:00pm

Contact: Renee' Qamar, renqam@yahoo.com, 257-3625

Eastern Heights Ladies Group

Current Topic: The Beatitudes

Meeting: Weekly @ 7:00pm

Contact: Joyce Jones, 273-1614 or joycemj222@aol.com

Open, soon to be full - call for availability

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FRIDAY

FRIDAY NIGHT FAMILIES (TWICE A MONTH)

Location: Church lower level, 6:00-8:00pm

Contact: Anna Bennett, 256-0030, abennett4@tcwcnr.com.

Open to new families. Childcare provided.

PRAYER AND MEDITATION

Tuesday Men's Prayer Group and Breakfast

Location: Family Center, 7:00am

Contact: Doug Caveney, 533-0007 or dbc4@cornell.edu

Tuesday Women's Prayer Group

Location: Seminar Room, Ministry Center, 9:30am

Contact: Ruth May, 256-4392

Prayer for the Persecuted Church

Time: 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, 7:00pm

Location: 122 Rich Road

Contact: Jerry and Sally Sincock, 273-7134

Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering. Hebrews 13:3

Mid-Week Organ Meditation

Time: Every Thursday from 12:00pm-12:30pm

Location: Bethel Grove Church Sanctuary

Weekly organ meditations for those who want to quietly meditate, pray or relax. Feel free to come and stay for as long as you like.

Hebrews 10:19-25

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Events For Your Calendar

October 16-22

16th 9:00am & 10:45am Worship Services
Baptism Sunday
20th Mid-Week Organ Meditation

October 23-29

23rd 9:00am & 10:45am Worship Services
Quarterly Meeting, 6pm
23rd-29th Prayer Walk
27th IWBS Brunch
Kampala Baptist Church Ladies speaking
Mid-Week Organ Meditation
28th Kampala Baptist Church Ladies @
Cornell International Christian Fellowship

October 30 - November 5

30th 9:00am & 10:45am Worship Services
Kampala Baptist Church Ladies
3rd Mid-Week Organ Meditation

November 6 - 12

6th 9:00am & 10:45am Worship Services
Daylight Savings Time Ends
10th Mid-Week Organ Meditation
11-13th Women's Retreat at Montrose

November 13 - 19

13th 9:00am & 10:45am Worship Services
Persecuted Church Sunday
Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes due!
17th Mid-Week Organ Meditation
18th Ithaca Pregnancy Center Banquet
@ The Clarion University Hotel

November 20-26

20th 9:00am & 10:45am Worship Services
Services of Thanksgiving
24th Mid-Week Organ Meditation
24-25th Office closed for Thanksgiving

November 27-December 3

27th 10:00am Coffee Hour
10:45am Worship Services
First Sunday of Advent
No Adult Education
1st Mid-Week Organ Meditation

December 4-10

4th 9:00am & 10:45am Worship Services
Second Sunday of Advent
8th Mid-Week Organ Meditation

December 11-17

11th 9:00am & 10:45am Worship Services
Third Sunday of Advent
Last Adult Education and Sunday School
15th IWBS Brunch
Mid-Week Organ Meditation

Wedding News

K.C. & Shaina (Segal) Sawyer
Sunday, October 2nd
Their new address is:
1097 Warren Road, Apt. 7
Ithaca, NY 14850



Apartment for Rent

Beautiful two bedroom apartment for rent in quiet country setting yet convenient to TCAT, 366, Cornell, Dryden, Cortland. \$800/month includes all utilities, cable and internet. Call Tracey 607-592-8569.