



FIRST

VISIONS

an edition of the United Methodist Reporter

Two Sections, Section A | 070665 | Vol. 153 | No. 16 | August 25, 2006

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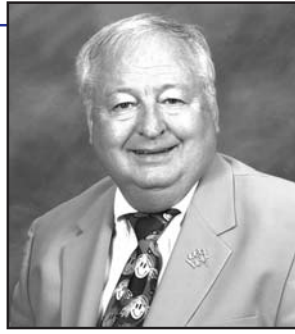
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The Pastor Ponders



“YOUNG, OLD, AND IN-BETWEEN: ALL CAN BE DISCIPLES”

by Dave Ring

I'd only been at my previous church a few weeks when I met Connor, a six-year old boy who had already endured more than one heart operation per year in his short life. His parents asked me to come to their house because Connor wanted to accept Jesus Christ as His personal Savior. Connor did accept Jesus and, over the next five years that I knew him, rapidly grew in his discipleship for Jesus. His health improved and, as he began to realize his developing competencies, Connor became very creative in his discipleship endeavors. He wrote songs and poems glorifying God, periodically performing them for the congregation. At a church-wide fund-raiser for remodeling the sanctuary, one of his drawings brought several hundred dollars at auction. By the time I left Big Spring, Texas, Connor was an eleven-year old deeply committed to Christ and His Church.

Bill, on the other hand, was eighty years old. Much earlier in his life, he'd been known as "Wild Bill" in Big Spring (for reasons he never fully explained to me). Bill sang in the Chancel Choir. He didn't think he had a solo voice, just a choir voice. But on his eightieth birthday, the Music Minister asked Bill to solo. Reluctantly, he agreed - and received a standing ovation from the congregation as he glorified God with his deep, resonant voice. After that the solos came easier - and more often. Bill regularly delivered "meals on wheels"

to the "old people." He lobbied for senior citizen causes of all sorts. For a while, declining mobility forced him to use a walker, but by the time I left there, he was back to walking with only a cane. Fran and I received a letter from Bill a couple of weeks ago; he misses us, but he's proving a good friend to and supporter of his new pastor.

Tammy, at 38, had two small daughters. She'd been married since age 16, but only in her 30's had God finally granted to her and her husband the blessing of parenthood. She wasn't a churchgoer, but she enrolled the girls in that church's day care program. Inevitably, she began to meet some of the people of the church, including me. I and others invited her to participate in some of the "less religious" activities of that church, such as a young couples' monthly "Parents' Night Out." She and her husband enjoyed those times. Eventually she showed up in worship. And one Sunday, a year or so later, she and her husband brought the girls forward for baptism -- and themselves for membership in the Church of Jesus Christ. Two years later, she became that congregation's chairperson of Christian Education. This summer, she was director of Vacation Bible School at First UM Church, Big Spring. When I called her to ask, she gladly sent to First UM Church, Los Alamos, all of that church's unused VBS supplies - which

Disciples con't. on P. 5

Successful VBS

Several weeks ago a few brave people decided FUMC needed to offer our children a Vacation Bible School experience this summer before time ran out. They organized a program; recruited people to teach, feed, sing, and act; and brought about a remarkable VBS program.

The "Set Sail" theme centered the experience around Paul's conversion and early travels teaching students to Believe!, Obey!, Rejoice!, Tell the Good News!, and Trust in God!

This year's VBS concluded on Sunday, August 13, at the second service. Four of the youth assistants performed a

short drama followed by the VBS children who beautifully sang the songs they had learned.

A total of nineteen children participated in the VBS with an average of 14 children each night. Children ages 4 years through 4th grade were involved. Eight youth assisted in many areas. Eighteen adults helped and two other adults who brought some food.

Others who helped make VBS happen were the parents who brought their children each night.

Linda Leschnitzer commented, "For such a short notice I believe this was well attended."

Outreach/Missions Presents:

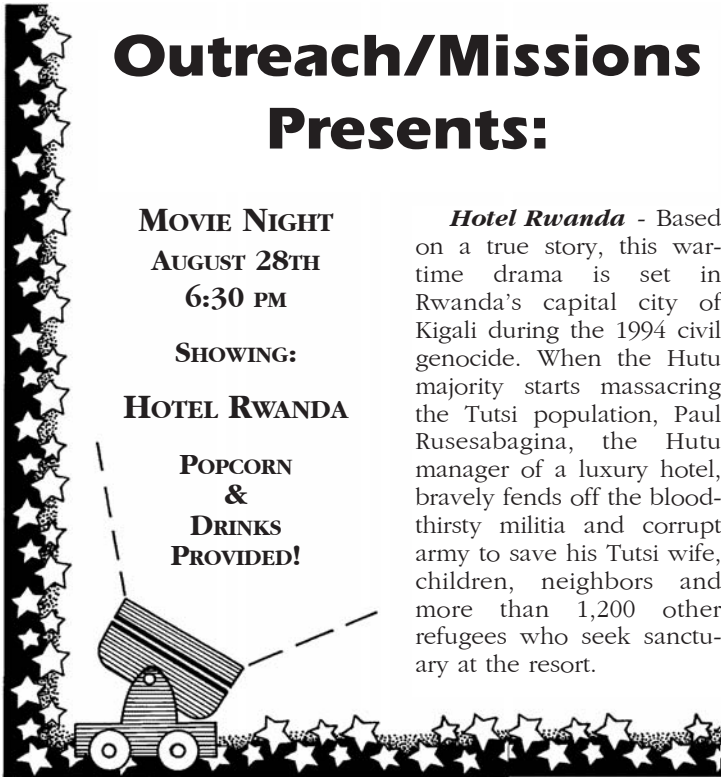
MOVIE NIGHT
AUGUST 28TH
6:30 PM

SHOWING:

HOTEL RWANDA

**POPCORN
&
DRINKS
PROVIDED!**

Hotel Rwanda - Based on a true story, this war-time drama is set in Rwanda's capital city of Kigali during the 1994 civil genocide. When the Hutu majority starts massacring the Tutsi population, Paul Rusesabagina, the Hutu manager of a luxury hotel, bravely fends off the blood-thirsty militia and corrupt army to save his Tutsi wife, children, neighbors and more than 1,200 other refugees who seek sanctuary at the resort.



Testimony~The Way

by John Stong

We are saved by grace alone, faith alone and scripture alone, or if you want to get fancy--sola grace, sola fide, sola scriptura. But, as an old theologian once wrote, faith is never alone.

Faith is never alone, because, like a clear spring bursting forth from the ground, it cannot but do good. Like a spring that produces life-giving sustenance to both plant and animal, God's spring of life giving faith nurtures the church.

We receive this faith by grace alone for it is God who first loved us, so much that He sent His Son. From that river-side flowed another spring. A spring of forgiveness of sins and life everlasting that we might be called the sons of God.

How is this grace and faith attained? Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. The Holy Spirit has chosen to create faith by the preaching of God's Word. We receive the benefits of what Christ has done for us on the cross through the faith that is created in us through scrip-

tures. What flows from these three things (grace, faith, & scripture) is the Christian's sanctified life (sanctifying grace). A life that is reanimated to be salt and light to this world.

So as Christians we build one another up in the faith through love, and we reach out to a fallen world with the Gospel message.

One facet of this sanctified life is in service to one another in the church and service to those outside the church. James 2:15 states that, "If a brother or sister is ill clad and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and filled,' without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit?"

It is in this spirit of service that "The Way" endeavors to serve both congregation and community by helping those in need. We reach out to those who need help with upkeep of yard and home. We also do work with Habitat for Humanity building houses for those in need.

Join us in "The Way" to let God shine through you.

Confirmation

Pastor Ring is prepared to offer four sessions of Confirmation Classes for youth in grades six through nine. These will be offered on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour beginning on Sunday, Sept. 10th.

If you are a youth in that age range who has not yet been confirmed as a member of

Christ's Church, or if you are the parent of a youth who fits that profile, please contact Pastor Ring at the church office.

Older youth and/or adults who would like to receive confirmation training can be accommodated on an individualized basis. Call the church office, 662-6277, and talk to Pastor Ring.

UM VIM Out-of-Country Mission

Quito, Ecuador
November 2006

The FUMC Outreach/Mission team is sponsoring a mission trip to Quito, Ecuador to make repairs and possibly start working on a laundry facility at an ecumenical low-income assisted living center just outside of Quito. This facility houses approximately 50 individuals and is supported by the residents and local churches in the area. There are issues with their current laundry and they have additional needs as well.

Who: All interested Christians (FUMC members have excellent scholarship opportunities)

When: November 9 - 16, 2006

Where: Quito, Ecuador (Elevation approximately 9300 ft)

Cost: approximately \$1500.00 (depending on cost of materials). All expenses covered with the exception of souvenirs. A \$100.00 non-refundable deposit per person is required by September 15, 2006 and submittal of VIM volunteers paperwork by September 30th.

Lodging: Three to Four nights at a Nazarene Seminary and two (1 or 2) nights in Quito and possibly one (1) night in Otavalo.

Skills: Just be willing to get your hands dirty, two local construction individuals will be available to provide guidance. Also electrical, brick and mortar, or light carpentry skills are desirable. They also have needs with people just spending time with residents of the facility.

Translators: Pastor Dave, Susan Nava, and at least one local, it would be a great opportunity to practice your Spanish as well.

Contact: Pastor Dave, Jim Little, or Dennis or Susan (Nava) Trumblee. See Peggy Goldman for details on Quito.

Requirements:

US Passport -current U. S. passport, with at least six months left on it beyond November 16th before the expiration date, if not you should apply for one right away; go to the Los Alamos Post Office for forms and details.

Immunizations - None REQUIRED

You may however, wish to consider HEP A, HEP B, Typhoid, and have a current tetanus. See <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/tropsam.htm> and http://www.vivecuador.com/html2/eng/trip_planning.htm

If you can not participate but would like to be part of team your prayers and sponsorship are most welcome.

Additional Needs: There is a request for a commercial washing machine and dryer for the facility.



Photos
of the
Ecuadorian Highlands



by

Paul Tegros

www.ecuador-pictures.org

Welcome

to our

family,

Zachariah Angel Ortiz

We Witness

Our Church Vows

We will be loyal to the United Methodist Church and uphold it with our prayers, presence, gifts and service.

Our Prayers

There are many, many prayer needs in our church family and community. The caring board by the church office is filled to overflowing, and there are too many prayer needs to put in this space without leaving out some other equally important needs. Having the complete prayer list is as simple as sending your email address to the church office and asking to be placed on the email list for prayer needs.

Our Presence

Attendance on Sunday, August 20th was

Our Giving

Figures through August 13-- Ministry budget for 2006	\$475,000
Ministry gifts needed each week	9,134
Ministry gifts needed to date	301,442
Ministry gifts received to date	294,101
Shortfall	7,341
Special gifts received to date for ministries outside our budget	7,380

Special August Days

Birthdays:

Darryl Jackson	09/02
Ben Gibson	09/03
Opal Lee Gill	09/03
Jan Weinland	09/03
John Zumbro	09/05
Frances Hundley	09/06
Valerie Collins	09/09
Carol Mead	09/15
Rachel Sheppard	09/16
John Courtright	09/18
Dagne Sollid	09/22
Bobi Bryant	09/30

Anniversaries:

September 2	Jim & Gail Little
September 12	Darryl & Doris Jackson
September 13	Aaron & Peggy Goldman
September 14	Rod & Eileen Douglass
September 23	Jim & Marilyn Peek

Disciples con't. from P. 1

we eagerly employed in the Christian education of our church's children during our own recent VBS.

Young, old, and in-between: Disciples all for Jesus Christ at my last pastorate. A few years from now I wonder what stories I'll have to tell about the disci-

ples for Jesus Christ I've had the privilege of knowing at First UM Church in Los Alamos, New Mexico?

Dave Ring

First United Methodist Church
called to:

Seek God,
Share Christ's Word,
Serve His World

The next edition of Visions will be dated September 8.
The deadline for articles is Wednesday, August 30.

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Pastor ~ Dr. Dave Ring
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First Visions Editor ~ Jan Stong

Ark Child Development Center
Carol Mead, Director
(505) 662-4822

Sunday Services & Activities
8:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

Wednesday Activities
Chancel Choir 7 p.m.



Our Applause

Thank you, once again, to all the people who helped make Vacation Bible School such a

success including the children who participated and sang to God's glory last Sunday as the conclusion to the

VBS week.

Kudos to the faithful participants and leaders in this summer's study classes.

Upcoming Events Highlights

Sermon Titles

August 27: "Is This Any Way to Run a Business?", Matt. 20:1-16
September 3: Labor Sunday, Holy Communion, "Relax, the Work's Already Done", John 19:28-30
September 10: "A Mission from God", Acts 1:1-11
The sermons will be presented by Dr. Dave Ring, pastor at LAFUMC.



Church Picnic

August 27, after second service at Camp May

Movie Night

August 25, 6:30 pm, in the Friendship Center--"Hotel Rwanda"

The Way

September 2, 7 am in the Friendship Center for breakfast, 7:45--go out in service to the community

Labor Day

September 4

Emmaus Community

September 4, 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall for potluck dinner, 7 pm in the Friendship Center for a gathering

Trustees

September 5, 6:30 pm in the Library

United Skates Starts

Starts up for the fall! September 8, 5:30-6:45 pm for 3rd graders and younger; 7-9 pm for 4th graders and older in the Fellowship Hall

Relay for Life

September 9, Ashley Pond

Promotion Sunday

September 10

Confirmation Class Starts

September 10, 9:15 am in the Mid-High Room

LAF Crafts

September 10, 4 pm in the Friendship Center

Awad Mission Dinner

September 10, 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Even Further Ahead . . .

Stewardship Workshop

September 28--Important note to all stewardship work area members and any other interested church

leaders. All-day stewardship workshop will be held at St. John's UMC, Albuquerque, Thursday, September 28th. Please mark your calendars; further details to come.

Annual Church Conference

October 29--in the afternoon, more details will follow

Children's Church Changes

Starting Sunday, September 10th, Children's Church, which is held in the Friendship Center during the sermon, will be offered during the 10:30 am worship service only for children in Kindergarten through 2nd grade.

We need parents with children in this age group to help

lead Children's Church on a rotating basis. It is a very satisfying job to do with your children. You will be provided help to setting up your day's program.

Please contact Mada Jones at 662-4690 or the church office at 662-6277 for further information or to schedule your Sunday to

volunteer.

All age children are welcome to come forward for the Children's Sermon. Children in 3rd grade and above are then asked to return to their seats so they may worship in the sanctuary with their families.

Awad Mission Dinner

On Sept. 10 we will host Rev. and Mrs. Awad, missionaries to Palestine whom we support. The following paragraphs tell a little bit about them and their work. Plan on joining us.

The Rev. Alex Elias Awad is a missionary of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church serving in Israel/Palestine with his wife, Brenda. He pastors a small international church in East Jerusalem and teaches courses at Bethlehem Bible College, where he serves as faculty member, dean of students

and board member. He says his ministry is unique and varied. "One day may find me teaching a class at BBC; another conducting a Bible study with church young people; and yet another sharing with pilgrims on Holy Land visits."

Brenda Kay Waddell Awad is a United Methodist missionary serving in Palestine with her husband, the Rev. Alex Awad. They are involved with a small international church in East Jerusalem and in supporting the ministry of Bethlehem Bible College (BBC). Brenda performs

various functions in her role as the pastor's wife--from Sunday School director and teacher, to women's group leader and hospitality coordinator. At the Bible College she spends approximately 30 hours per week assisting with English administrative needs and developing proposals for the College's worldwide support base. She fills in as an English teacher when there is a need. In addition, she works with other UM mission personnel in the region to facilitate UM group visits