

## BCC Missions Sunday Highlights

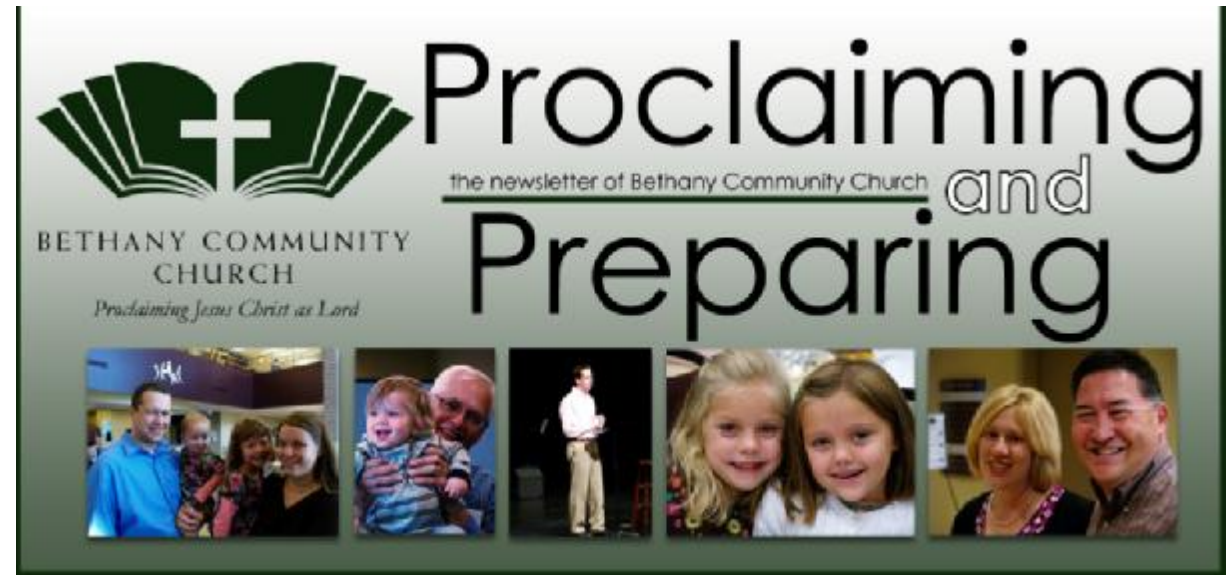
- ◆ South Side Mission food drive during March—food needs include:
  - Canned food such as tuna, fruit, vegetables, and chicken
  - Staple items such as flour, sugar, salt, salad dressing, dry cereals, coffee and tea
  - Dry foods such as potato mixes, cake mixes, corn muffin mixes, dried beans and peas, jello and macaroni
  - Ready to Eat items, such as spaghetti-os, beef stew, chicken & dumplings, etc.
 Bring your foods to Five Points in March and put them in the South Side Mission barrel by the Welcome Center.
- ◆ Saturday, March 12—Volunteer Day at Camp Good News from 9 a.m.—2 p.m. (Lunch provided.)
- ◆ Sunday, March 13—Ministry Fair at BCC
- ◆ Other opportunities for you to consider:
  - Peoria Area Campus Ministries
  - South Side Mission
  - Peoria Rescue Ministries
  - Bethany Biblical Counseling Ministries
  - Child Evangelism Fellowship
  - and more!

*Contact the office for more information on how you, your family or your care group can minister with these local organizations.*

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Issue 9

March/April 2011

## How Sorry Do You Need to Be? by Pastor Daniel Bennett

*Contrasting Protestant and Roman Catholic Understandings of Repentance*

Today I was reading a book by a Roman Catholic apologist named James Akin. It is entitled *The Salvation Controversy* and was recommended to me by a friend with whom I am in an ongoing and friendly debate. When I use the term friendly, of course, I do not mean trivial. Our differences are real, profound and of eternal consequence.

As I read Akin's book this morning, I was reminded of a recent sermon in which I discussed the atonement. My argument, as I'm sure you remember, was that if one doesn't understand the substitutionary atonement of Christ—the truth that Christ died in my place—one doesn't understand Christ or His mission.

In a chapter entitled, "Doing Penance," Akin quotes several biblical passages, James 4:8-10 among them:

*Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and*

*purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.*

He then argues that Protestants fail to take Scripture's injunction to mourn for sin seriously:

*Protestants often skim over...[verses like James 4:8-10] without taking their implications seriously. This is shown especially in sermons on the passage from James. Protestant pastors often tell their congregations to humble themselves before the Lord so that they will be lifted up, but they rob the self-humbling (self-humiliation) of all its content because they fail to tell the congregations to humble themselves in the way James has indicated: "grieve, mourn, and wail; change your laughter into mourning and your joy into gloom." (p. 49).*

*(Continued on page 2)*

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I think Akin, on the face of it, makes a valid point. We should have genuine remorse for sin that causes greater humility on our parts.

The problem is what he *means* by penance. If Akin were simply arguing that believers need to show genuine contrition and mourning over sin, we'd be in complete agreement. We'd be in agreement because this is precisely what 2 Corinthians 7:10-11 describes:

*For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter.*

The problem is that Akin *isn't* advocating biblical repentance. He's advocating penance as part of the sacramental system. Here's what the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says:

*Like all the sacraments, Penance is a liturgical action. The elements of the celebration are ordinarily these: a greeting and blessing from the priest, reading the word of God to illuminate the conscience and elicit contrition, and an exhortation to repentance; the confession, which acknowledges sins and makes them known to the priest; the imposition and acceptance of a penance; the priest's absolution; a prayer of thanksgiving and praise and dismissal with the blessing of the priest (1480).*

This "penance" is far different than the remorse and humility Akin describes. Surely this formulaic ritual was not what James had in mind when he discussed contrition! This system is not about humbling oneself so that Christ can exalt them. It is about engaging in the sacramental system of the church so that a man—the priest—can absolve you.

I believe that this poor understanding of repentance stems from a poor understanding of how Christ's atoning work is applied. Instead of seeing Christ's atoning work as the basis on which God declares us wholly righteous, Roman Catholics believe in an infused righteousness. Righteousness, they teach, is slowly applied to us as we work to earn it.

But Scripture teaches us differently. Gold's value is based largely on its scarcity, not so much its functional worth. What can you really "do" with gold? But the righteousness that comes from God is valuable not only because it is scarce—no one but God has it—but because it has intrinsic value as well. With it we can have a relationship with God. And, what's more, this righteousness cannot be purchased or earned—it can only be given. We who were dead in our trespasses and sin are made alive because of God's incredible grace through faith (Eph 2:1-10).

What then is the importance of repentance in the life of the believer? There are many benefits for the believer and these benefits are received and enjoyed on the basis of God's grace...not on the basis of our works.

What is true in our salvation continues to be true in our sanctification. Only God can receive credit for our salvation and only God can receive the glory for our repentance. Our repentance is not to be some formulaic repetition of words, but genuine, heart-felt remorse as we turn from our sin.

## Missions Agencies Created by the Bethany Fellowship of Churches

The Bethany Fellowship of Churches (BFC) is a partnership between Bethany Baptist Church and the two churches Bethany Baptist has planted, Living Hope Community Church and Bethany Community Church. The three churches in the BFC pool our resources to have a combined missions ministry.

At times, the BFC has believed God is calling us to a particular missions ministry, but there is not a missions agency which can employ a full time missionary staff. In these instances, we have created our own missions agencies which fall under the leadership of the BFC. When we create a missions agency, we also create an advisory committee to oversee it. The advisory committee, missionaries, and volunteers of the missions agency fall under the authority of the BFC elder board, which is the combined elder boards of the three churches. To date, the BFC has created three missions agencies.

### 1. Peoria Area Campus Ministries

In creating PACM, we work with Campus Crusade for Christ in an effort to more effectively proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to college students in the Peoria area. As students submit their lives to Christ, PACM strives to help them get plugged into a local church. Our missionaries currently serving under PACM are: Micaiah and Erin Wilmoth, Jim and Joelle Kurczodyna, Joanne Borchert, Kyle Talbot, and Amanda Mullery. PACM could not exist without volunteers from BFC churches and other churches in the Peoria area.

### 2. Bethany Biblical Counseling Ministries

BBCM was created to assist the BFC in proclaiming the sufficiency of God's Word as we seek to care for people's souls in a God-exalting manner. In addition to offering Biblical counseling free of charge, BBCM

seeks to equip laypeople, church leaders, and ministry leaders in applying God's Word to their lives and ministry. This ministry offers counseling and counseling training to anyone the tri-county area, regardless of church affiliation. Kent and Janell Kloter are our missionaries currently serving under BBCM. BBCM depends on volunteers and supporters from BFC churches and other churches in the Peoria area.

### 3. Global Partnership Ministries

In creating GPM, we partnered with Eternity Minded Ministries and the Luis Palau Association, two international evangelistic ministries, to build up and strengthen the Church worldwide through evangelism and discipleship. GPM strives to help people use their spiritual gifts to proclaim the Gospel and administer humanitarian aid, particularly internationally, in order to help meet the spiritual and physical needs of people. Gary and Barb Losey are our missionaries currently serving under GPM. Through GPM, the BFC is sending a short-term missions team to Rwanda this June.

## Did you know?

The South Side Mission Benevolence Center offers free food, clothing, furniture, and appliances to the poor of Peoria, all in the name of Jesus Christ. The Gospel is shared with customers each time the Benevolence Center opens and Bible studies are also held there. The Benevolence Center, which helps up to 1,000 different people each month, is in need of lightly used clothing, household goods, furniture, and appliances. They are located at 2919 W. Garden St. in Peoria and can be contacted at 309-673-1041.

## Children's Ministry



God continues to provide for our children's ministries at BCC. The scripture covered in Sunday School in March and April will be

- |      |                |      |                                     |
|------|----------------|------|-------------------------------------|
| 3/6  | Acts 1:1-11    | 4/3  | Acts 5:17-42                        |
| 3/13 | Acts 2:1-47    | 4/10 | Acts 6:1-7:60                       |
| 3/20 | Acts 3:1-26    | 4/17 | Acts 8:1-25                         |
| 3/27 | Acts 4:32-5:11 | 4/24 | Acts 8:26-30 <small>CC only</small> |

These lessons will continue during the Children's Church hour except for 1st through 3rd grade who are studying the following:

- March 6: God Leads Israel into the Promised Land – Deut 18:15, portions of Joshua
- March 13: God Appoints Judges and Gives Israel a King – portions of Judges, 1 Samuel
- March 20: God Establishes His Kingdom through David – portions of 1 and 2 Samuel
- March 27: The Rise and Decline of the Kingdom Under Solomon – portions of 2 Samuel
- April 3: God's Prophets Foretell Coming Judgment and Deliverance – portions of 1 and 2 Kings, Is. Jer.
- April 10: A Man of Sorrows – Is. 14, 53:3-5, Jer. 17:9
- April 17: God's Anointed One – Is. 44-45, 61, Ezra 1:1-3
- April 24 – No Children's Church – Easter Sunday



## Adult Ministries

A recent highlight in our adult ministries has been the boost in adult Sunday School attendance. We finished our study on "Shepherding Children" and all three classes will be starting a study of 1 John by March. This is a great time to join a class!

Additionally, BCC saw a care group begin for young couples. Praise God for these ministries of teaching and care!

## Youth Ministry



We are seeing God's continued work in the hearts of our students as our group grows in number and spiritual maturity. We are thankful for our adult leaders who faithfully serve the Lord in the youth ministry. We continue to look for more servants to help, especially as our group has been getting larger. If that interests you, we would love to talk with you.

On Wednesdays, youth group meets at the Farmhouse, and on Sundays, the Middle School and High School meet separately for a time of Bible teaching and small groups. The Sunday School classes are currently studying through the book of Romans. Recently we have had a Youth Game Night and our Annual All-Night Ski Trip! We look forward to more activities this spring that will develop community and build deeper relationships with each other and with the Lord.

Please pray for the faithfulness of our young people, their friends, and our adult volunteers.

## Automatic Giving to BCC

Why is BCC offering this additional method of giving? Several individuals asked the church to offer automatic giving. The elders considered the variety of methods God made available for people to give in Scripture (e.g., Ex 35:20-22; Lev 27:30-33; Deut 12:17-19; Acts 2:44-47; 4:34-35; 1 Cor 16:2; 2 Cor 8-9). and concluded that automatic giving was an appropriate way to allow people to give joyfully (2 Cor 9:7). Forms are available at the Welcome Center or in the office if you are interested in giving in this way.



- 1 Ryan Alexander  
Dennis Zeller
- 2 Michelle Smith  
Audrey Jayne
- 3 Terry & Kathy Carlson
- 4 Parker Roth
- 5 Regan Roth
- 6 Chris Frautschi  
Raleigh King
- 7 Jesse Stone  
Claire Cagle  
West Pyle  
Rya Mueller
- 8 Olivia Bachman
- 9 Sara Beach
- 12 Kenneth Martin  
Elizabeth Leman  
Mike & Barb Joyner
- 13 Mark DeJarnatt  
Dan Vogel  
Allison Schellenberg
- 15 Jesse Thames
- 16 Claudette Schrepfer
- 18 Matthew Roles
- 20 Barb Bayer  
Pat Mather  
Brian Reiner  
Olivia Hank  
Julia Rupp  
Bill & Pat Crow  
Tom & Jeannie Thorp
- 21 Ron Shobert  
Olivia Heille
- 22 Darrell Howard
- 23 Sean Grogan
- 24 Bob Bloompott  
Joanna Schmidt  
Jonah Getz
- 25 Jennifer Hodges  
Tate Westbrook  
Cailey Tervo  
Micah Hostetler  
Andy & Darcy Biedscheid

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 26 Penny Araujo  
Jesse Rupp
  - 27 Dana Pace
  - 28 Paul Markas
  - 29 Chuck Boysen  
Charlotte Beck  
Breck Biedscheid  
Eli Ingold
  - 30 Kailey Handly
  - 31 Daniel Lott  
Travis Maxwell  
Susanna Thames  
Mariah Hitz
- 
- 1 Becky Boysen  
Pat Savage  
Emily Gerber
  - 3 Diane Morris  
Caleb Schellenberg
  - 4 Joshua Mervis  
Kate Westbrook
  - 5 Karen Winemiller  
Morgan Cagle  
Dan & Alissa Hawkinson  
Tate & Ruth Westbrook
  - 6 Keith Martin  
Linda DeJarnatt  
Tamara Lee  
Derek Martin
  - 7 Christine Carbaugh
  - 8 Sandra Van Beuning  
Harry & Karen Placher
  - 9 Heather Carlson  
Logan Makiney
  - 10 Grant Hoerr  
Abigail Prosser  
Joah Moser
  - 11 Karalea Thames  
Lily Beck  
Keith & Linda Martin
  - 12 Hannah Hostetler
  - 13 Robert Morris
  - 14 Wesley Markas  
Afton Pace
  - 15 Eric Heille  
Jerelyn Gebhart  
Sadie Davidson  
Nelson & Jill Hostetler  
Roger & Claudette Schrepfer
  - 16 Jodi Lemkemann  
Aaron Karch  
Jacey Araujo
  - 17 Jeannie Nabors
  - 18 Callie Jayne  
Myrl St. Clair
  - 19 Dorothy Plummer  
Barb Joyner  
Joshua Thames  
Emma Chambers  
Glen & Carol Harkins
  - 20 Brent Widder  
Quinn McDaniel  
Tom & Carol Davis
  - 21 Rod Roth  
Erin Schniers  
Addy Davidson
  - 22 Julie Ahlgren  
Gabriella Sloan  
Zachary Teubel  
Amelia Roth
  - 23 Brenda Bahorik  
Tony & Christine Carbaugh
  - 24 Rebecca Wuebben  
Claire Holmes
  - 26 Daveyne Pugh  
Kate Opperman  
Jonathan Thames
  - 27 Hannah Bennett
  - 29 Noah Gordon
  - 30 Ken Crank  
Bailey Roth
  - Jeff Thames  
Tyler Schellenberg

### Sunday Night Service

March 6

Our evening services provide such a great opportunity to hear God’s Word and go deeper in relationship with others at Bethany Community. Join us at Camp Good News at 6:00 p.m. for a time of fellowship, song and hearing God’s Word. The children through 5th grade will be working on their musical, “Race To Win”.

### Local Missions Sunday

March 13

Among the local missions featured on Sunday, March 13 will be Bethany Biblical Counseling Ministry, Peoria Area Campus Ministries, Child Evangelism Fellowship, Camp Good News, Walk for Life, South Side Mission and Peoria Rescue Ministries. There will be a food drive for South Side Mission in March. Have clothing, appliances or other household goods you want to donate? Read more about the South Side Mission Benevolence Center on page 6.

### Young Couples Night

Saturday, March 26 at 6 p.m.

Ryan & Jennica Voorhees (10 Pin Oak Ct, Washington) will host YCN on Sat, March 26th at 6pm. We will have appetizers/snacks - please bring one to share. Kids are welcome! But there aren't any toys at the Voorhees household yet... so bring some for your kiddos. If it's nice outside, they can play outside before it gets dark. RSVP by emailing Jennica ([jennivoorhees@gmail.com](mailto:jennivoorhees@gmail.com)) or calling her cell (303-3877).

### Elective Classes on Sunday Evenings

Begins March 13

Each Sunday night for six weeks there will be elective classes for the Bethany Fellowship of Churches. Pastor Daniel will teach a class entitled *BFC Orphan Ministry Bible Study: A Passion for the Fatherless*. The class is required for those who plan on adopting through Open Hearts Open Homes. This is also a great opportunity for anyone to learn what the Bible says about orphan care. The class will meet at Camp Good News. Child care will be provided. Other classes will meet at Bethany Baptist Church and Living Hope Community Church. A complete list of classes is on page 6.

### Baby Shower for Alissa Hawkinson

Saturday, March 19 at 10 a.m.

All ladies are invited to the Community Room, 27265 Dutch Lane in Washington to celebrate with Dan & Alissa on the upcoming birth of their baby boy. They are registered at Babies R Us, Target & Walmart.

### AWANA Grand Prix

Saturday, March 19 at 1 p.m.

Everyone is invited to come and join in the excitement as our AWANA clubbers race the Grand Prix cars they have made. Cars should be inspected at AWANA Clubs on March 9 or 16 or from 9—11 a.m. on the 19th. The race will be held at Camp Good News.

### Easter Sunday Breakfast

Sunday, April 24 at 9 a.m.

Meet in the banquet rooms at Five Points with your favorite breakfast dish. We will enjoy breakfast together before the morning worship service. There will be no Sunday School classes. Beverages, plates and silverware will be provided. If you need serving utensils for your dish, please bring them also.

### Easter Sunday Service

Sunday, April 24 at 10:15 a.m.

Easter is a great time to invite those who don’t attend a church to visit Bethany Community. Please invite your friends and neighbors. Pastor Daniel will be preaching on *Eternal Life and the Resurrection*, from John 20.

### Bridal Shower for Jessica Compton

Saturday, April 16 at 10 a.m.

All ladies are invited to a bridal shower for Jessica Compton, who is marrying Matthew Roles on June 4. Matthew and Jessica are registered at Target and Bed, Bath and Beyond.

### Congregational Meeting

Sunday, April 17 at 6 p.m.

Join us at Camp Good News as a congregational meeting will be held prior to the elective class at Camp Good News for the purpose of electing officers and approving the budget. A list of officers and a copy of the budget will be available at the Welcome Center in April.

### Spring Electives

Following is a list of the elective courses offered this spring and where they will meet. These classes are a great opportunity to grow in your knowledge and application of God’s Word. The dates for the classes are March 13—April 17. They all meet at 6 p.m. A detailed description of each class is available at the Welcome Center.

<i>BFC Orphan Ministry Bible Study: A Passion for the Fatherless</i>	Daniel Bennett	Camp Good News
<i>Biblical Soul-Care for the Local Church</i>	Kent Kloter	Bethany Baptist
<i>Biblical Counseling Training: What is a believer to do?!</i>	Joel Smith	Bethany Baptist
<i>Systematic Theology 6: The Church</i>	Ritch Boerckel	Living Hope Community Church
<i>Worldview Matters: A Framework to Understand Your World</i>	Doug Wright	Bethany Baptist
<i>The God Who Influences</i>	Art Georges	Bethany Baptist
<i>How We Got the Bible</i>	Matt Morgan	Bethany Baptist
<i>Disciplines for Every Disciple: The Intentional Pursuit of Christ</i>	Danny Schell	Bethany Baptist
<i>Interpreting Jesus' Parables and Stories: A Portrait of Jesus through 6 Gospel Narratives</i>	JJ Miller	Bethany Baptist

If you would like to sign up for any of these classes, call the office at 508-1755 or register on-line beginning in March.