

# The Connection

Volume 7, Issue 8, August 2009

## *Ner* *ocity* by Pastor Brent

### August 16<sup>th</sup> Home Groups Fall Kick-Off

Plan on participating in bringing all our home groups together for food, fun, and fellowship. If you are not currently involved in a Home Group, we invite you to come and hear about the direction groups will be headed this fall. Part of what we hope to occur at this luncheon is for some start-up groups to begin. Some group demographics that are specifically being targeted are blended families, single parents, and young married couples.

This is an informational get-together...attending does not commit you to a home group! This is, however, one of the best methods for you to get acquainted with the church on a more intimate level. We are convinced that home groups are where "Faith and Life come together." What that means is that these groups are the perfect venue to take what we experience and learn on Sunday morning and apply it to the journey of life.

The meal will be "potluck-style"

Family names beginning in A – M, please plan to bring a **salad & dessert**.

Family names beginning in N – Z, please plan to bring an **entree**.

The church will provide table service and beverages. We are also very excited to have the *Pastoral Care Commission* partner with and serve at this event.

Everyone is invited.....

we hope to see you there!



**There's a Small Group**  
*for* **You!**



## *From Your* **Administrative Pastor**

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009, over a billion people watched Michael Jackson's memorial service from the Staples Center in Los Angeles, Ca. The lighting on stage was dramatic. The music was moving. The eulogies were touching. The video clips were creative and heartfelt. Like him or not, he was a legend in the music/entertainment industry.

Suppose a memorial service for Jesus was televised around the world today...would a billion or more watch it? Where would they hold it? How would they set the stage? What about the music and the video tribute? Who would speak? I posed these questions to our home group as we met on the evening of the "King of Pop's" service. We had quite a creative discussion.

Where would they hold it? In a stable in Bethlehem, or on the Mount of Olives or perhaps just outside Jerusalem? What do you think?

How would they set the stage? A crown of thorns on a small table? An empty cross? How about an empty tomb? A pair of sandals and an outer garment? The music? This was a tough one...how about a choir of angels?

Video tribute...Scenes from when he was a kid around the shop, maybe speaking in the temple when he was a teenager or pictures of him walking on water or bringing Lazarus back to life. They would be difficult to watch but they might show some scenes from his last days.

Who would be asked to speak? We had a long list with people like Lazarus, Moses, some of the apostles, his brothers or Zacchaeus? Who comes to your mind?

The Apostle Paul is at the podium talking about how Jesus had impacted his life when from backstage out walks the King of Kings himself! Paul falls at his feet in worship as Jesus steps to the mic and says, "Peace be with you, look at my hands and my feet...it's really me! Touch me and see for yourself-I am not a ghost. Don't be frightened! Go and preach the Good News to everyone. Let them know that I rose from the dead on the third day just like I said and that I am headed home to prepare a place for everyone who believes in me."

Until next time...

Pastor Dan II

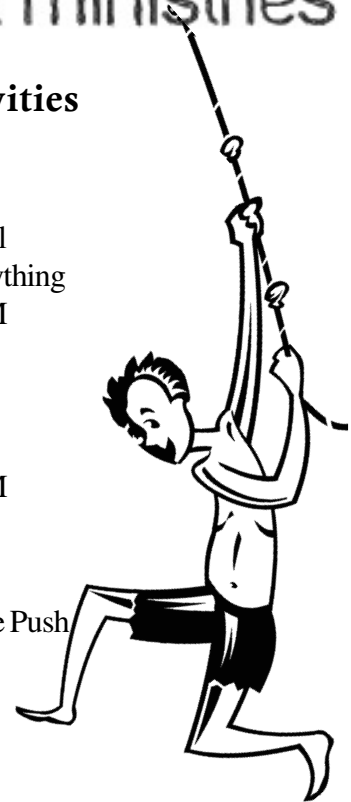
## blue mountain community church student ministries

### Summer Activities

August 14  
Middle School  
Be Ready for Everything  
\$10 7:00 PM

August 18  
High School  
Do Any  
\$10 7:00 PM

August 23  
Everybody  
Youth Church in the Push  
7:00 PM



## *from Pastor Mike...*

*This article by Margaret Manning who writes for Ravi Zacharias' ministry and newsletter called a "Slice of Infinity" captures again the call for Christians to be set apart by and for GOD to demonstrate his amazing love and grace. As you read the article check your own heart and personnel intentions as Margaret reminds us of what it means to be set apart for Jesus. I know that as I read this article it challenged me again about first impressions and my desire to be again set apart unto my Savior and Lord Jesus Christ.*

### Striking Peculiarities

Moving from the East Coast to the West Coast this past year presented a unique cross-cultural opportunity for me to experience. I discovered in my new neighborhood that there are many unique individuals. From tattoos and piercings to dreadlocks and dungarees, the streets are filled with what can only be described as peculiar people. Judging simply by appearances, individuality seems to reign supreme.

As often happens with language development, somehow we have come to associate the strange with the peculiar. In fact, the word derives from a Latin root word that identified private property from what was commonly held. To be *peculiar* is to possess as a characteristic something uniquely special or particular. In other words, when we call something or someone peculiar, we are identifying the special, unique, or particular quality about that individual or thing.

In our day, unfortunately, to be peculiar is to be strange, different, or set apart in a way that keeps others out, or to distinguish oneself in a way that is defensive in posture or stance. It is certainly easy to understand how defensiveness might arise when peculiar values, attitudes, or lifestyles once deemed inviolate come under attack. But if peculiarity is reduced simply to defensiveness or exclusion, it loses its more winsome character.

In light of the striking peculiarities of others, one cannot help but ask, "What makes me a peculiar person?" Indeed, for those who claim to follow Jesus, what makes us his *peculiar people*? Jesus had just as many options as we do today for demonstrating his peculiarity. He could have gathered just a few individuals around him and run away to the desert to form a peculiar society for just a select few. He could have been a revolutionary against the Roman government rallying the troops around him to overthrow his oppressors. He could have aligned himself with the religious authorities of his day, laying down with rigid enforcement the peculiar laws for strict observance by a peculiar people.

He did none of these things. Instead, Jesus forgave those who sinned against him, welcomed outsiders, dined with sinners, and healed those whose diseases made them peculiarly unwelcome in worship spaces. In the horror and violence of his own crucifixion, he prayed "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34).

*continued on page 4*

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## Celebrating August Birthdays and Anniversaries

1	Steve Hood Julianne Hoppen Robert Taylor Burl Wallace Katheryn Watson Samuel Watson		11 Betty Hamby 12 Ron Knight 14 Kyle Knudson 15 Susan Akers Ethan Haen Paul Lamb
2	Matt Bennett Laura Rice	16	Naomi Jardon Vi Loar Jodi Stewart
3	Nelma Dimino Vi Scott Karen Smeed Jim Tackett Larry White	17	Wes Hibner Lee Lynch
4	Britt Adkins Carolyn Criss David Elmore Matthew Hutcherson	18	Shelby Grewell Robin Sherrod
5	Kelsie Davison Rick Jones Florence Lamb Erica Rice Jennifer Stephens David Stewart	19	Robin Harris Vonette Miller
6	Tammie Herron	22	John Berger Renee Krivoshein Michelle Paine
7	Samantha Brink Rich Eagon Abigail Graves	23	Karen Skifstad Matthew Wallace
8	Steve Irwin	24	Linda Clark Sarah McNeil
9	Heather Smelcer Nicole West	25	Kobee Carrillo Joel Redman
10	Aaron Burns Stevie DeMoss Steve DeMoss Evan Harris Peggy Slosted Sherry Tucker Michael Wilson	26	Dave Conklin Leslie Kroum Jo Ann McAlvey
		27	Gary Simmons
		28	Austin Hutcherson
		29	Jerry Eyestone
		30	Zarabeth Bierman
		31	Taylor Carlile Scott Napier

As a result of Jesus's peculiar life, death, and resurrection, those who follow after Jesus are now "a chosen race, a royal priesthood a holy nation, God's own people" (1 Peter 2:9). Those who claim Jesus's kind of peculiarity are now the ones "who declare the wonderful deeds of God who called us out of darkness into the marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9). Our peculiarity is that rejected people are now God's people; we who once had not received mercy, now have received mercy. We are now the people of God and we bear the name of the one we follow who leads us to God. Indeed, the title "Christian" means "little Christ." It marks us as his peculiar people.

As such, we should often evaluate the ways in which we "pick up" on Jesus's peculiarities. Do our peculiarities match his? Are we merely observers of the externals or do we seek to emulate his character? What are those qualities that uniquely set us apart as his followers? Are our lives bearing the fruit that marks us uniquely as God's possession? Oh sure, we might endure ridicule as being odd or strange, but might our lives bear witness that we are God's peculiar people set apart and marked as his.

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2	Thomas & Valerie Vicari		16 Jerry & Shirley Musick
4	John & Noralea Ordway Ron & Kim Skifstad	18	John & Bridget Blom
5	Matt & Shaunna Bennett	20	Donavan & Karen Skifstad Scott & Sheila Woelfle
6	Ed & Zenada Voss	21	Roy & Melanie Clark
8	Bob & Phyllis Branscum	22	Steve & Penny Hood
9	Pete & Sara Erb	23	Raymond & Zelda Kelso Rich & Kris Eagon
10	Mark & Kim Agrellas Kraig & Sharon Kushar	25	Myron & Wanda Rogers David & Chalene Waltner
11	Delmer & Carolyn Criss Dana & Vonette Miller	27	Dave & Sharon Hale Randy & Carrie Knudson
12	Dave & Jean Conklin Orvil & Gloria Wilson Ron & Marilyn Groom	30	Dave & Stephanie Sept
13	Ike & Amy Freeman	31	Brent & Cailey Dumler

Been a while since you've  
taken a good nap?



Come take one with a pro!

**Just another reason to  
help with Moppets.**

Put on your softest clothes for snuggling, and come support this ministry serving mothers of young children. You can make a difference!

MOPS seeks to help mothers of newborns through kindergarten experience God's love through relationships and resources. From September through May, MOPS meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month, 9-11 AM. Free and loving child care is a critical part of this ministry, allowing the moms to really focus and learn, refresh and renew. Do you have a heart for children and a desire to be an encouragement to a mother who desperately needs it? If the answer is YES, please circle "M" on your communication card or call Julie at 526-3778.

Can you help?

Are you a woman who is passionate about the things of God? Do you have a heart for Women's Ministry? Gifted in the area of Leadership? We want you! Our leadership team is just forming and we invite you to bring your "gifts" and join our Women's Ministry "Steering Committee."

August 3, 2009

7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Wildwood Park ~ Division & Boyer



**Women's Fellowship**

## Confessions of a MOPS Mom

by Shannon Naftzger



April '08 found me as a new stay at home mom, in a new city, I knew no one. MOPS was meeting at the church we were invited to attend, I decided to go. For 9 months they were connecting emotionally and spiritually, the moment I walked in I felt I had been going all year. I was given phone numbers for get togethers over summer and have made the best friends of my life. MOPS taught me it's OK to be frustrated, scared, confused AND confident in what I do as a mom! I've grown exponentially in my faith, that once tiny voice now uses a mega-phone.

MOPS moms are every age, race and level of faith; whether a constant church goer or a church questioner/seeker, everyone is accepted where they are. Registration is on NOW for all moms with a child age 0-kindergarten!!! For more information please contact Shannon Naftzger [naftzgerfamily@aol.com](mailto:naftzgerfamily@aol.com) or Holly Graves [graves356@msn.com](mailto:graves356@msn.com).

*Join the MOPS moms for their fall  
registration and playdate -- August  
20<sup>th</sup> at Rooks Park at 10:00 AM.*

Bring: Lawn Chair & your enthusiasm to see great things this year! Questions? Call Carole DeMoss @ 525-2751 or Susan Huie @ 525-0188

We're excited to see all that God has in store for the women at Blue Mountain Community Church this ministry year. Grab your iced tea & meet with us under the shade trees for some brainstorming! See you there!

## What's happening at . . .

by Candy Whittaker



The Ark is a busy place during the summer. Each class goes on 2 field trips a week. Examples of some of the field trips are swimming, local parks, the library, the children's museum, plus more. We have had a luau and crazy days (face painting, popsicles, water slides, special movies) and the month of August we will hold our annual Ark Olympics. It's our goal to keep the children busy and happy!

We also have Spiritual Emphasis weeks the first and last weeks of summer, as well as a weekly chapel time where all the classes gather together to learn more about God's love through His Son, Jesus.

Fall registration is under way. We still have openings. Preschool activities are theme based and include language arts, crafts, science, and math, movement and music activities and more, set in a Christian atmosphere. School age activities include theme based projects, arts and crafts, science experiments and math projects as well as homework club.

Call for more information at 529-4000.

### Newsletter Deadline

Articles are always welcome from any member of Blue Mountain Community Church. Submit it to [bmcc\\_newsletter@charter.net](mailto:bmcc_newsletter@charter.net). The deadline is the second Wednesday of each month. The editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.

## New Album Available

by Dan Minter

This past February I went down to Oklahoma to record an album with Tate Music Group. All in all I'm pretty happy with how it came out. These songs are meant to be encouraging to the believer and to reach the non-believer too. Anyone who loves rock guitar music (and guitar solos!) will appreciate this album. I'm hoping that the music and guitar riffs will grab the attention, then the lyrics will speak to the heart...

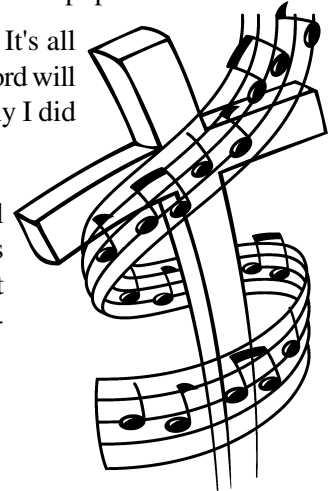
I wrote all the songs (Deborah actually co-wrote two of them, the first song called "Get What You Expect" and "Time With You," two of my favorites). I play most all of the guitar and bass parts, all the guitar solos, and sing all vocals.

If anyone is interested, you can buy my CD directly from Tate Publishing at the link below. You can also listen to all of the songs at this website.

<http://www.tatepublishing.com/bookstore/book.php?w=812517011376>

This isn't about me. It's all about whatever the Lord will do with it. That's why I did this album.

Tate Publishing will officially release this CD in September, but it is available now directly from them.





## Celebrate Recovery

By Gary Stewart

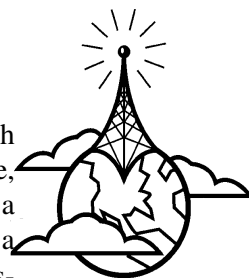
When I first got into recovery and decided I wanted to change the way I lived, I started attending a 12 step program. I thought, “I can’t wait to get through these steps.” I figured that when I was done with the 12<sup>th</sup> step, I could quit this thing called recovery and get on with my life.

Well, after I read the 12<sup>th</sup> step my thinking changed. Step 12: “Having had a spiritual experience as the result of these steps, we try to carry this message to others and to practice these principles in all our affairs.” The biblical comparison is: *“Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted”* Galatians 6:1.

I heard Pastor Rick Warren at a C.R. Summit say that one of the reasons he liked C.R. was that 12<sup>th</sup> step basically means; “Now who are you going to do it **with**.” You see; if the people who got into recovery before me had just quit recovery after the 12<sup>th</sup> step, who would have been there to help **me** change? Here is what Paul says about it; *“Love each other like brothers and sisters. Give each other more honor than you want for yourselves. Do not be lazy but work hard, serving the Lord with all your heart. Be joyful because you have hope. Be patient when trouble comes, and pray at all times. Share with God’s people who need help. Bring strangers in need into your homes.”* Romans 12:10-13.

If it wasn’t for people who stayed in Recovery before me, I would not have had the chance to change, the examples to follow. I thank God for them.

## Faith Promise News



Last fall, Eloise and I had lunch with Steve Pavish and his uncle, Don Lynch. Steve told us about a man who had donated a flight a month to take people to the mission at Galena. He had booked us for one of the flights in May. All we had to do was get to Anchorage. Could we go? My first thought was, “I can’t afford it.” My second thought was, “Can I afford not to go?” We went.

Galena, Alaska, is 335 miles northwest of Anchorage and 280 miles west of Fairbanks on the Yukon River. There are no roads to Galena. The only way to get there is to fly or by barge up the Yukon.

About 150 young people from 50 villages throughout Alaska attend Galena High School. The villages are too small to have their own high schools. It is more economical to fly them in and board them at Galena.

The students at the school are suspicious of people they don’t know. Many grow up in a culture of darkness where love has a price. There is a lot of abuse, alcoholism, Satanism, and suicide. The missionaries work hard to build relationships with the students. Many of the students hide dark secrets. They know the missionaries are Christians and think that if they tell them their dark secrets, the bad things they have done, the missionaries will condemn them. When they don’t, the students are greatly surprised. In our short visit there, Eloise and I were deeply impressed with the heartfelt love these missionaries had for the young men and women of this school.

David Pavish will be speaking at the Faith Promise dinner Saturday, October 17, and the morning worship on Sunday, October 18.

## *Weekly Events*

### **Tuesday**

Boy Scouts 7:00 PM

### **Wednesday**

Playgroup 9:30 AM

Adult Bible Study 6:30 PM

### **Thursday**

Taking Off Pounds Sensibly 5:30 PM

Worship Team Rehearsal 6:30 PM

### **Friday**

Celebrate Recovery Dinner 6:00 PM

Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM

## *Monthly Events*

- 3 Women's Ministry "Steering" 7:00 PM-  
Wildwood Park
- 6 Celebrate Recovery Leaders 6:30 PM
- 6-9 Silverwood Camp**
- 8 Men's Breakfast 8:00 AM
- 10 EOD Commission Meeting 6:30 PM  
Worship Commission Meeting 6:30 PM  
CE Commission Meeting 6:30 PM  
The Ark Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 11 Quilter's Guild 6:30 PM
- 13 Board of Elders Meeting 6:30 PM
- 14 Middle School Be Ready 7:00 PM
- 16 Life Groups Fall Kickoff 12:00 PM
- 18 High School Do Any 7:00 PM
- 20 Senior Adult Ministries 10:00 AM  
Missions Commission Meeting 7:00 PM  
Building & Grounds Commission 6:45 PM
- 23 Youth Church 7:00 PM