



## PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Jim Brannon

Have you heard about the four men who were bragging about how smart their dogs were? One man was an engineer, the second man was an accountant, the third man was a chemist, and the fourth was a government worker.

To show off, the engineer called to his dog. "T-square, do your stuff." T-square trotted over to a desk, took out some paper and a pen, and promptly drew a circle, a square, and a triangle.

Everyone agreed that was pretty smart.

The accountant said his dog could do better. He called to his dog and said, "Spreadsheet, do your stuff." Spreadsheet went out into the kitchen and returned with a dozen cookies. He divided them into four equal piles of three cookies each.

Everyone agreed that was good.

The chemist said his dog could do better still. he called to his dog and said, "Measure, do your stuff." Measure got up, walked over to the fridge, took out a quart of milk, got a ten-ounce glass from the cupboard, and poured exactly eight ounces without spilling a drop.

Everyone agreed that was pretty impressive.

Then the three men turned to the government worker and said, "What can your dog do?"

The government worker called to his dog and said, "Coffee Break, do your stuff." Coffee Break jumped to his feet, ate the cookies, drank the milk, claimed he had injured his back while doing so, filed a grievance report for unsafe working conditions, put in for worker compensation, and went home for the rest of the day on sick leave.

They all agreed that was brilliant!

This story strikes me as being too close to reality to be funny. Whatever happened to the old fashioned character trait of "carrying your own weight"? Nowadays it's considered "brilliant" to get somebody else to "tote your load"!

Just another illustration of how much our culture needs the influence of scripture, shown in the lives of God's kids. You can't read Romans 12-15 and not come away with the realization that life is to be lived with total respect for others. We don't take advantage of others! We don't live for self! Living on "Bible ground" will definitely put us in conflict with our culture; but it will demonstrate our desire to bring glory to God! And when God gets the glory, that's good for us!



## MEN'S MINISTRY

Cris Alexander

As Christians, we talk a lot about faith. I've heard the word used in a lot of different ways, even describing our "religion" (i.e. our "Christian Faith"). Even our government likes to throw around the descriptive phrase, "faith-based," even though real faith often has little or nothing to do with the activities described.

What is faith, really? The Scripture says in Hebrews 11 that it is the evidence of things hoped for and the substance of things not seen. That passage goes on to list example after example of people acting on faith. I believe the key is verse 6: "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

If you want to please God, you've got to have faith. It's as simple as that. You have to believe what you cannot see... not blindly or foolishly, but instead doing so based on who God is and what He has said and promised. This amounts to much more than hope. It really comes down to trust... trust in God, His Word and His character. If you're only willing to step where you can see, there's no faith involved, and I would hazard to say that such behavior displeases God.

The RBC Men's Group starts its monthly breakfast and Bible study cycle this month. Join us at 7:30 AM on Saturday, September 17. We'll feed your body, we'll feed your spirit and then we'll have you out the door by 9:00, no later. Bring a friend! See you there!

## INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Jeanne Fruh



"How vast are the possibilities of prayer! How wide is its reach! What great things are accomplished by this divinely appointed means of grace! It lays its hand on Almighty God and moves Him to do what He would not otherwise do if prayer was not offered. It brings things to pass which would never otherwise occur. The only limits to prayer are the promises of God and His ability to fulfill those promises."

(Quote taken from "*Prayer-Its Possibilities*" by E.M. Bounds.)



Another great year for Awana is about to begin....We are greatfull for what the Lord has done and are excited to see what the Lord will continue to do in this ministry! This is HIS club and we are glad to be a part of it! We will start the year off with a social event called "First Night 2011, on Wednesday, September 7th from 6 - 7pm. This is a family event. We will hear from our Awana Missionary Mr. Chad Smith, Introduce our club leaders, and have a chance to mingle and fellowship while enjoying a light snack together. Our first "Official" club night is the following week, September 14th, 6:00-7:45pm. We have a club for all children ages Preschool -6th Grade The theme of this year's Awana Club is "My friend for Christ". Not only is it a privilege to come along side you in the spiritual training of your child(ren), but we truly desire for this ministry to reach out to others "outside the walls" of our church.

## YOUTH NOTES

Radu Pasca



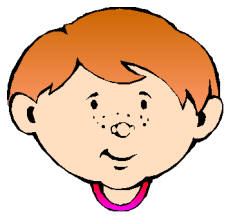
Have you ever wondered what you would have done if you had been a Christian in Germany during Hitler's regime? Would you have saved innocent Jews from being killed? We would all like to think so.

You see those times and those decisions were not given to us. We live in different times and we have our own unique decisions to make. What are we doing today about millions of babies being killed in their mother's womb? Do our hearts break when we learn that nearly 2 million children are exploited in the global commercial sex trade each year? Are we moved to help children whose lives could be saved by one shot? (10 million children die each year of diseases such as malaria and measles.)

These are the weak and the innocent of our times. So, the question is not if you would have saved Jews during Hitler's time. The questions is, "Who are you helping/saving today? For whom are you standing?"

During World War II the Solomon Rosenberg family was exiled to a work concentration camp where life literally depended on whether or not one could work for long hours each day. The family consisted of two aged parents, as well as Solomon, his wife, and two sons, Jacob and Joshua. Solomon knew that the first to die would be his aged parents since they were unable to work the many required hours. He feared the next to die would be their son Jacob since he was physically handicapped. Each day he would come back to the camp and hurriedly look around to see if Jacob was still there. One day his greatest fear was realized; Jacob was missing. He rushed to his son Joshua who was huddled in a corner crying. "Where is Jacob?" he shouted. "They came and took him," Joshua said. "Then where is Mama?" he asked Joshua, "She was well enough to work...where is she?" Joshua, clinging to his father, said, "When they came to get Jacob, he was afraid and started crying. Mama told him she would go with him so he wouldn't be afraid. Mama went with him to the gas chambers, because she did not want him to go alone."

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 1 John 3:16



## **KIDSTUFF** **Kathy Sanders**

So much to tell! With the advent of fall comes the "re-launching" of several of our children's programs.

Of course, AWANA kicks off Sept. 7 and I'm sure your kids are excited to be back in their clubs on Wednesday nights. Looking forward to dodging all of those little people in their blue and red vests!

After a summer of going to morning worship, our older children's church group will re-join Debbie Gonglach and all of her trusty helpers - beginning Sept. 11. Just as a reminder, during the second hour on Sunday mornings we have three nurseries provided for our 4 yr. olds and younger and two children's church groups: k-2nd grade and 3rd-5th grade. 6th graders and older join our students and adults for morning worship. Parents - please don't let your older kids simply "hang out" downstairs during worship. We will ask them to return to you upstairs in the auditorium!

On Sunday evenings, from 6 - 7 PM we are beginning a brand new program for our K-5th graders called "Elevate Kids". Nikki Miller will be leading this group and from what I've seen of the curriculum, it promises to be a really fun, learning experience. At this point, the plan is to also begin Sept. 11. More info to follow.

As if you didn't already have enough to add to your calendar, I need for you to circle one more date. Saturday, October 29 from 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM will be our annual Fall Festival here at Redeemer. This Halloween-alternative event includes all kids up through 5th grade. Costumes (nothing scary, please), games, food, prizes, candy, etc - we will have it all! Candy collection boxes will appear in September as well as sign up lists for anyone available to help the night of the festival and volunteers to bake for our cake walk. Plan to attend and bring lots of friends!

Whew - a lot going on. However, in the midst of all the hustle and bustle, let us never forget that we're not focused on "programs" but rather showing God's love to our children. Without God in the midst of our plans, we're just smoke and mirrors. Join us as we seek to minister to our kids and honor the Lord in all that we do.



## **WOMEN'S MINISTRY** **Julie Zgorzynski**

Hear our prayers, O Lord, as we gather for our Prayer Walk on September 10, 2011 at 9:30 at the Aurora Municipal Building, Alameda and

Chambers. Watch the bulletin for more information. Carpooling would be good.

Our next meeting will be on November 12 at 9:30 at the church to build Operation Christmas Child and military boxes. Please start gathering items now for those. The military needs list is on the magazine rack. Ask Peggy Livermore or watch the bulletin for more details.

Food of the Month for SECOR is canned vegetables.

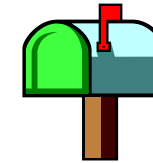
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**Redeemer Baptist Church**  
**18800 E. Iliff Ave.**  
**Aurora, CO 80013**

# **Redeemer Reflections**

*A Newsletter of Redeemer Baptist Church*  
*18800 E. Iliff Ave. Aurora, CO 80013*  
*(303) 369-0763 [www.rbcaurora.org](http://www.rbcaurora.org)*

*September 2011*



This past Sunday afternoon, we had our annual church picnic/cookout. The front lawn was filled with the "lazy" folks in lawn chairs while the youth played some kind of ball in the multi-purpose room and the outdoor "jocks" were on the lower lawn playing games. There was a crowd of folks! We had all the usual food, complete with fried green tomatoes! I already look forward to next year!

The discussion of our loan refinance continues and it looks like we will be able to close after October 1. We continue to covet your prayers for the process. Thus far, our banker has been most cooperative and congenial. Quite a change from our last renegotiation.

All of our regular ministries on Wednesday and Sunday evenings resume the first week of September. I am looking forward to the noise of children in the house once again on Wednesday evenings.

Our Administrative Team will be meeting this month to plan the annual calendar for next year and early in October we will be planning the budget for 2012. Each time we come to this time of the year, it seems that we just did those things! I really do think the years don't have as many days as they used to.

On a personal note, some of you will be glad to know that I did, in fact, remember my 48th wedding anniversary and gave Sandy a very thoughtful and practical gift of a new garbage disposal. Just as soon as the Doctor removes it from my lower torso I will install it!

Continuing on a personal note, I will be on vacation September 21-30, canoeing/fishing in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area of Minnesota with my son Jason. We have made many of these trips over the years, but it has been a long time since we did it. I am really looking forward to some extended time with my boy. The sad part is that Tracy refused to allow Brady to accompany us! Something about him being too young. For crying out loud, the kid is two years old! It's never too early to train up a child in the way he should go; and learning to fish is a crucial part of a boy's training. But, alas, none of my guilt trips have worked. I trust his Mom can live with being the cause of his "stunted" growth!

Until next month. We love all of ya'll!