

THE CORNERSTONE CONNECTION

CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Scott's Perspective — "Qualities of Healthy, Growing Churches"

The majority of churches in the USA – including conservative evangelical churches – are plateaued or declining. *What sets apart churches that are growing?*

Natural Church Development (a well-respected Christian organization utilized by BGC churches and other denominations) has studied over 1000 churches on five continents of the world. They have discovered that there is no single model or program or method that produces church growth. *But they did discover eight quality characteristics of growing churches – principles of church health that lead to spiritual and numeric church growth.*

Churches do not grow primarily as a result of human efforts to attract more people to a particular church. Rather, churches grow when they are bearing the fruit of the eight qualities of church health that also produce church growth. God builds and grows churches that are characterized by these eight qualities. Increased church attendance is the fruit of a healthy tree and root system.

What are the eight quality characteristics of growing churches?

Empowering Leadership

This does not mean a high-powered pastor or church board. Rather this refers to a church where church leaders are equipping, supporting, motivating and mentoring individuals to become all that God wants them to be. Leaders of growing churches help others to discover and fulfill God's calling and ministry gifting. Leaders of growing churches develop and empower new leaders within the congregation.

Gift-Oriented Ministry

Leaders of growing churches help believers to identify their spiritual gifts and integrate them into ministries that match their gifts. Members of growing churches are serving in the power of the Holy Spirit in accordance with their spiritual giftedness. Members of non-growing churches often cannot even identify their spiritual gifts. In growing churches, people serve not primarily out of a sense of duty, but in the joy of using the gifts God has given them to build up the body of Christ.

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Passionate Spirituality

Growing churches are spiritually alive in Christ. The members of growing churches live out their Christian faith with commitment, joy, fire and enthusiasm. Both individual and corporate prayer & worship are Spirit-filled and vibrant. Church growth is not primarily about methods or programs; it is primarily about experiencing and expressing *the fire of God's Spirit for expanding the reign of God's Son*. Many methods will produce growth in a church that lives its faith with passionate spiritual fervor; no methods will produce growth in a church that is spiritually dull and complacent.

Functional Structures

Church structures and programs are not ends in themselves but means to the end of fulfilling the purposes of the church. Non-growing churches resist change and cling to traditional forms whether they are producing growth or not. It is human nature that as people grow older, they become more and more accustomed to "the way things have been." Traditionalism is one of the highest

(Continued on page 2)

Upcoming Events

- July 2 AM Communion
- July 5-8 Base Camp
- July 7 7:00 p.m. Melissa Green/Brad Kruse Wedding Reception, Starlite Ballroom, Davenport
- July 7 & 8 Promise Keepers, Des Moines
- July 9 Nurse Office open 6:00 p.m. Home Groups
- July 9-14 Jr. Hi. Camp
- July 15 9:30 a.m. Paula Mess Baby Shower at Armbruster's
- July 16 AM Pastor Mark 6:00 p.m. Home Groups
- July 16-21 Hi-Teen Camp
- July 17 7:00 p.m. Anniversary Meeting
- July 17-19 Jr./Sr. High Camp at Muscatine
- July 22 9:30 a.m. Brennan Reid Baby Shower at Bullock's
- July 23 All Church Picnic following a.m. service/ Sheridan Meadows
- July 30 Business Mtg. following a.m. service

significant negative correlations with church growth. Growing churches do not hesitate to change structures and forms to make them more functional and effective.

Inspiring Worship Services

The key factor for church growth is not a particular worship style or format or approach. Rather, the question is: *Is the worship service an inspiring experience for those who attend it?* In growing churches, people do not attend worship merely because it is “their Christian duty.” In growing churches people participate in worship with enthusiasm and spiritual passion because they experience the spiritual blessings of encountering the Presence of the living God.

Holistic Small Groups

Growing churches have developed small groups where individual Christians can experience intimate community, practical help and in-depth spiritual interaction. In small groups they learn how to apply biblical insights to the everyday issues of life. In small groups people get to know some people well. In small groups church members experience the love of Jesus Christ in personal and practical ways.

Need-Oriented Evangelism

How else will the church grow if not through the process of sharing the Gospel to bring more and more people to Christ and into His church? Growing churches share the Gospel in ways that meet the real-life questions and needs of non-Christians.

Loving Relationships

Sincere, practical love endows a church with a much greater magnetic power than all the marketing efforts of this world. Do church members enjoy spending time with one another and do they make room for newcomers in their friendship cir-

cles? Is there a positive, encouraging, uplifting spirit in the church? How much laughter is there in the church? Do church members genuinely care for one another? Few people can resist real love.

*Which of these eight quality characteristics is most important? **They all are.** None can be missing – or too weak. *The growth of the church will be blocked by those quality characteristics that are least developed.**

*How can we discover which characteristic is our “minimum factor” that may be hindering our growth? This summer some of our active members will be taking a questionnaire that will be scored by *Natural Church Development* in order to identify our congregational strengths and “improvement needed” areas. Then an implementation plan will be put into effect to improve our “growth needed” areas. Results will be announced to the congregation later this summer.*

*Please be praying for this process and that God will strengthen our church in all eight quality characteristics so that we can be effective in fulfilling God's purposes for our church. **Several of these quality characteristics are possible only by the working of the Holy Spirit among us. We do not make the church grow by our own efforts – God is the One who causes churches to grow.** The activity of the Holy Spirit in growing churches is manifested through these quality characteristics. *Let us ask God to produce within our church body the quality characteristics that will enable us to experience more fruit and a greater harvest in Reaching Others for Christ's Kingdom. **We are responsible to do the work of planting and watering, and then God is the One who produces the growth.****

Church Financial Report

Giving during the month of June was quite healthy for a summer month. In addition to thousands of dollars being given to fund STEM short-term missions trips to Moldova and New Orleans, general fund giving was also good. Giving to the General fund (church budget) averaged \$7,836 per week in June (compared to budget of \$8,076). **Thank you for continuing your regular giving to the general fund in addition to extra giving for STEM missions trips.**

General fund giving for the April – June first quarter of the fiscal year averaged \$7,400 per week (a 9.5% increase over year-ago figures). This is below budget figures, but adequate to cover all expenses, which were also under budget.

In fact, giving was adequate to enable us to make the full \$4,000 / month payments from the general fund to the Debt Retirement fund (\$12,000 for the quarter). This will help us to pay down the principal more quickly.

The only negative financially for June is that Building Fund giving (for the mortgage) was down to \$7,114 for the month (compared to mortgage payment of \$9,000). (We have adequate reserves to make the payment.)

Worship attendance showed a healthy increase – averaging 315 for the quarter (compared to 291 a year ago).

A Word From Pastor Mark

As you read this article, Team New Orleans will be finishing up their service to the people of New Orleans. We will arrive home on Saturday, July 1st. In faith, I believe you will be seeing 13 changed people because God will have worked in us and through us in a new way. I am confident that we will be thankful to have served together.

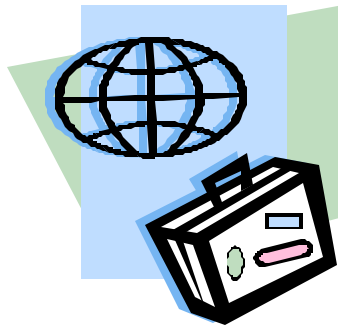
I want to thank you for participating with us in this life changing week. Your prayers for us are and will be essential to our effectiveness and your giving to the cause is very encouraging. As I write this a total of \$3,075 has already come in. We should be able to give a decent donation back to Operation Blessing for housing and feeding us for the week.

As I ponder my situation, of what I am giving up in order to go to New Orleans to bring hope to the discouraged, **I am convicted by how little I do give up** normally. For this trip I will not be seeing my wife and kids for two weeks. I took Jackson, Mac & Lynden to O'Hare Airport on the 19th to meet up with Andrea. She arrived in time from a trip to take the kids to Oregon to be with Andrea's parents for those two weeks. The longest I have been away from my kids is one week at a time for a few conferences. As I thought about the sadness of not seeing my family for two weeks my mind reminded me of the stories I read of missionaries leaving their families for years at a time (before air travel). I was reminded of the true sacrifice of bringing the gospel to others who had yet to hear the life changing news.

I can remember standing up in a seminary class when the teacher shared about how a godly missionary left his family to bring the gospel to unreached people. This missionary put his kids in a boarding school and left them and his wife to go overseas. I can remember saying that I disagreed with his actions. I said that he was responsible to take care of his family. He should've brought them along. In all reality, some

of the pioneer missionaries could not bring their families along to serve.

Other missionaries brought their families with them but the cost of spreading the gospel was the very lives of their wives and/or children to disease. Sacrifice is not limited to the missionaries of the past. It is even happening now. There are Chinese pastors who have been in prison for years for not renouncing Jesus Christ as their Lord. Their families have to wonder if husband and father will ever return to them. What is the common denominator of all these sacrifices? It is the notion that the gospel supersedes all other relationships. All other relationships are in submission to the good news. We see that again and again in the book of Acts. And we hear the words of Jesus in Matt 10:37 echoing this reality, "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."



It is difficult to swallow Jesus' words as Christians in America. We are used to hearing and subscribing to a "Family First" mentality. Family is given an untouchable label. Nothing should be more important than the family. Jesus is not saying that family isn't important. He is not saying that we should disregard our families for anything and everything. He is saying that loving God means sometimes doing things that might not be in the immediate "best" interest of our families. I think that is where faith comes into the picture. Those who have sacrificed much for the gospel have entrusted their families to God- not absolving themselves from responsibility for caring for them- but they have recognized that their Heavenly Father is ultimately the Source of protection, health and love. 1 John 3:1 says, "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" God will make sure His children are cared for and nurtured. That is truth we can take to the bank.

Pine Lake Anniversary Celebration

Dear Friends,

Please consider this a personal invitation to join us in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the incredible work that God has accomplished through Pine Lake Christian Camp on the weekend of August 5th. God has worked in and through many of you to prove that His word does not return void. We want to celebrate that.

Registrations are necessary soon so that we can plan accordingly. Please check out the registration site at www.pinelakechristiancamp.org

Please pass the word to those who you know have been blessed by this ministry. It is proving to be an overwhelming task to contact all who come to mind whenever we start to think about it.

The summer ministry of PLCC is under way. God is confirming the value and the need by already giving us registrations that have reached last year's attendance. Please pray for those who still need to plan to attend and be changed and transformed by God thru PLCC.

We hope to see you on the 5th of August.

Thank you for your prayers and friendship.

Roger Sutton
Camp Manager
Pine Lake Christian Camp
Cell 641-849-5553

Pastor Tony's No Limits News

If we could see with spiritual eyes the truth of our lives, what would we see? In a nut shell, that is the underlying question at the base of what I've been reading and hearing lately. All the situations we find ourselves in, and our understanding of life is tainted by this world's perspective, our "reality." What is the truth?

When we talk to people and work with them, we try to determine things like what would Jesus Do, or What would Jesus Say. How does He see me and the situations I am in...? We talk of being totally pleasing, deeply loved, completely forgiven and empowered to live a new life in Christ. But do we ask Him straight out? So if we say that and live differently, is it any less true, or are we trusting our own judgement and thus living by our own slant on things. When youth come into the church, do we see them as Christ sees them? Or do we limit ourselves to seeing physical realities, and miss Gods' perspective?

It is a constant challenge to live our lives in the Spiritual Freedom that Christ has bought for us and seek His will in all our doings. We are attacked by the world and its values everyday. But are we patient and trusting enough to sit quiet and listen for God's voice to tell us His agenda and His direction for this day? That is one of the disciplines the Adventure in Missions materials is trying to achieve in me and the youth we are taking to Detroit, the discipline of listening prayer.

As I was reading my lesson for the day and practicing this listening form of prayer, I was led to call an old college friend. I have been praying for Mark for some time and feel bad about how I treated him in college. In my youthful zeal, I persecuted Mark for the cause of Christ and fear that I pushed him away rather than helping him find Christ. I have written letters, made calls, and never received a reply, which only validated my fears. I wouldn't have wanted to talk to me either, had I been the receiver of that kind of treatment. I have to admit that in the past when I would be led to call Mark, fear of his rejection, and guilt for the way I treated him would fill my mind. This morning I got his machine again, but felt good that at least I had made the effort. Then he returned my call and what a joy it was to talk to my old friend again! We didn't get to any deep level of spiritual matters or solve any of life's difficulties. We shared about the struggles we have in common, both of us raising three daughters about the same age. We shared and updated information about our parents and sisters. And for the first time in many years he was Mouse again and I was Big Tone. We talked as friends and not as separated by our faiths. And it was a great feeling to know we can talk again. And I thank God that He told me to call Mark again this day. A door has been opened for further dialogue.

Upcoming Events:

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| Wednesday July 5 th | No Limits work day 2:30 – 6:30
Fix up the game room and walls — followed by cookout. |
| Thursday July 6 th | Bible Study " Love one another"
Tony's house 7:00 – 8:30 |
| Friday – Sunday | Eldridge Day Festival and Carnival |
| Sunday July 9 th | No Limits Game night 6:30 -10:30 |
| Sunday July 9 th – 14 th | Jr. High Camp Pine Lake |
| Monday July 10 th | Youth Purpose Board. 7:30-9:00 |
| Wednesday July 12 th | Project Serve House Painting
2:30-6:30 |
| Thursday July 13 th | Bible Study " Love one another"
Tony's house 7:00 – 8:30 |
| Friday July 14 th | Paintball / Cook out 6:30 pm at church. Bring \$5.00 for paint and meat to grill. |
| Sunday July 16 th – 21 st | Sr. High Camp Pine Lake |
| Monday July 17 th – July 19 th | Camp Muscatine Jr. High and High School — see Tony for details. |
| Thursday July 20 th | Bible Study " Love one another"
Tony's house 8:00 – 9:30 |
| Tuesday July 24-25 th | Adventureland Overnight and missions project. See Tony. |
| Thursday July 26 th - July 29 th | Possible Ski Church. TBA |

Meadow lawn Meanderings

Things are going pretty smoothly at Meadow Lawn Nursing Home. Cable & Celeste VonMaur joined me on the 25th of June. They shared their gift of music with the residents. They sang some old love songs, including one of my favorites—"Let It Be Me" by the Everly Brothers. They sang some old hymns and some newer worship choruses. Mom sang "Scarlet Ribbons", and a resident and her husband (who also plays guitar) shared some of their favorites. I did a short devotional on taking our "hurts & offenses" to the Lord instead of letting them fester & grow. We had a great time and hope to make this a monthly activity. Mom & I continue to go twice monthly for hymn sing-a-longs and sharing God's Word. We sure love going to the nursing home and visiting the residents. This month we gave out 8 carnations in bud vases along with cards for those celebrating birthdays in June. They really appreciate being remembered.

Needs: More bud vases. If you go to garage sales, please look for them. They are usually pretty reasonable. Also, check out the Dollar Store for them. I am completely out of the ones that were already donated, so I could really use them.

Prayer Requests: For people from Cornerstone to get involved. Share your talents...singing, playing instruments, crafts, storytelling, fellowshiping, etc. You will come to bless and you will leave blessed.

Thank you and God bless. Jan Kloss (323-5843 or 349-2342)

July Adult Prayer Focus Calendar

Wednesday, July 5: Promise Keepers

Wednesday, July 12: Mission Trip Follow Up

Wednesday, July 19: Natural Church Development

Wednesday, July 26: Marriage and Family Relationships

Support for Obang Okello

Many of you have heard Obang Okello and have supported him in the past. We have another opportunity to help him as he returns to his home in Ethiopia — he has not seen his family for about 15 years since fleeing as a refugee.

The airfare is very expensive. It will be a journey filled with peril including a 150-mile walk to his village. We can share in this journey through prayer support and by giving to Obang. Please make any checks out to Cornerstone Baptist Church and add "Obang" to the memo. Please remember to pray for Obang as he returns home in August. Thank you!

The Missions Committee

Food Pantry

A volunteer for the food pantry is desperately needed. Betty Hackett will no longer be able to assist me. What a blessing she was and she will be missed.

The volunteer need only commit to helping every 8 weeks, Fridays 9:30-11:00 a.m. to set up and dispense food baskets. The next date is July 28th. However, there are other opportunities if time and desire allow.

We continue to serve about 30 families a month having the food pantry open Tuesday evening, 5:30-7:00 p.m. and Friday mornings. Debbie O'Connell and Amy Bright volunteer on Tuesdays.

I believe God's desires to have us continue this service to our neighbors in Scott Co. So, please be in prayer for us — whether you feel led to volunteer or that the Lord will provide a volunteer.

Thank you,
Jann Stark (386-6032)

JULY NEEDS:

The July needs are school supplies as registration is in August. Cereal is always needed. A cash donation is most appreciated.

Baby Showers

Saturday, July 15th at 9:30 a.m.

Paula Mess Baby Shower at Janette Armbruster's home. Contact Theresa Phillips for Judy Saxton for group gift.

Saturday, July 22nd at 9:30 a.m.

Brennan Reid (Jodi & Pat) Baby Shower at Tammy Bullock's home.

Contact Tonya Preston or Dawnetta Van Ee for group gift.

Sonshine Club

For those who may not know...I was selected this year to be the VBS Missionary. This meant a weeklong focus on Sonshine Ministry. Dawnetta VanEe was my spokesperson during the mission segment of VBS and also thought of contests to help promote offerings from the children and even included the staff members on one day. The result was a very generous monetary gift, which was presented to me on Friday night during the VBS program. It also resulted in Nick Hansel getting a pie in the face, but that's another story. I want to say thank you to all the kids, parents and staff members who contributed to the offering. I especially thank Nancy Hagge and Kim Lacey (VBS Co-Directors) who chose me for the Mission Focus. In ministry, it is easy to become discouraged and sometimes feel inadequate. Our emotional tanks run very low at times. Prayer, encouraging notes, a few kind words face to face, and offer to help during activities and financial giving all help tremendously to affirm someone in missions. Thank you so much to everyone who has ever filled my tank in any way at any time. You are truly appreciated.

The girls' Bible Study is coming to an end on Tues., June 27th. We have studied God's word on purity. There will be a ceremony celebrating the 8 young ladies who completed this study. We will also have a girls' sleepover to further celebrate.

"Family" News

Best wishes to Sharon Ranfeld and Ray Greving who were united in marriage on Saturday, June 24th. May God bless you with many happy years together!!

Cornerstone Celebrations

**50th Anniversary since the church was organized
in Ridgeview**

**30th Anniversary for Cornerstone being
in Eldridge**

Join us for an Organizational Meeting
Monday, July 17th at 7:00 p.m.

I am planning a couple of 5-Day Clubs—one at Mt. Joy Mobile Home Park and one at the Von Maurs in Davenport. I have also promised the elementary age boys a lock-in at the church and I hope to take some boys camping at the Wapsi Education Center. Summer is a good time for fun activities which open the door for sharing the gospel. The need never ends.

Prayer Requests:

Safety in travel & during activities.

Good health so I might better serve.

The Mormon influence to be removed or

stopped at the Mt. Joy Mobile Home Park.

That the children and parents would not be
deceived. Pray especially for Michael.

Changed lives.

Patience and energy and creative ideas to keep the
gospel flowing thru the lives of those I have been
called to minister to.

Thank you and God Bless. Jan Kloss (323-5843 or 349-2342)

The Anniversary celebration will be held November 11th in
the ROCK Center.

Please mark your calendars and SAVE THE DATE!!

Everyone welcome to attend.

**All Church Picnic
July 23rd
Don't miss it!
See page 9 for more information**

July 2006



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 8:40 a.m. Prayer AM COMMUNION	3 6:30 p.m. Women's Basketball/ROCK	4 <i>Independence Day</i>	5 6:30 a.m. Men at Maid-Rite, Eldridge 2:30-6:30 p.m. No Limits Work Day 7:00 p.m. Prayer Mtg. Bible Study/Hansels 8:15 p.m. Deacons July 5-8 <i>Base Camp</i>	6 6:30 p.m. Coed Volleyball/ROCK 7:00-8:30 p.m. No Limits Bible Study/Phillips	7 7:00 p.m. Melissa Green & Brad Kruse Wedding Reception, Stalite Ballroom, Davenport July 7 & 8 <i>Promise Keepers, Des Moines</i>	1 7:00 a.m. Men of Integrity
9 8:40 a.m. Prayer Nurses Office Open 6:30-10:30 p.m. No Limits Game Night 6:00 p.m. Home Groups July 9-14 <i>Jr. Hi. Camp at Pine Lake</i>	10 6:30 p.m. Women's Basketball/ROCK 7:30 p.m. Youth Purpose Team Mtg.	11 7:00-8:30 p.m. Men's Basketball/ROCK 7:30 p.m. College-Career- Singles/Idokers	12 6:30 a.m. Men at Maid-Rite, Eldridge 2:30-6:30 p.m. No Limits Serve House Painting 7:00 p.m. Prayer Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study/Hansels	13 6:30 p.m. Coed Volleyball/ROCK 7:00-8:30 p.m. No Limits Bible Study/Phillips	14 6:30 p.m. No Limits Paintball & Cookout	15 7:00 a.m. Men of Integrity 7:00 a.m. Trustee Mtg. 9:30 a.m. Paula Mess Baby Shower at Armbrester's
16 8:40 a.m. Prayer AM Pastor Mark 6:00 p.m. Home Groups July 16-21 <i>Hi Teen Camp at Pine Lake</i>	17 6:30 p.m. Women's Basketball/ROCK 7:00 p.m. "Anniversary" Meeting July 17-19 <i>Jr./Sr. High Camp at Muscatine</i>	18 6:30 p.m. Singles Game Night/ROCK	19 6:30 a.m. Men at Maid-Rite, Eldridge 7:00 p.m. Prayer Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study/Hansels	20 6:30 p.m. Coed Volleyball/ROCK 8:00-9:30 p.m. No Limits Bible Study/Phillips	21	22 7:00 a.m. Men of Integrity 9:30 a.m. Brennan Reid (Pat & Jodi) Baby Shower at Bullock's
23 8:40 a.m. Prayer All-Church Picnic after Morning Worship	24 6:30 p.m. Women's Basketball/ROCK July 24 & 25 <i>No Limits Adventureland & Missions Project</i>	25 7:00-8:30 p.m. Men's Basketball/ROCK 7:30 p.m. College-Career- Singles/Idokers	26 6:30 a.m. Men at Maid-Rite, Eldridge 7:00 p.m. Prayer Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study/Hansels July 26-29 <i>No Limits Ski Church — TBA</i>	27 6:30 p.m. Coed Volleyball/ROCK 7:00 p.m. Missions Committee Meeting	28	29 7:00 a.m. Men of Integrity
30 8:40 a.m. Prayer Business Meeting follow- ing Morning Worship	31 6:30 p.m. Women's Basketball/ROCK					

July Birthdays:

1	Jimmy Skadal Grant Hansel Gail Welchman	17	Terry Schmidt Shawnelle Eliassen	30	Lisa Hurr Sharon Greving Kevin Hagedorn
2	Patti Van Dyke Rachel Bennett Lucy Schmidt	18	Dave Haycraft	31	Jim Ferrel Stan Howell
3	Kent Lage Terry Major	19	Jessica Witzenburg		
4	Lily Holst Thomas Butler	20	Art Nickerson Molly Kaiser Thomas Green Charity Reese		
6	Pinky Stalnaker Kathryne Green	21	Suzy Gainer Jim McGimpsey		
8	Lou Aisenbrey Janette Armbruster	22	Leah Carlson Julie Davis		
10	Melissa Crouch Benjamin Boddicker	23	Sandra Wohlford		
11	Catherine Schaub Marcia Boddicker	24	Connie Reese		
12	Bryan Witzenburg	25	Mike Mohr Joe Collins Chuck Agan		
13	Andrew Skinner Kerry Skinner	26	Brandi Schneckloth Jamie Johnson Drake Marti Darlene Geist		
14	Caitlyn Nass	28	Earl Osterberg Taelor Rempe Austen Rempe		
15	Joel Wright Debi Allison	29	Alexandria Hawley		
16	Hunter Orcutt Austin Louck Daniel Aisenbrey				

July Anniversaries:

1	Tom & Sandy Carlson	6	Brent & Tammy Bullock
7	Dan & Debi Allison	7	Steffan & Sandy Nass
9	Adam & Laura Rochau	10	Jason & Darla Lacey
11	Ryan & Deana Trotter	13	John & Debbie King
17	Jeff & Colleen Olson	20	Marc & Kelly Orcutt
20	Heath & Sandy Allison	21	Aaron & Patti Van Dyke
23	Tim & Kris Schwarz	23	Robert & Luanna Brabant
23	Mark & Lori Rempe	24	Clint & Jenny Burklow
24	Jim & Cassie Ferrel (30 yrs.)	25	Don & Betsy Jones
26	Howard & Leilana Keeney	26	Mark & Julie Bader
27	Bryan & Jessica Witzenburg	31	Dale & Phyllis Arentson
31	Don & Lori Paulus		

Stewardship Myths & Principles

In *The Parish Paper*, Lyle Schaller shares these common financial stewardship myths:

Christians automatically commit themselves to generous financial stewardship.

If worship attendance is high, the money takes care of itself.

Our people are giving all they can.

Telling people, 'Our church needs the money!' produces generous giving.

Our members will give generously without us teaching the biblical principle that giving money is an essential part of spiritual growth.

Myths – all of them – all wrong, Schaller says. He then goes on to emphasize the importance of teaching biblical financial stewardship principles rather than doing “fund-raising.” He says **“we need to concentrate on ‘the need of the giver to give,’ not on ‘the need of the church to receive.’”**

In our CLASS 201 *Blueprint for Maturity*, we emphasize the biblical principle that developing the habit of regularly giving the first part of our income to God as an act of worship and spiritual commitment to the Lordship of Christ is as essential to our spiritual growth as is regular worship and prayer and Bible study and Christian fellowship. *Giving helps to keep our mental compass God-focused.*

How about you? *What percentage of your income is God calling you to give?* Are you giving the same percentage as you did 10 or 20 years ago – or does a higher percentage-giving of your income demonstrate that you have been growing in spiritual maturity?

Remember the words the Lord Jesus himself said: *“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”*

Teaching Positions Available at Heritage Christian School

Starting in August:

Preschool/Pre-kindergarten — part-time position

Jr./Sr. High English

Jr./Sr. High History

Jr./Sr. High Science

Contact Mr. Gary Forsee at 563-285-9382 or visit the web at www.heritagechristian.us

All Church Picnic

Sunday, July 23, 2006

Immediately following the morning service at Sheridan Meadows Park, Eldridge

*****Casual Sunday*****

Please wear your picnic clothes to church so that you can go straight to the picnic.

Hamburgers, hotdogs and lemonade provided.

Bring your own tableware, chair and a blanket, AND chips, dessert or salad (tossed, Tater, etc.) to share.

We are still looking for a couple of folks willing to lead game time (Tug-o-war, three-legged race, etc.)

Questions or to sign up to help call Tonya Preston at 285-2298 or Jim McGimpsey at 285-8100.

CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

775 E. LeClaire Rd.
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Eldridge, IA 52748

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We're on the web!
www.cornerstonebaptistch.org

Ian Leitch

Ian Leitch will be at Cornerstone **October 1st through 6th**. There will be several opportunities that week to bring family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors to hear a clear gospel presentation in a comfortable atmosphere.

More information next month.

Sermon Tapes

Cassette tapes of Pastor Scott's sermons are free and available by signing the "Tape List" at the Welcome Table in the foyer or by calling Sally at the church office (285-8080). "Recycled" tapes can be turned into the church office.

Manuscripts are available on the web page:
www.cornerstonebaptistch.org

We hope to be able to provide CD's in the near future.