

# THE CORNERSTONE CONNECTION

CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

## Pastor Scott's Perspective — "What Is Marriage?"

*What is marriage?* Who would have thought 30-40 years ago that our society would become so terribly confused about an issue that has been so settled for so long among so many different societies throughout the world. Even some church leaders are becoming confused on the issue – in spite of 2000 years of unequivocal church teaching based on clear biblical teaching (e.g. Genesis 1:27; 2:24; Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:31-32) that has been uniformly interpreted (according to the plain sense of the texts), until very recently “re-interpreted” by a minority of clergy and scholars.

*What is marriage?* The issue is bigger than the obvious point of dispute: whether it is the union of one man and one woman or any two (or more?) persons of any gender.

*What is marriage?* Is marriage merely a legal contract between any two (or more?) persons who declare their love for one another and want to be married? Does marriage exist primarily as a means to self-fulfillment, personal happiness, socially respectable sex, and legal and financial benefits for the individuals involved?

If the happiness of the individual is paramount, and if it is the state's primary responsibility to protect the rights of individuals to pursue individual happiness, and if marriage is nothing more than a license to engage in socially respectable sex and a means to mutual self-fulfillment, then it becomes difficult to make a non-religious case against same-sex marriage. *(Though church practice can and should be based on biblical teaching, social laws in a pluralistic society need a non-religious rationale.)*

*What is marriage?* What is the connection between marriage and parenthood and family life? What is the connection between the well-

being of children and families and the common good of a society?

*“First comes love, then comes marriage, then comes baby in a baby carriage.”* Not any more. The gay marriage agenda (fostered by straights and gays alike) seeks to sever the connections between marriage and reproduction and children and the good of society. Marriage is nothing more than a civil right for individuals. The marriage of gay couple A will not harm the existing marriage of heterosexual couple B, so let gay couple A get married. Live and let live. It's only fair. Individuals should be able to choose their own lifestyles and their own definitions of marriage and family.

The gay marriage agenda is only part of the *polyamory* agenda: to declare all sexual relationships (regardless of gender or marital status) between consenting individuals to be morally equivalent to the monogamous relationship between a husband and a wife. Love is the only criterion legitimizing sexual activity. Makes no difference whether married or cohabiting, opposite sex or same sex, monogamous or serial relationships.

And what about children? *What about them?* They are not part of this picture. The polyamory agenda seeks to sever the connection between marriage and sex and reproduction and children.

Traditional marriage assures children: *the man and the woman whose sexual union created you will also be there to love and raise you.* Traditional marriage says to society: *for every child born, there is a recognized mother and father, accountable to the child and to each other and to society to love and raise that*  
(Continued on page 2)

## Upcoming Events

- Feb. 4 11:30 a.m. Ladies Lunch at Cracker Barrel, Davenport
- Feb. 5-7 Junior High Retreat at Camp Wyoming
- Feb. 6 IBC Annual Meeting in Des Moines
- Feb. 7 AM Communion 6:00 p.m. Home Groups
- Feb. 12 11 a.m.-3 p.m. No Limits Game Day
- Feb. 14 Valentine's Day Nurse Office Open 11:45 a.m. No Limits SS Class to Mongolian Grille 6:00 p.m. Dusty Feet at Pastor Tony's home 6:00 p.m. Home Groups
- Jan. 17 6:30 p.m. Jr. & Sr. High No Limits Post Valentine's Banquet
- Feb. 19 & 20 No Limits Planet Wisdom at 1st Free, Moline
- Feb. 20 7:00 a.m. Trustee Meeting at Village Inn, Brady Street, Davenport
- Feb. 21 6:00 p.m. Home Groups 6:00 p.m. Dusty Feet at Pastor Tony's home
- Feb. 28 Nurse Office Open 6:00 p.m. Home Groups

*child.* The polyamory / gay marriage agenda does away with that whole concept. A man and a woman getting married, having children and raising those children is only one among many options – and not necessarily the preferable option. A cohabiting couple having children or a gay couple adopting children – or sexually active couples practicing birth control via abortion -- are morally equivalent alternatives to the traditional family. Eventually the whole concept of parenthood will become so confused – and so disconnected from the traditional ideal of married parents raising children born of their sexual union – that the State will assume ultimate responsibility for the raising and educating of children. **Destroy the traditional family, and children can be more easily molded by the State’s prevailing beliefs and values.**

Throughout human history, in all societies, marriage has traditionally been regarded not merely as a license to have sex, but as a license to have children, along with the duty to raise them. Virtually all cultures throughout human history have defined and regulated marriage on the basis of providing for the welfare of children – with a universally held belief that children thrive best in a family headed by a married mother and father.

All the research supports this common wisdom. *Children are better raised by their own parents than by divorced or single parents. Children benefit when they are raised in an intact home with their biological parents rather than a cohabiting, divorced or stepparent home. Fathers are important in the lives of their children.*

**Why would society want to redefine marriage and redesign the family so as to deliberately deprive children of the right to both a mom and a dad?**

Granted, there are tragic circumstances in the lives of children that leave them without the benefit of one or both parents. All too many children are raised in broken families that fall far short of the ideal traditional family. So is the solution to throw out the traditional ideal, redefine marriage and family, and make brokenness the new ideal?

***Redefining marriage is not good for children and it is not good for society.*** *What is absolutely essential to the survival of any culture?* **Reproduction.** Societies that fail to reproduce will eventually cease to exist. This is already happening in “progressive” Western Europe. Having disconnected sex from marriage and from reproduction and children, having normalized cohabitation and homosexuality and same-sex marriage and civil unions, having defined contraception and abortion as “reproductive health care,” native Europeans

are failing to reproduce themselves at a rate necessary to sustain their population and culture. Western Europe is quite literally committing cultural suicide – and many “progressives” in America want us to follow in their footsteps. *That is “enlightened” thinking?*

Muslims are well-positioned to take over Europe – without firing a shot. Within 20 years or so Muslims will become the majority group in Europe simply by doing what Europeans are failing to do: namely, getting married and having children and teaching their children religious beliefs and values. Having emancipated themselves from Christianity, Europeans are about to find out what life in an Islamic society is like.

*What is marriage?* Marriage is the foundation of the family unit that is essential to a society’s well-being and survival. Redefining marriage erodes that foundation. Disconnecting marriage from reproduction and raising children erodes that foundation. *Society has a vested (non-religious) interest in promoting family structures that nurture and protect children. Marriage as the union of a man and a woman best accomplishes that social objective. Children thrive best in a family headed by a married mother and father.*

Society (and the church) must care for children being raised in less-than-ideal family situations. Families other than the traditional ideal of mother, father and children can be blessed by God. Couples that cannot or choose not to have children can have fulfilling marriages. Adoptive parents can form strong, healthy bonds with adoptive children. Some single parents and step-parents and gays and lesbians can provide a more loving environment for children than some dysfunctional heterosexual married couples. **But the inconvenient truth remains: children generally thrive best in a family headed by a married mother and father.** (As an analogy, some smokers are in better health than some non-smokers, but not smoking is generally a healthier lifestyle than smoking.)

Society should promote the marriage and family structure that provides the best foundation for fostering the well-being of children and the long-term common good of the society. The common sense wisdom that humanity has practiced cross-culturally for centuries affirms that the union of a man and a woman is that solid foundation.

*Those of us who believe in traditional marriage need to help strengthen marriages in our church and community. If you would like to become a marriage mentor, please see the article in this newsletter.*

**Attention:**

**We do have a need for more marriage mentor couples.**

**Please contact Mike or Betsy Loehr at 843-2254 if you are interested.**

## A Word From Pastor Mark

I hope you are joining us this year in reading The One Year Bible. And please take advantage of The Cornerstone One Year Bible Blog. There has been some excellent discussion taking place this first month. You do not need to be reading along to take part. Just email Pastor Scott if you'd like to participate.

I love reading the gospels because I am able to watch Jesus and see how he responds to the hurting, the alienated, the marginalized and the way He responds to those who think they are good enough. When Jesus sees someone hurting He has compassion and heals them. That is a consistent pattern. And when He is confronted by the religious leaders He challenges their thinking. After seeing how Jesus responds it is easy to fall into the trap that we have Him figured out. We do that today- putting God in a box.

The disciples learned that Jesus wasn't predictable. He kept life very interesting. Yesterday's reading has one of those moments. Matthew 17:24-27, "After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax came to Peter and asked, "Doesn't your teacher pay the temple tax?" <sup>25</sup>"Yes, he does," he replied. When Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak. "What do you think, Simon?" he asked. "From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes—from their own sons or from others?" <sup>26</sup>"From others," Peter answered. "Then the sons are exempt," Jesus said to him. <sup>27</sup>"But so that we may not offend them, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours."

## Equip — February 26 & 27

EQUIP Ministries is having their annual conference on Feb. 26-27. There are some excellent classes to help equip parents and teachers to work with children. There are also classes in working with youth and adults. EQUIP offers a lot of classes to make you more effective. Please check out their website for more information: [www.equipconvention.org](http://www.equipconvention.org). If you are planning on using what you learn within the church please let Pastor Mark know. There is a fund to pay for you to go. If you are planning on going or would like more information please contact Pastor Mark.

A temple tax was required of Jews 20 years or older. The temple tax was designed to help provide money for the upkeep of the temple. Though Jesus is King and His disciples are associated with Him, He didn't need to pay the tax. But Jesus didn't want to offend the leaders needlessly. So He told Peter to pay the tax.

This is where things get interesting for Peter. Jesus, though He is God, and had all the resources of Heaven at His disposal didn't have enough money to pay the tax. So Jesus does the unexpected. He tells Peter to take a fishing line, cast it in the water and catch a fish. After catching the fish, Peter was told to open its mouth and he'd find the money needed for the tax. What? Are you kidding me? No, Jesus wasn't kidding.

There are many other stories in the gospels where Jesus does the unexpected. What we can discern is that He cannot be put in a box. He is not easy to understand. His ways are not our ways. Therefore, as we seek Him He may take us down paths that don't always make sense. But we need to trust Him and watch with expectation where He might take us individually and corporately.

As we near the finalization of the vision that God is revealing let's move forward with the excitement that He will work in us to accomplish His will. We may not need to look in the mouths of fish but we might need to do things that are uncomfortable to follow Him.

Lord Jesus, please prepare us to hear and follow Your will no matter where it leads us. In Jesus name, amen.

## Looking Forward

April 4th	Easter Sunday
April 9 & 10	QC Writers Conference at Cornerstone
April 18th	Annual Meeting
April 25th	ServeFest

## Pastor Tony's No Limits News

You know why they didn't find any weapons of mass destruction in Iraq? Because Chuck Norris lives in Texas. It seems that everyone knows a good Chuck Norris joke. At Breakaway this fall, apparently Chuck Norris won every event and didn't even attend. That is what one group had on their shirts. I don't know how God will use this man in his time left here on earth, but he has a very large platform from which to work. I'll bet that as a youth growing up in the troubled situation he came from he never thought that his martial arts training might some day be used for the Kingdom of God.

I was once very fascinated by the Martial Arts, and even spent a few years practicing and collecting as many different weapons as I could afford. A few weeks ago some of the youth showed up at Dusty Feet with some homemade paper and duct tape Chinese throwing stars. It reminded me of my days in College when I used to sit in my room and practice throwing stars into the trim on the wall. Then spending the summer patching holes in the wall. What is it about combat and fighting that is so exciting to a young man's heart? Even some women I know are quite gifted in the martial arts. My wife is a yellow belt! So how much wood would a wood chuck chuck if a wood chuck could Chuck Norris...all of it.

There is a remake of the Karate Kid coming out soon, and I don't know if I will go and see it... but "Wax on... wax off..." will be permanently etched in my mind. Many would say that a Christian shouldn't be so fascinated with fighting and martial arts. And true physical fighting may not be the best form of evangelism. But if any Christians think that they aren't to be ready for war, they are missing a large part of the truth of the gospel.

*For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places (Ephesians 6:12).*

Every day we face a battle with enemies that seek to destroy us if we aren't ready for the fight. Well as Miyagi says, "Daniel-san, Walk on road, hmm? Walk left side, safe. Walk right side, safe. Walk middle, sooner or later [*makes squish gesture*] get squished just like grape. Here, karate, same thing. Either you karate do 'yes' or karate do 'no.' You karate do "guess so," [*makes squish gesture*] just like grape."

The Christian life is much like this battle. Before you are a Christian, the enemy pretty much leaves you alone; you are no threat. Become a strong Christian fully trusting on the weapons of warfare Christ offers, yes your in the battle but well protected and quite dangerous to the fight. But so so Christian and trying to do things under your own strength. Make squish gesture... beat up just like grape.

That is were the Christian's warfare training come in very handy. If you haven't got Ephesians 6:13-17 memorized yet,

check it out. Even Chuck Norris would take advantage of this armor. (By the way, Chuck Norris doesn't stub his toes. He accidentally destroys chairs, bed frames, and sidewalks.)

Ask yourself these questions from the Dare 2 Share materials each morning

- Am I truthful and ready to live with integrity?
- Is Jesus Christ truly the Lord of my life?
- Is there any wicked way that I am living?
- Am I ready to share the good news of the gospel at any time?
- Do I have complete faith that God is in control and wants the best for me?
- Do I still have complete trust that Jesus paid the penalty for all my sin, and I'm trusting in Him alone for salvation?

Fight the Good fight.

### Upcoming Events for February

- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> No Limits Youth Ministry  
**6:55 pm – 8:45 pm**  
"Evangelism Urgency"
- Fri 5<sup>th</sup> – Sun. 7<sup>th</sup> Jr. High Winter Retreat Camp Wyoming  
3:15 from Cornerstone
- Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Super Bowl Events TBA
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> No Limits Youth Ministry  
**6:55 pm – 8:45 pm**  
"God's Love"
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> Game Day 11 am-3pm
- Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday School Lunch outing.  
Mongolian Grill 11:45 am  
Dusty Feet Pastor Tony's house 6:00 P.M.
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> Post Valentines Banquet  
**6:30 pm – 8:45 pm**  
"16 and Innocent"
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Planet Wisdom  
Leave church Friday at 5:00
- Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Dusty Feet Pastor Tony's House 6:00 pm
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> No Limits Youth Ministry  
**6:55 pm – 8:45 pm**  
"Dependence on God"

## Evan Almighty

Recently, Scott and I watched the movie *Evan Almighty*. I had seen it before, but I didn't remember being so uncomfortable watching Evan pray at the beginning like I was the other night.

Evan, a newly-elected senator in D.C., had a pompous attitude about how HE was going to change the world, and when his wife mentioned that he should pray for some help with that he said he doesn't really pray. In the middle of the night, though, he got on his knees and awkwardly prayed to God. This was the part that made me uncomfortable.

I wasn't uncomfortable in a judgmental way; I was uncomfortable in a way that felt sad for anyone who doesn't know how to talk to God - how to pray. I remember back to my early days of following Jesus and am thankful that I was given the opportunity to learn how to pray from some godly women in my town. They didn't take me through a 12-step workbook on how to do it. They just prayed!

## Home At Last

As you read this article, Laura and Aaron Schwartz will have recently arrived home from Ethiopia with their new little boy, Yedidiya. This has been a moment much prayed for and long anticipated, and God has proven faithful through this adoption process.

Adoptive parenting carries its unique set of joys and challenges. Internationally adopted children experience overwhelming transitions. Consider this: they are losing their home (even though it may have been an orphanage), they are losing the only adult caretakers they have ever known, they are losing their familiar tastes, smells, sounds, and surroundings. They are leaving with total strangers whom are speaking a different language. In addition, the children may be experiencing completely new things such as visits to hospitals, walking into places where there are a lot of strangers (such as church), wearing completely different clothing, and eating different food. Now they have routines to learn, meal times to adjust to, and rules and expectations to understand. Along with this is all the stimulation of unknown experiences such as turning on lights, television, music, unlimited choices of foods, going outside, and meeting relatives and friends of the new parents.

During this transition period, there are some strategies commonly used by adoptive families to foster healthy attachment between the child and his or her new parents. Some of these strategies are discussed below and will be helpful to know as a church family supporting Aaron and Laura in this endeavor.

### Stay Home

Because of all this change, many experts recommend that families stick close to home and avoid the revolving door of visitors until the baby has had time to adjust and learn who

by Teresa Bivens

Week after week I returned to their prayer meetings, and eventually I became comfortable praying out loud and talking to God as my friend - not just some old, gray-haired man in the sky.

Maybe you are just starting to follow Jesus and have no idea what it means to pray - you may feel a bit like Evan Almighty. Or maybe you've been a Christian for a long time and have never quite figured this thing out. Well, none of us has. There is always more to learn in prayer. Just like our friendships with humans, we'll always be getting to know God through our walk with Him.

If you want an easy way to learn how to pray, come to our corporate prayer meetings - Wednesday nights at 7:00 and Sunday mornings at 8:30 in the prayer room - and just sit and listen for a while. We are all still learning from one another how to pray, and none of us has it all figured out. Won't you join us?

by Deana Trotter

his parents are. Remember, these parents are strangers to this baby. When the time comes to introduce the baby to family and friends, it is best to limit holding to mother and father. Some families choose to let a few close relatives hold the baby right after the baby comes home, but ask that they do so for a very short period of time and hold the baby so he or she can see mom and dad at all times.

### Meet Baby's Needs Quickly and Consistently

It is important that only the child's parents meet his or her needs until a secure, loving attachment has been formed.

### Family and Friends

Because of separation from the birth mother and at least one special caregiver, often the baby may be waiting for the next caregiver to come along. Once the baby has had time to adjust to all of the different changes and learn who Mom and Dad are, it is often helpful to not only use family members and friends to run errands, cook meals, clean house, etc, but also to redirect the baby back to Mommy and Daddy. This will help establish that these two people are the primary caregivers and the most important people in his life.

Our Cornerstone family can be an important part in helping make this transition a smooth one for both Yedidiya and his parents. Please take these things into account as we welcome home the Schwartz family. We are glad the three of them are home at last!

\*\*Information to write this article was provided by:

[www.postadoptinfo.org](http://www.postadoptinfo.org)

[www.a4everfamily.org](http://www.a4everfamily.org)

## Cornerstone One Year Bible Group

Pastor Scott has started a discussion group with Google groups that will enable Cornerstone members and attenders to discuss with Pastor Scott and with one another the daily Bible readings and weekly sermons based on [The One Year Bible](#).

Pastor Scott will post some comments that you can read and then post your own comments if you wish. You can also initiate discussions by posting comments on sermons and/or daily Bible readings.

You do NOT need to be doing the One Year Bible reading plan to participate. Many of the postings will be dealing with sermon texts and topics.

## Marriage Enrichment

Is your husband too busy watching the game to get anything done around the house? Does your wife constantly nag you? Did you lose communication somewhere in your marriage? Do you have a good marriage, but want to make it great?

Cornerstone's marriage ministry team can help! We have 6 couples from our church trained to facilitate marriage enrichment. Confidential sessions are one time a week for 8 weeks. Call the church office for more information. (285-8080)

We have already seen relationships mended and have received positive feedback from couples that have gone through

## Parking

We are facing a good problem: *worship attendance growth means that it is hard to find a parking space some Sunday mornings.* We have had some 325+ attendance Sundays when every space in our church lots is full, and the Mel Foster lot is also full or nearly full. Continued worship attendance growth will be stifled if people cannot find a parking spot at 10:10. The Trustees are working on some plans to expand our parking capacity.

Some reminders: *church leaders, worship team, active members in good health, please park away from the sanctuary entrance spots.* Leave the spaces closest to the sanctuary for visitors, older members, mothers with babies, etc. *As many leaders as possible should park in the Mel Foster lot to make room in our church lots for others.*

*Thank you for your cooperation – and thanks also to our parking hosts for their service.*

This group is by invitation only – not open to the public or just anyone browsing the web. Consider yourself invited. You can accept this invitation at:

<http://groups.google.com/group/cornerstone-one-year-bible/sub?s=vuthXAwAAABQLNR59JITpfsg7732Gv0r&hl=en>

Please register with your real name and post comments with your real name. When making comments, please keep in mind:

**Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)** *Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.*

the program. As mentors we have found this experience to be rewarding as we watch God work in the lives of couples-strengthening their marriages, opening lines of communication and healing past hurts. Since we started the marriage enrichment ministry we've reached a critical point where we need more mentor couples to help those marriages in need.

If you feel like this is something you'd like to explore, please call Mike and Betsy Loehr at 843-2254.

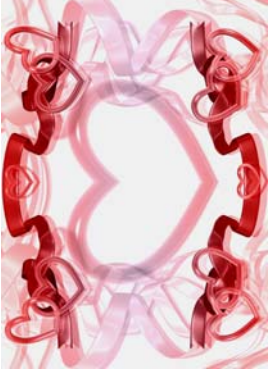
## Financial Report

December's General Fund giving was right at budget but not as extraordinarily strong as in the past couple of years. Giving to the General Fund (church budget) the first four Sundays of January has averaged \$ 9,026 per week. This is below budget of \$9,579 but above year-ago levels.

*General Fund giving the next 6-8 weeks will have a significant impact on planning and decisions concerning the 2010-11 Budget.*

Giving to the Building Fund so far in January has totaled \$5,410.

*Thank you and God bless you for your continued support of the Lord's work at Cornerstone.*



# February 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> 1:30 p.m. Moms-In-Touch at Crouch's 6:00-9:00 p.m. Archery for grades K-6	<b>2</b> College-Career-Singles events — call Steve McElhiney 505-5208	<b>3</b> 6:30 a.m. Men at Cracker Barrel, Dav. 6:00-9:00 p.m. Archery 6:30 p.m. NL Vol. Mtg. 6:55 p.m. Jr. & Sr. High No Limits Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Prayer Mtg. 8:15 p.m. Deacons	<b>4</b> 11:30 a.m. Ladies Lunch at Cracker Barrel, Dav. 5:30-6:30 Women's Basketball/ROCK 6:30 p.m. Coed Volleyball/ROCK	<b>5</b> Feb. 5-7 Junior High Retreat at Camp Wyoming	<b>6</b> IBC 2010 Annual Meeting , Des Moines 10:30 a.m. Tiffany Guge Baby Shower/ROCK
<b>7</b> 8:30 a.m. Prayer AM Communion 3:00 p.m. Jr. Puppets 4:00 p.m. Sr. Puppets 6:00 p.m. Home Groups	<b>8</b> 1:30 p.m. Moms-In-Touch at Crouch's 6:00-9:00 p.m. Archery for grades K-6	<b>9</b> 7:30 p.m. College-Career-Singles at Ideker's	<b>10</b> 6:30 a.m. Men at Cracker Barrel, Dav. 6:00-9:00 p.m. Archery 6:30 p.m. NL Vol. Mtg. 6:55 p.m. Jr. & Sr. High No Limits Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Prayer Mtg. 8:15 p.m. Vision Team	<b>11</b> 5:30-6:30 Women's Basketball/ROCK 6:30 p.m. Coed 7:00 p.m. Missions Mtg.	<b>12</b> 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. No Limits Game Day	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 8:30 a.m. Prayer <b>Valentine's Day</b> Nurse Office Open 11:45 a.m. NL SS Class to Mongolian Grill 3:00 p.m. Jr. Puppets 4:00 p.m. Sr. Puppets 6:00 p.m. Home Groups 6:00 p.m. Dusty Feet at Pastor Tony's home	<b>15</b> No AWANA No Archery	<b>16</b> 6:30 p.m. Singles Game Night in ROCK	<b>17</b> 6:30 a.m. Men at Cracker Barrel, Dav. 6:00-9:00 p.m. Archery 6:30 p.m. Jr. & Sr. High No Limits Post Valentine Banquet 7:00 p.m. Prayer Mtg. 8:15 p.m. Home Group Leader's Meeting	<b>18</b> 5:30-6:30 Women's Basketball/ROCK 6:30 p.m. Coed Volleyball/ROCK	<b>19</b> Feb. 19 & 20 No Limits Planet Wisdom At 1st Free, Moline	<b>20</b> 7:00 a.m. Trustee Meeting at Village Inn on Brady Street
<b>21</b> 8:30 a.m. Prayer 3:00 p.m. Jr. Puppets 4:00 p.m. Sr. Puppets 6:00 p.m. Home Groups 6:00 p.m. Dusty Feet at Pastor Tony's home	<b>22</b> 1:30 p.m. Moms-In-Touch at Crouch's 6:00-9:00 p.m. Archery for grades K-6	<b>23</b> 7:30 p.m. College-Career-Singles at Ideker's	<b>24</b> 6:30 a.m. Men at Cracker Barrel, Dav. 6:00-9:00 p.m. Archery 6:30 p.m. NL Vol. Mtg. 6:55 p.m. Jr. & Sr. High No Limits Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Prayer Mtg. 8:15 p.m. Vision Team	<b>25</b> 5:30-6:30 Women's Basketball/ROCK 6:30 p.m. Coed Volleyball/ROCK	<b>26</b> Feb. 26 & 27 EQUIP in Peoria, IL	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8:30 a.m. Prayer Nurse Office Open 3:00 p.m. Jr. Puppets 4:00 p.m. Sr. Puppets 6:00 p.m. Home Groups						

**February Birthdays:**

1 Shelby Arndt  
3 Taylor Mess  
5 Lisa Jackson  
7 Bryan Payton  
8 Bobbie Ecklor  
9 Elijah Brady  
Christine Dressler  
10 Arlond Goodell  
Laura Munson  
14 Jalois Crotty  
15 Paul Hojnacki  
Steve VonMuenster  
Jackson Zevenbergen  
16 Edie Gebauer  
17 Laura Thayer  
18 Bonnie Perry  
19 Jodi Green  
Charles Milnes  
Jason Owens  
20 Andy Ervin  
21 Camille Fourre

**February Anniversaries:**

2 Mike and Kris Mohr  
14 Tom and Edie Gebauer  
20 Neil and Melissa Chapman  
24 Terry and Lucy Schmidt  
27 Verne and Christine Christopherson

24 Christian Owens  
25 Travis Grell  
26 Lauren Schladetzky  
27 Vianne Jackson  
28 Shane Knoche



## Women's Spring Retreat

Are You Loving Well?

Please join us for a fun-filled, relaxing weekend here in the ROCK Center.

**Friday, March 5th 6 p.m. — ?????**  
*(fun and games to follow the speaker)*

**Saturday, March 6th 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

**Speaker: Linda Jager**

**Musical Guest: Angie Snyder**

**Cost: \$10**  
**Scholarships available —**  
**see Tammy Bullock**

Registration and sign up begins Sunday, February 14th in the ROCK center and narthex.



## BGC Responds to Haiti Earthquake

We have been moved by the news reports after a 7.0 magnitude earthquake — the strongest in Haiti since 1770 — struck on January 12th just 10 miles west of Port-au-Prince.

We have been attempting to contact pastor Withny Pierre, Converge WorldWide director of Haiti missions and senior pastor of El Shaddai Haitian Baptist Church, Brooklyn, NY. He traveled to Haiti with Dr. Dave Hall of FaithCare in Connecticut. We have confirmed that short-term missionary Brittany Storkel in Cap Hatien is fine. There were only minor tremors there. We are concerned about the status of the 1 by 1 child sponsorship office in Port-au-Prince and Melchisidek Baptist School and Ruth Orphanage in Maissade.

## IBC-MBC Merger

In February, 2008, the Iowa Baptist Conference Board of Overseers (BOO) began investigating “aNEWthing!” They surveyed the district, and in May, 2008, the State-Wide LEAD team crafted a short list of options from the survey results: Restart, Sub-region, Merge, or Divide. The delegates voted 122-5 to explore these options. The BOO did a strengths and weaknesses assessment and then formed “Work Groups” and a “Task Force” to assist them in the exploration process. The Task Force was surveyed in September, and met in November. The #1 priority was to merge with Minnesota (vote 73-16).

In January, 2009, the MN/IA Transition Team was formed. In April 2009 the MBC staff held Converge Cafe Meetings in Iowa.

## Focus on Marriage — Feb. 27

Focus on the Family presents “Focus on Marriage” — Celebrating God’s Design for Commitment.

This life changing simulcast event will help you tackle one of Christianity’s biggest challenges — empowering you and your spouse to stay faithful, committed and encouraged in your marriage.

Register today..... Your marriage deserves to thrive.

Live Via Satellite February 27, 2010 at Community Christian Fellowship, 1702 6th Avenue, Moline, IL

Call 309-762-2027. Registration begins at 8 a.m. Simulcast begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$24 each (includes box lunch & refreshments)

Scheduled to appear: Gary Thomas, Kirk & Chelsea Cameron, Francis Chan, Stephen Kendrick, Les & Leslie Parrott and Gary Chapman.

by Gary Reynolds, International Ministries

Converge World Relief is collecting funds to assist. Once needs are assessed, likely distribution channels include our Haiti missions director, Converge Northeast Haitian ministries, Baptist World Alliance (working through the Baptist Convention of Haiti and Haiti Baptist Mission) and others. More information will be reported as it becomes available.

To donate funds to assist this effort, please make your checks payable to Converge World Relief and note it is for “Haiti Earthquake Relief,” account no. 10537.

In May, 2009, the delegates of the IBC Annual Meeting voted unanimously to pursue the merger with Minnesota. The Annual Meeting was continued until November 7, 2009.

Following the May meeting, the Task Force completed their work on the “Plan of Integration”, the BOO officially voted to recommend a merger with the MBC, and the appropriate legal documents were sent to the churches sixty days prior to the continued November Annual Meeting, when a Vote to place the motion on the agenda of the February 6, 2010 meeting passed 76-1.

On February 6, delegates will vote on a resolution to officially accomplish the merger of the IBC into the MBC – to be name MIBC.

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## Family News

Congratulations to Aaron and Laura Schwartz on the adoption of their new son, Yedidiya. They have just returned from Ethiopia and are enjoying their new gift from God. We can't wait to meet him!!

Our deepest sympathy to the Jason Schwartzhoff Family upon the death of his mother, Sharon Schwartzhoff. May you feel God's presence during this difficult time.

## Dear Church Family

Thank you for your generous giving to the "Mission's Holiday Gift." With my monetary gift I was able to purchase some "extras" that I normally could not afford. So thank you for being so kind to your "home grown missionaries."

As always, it is my privilege to serve.

Jan Kloss  
Sonshine Community Ministries



### **Come and join us on Sunday Mornings:**

Sunday School Opportunities for the Family	9:00 a.m.
Worship Service	10:10 a.m.