

The Messenger

Living Hope Baptist Church

August 2011

From Pastor Dave's Heart . . .

Believing the Bible Makes All the Difference!

What we believe about the Bible is very important. For long centuries in the western world, truth and its authority for our lives came from an outside source. It was what the Church or someone's religion taught or it was what the Bible said.

In more recent years what is true began to be determined from within. They say, "You know in your heart; you find your inner self and that is truth." That of course is New Age teaching and is largely sourced in eastern religions. The growing love affair with the East in America probably began in 1968 when the Beatles took their infamous pilgrimage to India and spent a significant amount of time with a Hindu guru. Their music and lifestyles changed as a result—especially John Lennon. All you have to do is listen to Oprah Winfrey for a short time and you hear the new age message. Oh yes, she will talk about Jesus and talk about faith, but it is faith determined by what she has decided is truth according to her own heart. Don't bother her with the message of the Bible. Like all who follow the eclecticism of Hinduism, all religions have truth in them but

the final determination comes from within.

I had a couple of Latter Day Saints come to my door a few weeks ago. I told them I didn't accept their religion books as truth—the Book of Mormon, etc. These books really don't hold up as historically accurate documents under the light of critical examination. So one gave his testimony about how the teachings of the Mormon religion changed his life. Well, I could line up any number of you and you could tell him how following the teachings of the Christian Bible has changed your life. I was seeking to witness to a Buddhist one day and he told me how wonderful his life has been since he followed the principles of Buddhism. I have read testimonies of Muslims who have shared how fulfilling their belief system had been to their life. They would lose themselves in prayer, etc. If truth is just an inner feeling, then everyone is right, and everyone is wrong. What they say is then true—"there is no absolute truth."

But the Bible says the "human heart is desperately wicked; who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9) We can't trust our hearts; they are deceitful. But if we have a



Pastor David Schutjer

Word from God—a source of truth outside ourselves, that changes everything. Because we have the Bible, we find it stands as a critique of all other supposed sources of truth for life and religion. We must help our friends come to accept the Bible as the authoritative Word of God. (For help I refer you to my sermon on July 10.)



Pleasant Valley School Care Day



We are participating in this year's community care day by partnering with Pleasant Valley School in getting the grounds and building ready for the school year. This is our fourth year to partner with the school and a great opportunity to share God's love with actions.



We will work from 8 'til noon, on Saturday, 8/13. The whole family can join in. There will be both outside and inside tasks. Bring yard tools and wheelbarrows to work outside. Supplies will be provided for inside work.


The staff and families of Pleasant Valley School continue to be encouraged by our ongoing, loving support for them and their kids.


Sharing ... being Jesus to those He came to save.





Taiwanese Tidbit. While Taiwan has more than one hundred actively spoken Chinese dialects, its national language is Mandarin, which is also the national language of the Chinese Mainland. Fujianese (also called Taiwanese) and Hakka are two major dialects also spoken by many of the island's inhabitants.

Heffner Requests and Praises:

 Praise and prayer for Iris and Peggy, two of Mark's students, who accepted Christ on the last day of school. Gi Gi, a Chinese sister, will disciple them.

 Pray for the Heffner family who is in Texas right now until the middle of August. There are some real spiritual needs of churches and individuals that Mark is a part of ministering to there. Pray for good family time.

 Pray for every Bible packet that goes out to the Chinese. Praise the Lord for the 43,185 that have already been given out.

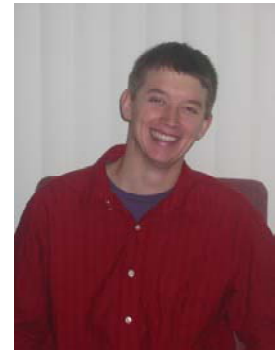
 Pray that their lives would be holy and filled with Jesus as they work in Taiwan.

YOUTH

Wow! Have I been busy the last few weeks. Thanks you so much for your prayers for Erin as we have been in and out of the doctor's office and doing surgeries. This last one went great, of course she is sore from the surgery, but everything went well, and the doctor said everything looked so good he didn't feel the need to do any further tests. God is good, even in the midst of situations we would rather not have to deal with, God is Good!

Our youth have been having a crazy, busy summer, it seems they have been running all over the state. As they come back from their camps, and finish their driving classes and softball games, they come back to a busy August that will cap off with some exciting times at Family Camp. I am really looking forward to catching up with all of them and all of their trips as we start to do more Wacky Wednesday activities.

The stores already have their back to school supplies in, and many of our youth are already thinking about the next school year. We have a few moving up to high school from middle school, and that is a big and intimidating step for many of them. Please keep them in your prayers as they get ready to make this move to a new and bigger school.



Pastor Andrew Miller



A new prayer meeting is beginning that is opened to everyone at Living Hope. Its purpose is to have concentrated prayer for our two focus ministries - the Bridge Church and the Heffner-Taiwan ministry. During August and September we will be praying the second and fourth Tuesdays from 7-8 pm. When Bible studies start in the latter part of September, it will still be the second and fourth Tuesdays but the time will change to 6-7 pm.

When you come, there will be five circles of chairs. Each circle will have their own current requests and praises printed up by those working with these two ministries. Join any circle and begin praying for 10 minutes with the others in your circle. After 10 minutes your group will rotate to another circle, read the new requests and praises and pray for those. Within 50 minutes you will have covered all 5 circles. As you pray, the Holy Spirit may lay other prayers on your heart for these two ministries. If you don't feel comfortable praying out loud, please come and pray silently along side others.

We need prayer warriors for the inmates and their families, for the Heffners and the Taiwanese people, and for all those working with them from Living Hope. **We are praying for a committed core of people to come regularly to these prayer meetings** with room for others to come as they are able. Please join us on Tuesday, August 9 at 7 pm for our first meeting in the gym.

With unity, humility, faith, and love, we gather in the power of the Holy Spirit to see God glorified in these ministries.

“ONE WAY!”
Vacation Bible
School
August 1st – 5th
9:00am – 12:30pm

Program
Friday, 7:00pm

“Jesus is
the Only Way”



UPCOMING EVENTS @ LIVING HOPE

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Aug. 1 – 5, Vacation Bible School
 Aug. 4 – Bible Fellowship Picnic @ Red Sunset Park
 Aug. 9 – Focus Ministries Prayer time
 Aug. 13 – Pleasant Valley School Clean-up
 Aug. 19 – 21, Living Hope Family Camp @ McIver State Park
 Aug. 24 – All Staff AWANA meeting
 Aug. 31 – All Staff AWANA meeting
 Sep. 7 – AWANA begins</p> | <p>Sep. 9 – 11 – Men’s Round-up @ Tadmor
 Sep. 16 – Ladies’ Dinner/Movie night
 Sep. 20 – Men’s & Ladies’ Bible Studies begin
 Oct. 14 – 16 – Ladies Fall Retreat @ Seaside, “Standing On His Promises”
 Nov. 6 – Time changes “Fall back”
 Nov. 24 – Thanksgiving Day
 Dec. 10 – Angel Tree Breakfast
 Dec. 21 – AWANA Christmas program</p> |
|--|---|

A dog has many friends because the wag was put in his tail, not his tongue.