

September 2009

Blessings



Inside

A family affair.	p. 2
Baptisms.	p. 2
We're on facebook.	p. 2
Monthly info.	p. 3
Cartoon.	p. 3
Youth party.	p. 3
Worship time change.	p. 3
Calendar.	p. 4
Newborns.	p. 5
Weddings.	p. 5
See U You at the Pole.	p. 5
State missions emphasis.	p. 6

Pastor's column

A family affair



Andy Blankeship

In honor of my family being on the cover of this month's *Blessings* I felt it would be appropriate to share something that God has been putting on my heart for a few weeks now. In recent weeks I "came clean" to the folks at prayer meeting and informed them that when I think about the many strengths of our church; those areas that are dynamic and vigorous;

Wednesday night prayer meeting never crosses my mind. As a matter of fact there have been moments when I was bored out of my mind at the thought of even attending prayer meeting. After sharing my heart I found that I was not alone. Many felt the same way I did. We felt like we were simply punching in on our time sheets and "doing what we were supposed to do" when really our hearts and minds were on different things.

In an attempt to correct or change this I have started teaching from passages of scripture where Jesus spoke about prayer or actually prayed. The last Wednesday of August proved to be life changing, at least for your pastor. We learned that Jesus begins The Lord's Prayer with "Our Father." The word "Our" signifying that prayer time as believers is a collective issue (a "we are in this together" type of statement) and the word "Father" showing that the relationship is not a formal one but one between a Dad and His kids. Prayer time together is a family affair. Prayer meeting is a glorious time we have as kids to sit in the lap of Dad and exclaim his goodness; to sing His praises; and to ask Him to meet our needs.

My intimacy with this really started as Cooper has gotten older and desires to spend time with me. I can't tell you how wonderful it is when she sits in my chair with me and as we are watching television I feel those little eyes staring at me. When I look at her she will often times say, "I love you" or she will lay her head on me and say "my father" (a phrase she picked up from a Disney movie). It is just a dad and his daughter

hanging out and enjoying each other's company and I wouldn't miss it for the world. As a matter of fact I spend much of my day thinking about and looking forward to getting home and having those moments. They are precious.

What does this have to do with our Church? The answer is everything. Maybe the reason some don't feel like coming is because we have made church a formal occasion for religious piety instead of a family affair. Maybe the reason prayer time is stale is because we gather and make a list about all the needs but we never take the time to talk with God. Maybe the reason it's a struggle to fill positions and find teachers for the children is those are viewed as work as opposed to a chance to serve the family. And maybe just maybe the reason church is a drain and a bore is because we punch in for work instead of getting together for a family reunion.

Because He Lives
Andy

Father baptizes son



Nate Kitchens made a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ several weeks ago, and he was baptized during the evening service on August 30 by his father Thad Kitchens.

Nate is a third grader at Dooly County Elementary School. He enjoys reading his Bible and skateboarding.

Nate lives at 265 Josey Avenue with his parents Michelle and Thad and brothers Rodney and Michael.



We are now on facebook

Become a fan of Byromville Baptist Church on the social network facebook. If you're not currently a facebook user, got to facebook.com and sign up.

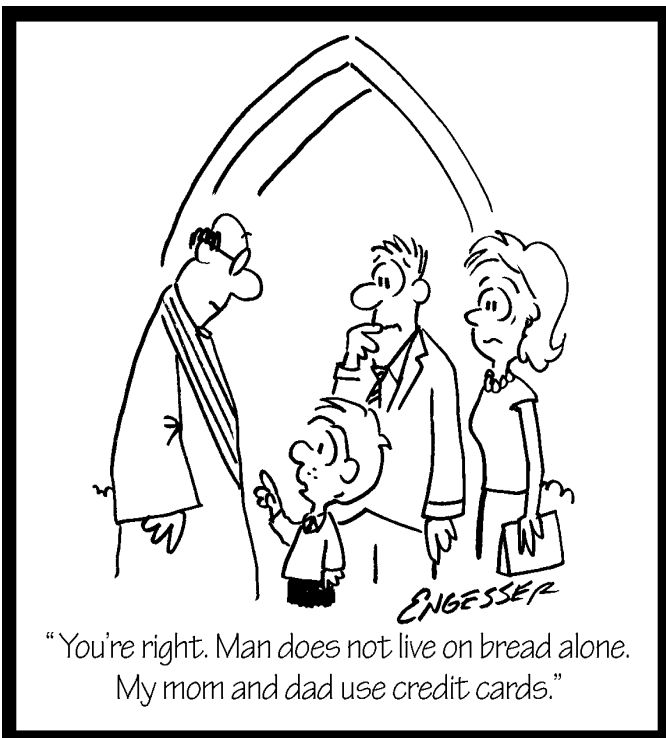

Schedule of Volunteers for September					
Please remember it is up to you to arrange coverage if you are unable to serve on your scheduled day.					
Date	Flowers	Nursery AM	Nursery PM	Deacon of the Week	Ushers
Sep. 6	Open	Kim Godfrey Terri Gregory	Mary K. Blankenship Sharon Thompson	Frank Thompson	Jimmy L. Hendrix George Massey
Sep. 13	Dianne Thompson	Jill Brannen Sharon Thompson	Paula/Mark Smith	Curtis Lamberth	Mark Smith Quint Smith
Sep. 20	Open	Vicki/Steven Lamberth	Laura/Keith Lamberth	Jimmy Lockerman	Mark Peavy Arthur Roney
Sep. 27	Open	Robin/Mark Peavy	Brenda/Jimmy Lockerman	Arthur Roney	Monta Averill William Preston

August Sunday School Stats

Senior Adults	11
FBIC	13
CIA	5
VOC	10
Young Adults	8
Older Youth	2
6 th , 7 th & 8 th Graders	4
3 rd , 4 th , & 5 th Graders	5
1 st & 2 nd Graders	4
Older Preschoolers	4
Younger Preschoolers	5
Nursery	10
General Officers	3
TOTAL	74

Financial Summary

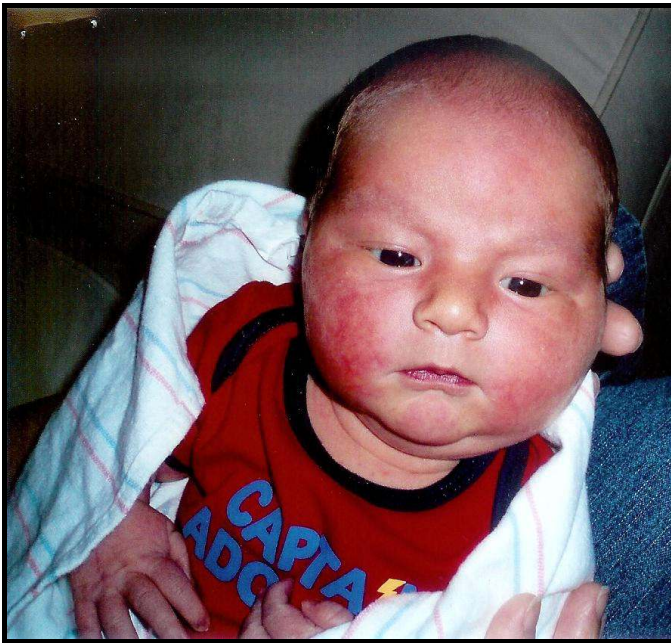
<u>July receipts</u>	
General offerings	\$8,615.28
Interest from CD	713.34
Special-library	400.00
Memorial	105.00
Special-stove	27.00
TOTAL	9,860.62
<u>July disbursements</u>	
General expenses	8,166.07
Ecuador mission trip/Appalachian mission	168.50
VBS	359.93
Church plant support	100.00
Local missions/evangelism	555.38
Cooperative Program	771.61
Houston Baptist Association	296.77
TOTAL	\$10,418.26

Attention all youth

All youth (grades 6-12) are invited to a party at Michelle and Thad Kitchens' home Saturday, September 5 at 6pm.

Evening Worship is now at 6:00 PM.

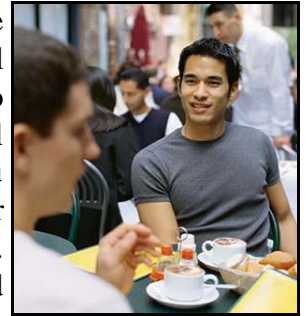


Alex is born

Andy Alexander Blankenship, Jr. was born on August 4 at 3:06 a.m. He weighed 10 lb. 5.5 oz. and was 22.75 inches long. He's also pictured on the cover with his parents Andy and Mary Kathryn and big sister Cooper.

Ready and willing

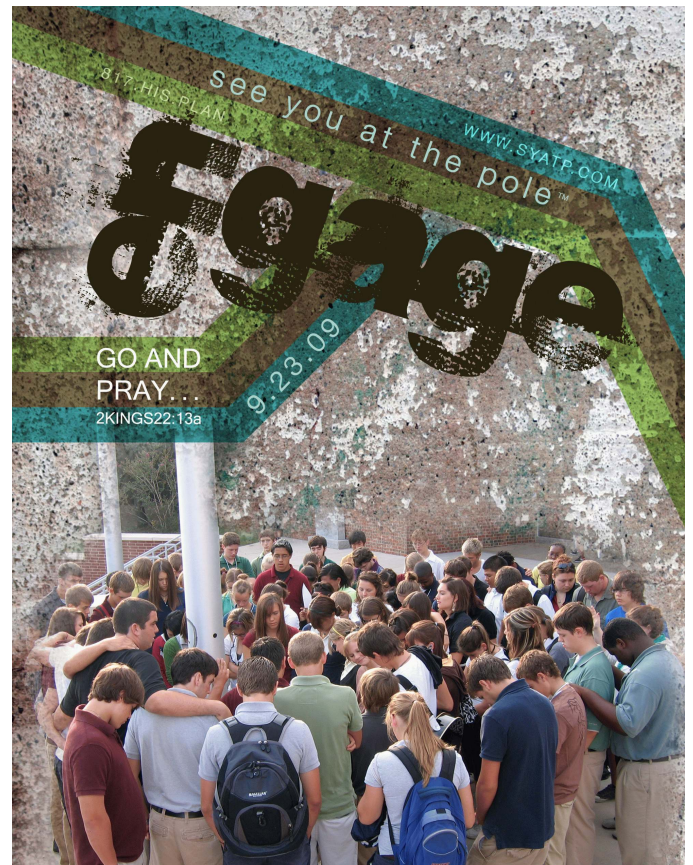
You don't need to have all the answers to every theological question. You don't have to master a polished gospel presentation that you mechanically recite whether people want to hear it or not. You don't have to pretend you're the next Billy Graham.



All you have to do is authentically follow Christ in your own life and ask him to ambush you with opportunities, then trust that he's going to use you in spite of (and sometimes even because of) your shortcomings, foibles, and quirks.

Simply put, our role is this: to be ready and willing — because God is always able. After all, he is the great evangelist; we're merely the tools that he uses to fulfill his mission of redeeming the world, one individual at a time.

From *The Unexpected Adventure: Taking Everyday Risks to Talk with People about Jesus* by Lee Strobel and Mark Mittelberg



You are invited to the
wedding of
Jessica Moore
and
Dwayne Arnett
September 5; 4:00 p.m.
Byromville Baptist Church

Georgia Baptist State Missions
Season of Prayer and Offering
September 13-20, 2009

*Offering envelopes
and prayer guides
available at the
church house.*



Relentless Pursuit
Reaching college students for Christ



Blessings is published monthly by Byromville Baptist Church. Send news items and/or comments to Editor Brenda Lockerman at POB 217, Byromville, GA 31007, email to brendalockerman@windstream.net or call 478-433-2791.

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