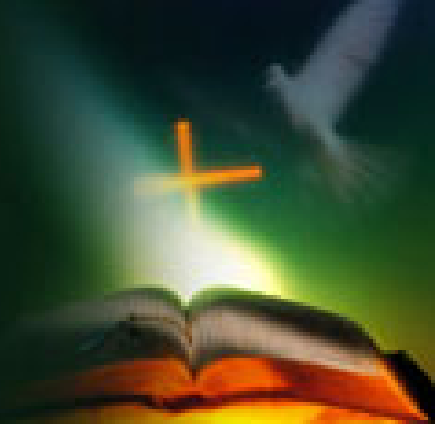


Yavapai Baptist Association



August 2009



ON TARGET

My column is called “On Target” for a lot of reasons. One of them is because I enjoy target shooting. When a person is target shooting, he or she needs to be very focused in order to do well. Most people are surprised to learn that a handgun shooter doesn’t actually focus on the target; he or she actually focuses on the front sights of the gun. The target is slightly out of focus at this point. Believe it or not, that is how you hit the bull’s eye best.

I find that Christians need to refocus if they want to accomplish God’s purpose for their lives.

Pastors, for example, generally need to narrow the focus of their sermons. Too many of us preacher types want to tell everything we know about the particular passage we are preaching from. Too often, however, all that information doesn’t do a thing to help us communicate the main point God wants our listeners to get. There’s an old adage about public speaking: tell them what you are going to tell them, tell them, and then tell them what you told them. That may sound redundant, but it is the best way to make your point. The focus of the sermon needs to be laser sharp.

Churches need to focus on their mission. We do all sorts of things in our churches that don’t help us accomplish the mission God has given us. Many times our activities cause us to expend energy and resources that could have helped us reach our goals and reach people for Christ. We focus on good things when we should be focusing on the best things. Sometimes we are focused on the things we want to do, when we should be focusing our time and energy on the things God wants us to do.

When I was teaching at Mesa Community College I had to tell several students to narrow the focus of their research papers. For example, one student wanted to write his five page paper on “Chinese religion.” That was entirely too broad a subject. I encouraged him to narrow the focus to one aspect of Chinese religion that interested him.

Your Brother,
Rik Danielsen

CHURCH STRENGTHENING TEAM

Church Strengthening Team received and granted a financial request for assistance in the past month. Please review your church strategy and verify that you have submitted all requests to the YBA office.

Remember we still need your help, if you have a passion for an area of ministry...share it with others.

ACE Conference is August 22 in Phoenix, I would encourage you to attend!

Hobby Wiles

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM

The Greek word *parakeleo* means to call alongside, comfort, or encourage. Pastors, we extend the *parakeleo* to you to enjoy the encouragement of honest fellowship with other ministers. Mark your calendars for the 2nd Thursday of each month and make it a priority to attend a few of the pastor's lunches together.

This month, August 13, we will be hosting a special event. Dr. Jesse Liles of Willow Hills has asked us to participate in an Ordination Council to consider Brad Melton for the gospel ministry. Pastors and Deacons are invited this month, but you will need to make lunch reservations (always \$5) with the YBA office by Monday August 10. After lunch, we will examine Brad and make our recommendation.

Brian LeSturgeon

GREAT COMMISSION TEAM

Love Equals Time.

“If it’s not on the calendar, it’s not a priority.”

So often, we talk about doing outreach. We develop strategy for it and we even preach about it. The reality, however, is that when it comes down to actually engaging our friends and neighbors to connect one on one—the time is inadequate to build a close relationship.

Here’s a simple definition of witnessing: *get close enough to the heart of others to speak Christ directly into their lives.*

The doorway of heart intimacy is opened...

- *When we invest significant time
- *Through sharing life’s regular joys/sorrows
- *When somebody is facing a major struggle
- *When you share your own struggles to grow in Christ.
- *When you provide a safe place for others to share fears, hurts.

Going even deeper, the Lord is the master match-maker of building compatible relationships.

Prayerfully ask, “*Lord, who do you want me to share your love with today?*”

Relationships aren’t built overnight. But, by consistently placing yourself near those who have spiritual needs (who doesn’t have these?), you’ll be in a position to speak Christ down deep into the heart.

Dave Arden

ASSOCIATION CALENDAR

AUGUST 2009

- 8 ASBC Hispanic Conference AEI, Phoenix
- 10-11 ASBC State Mission Team
- 13 Great Commission Team meeting 9:30 at Robert Road Baptist Church
- 13 YBA Pastor's Fellowship Lunch 11:30 at Robert Road Baptist Church
- 14 YBA Administrative Council 1:30 at Robert Road Baptist Church

CHURCH EVENTS

AUGUST 2009

- 12 Awana Ice Cream Welcome Party, 6-8 PM at Prescott Valley FSBC.
For more info contact 772-7218
- 22 ACE Conference in Phoenix

CHURCH NEWS

From Pastor John Ott, Mayer 1st So. Baptist Church

Mayer FSBC would like to just praise God that He allows us to continue ministering to our community! Please continue to pray for the harvest, and workers! School starts in Mayer very soon, Pray for the kids as they venture out, keeping them safe.

From Pastor Brian LeSturgeon, Camp Verde Baptist Church

The Verde Valley Art Show went well on July 3-4 with over 70 pieces displayed. Pastor Brian presented the gospel at the artists' reception and prizes were awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Best of Show.

CVB hosted a Children's Activity Area at the Camp Verde Cornfest with free games, face painting, sno-cones and jump castle. Gospel tracts were given to 100 children and several were registered for VBS.

Camp Verde VBS saw 76 kidaroos registered and raised \$604 for missions. There were 14 stated decisions to follow Christ and the outreach teams are busy following up with home visits.

From Pastor Hobby Wiles, Robert Road Baptist Church

We had 9 attend ZonaYuthKamp. Our youth came back changed and shared from their hearts what an impact camp had on their lives. **Mark your calendar for July 4-9 2010. the cost is \$325.00**



The youth of RRBC are making plans to attend DARE/SHARE an excellent conference held March 5-6, 2010 in Phoenix. If you are interested in attending with us let the church office know 928 772-0103.



CHURCH NEWS cont.

From Pastor Hobby Wiles Robert Road Baptist Church

RRBC had 2 children accept Christ during VBS and we have 14 non churched families as prospects! The follow up to VBS began June 24 with Outreach and will continue on throughout the year.

The youth of RRBC attended ZonaYuthKamp for the first time this year! Lots of anticipation from a year of hard work raising money to attend! Please be in prayer for them that God would do a mighty work in their lives.

The J.O.Y. bunch had a summer picnic and time of games at Lynx Lake for their June activity. The senior adult ministry has monthly activities and would welcome some new faces!

From Wade Mansfield The Ridge a Christian Fellowship

Rebecca and Rachel Sparks are collecting DVDs to be mailed to Travis Selinsky in Iraq. The goal is to make a library for Travis to share with his Army unit. So, please bring an appropriate DVD to church and put them in the box provided in the foyer. Also, we would appreciate a donation of a dollar, or two to help cover shipping, if possible. Feel free to put in a letter of encouragement and support.

From Pastor Ed Imbierowicz Mountain View Baptist Church

MVBC had 12 children make professions of faith during our VBS. Follow up is underway. We will have the Ridge Worship Team (Cyrus) here in concert on July 26 at 5:30 PM.

From Pastor Herb Stoneman Prescott Valley 1st So. Baptist Church

We are cleaning out our children's library and have a very large box of "teaching pictures" we've accumulated over the years from the Resource kits we've used for Sunday School. They measure about 11" X 17" each. We would like to give this whole box of pictures to a church that could use them rather than throw them out

ACE CONFERENCE Here is a great training opportunity! The ACE Conference is coming August 22nd and if you register before July 31st it's only \$25 (lunch is provided). This conference will have over 100 breakout sessions topics like; Adult Leadership, Children's Leadership, Evangelism, General Leadership, Media Library, Music Leadership, Preschool Leadership, Youth Work, etc. In addition, noted authors: Connie Cavanaugh-From Faking it to Finding Grace; Dallas Demmitt-Can You Hear Me Now?; Chris Elkins-What Do You Say to a Moonie?; Brad Hoffman-Preventing Ministry Failure; Margaret Feinberg-The Sacred Echo; Anne Jackson-Mad Church Disease, Overcoming the Burnout Epidemic; Lori Keene-Pull Up a Chair; Bob Mayfield-Missional Pivot Points; and Tim Kimmel-Raising Kids for True Greatness: Redefine Success for You and Your Child; Shirley Moses-Heart Friends: Beginning and Maintaining a Small Accountability Group. For more information go to www.aceconference.org

For more information about our Association please go to the website yavbaptists.com.

Please forward this email to all of your Christian friends and church members.

Rik Danielsen

