

BRIDGING THE GAP

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS CHURCH OF GOD
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From The Pastor's Desk "Never Leave Your Partner Behind"

I am writing this to tell you about a new and exciting film coming out this month called FIREPROOF. It will be in our local theaters on September 26, and I encourage you to go and take your family to see this great film. Darla and I were able to see the film at the Anderson Camp meeting this year, and we can't wait to see it again. The story: At work inside burning buildings, Capt. Caleb Holt lives by the old firefighter's adage "never leave your partner behind." At home in the cooling embers of his marriage, he lives by his own rules. After seven years of marriage, Catherine Holt wonders when she stopped being good enough for her husband. Neither one understands the pressures the other faces; Caleb as a firefighter and Catherine as the public relations director of a hospital. Regular arguments over jobs, finances, housework, and outside interests have readied them both to move out to something with more sparks. As the couple prepares to enter divorce proceedings, Caleb's father challenges his son to commit to a 40-day experiment he calls "The Love Dare." Wondering if it's even worth the effort, he agrees more for his father's sake more than for his marriage. When Caleb discovers the book's daily challenges are tied into his parents' newfound faith, his already limited interest is further dampened. Then his father explains that this is the love Christ shows to us. Caleb makes a life-changing

commitment to love God, and with God's help he begins to understand what it means to truly love his wife. Now he is ready to face his toughest job ever, rescuing his wife's heart.

FIREPROOF is the third feature film from Sherwood Pictures, the creators of FACING THE GAINTS and FLYWHEEL. With hope-filled, heartfelt storytelling, the movie making ministry of Sherwood Baptist Church continues to touch the world from Albany, Georgia. We have seen the statistics: marriages in this country are as likely to fail as they are to succeed. It's not a pretty picture. And it's not the way God intended marriages to work. That is why the leading marriage and family ministries including Focus on The Family, the Association of Marriage and Family Ministries, the members of the Marriage CoMission and Family Life are extremely excited about the impact of FIREPROOF will have on our society. John White, president of Firefighters for Christ International says, "I am convinced this is going to be a life-changing movie." ISN'T IT TIME FOR MARRIAGES TO BE WHAT GOD INTENDED THEM TO BE? DON'T MISS THIS GREAT FILM. AND REMEMBER: "NEVER LEAVE YOUR PARTNER BEHIND"

During the month of October I will be preaching on the theme of Marriage, Family and Relationships all based on the film. Across the country nearly 300 movies will have opened by the end of 2008. Some movies will be dramatic, some will be funny,

some will be love stories, some will be action-packed, and some will even be entertaining. But one movie will be all of that with a purpose. WELCOME TO FIREPROOF!

Enjoy The Journey,
Pastor Clayton

September Sermon and Service Outline for 2008

Sept. 7 5-Stars Sunday

Grandparents Day

AM Service: "I Did It My Way"

Text: 2 Kings 5:11

The Children will play the Hand Bells

6:00PM Small Group Studies

Children's Program: Living Inside Out!

Sept. 14

AM Special Guest Speaker
from the Nice Foundation

6:00 PM Small Group Studies

Children's Program: Living Inside Out!

Sept. 21

AM Service: "This is a Test!"
Text: Romans 14

6:00 PM Small Group Studies

Children's Program: Living Inside Out!

Sept. 28

AM Service: "Pass the Salt"
Text: Gen. 19:26

6:00 PM Small Group Studies

Children's Program: Living Inside Out!

COMING SUNDAY..... SEPTEMBER 28 UNFORGETTABLE SUNDAY!

You don't want to miss this special Sunday!

Make plans to be there and bring your friends. This will be a Sunday you will never forget. Once in a life time experience! All parts of the service from the announcements to the sermon will be coordinated to emphasize one central biblical theme. There will be a special Surprise that you don't want to miss.

UNFROGETTABA
SUNDAY.....SEPTEMBER
28.....MORNING WORSHIP.....10:40 AM

Fireproof

"Never Leave Your Partner Behind!" Preaching Series on the Family, Marriage, and Relationships

Starting on October 5th I will be doing a series on the family and marriage that will be based on the film FIRE PROOF. This will be a 6 week study. The topics will be as follows:

1. He said/She said! The burning Question: How can you better fulfill your God given role in marriage?
2. The train is coming! The burning Question: Will you rescue people from Spiritual Danger?
3. Salt and Pepper Shakers! The burning Question: Do you understand the covenant nature of the marriage vows?
4. The Cross! The burning Question: Have you experienced God's unconditional love as shown through

- the sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus?
5. Breaking Free! The burning Question: Do you give up and give in to temptation or do you stand strong?
 6. Caleb's Apology! The burning Question: Is unforgiveness hindering your relationship with God, or someone else?

Pastor Clayton

Duct Tape or a Nail?

A man dies and goes to heaven. St. Peter meets him at the Pearly Gates and says, "Here's how it works. You need 100 points to make it into heaven. You tell me all the good things you've done, and I give you a certain number of points for each item depending on how good it was. When you reach 100 points, you get in."

"Okay," the man says, "I was married to the same woman for 50 years and never cheated on her, even in my heart"

"That's wonderful," says St. Peter, "that's worth two points!"

"Two points?" he says, "well, I attended church all my life and supported its ministry with my tithe and service."

"Terrific!" says St. Peter, "that's certainly worth a point."

"One point? I started a soup kitchen in my city and worked in a shelter for homeless veterans."

"Fantastic, that's good for two more points," he says.

"Two points?" Exasperated, the man cries out, "At this rate the only way I'll get into heaven is by the grace of God."

"Bingo! 100 points! Come on in!"

We often try to fix problems with WD-40 and duct tape.

God did it with a nail.

AMEN...

JOY SS CLASS

It's "back to school" time for some of us and our families. We are praying that this will be a great school year from the youngest to the oldest and that understanding will be the 10th "Fruit of the Spirit."

We will begin a new study in the book *One Month to Live – Thirty Days To A No-Regrets Life by Kerry and Chris Shook*. In *One Month to Live*, Kerry and Chris show you how to stop waiting for "someday" and start making each day really matter. By taking their 30-Day Challenge, you'll learn what it means to make the most of your time on earth and live life with no regrets.

Four principles for living a no-regrets life:

Live Passionately, *living each day as if it were your last.*

Love Completely, *showing others love that transcends and transforms.*

Learn Humbly, *growing through your problems and pain.*

Leave Boldly, *creating a legacy that will impact generations.*

Of course, we will be unable to complete the book in 30 days in class, but hopefully we will gain new understanding of living each day to the fullest.

If you aren't attending Sunday School and feel the urge for a "back to school" experience, we invite you to the JOY Class.

Ruth Pope
Teacher

Small Groups for Adults Classes begin September 7th

Classes for every age group start tonight. Our "5" Small Groups for Adults start with a variety of topics to choice from. If you have not signed up, it sure isn't too late to get in on one of these classes.

New Children's Program begins September 7th

And our new children's program starts on the 7th also. The first month we will be seeing if "You are in the Dog House or not?" Doesn't that sound like fun? The month of October will have you visiting a Treasure Island. And the month of November will be centered around "911". Wonder that means? Each month is a completely different theme. You just have to be here to be a part of what is going on. Each month we have different workers also. It is going to be a great Sunday evening for all of our children.

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10. The Cross! The burning Question: Have you experienced God's unconditional love as shown through the sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus?
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Informational Meeting Sept. 7th

The Board of Trustees is asking that the congregation stay for a Church Financial Update meeting after service Sunday morning, Sept 7th.

The meeting should take less than 15 minutes and we will present a picture of our current financial shortcomings.

Board of Trustees

Car Wash with a Twist

The Board of Deacons thanks everyone who turned out to help with our Car Wash. What a great day to Bless our community! For those of you that missed the carwash, the twist was the fact that instead of our customers paying \$1 for the car wash, we gave them a \$1 coin for giving us the chance to serve them. Jesus gave us the example of servanthood when He washed the disciples' feet. Many of the recipients had similar reactions like the disciples---they didn't believe they deserved this kindness.

We were also able to give out information about Angel Food and in fact took several orders. And Jan Evans even made a contact with someone who works in a thrift shop and they were going to donate a bunch of clothing to the NiCE Gals for the mission work in Nicaragua. Tunes 4 the Troops fliers were also handed out and people were encouraged to donate CD/DVD's if they wanted to give back.

You will want to be part of this event next year so look for the next Car Wash with a Twist!

Board of Deacons

Money Map Coaching

“Well done, good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:21) is our scripture reference for our final destination on the Crown Financial Ministries Money Map. (www.crown.org/moneymap). Our final destination is TRUE FINANCIAL FREEDOM! At this point in our journey we are debt free, we have 3 months savings for emergencies, the children's educations are funded, our home mortgage is paid off, our estate plan is in order and our retirement is funded. **We are now free to volunteer our time and money working for the Lord!**

Have you ever wondered what our world would look like if we as Christians lived by God's financial principles? I have and I pray about it all the time. Imagine what God's church could do if all Christians returned 10% of their gross income to God's church. Current statistics tell us that the average Christian gives 2-3% of their gross income.

In 2006, the median household income was around \$48,000.00 and if they gave 2% that would equal 864.00 and if 1000 households

gave to their local church that would create \$864,000. However, what if those same households were giving 10%? They would give \$4820.00 per household and together they would give to their local churches \$4,820,000.00. Can you imagine what the churches could do in their communities with almost FIVE MILLION DOLLARS? And that is just for 1000 households in one community. The church could really live out our command to take care of the widows, orphans and the poor. And how much more could we do to spread the Gospel if missionaries didn't have to worry about their financial support? And instead of sending our kids to public schools, wouldn't it be great to be able to send them to a Christian school?

As equally important to our ability to give back to the Lord is the fact that with true financial freedom we can choose to work for the Lord and use the talents and gifts that He gave us to win lost souls for Christ. I love the fact that I personally was able to go from full time work to part time work a few years ago in order to spend more time with my daughter. Now I am using that time to develop our youth ministry and I know that there is coming a time that all my time will be devoted to doing God's work. I know Jim looks forward to the day that he can retire from his “earthly” job and use his God given talents to serve the Lord even more and we pray that God will provide that way earlier than later.

Not only should we give of our God given resources and talents we should train up our children in God's financial principles. Answer this question: How many of you when you left home were well prepared to make financial decisions? We spend years preparing our children for jobs and careers but only a few hours teaching them how to handle the money they will earn. The result.....one of the riches nations in the world in an ever-growing debt spiral. Teaching children God's

financial principles involves 3 methods: verbal communication, modeling and practical experience.

1. Verbal Communication—we must teach what the scriptures say about debt, planning, saving, work, etc.
2. Modeling—children model what they see so let children see you work on budgets, plan, save, set goals, etc.,
3. Practical Experience—
 - a. Income—when a child is ready to begin school they should begin to receive an income to manage. The amount of the income is not as important as the responsibility of managing.
 - b. Budgeting—when they start to receive the income teach them to budget. A simple method involves setting up banks that divided their income into “Give”—“Save”—“Spend”. Teach shopping skills, distinguish between needs and wants and warn about the dangers of powerful advertising.
 - c. Saving and Investing—open a savings account and have the child save for major purchases. Teach the principal of compounding interest.
 - d. Giving—setting aside a portion of income received is an important habit to start as a child. It helps children if you tie that giving to a tangible need like helping to support another needy child (like thru N.i.C.E or COP), a specific need at a church or in the community.

Crown has many articles available online at www.crown.org that will give you more principles and ideas for teaching children and

teens. Look under the articles tab/ children and family.

I pray that you have found this series of articles informational and helpful. I thank those of you that have shared with me recently how God is blessing your finances as a result of you becoming faithful and obedient to God’s word. I would love to hear more stories of how God is blessing you as you work towards True Financial Freedom. If you are tired of living in financial bondage and need more individual coaching please contact me at jimcandy@wisperhome.com or 618-277-2181. I would love to start you on your journey to peace and contentment.

In His Service,

Candy Niemeyer, Money Map Coach

B.I.B.L.E.

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?"

The son replied, "I do know!"

"Okay," said his father, "What does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for

‘Basic Information Before Leaving Earth’