

Mike's Musings

If Jesus were to ask contemporary Americans His famous question to Peter, "Who do you say I am?," He would probably be disappointed by many of the answers. According to a recent survey by "The Barna Group" only 9% of all American adults have a "biblical worldview." For the purposes of the survey, a "biblical worldview" was defined as "believing that absolute moral truth exists; the Bible is totally accurate in all of the principles it teaches; Satan is considered to be a real being or force, not merely symbolic; a person cannot earn their way into Heaven by trying to be good or do good works; Jesus Christ lived a sinless life on earth; and God is the all-knowing, all-powerful creator of the world who still rules the universe today."

Anyone holding all these beliefs was said to hold a biblical worldview, according to Barna. Even among those labeled "born again" Christians, the study showed that "less than one out of every five (19%) had such an outlook on life."

Another disconcerting statistic from this study showed that "young adults rarely possess a biblical worldview." It revealed "that less than one-half of one percent of adults in the Mosaic generation – i.e., those aged 18 to 23 – have a biblical worldview, compared to about one out of every nine older adults."

Some of you may be thinking, "so what? Statistics are manipulated." Or maybe you're thinking, why does someone's worldview even matter? Well, as Barna states, "A worldview serves as a person's decision-making

filter, enabling them to make sense of the complex and huge amount of information, experiences, relationships and opportunities they face in life. . . (It) has a dramatic influence on a person's choices in any given situation." Barna's research discovered that differing worldviews unusually indicate large differences in behavior related to matters such as media use, profanity, gambling, alcohol use, honesty, civility, and sexual choices.

The bottom line concern for Barna is that without a biblical worldview, our "children are not provided with the basic ability to think in ways that correspond to foundational biblical teachings." He recommends that churches, as well as Christian families, "invest more effort and tangible resources into helping young people understand and adopt the core ideas of Christianity, and to reinforce those concepts through their own lives." He continues, "Without such an investment, the current generational patterns indicate that the future Christian Church is likely to be one that has even less of a connection to biblical principles than is evident today."

When reading dire statistics like this, I take great comfort in knowing that Jesus has promised that the church will prevail and that even "the gates of Hades will not overcome it." (Matt. 16:18) I am also challenged that there is a great work yet to be done by the visible church. I thank God that Burry's – even after 175 years – has not bowed its knees to modernism, secularism, or liberalism. Yet those alternative "worldviews" are barking at the door.

What kind of a church will we find at 1835 Route 68 in twenty years if Jesus tarries? It is my prayer – my passion – that it will be a church standing for truth – holding fast to Biblical standards and ministering with grace-driven compassion. I hope we will continue to be a multi-generational church that has not lost touch with that Mosaic generation Barna spoke about., or with whatever generation is becoming predominant at the time. I hope we are continuing with Bible Club, ETC, VBS, Sunday School, Grace Groups or complimentary substitutes for them. I pray that we will still be honoring our "Golden Agers" and the faith that transformed their lives for the glory of God. And I pray that we'll still be preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ with integrity. However, all of that won't happen by simply wishing or wanting. It is up to this generation to lay the foundation stones for the future.

Obviously the demographic trends of our day are a daunting challenge, but never forget that we can buck the trends "because the one who is in (us) is greater than the one who is in the world." (1 John 4:4) May God help us today to "lay up treasure for (ourselves) as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they (future generations) may take hold of the life that is truly life." (1 Tim 6:19)

Be of good courage in the effort, my friends. Never forget that "in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." (Rom 8:37)

See You Sunday!

Pastor Mike

People in the Pews - The Whalens by Pastor Tom

We have been blessed to have musically talented interns serve here at Burry's Church. Several years ago, we had B.J. Davidson work with ETC, who was a talented guitarist. Then Achim came to us from Brake Bible School, who also played guitar and taught us songs in German. Last summer, we had Edi who was a good singer. This summer we are privileged to have Dennis Whalen, an intern from RPTS who is familiar with the guitar and also learning to play the bagpipes on a practice chanter.



Dennis and his wife, Julie have six children. They are Julian(14), Katarina (12), Alexandria (10), Dennis (9), Jocelyn (7), and D'Artagnan (4). The other member of the family is Carmen, a Flat-Coated Retriever, described as ideally active outdoors and calm indoors. The Whalen family enjoys music, going camping and geo-caching, an outdoor treasure-hunting game in which participants use a GPS receiver or other navigational techniques to seek containers ("caches") with treasure inside, hidden almost anywhere with public access.

The Whalens are not from Germany. Instead they come from the far off land of Daugherty Township. Dennis was raised in New Brighton and was a member of Trinity Lutheran. Growing up in a Christian family and in the church, Dennis cannot remember a time that he did not believe the gospel. He was active with the youth group and teaching adult Sunday School. About ten years ago while teaching, Dennis was confronted with many challenging questions. In the process of researching answers for his class, Dennis realized he wanted to get a seminary education. He choose to attend Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary (RPTS) in Pittsburgh. Studying the doctrines of grace, helped Dennis confirm his position in Christ as a child of God. Julie had nominal Christian background and came to understand the gospel fourteen years ago when preparing to have their son, Julian baptized. At that time, she professed faith in Christ and was baptized as well.



Dennis needs to complete an internship as a graduation requirement for RPTS. After meeting him, council and the staff are eager to have Dennis come on board and work among us. His internship will begin on May 24th and continue through August 30th. He won't have an accent like previous interns, but we might beg him to do an Arnold Schwarzenegger impersonation for us. German accent or not, we thank the Lord for Dennis and Julie and their children and look forward to their time with our grace-driven family. Please pray for this special family and take some time this Summer to get to know them as well.

Twenty thousand children in Pennsylvania live in foster care at any given time. At **Project STAR**, we believe there is no place like *your* home for kids to be safe and have time to heal. Many of our families go on to adopt the children in their care when returning to their birth family is no longer possible. Project STAR has received numerous awards and honors for excellence in support of its foster and adoptive families.

Please join the staff, families, and members of the community on Monday evening, May 11, from 3:30 - 6:00 p.m. at the Project STAR office in Monaca, 1598 Virginia Avenue. Refreshments will be served. Printed materials will be available to take home and spread the word about the need for more foster families.

A special informational session will be held that same evening from 6:15 to 7:45 p.m. for those who are considering taking steps toward becoming a foster or adoptive parent. RSVP to the open house and/or the information session by email to Lucinda Wiebe, family recruiter at lwe@the-institute.org, or call 412.244.3048.

Mission Report - April 2009



Al & Barb Shannon, who are officially retired from Wycliffe Bible Translators, are filling in at Ayacucho for missionaries who are on a 9 month leave of absence. On Easter morning, they attended 2 worship services Quechua. The first church downplayed the Easter message because of the community going too secular with the celebration (drunken parties). However, as the people filed into the sanctuary with hard benches and cement floors, each took a crocheted pillow from a pile and knelt in earnest prayer before the service started.

The second church was having a serious pastor Bible study using a DVD, translated into Quechua. Each pastor had a manual with which to follow along. These Bible studies are the special project of the couple that the Shannons are acting substitutes. Ten years ago, while visiting Ayacucho on a mission trip from Alaska, Walt and Mary Lynne Wood were taken to a remote area where the local pastors were having their yearly retreat: noting how poor they were, the Woods asked them what they needed most, assuming it would be clothes, medicine, seed, fertilizer, or some other material thing, instead they said they needed teaching in the scriptures, so they could be more effective leaders.

Walt was so moved by their hunger for God's Word that he went home and resigned his position as project engineer on the Alaskan pipeline and prepared to become a missionary. After studying Spanish in Bolivia, Walt got permission from the International School of Missions to use their materials and translate them into Quechua. He gathered a team of educated Quechua young people and they have been working on those materials and using them in the villages with great success.

Holy week in Ayacucho is observed with processions each night. On Friday an image of Jesus is carried in a coffin. The whole town puts on black clothes to watch that one. The statue is reclining on a bed of white flowers and there are red ones near its head, hands and feet. Quite impressive. Hundreds of people follow that one with lighted candles. On Sunday morning, firecrackers and even gunpowder explosions greet the dawn and a huge float comes out of the main Cathedral with a statue of the resurrected Lord on top. It is a big pyramid, covered all over with white candles all lit. The people have kept vigil all night to experience this event in the first rays of the sun.

Super Summer Break and Kids Camp 2009

Super Summer Break Youth Camp - June 28 - July 3 for kids in 6th - 12th grades.

Registration, Medical Forms and \$25 deposit are due by May 15th.

Kids' Camp - June 29 - July 3 for kids in 1st - 5th grades.

Registration, Medical Forms, and \$25 deposit due by May 15th.

Super Summer Break and Kids Camp have moved to the Nazarene Retreat Center, located in Met. Chestnut, Butler, PA. Our new accommodations will consist of modern dorm style cabins with updated bathrooms. The camp is located just minutes from Moraine State Park.

Our goal is to create a fun, exciting, and spiritually rewarding camp experience where children can be challenged and encouraged to pursue and deepen his/her relationship with Jesus Christ.

Come prepared for six days of fun, friends, team competition, delicious meals, Scripture study and worship.

YS ONE DAY

YS ONE DAY, what's that? It's the One Day Youth Specialties youth ministry training event that was hosted by Christ Church at Grove Farm at the beginning of April. Pastor Tom, Mike Bernd, and myself attended the event, and were really challenged by the speaker, as he taught us to teach from the Bible in a culturally relevant way.

One illustration that the speaker used, to drive home a point, really stuck with me after the seminar. It was a story about a young man, who has become a very well-known Christian motivational speaker in America. In the video, he walked out onto the stage and greeted the crowd. Then asked them if they would be impressed if he breathed fire. The crowd went wild as a ball of flame erupted from his mouth. Then he asked them if they would be impressed if he did a back flip. The crowd went wild again, as he performed a perfect back flip. Then he said, "Now that I have your attention, let's read the Word of God." He proceeded to read the Sermon on the Mount, and then sat down. People in the audience were stunned; some even booed! They were furious that he didn't speak. At the next meeting, he got up in front of the crowd and asked a few simple questions— questions that left the audience speechless. He asked, "Why is it that you were so easily awed by me breathing fire or doing a back flip, yet you BOO when you heard the very Word of the Almighty God spoken to you? He then quickly followed that up by asking, "Did you come to hear the words of man, or the Words of God? Wow, that hit me like a ton of bricks! I began to think— Am I much like the people that booed? Do I really take God's Word for granted as they did? Just some food for thought...chew on it.

~ Chuck Horstman



St. John's "Burry's" Church Youth Ministry

ETC EVENTS CALENDAR

**E.T.C. Youth Meeting
Sunday Evenings
@ 6:00 pm**

**ATF
May 8-9**

**TEEN TIME
June 15-August 17**

**SSB '09
June 28-July 3**

**Hunter Ed. Course &
Wild Game Breakfast
August 14-15**



**May 15-16
All Day
Both Days**

**REVOLVE
TOUR
(Girls Only Event)
September 11-12**



Acquire the Fire

May 8-9

Depart from the Church @ 4:00 pm
Return to the Church @ 11:00 pm

Please remember to bring money for
(4) meals at the event.

Chuck's Chicken Roasts

The PROCEEDS from this event will benefit the girls attending the 2009 Revolve Tour in September.

Chicken available for P/U between 4-5 pm

May 30 June 27 August 22



May Birthdays & 2009



Laurin Bonzo	1		Brian Stuck	14	
Shannon Lowe	1		Peg Young	14	
Amanda Young	3		Sammy O'Donnell	16	
Martin Bonzo	4		Bronson Strobel	20	
Daniel Stuck	4		Sam Schaub	21	
Wilmer Bonzo	6		Nellie Rosenmund	22	
Judy Young	7		Joe Brunner	23	
Bonnie Graham	9		Natalie Dubovi	23	
Gracie Donley	10	Jay & Gaye Lansberry	8	Brandi Bonzo	24
Ashton Maley	10	Woody & Rose Young	10	Charlie O'Donnell	24
Liam Maley	10	Keith & Crystal Brenner	11	Hope Stiteler	26
R.J. Ward	11	Don & Mary Lou Niedergall	14	Louie Dubovi	28
Adam Strobel	12	Francis & Arlene Pflug	15	Dot Pflug	28
Neil Bonzo	13	Dale & Mary Bonzo	23	Travis Strobel	28
David Brenner	13	Mike & Alyssa Young	24	Rachel Dengel	30
Alyssa Maley	14	Donnie & Darla Ward	26	George Tweed	30

Anniversaries

Answers for most things...

- ... Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.
- ... *Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their pews.*
- ... Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisors.
- ... *When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.*
- ... Peace starts with a smile.
- ... *We were called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges.*
- ... Don't wait for 6 strong men to take you to church.
- ... *The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.*



A special thank you goes out to the wonderful women of Faith Circle! They put on a fabulous Silent Auction during the Pinewood Derby and then of course followed it up with a tremendous dinner! They graciously donated all of the proceeds from both the auction and dinner, which totaled \$1739, to the Garage Fund.

The Garage Fund has a ways to go, but with teams like this behind it, we are confident we will soon have a garage that is done and paid for!!

Thanks again!

The Trustees

I wish to thank the pastors for their visits while I was in the hospital. Praise God that I am doing well and am able to continue to serve the Lord at my church.

I appreciate all the prayers said for me and for all the cards that I received.

Thank you all for your love and concern,

Ralph Kaufman

I want to thank the church for the nice flowers and also for the cards I received for my birthday.

Art Teets



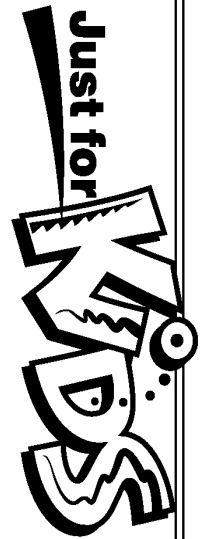
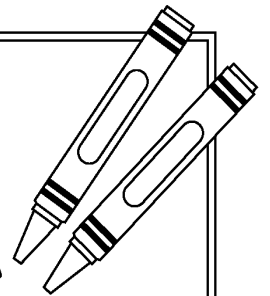
BURRY'S CHURCH

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"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called children of God. And that is what we are!" 1 John 3:1a



A Legacy of Faith

You're blessed when you have a mother, a grandmother or any relative or friend who passes down a strong faith to you. In the Bible, Timothy was influenced by his grandmother and mother.

Complete 2 Timothy 1:5 (NIV) below by filling in the blanks with the correct vowel.

VOWELS: 1 = a 2 = e 3 = i 4 = o 5 = u

" h 1 v 2 b 2 2 n r 2 m 3 nd 2 d 4 f 3

y 4 5 r s 3 nc 2 r 2 f 1 3 th, wh 3 ch

f 3 rst l 3 v 2 d 3 n y 4 5 r gr 1 ndm 4 th 2 r

L 4 3 s 1 nd 3 n y 4 5 r m 4 th 2 r

2 5 n 3 c 2 1 nd, 3 1 m p 2 rs 5 1 d 2 d,

n 4 w l 3 v 2 s 3 n y 4 5 1 ls 4 ."

2 TIMOTHY 1:5 (NIV)

Answer: "I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."