

“Growing Godly Generations”

The Karl Road Baptist Church

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Fellowship News



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A Call to Prayer

By Pastor Rick Breusch

I'm curious about something... Have you sensed recently a greater urgency to pray and wondered why? A few weeks ago - as I had the opportunity to think about our ministry in this new year - I felt the Lord encouraging me to put prayer front and center in 2008. Here's a few things I'm learning about prayer:

- When God wants to do something in a church that only He can do, He begins to give people in that church a new, fresh urgency to pray. This is simply because whatever God wants to do can only be done through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- As you may know, the Church Council approved my recommendations to create two committees: one, to address how our church is organized for ministry, and another to begin the process of discerning God's vision for our church and what that might look like in the years ahead. Planning is good, worthwhile and necessary to ministry success. But prayer is better, critical and imperative to ministry success. I don't want to make plans and then ask God to bless our plans. Been there; done that! Instead, I want us to pray until we see God's plan clearly and keep on praying as it takes shape and becomes real in our church.
- Prayer has to be a "God-thing" or I'm just not interested. I don't want to "guilt" anyone into prayer. I don't want to administrate some organized prayer ministry. I simply want to gather with other believers who share an urgency to pray and just... PRAY! Let's pray for the church...for people in the church and their needs... for the community... for the nation and the world.

Interested? **Join me on Sunday, January 20 at 6:00 p.m. in the chapel.** Let's just get started and see where the Lord wants this to go.

Peppermint Man - continued from page 2

is burned into my memory and it brings a smile to my face every time I think of it.

Karl Road Baptist Church was blessed to have its very own peppermint man. Curt Franklin may not have had a pocket full of peppermints, but every week my three year old son would proudly walk up to Curt with a smile on his face, eager to shake his hand!

Curt had the amazing ability to transform a handshake into an all encompassing expression of God's love. What a blessing to know this man!

I am deeply saddened that we will no longer be able to shake Curt's hand as we enter the church; but we are so fortunate to have so many wonderful people who will continue this legacy of welcoming folks into the church with open arms. I have a feeling that walking through the doors of KRBC will always be special for me and my family. Although there is a heavy sadness that I feel from this great loss, there is one comforting thing that I can't stop thinking about...that when my time comes, I know Curt will be there ready to shake my hand and welcome me to heaven!

Will the Bells Be Heard Again?

"I heard the bells on Christmas Day," and even though it was the 9th of December, they were familiar carols. KRBC has a 5 octave set of Schulmerich bells. Are you interested in playing again or perhaps for the first time? We'll be recruiting the month of January to see if there are enough "ringers" to play.

Contact
Blythe Ann Cooper

Greeter/Usher Training Seminar

Saturday, January 26 9:00 - Noon



The old saying is still true: "You only get one chance to make a first impression." How we meet and greet first time guests to our worship services is very important. That's often the first impression those guests get of our congregation as a whole. It often determines whether they come back or not. As a result, Pastor Breusch and Lacy Worley, our Head Usher, want to offer a morning of practical training to any and all who are interested. The seminar is for those who are currently serving as greeters or ushers as well as any other interested members or friends of the church. Please speak with Pastor Rick or Lacy and/or sign up using the worship bulletin inserts available this month.

What is the Benevolence Fund?

by Pastor Rick Breusch

We have many wonderful, effective ministries at our church. Some of them quietly go about accomplishing great things in the name of Jesus of which many of our members and friends may be unaware. I want to shine a light of appreciation upon those who administer our Benevolence Fund and inform the congregation about what this valuable ministry accomplishes on behalf of all of us.

What is the Benevolence Fund? It's a financial account administered by a subgroup of our Diaconate. We have the opportunity to pray for people and offer words of encouragement for those who are going through a difficult time. But sometimes people need other kinds of help as well. The intent of this ministry is to provide financial assistance to people both inside and outside the church family as an expression of God's grace and our love for them.

Where does the funding come from? The loose offerings collected on the first Sunday of each month are deposited into this account. In addition, members and friends of the church can designate any portion of their giving to go into this account as well.

How does it work? As members or staff become aware of a financial need that might be addressed through the Benevolence Fund, they contact a member of the subgroup who administers it. At present, Mike Etherington, one of our Deacons, leads the subgroup that considers all requests. The subgroup discusses and prays about the requests submitted. If they believe our church can help with a need, they agree on an amount and authorize our Church Treasurer to make the funds available to the people who need it.

What kinds of needs get met through the Benevolence Fund? There are really a wide variety of needs that have been addressed through this ministry. Just in 2007 alone, several people have received assistance with rental payments while others received a gift of gasoline or a night's stay in a motel to help them along their way. On occasion, a medical need has been met or help with an important bill of some kind.

What's done to prevent abuse? Only small levels of assistance are offered to folk with no relationship to the church. Larger gifts (\$100 or more) are usually given to people with some kind of connection to the church. They either attend our church or one of our members can vouch for the legitimacy of the need that is being addressed. Repeat use of the fund by the same person is discouraged. If we sense financial counseling would be helpful, we might make additional assistance contingent on receiving that counsel.

What's the current status of the Benevolence Fund? Our Church Treasurer, Charlie Ernst, reports that more funds have been expended this year than he has seen in previous years. Praise the Lord! Disbursements for 2007 so far have amounted to over \$4200 while receipts have been just over \$1700. Fortunately, unused gifts from previous years have enabled us to keep this ministry operating. The Diaconate would be very appreciative of your designated gifts over and beyond your other financial giving to the church to keep this ministry well funded in the future.

The Peppermint Man

by Brad Fisher

Life is full of memories, isn't it? Sure, we all have some memories that we would rather forget, but I want to talk about good memories. I was fortunate to grow up in the arms of a Christian family. We attended a small church in Michigan and each week my parents would dress my sister and I in our Sunday best and

haul us down to the morning service. Like most children, we were not generally excited about having to sit still for an hour while listening to the pastor's sermon. However, there was one thing that we looked forward to no matter what. As we would approach the church, our excitement would grow as we anticipated our weekly encounter with The Peppermint

Man. He was the old man that welcomed everyone to the church. He kept a watchful eye out for boys and girls who came to church with a smile on their face — and as a reward for smiling, he would give us a peppermint. To this day, I don't even know that man's name, but the image of his loving kindness

continued on page 6

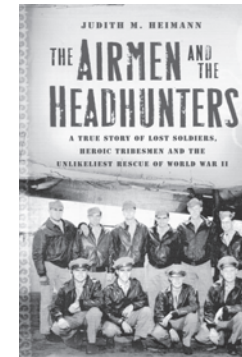
January Message Series

"How to Have the Best Year Yet"

January 6
January 13
January 20
January 27

Live as if God is the Owner
Live as if Jesus is Lord
Live as if You are a Steward
Live as if You are a Servant

Ps 24:1; Deut 8:11-18
Phil 2:9-11; Rom 10:9,10
Gen 1:26-28; Luke 12:35-48
Matt 20:20-28; Eph 4:11-13



The Airmen and the Headhunters

article by Marty Moore

"November 1944: Army airmen set out in a B-24 bomber on what should have been an easy mission off the Borneo coast. Instead they found themselves unexpectedly facing a Japanese fleet—and were shot down. When they cut themselves loose from their parachutes, they were scattered across the island's mountainous interior. Then a group of loincloth-wearing natives silently materialized out of the jungle.

The tribal leaders' unprecedented decision led to a desperate game of hide-and-seek and, ultimately, to the return of a long-renounced ritual: the triumphant and bloody taking of heads.

A cinematic survival story that features a bamboo airstrip built on a rice paddy, a mad British major, and a blowpipe-wielding army that helped destroy one of the last Japanese strongholds, *The Airmen and the Headhunters* is a gripping, you-are-there journey into the remote world and forgotten heroism of the Dayaks.

The book is authored by Judith M. Heimann, a career diplomat. She spent seven years living in Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines, including two years in Borneo, where she learned to speak Malay/Indonesian. She traveled to three continents and interviewed all the surviving Dayaks and airmen in her research for this book. She lives in Washington, D.C., and Brussels."

The Dayaks are the group of people my mother and her first husband, Ernie Presswood, were missionaries to. During the first wave of Japanese take-over, Christian and Missionary Alliance missionaries, the Sandes with their baby, and John Willfinger were killed. John, a single missionary, who had been teaching the Dayak natives not to lie, turned himself in so the natives would not have to lie about hiding him.

Ernie married my mother, Ruth Brooks, December 11, 1940. His first wife and child had already died from hemorrhaging during childbirth in the interior of Borneo. During the time this book was written, Ernie, my mother and other missionaries and foreigners were in concentration camps. When the war ended, the first thing Ernie wanted to do was see how the church - the Christian natives - had survived. He and Ruth traveled the treacherous rapids to the interior to set up a meeting with the heads of the churches. It would take some time for the word to be sent by messengers and the leaders to travel to Long Berang, so a date was set to meet about a month later. Going back to the coast, they upset in the rapids almost losing their lives. Ernie ended up going back to the interior by himself because Ruth was very sick with Dengue fever. He told my mother he would be back on a certain date. He did come back, as punctual as always, but in a coffin. Ruth's book is in the KRBC library - "No Sacrifice Too Great."

New Year Prayer

by Helen Steiner Rice

God grant us this year a wider view,
So we see others' faults
through the eyes of You.
Teach us to judge not with hasty
tongue,
Neither the adult...nor the young.

Give us patience and grace to endure
And a stronger faith so we feel secure.
Instead of remembering, help us forget
The irritations that caused us to fret.

Freely forgiving for some offense
And finding each day a rich
recompense.
In offering a friendly, helping hand
And trying in all ways to understand;

That all of us whoever we are...
Are trying to reach an
unreachable star.
For the great and small...
the good and bad,
The young and old...the sad and glad

Are asking today; Is life worth living?
The answer is only in,
loving and giving.
For only Love can make man kind
And Kindness of Heart bring
Peace of Mind.

By giving love, we can start this year
To lift the clouds of hate and fear.



Life's
Relationships,
Issues &
Inner Healing

Friday & Saturday, February 1 & 2
Teacher/Facilitator - Ric Bowser
(Pastor Bowser & Dorothy's son)
Pre-registered: Couple \$79
Individual \$49

This weekend seminar provides an opportunity for better understanding and for healing in "life's three high-stakes relationships"...our relationship with our parents, with our spouse, and with God.