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## CONNECTED... *in community with believers*

### HEART OF CHRISTMAS PROJECT

Another fantastic opportunity to bring a gleaming smile to the faces of students in our community was found with the *Heart of Christmas* project. This year we received the names and requests of approximately 22 children spanning Wren Elementary, Middle and High schools. The total number of gifts to be given will be around 52, a great deal less than in years past, but a blessing to those children nonetheless. Those who stopped by the *Heart of Christmas* table might have noticed the many gift tags requesting shoes (and other clothing items). That was because the middle school decided that shoes would be a good way to meet the practical needs of students at this time of year. Shoes not only cover the feet, but in middle and high school can also be an essential tool for “fitting in”. As in years past, gift givers have the opportunity to enclose a little something inside their wrapped gift box or bag to bring a message of hope for each recipient, whether it be a tract, a prayerful note of inspiration, or even a piece of church information letting them know we are right in



their neighborhood, standing ready to introduce them to our awesome God. Thanks for picking up those special gift tags and remembering in a concrete and loving way those who have far less than most of us. Their world is not so different than ours and their need for a Redeemer is the same as ours. Let’s continue to take advantage of every opportunity to reject the world’s message that we must supply meaningless abundance for our own family and instead share God’s blessings with the many that are struggling financially for their most basic needs.



The plan is for those gifts to be distributed to parents through each school before the winter break so that they can be unwrapped by children on Christmas morning, bringing a message of hope from God’s people.

*By Denise Tow*

### UNASHAMED ADVERTISEMENTS — DEALING WITH THE FEAR & EXCUSES THAT HOLD US BACK FROM PERSONAL GROWTH & MINISTRY

Ever been sitting in church and hear Pastor or another speaker say, “This past week we’ve been discussing \_\_\_\_\_ (fill-in-the-blank) in Bible Institute...Oh! And by the way, this isn’t necessarily a plug for Bible Institute, but it is. You should come!,” and then Pastor or the speaker goes on with their sermon or testimony? Or hear another ministry’s event or opportunity mentioned in a sermon as a “plug”, such as CARE groups, the missions conference or financial seminar? I’m sure you’ve heard this several times over the last few months. I used to be the one sitting in the service hearing that and laughing at the plug-that’s-not-a-plug and thinking, “Yes, I’d like to be able to do that. I really need to do that.” or “I want to go to that event.” Since Bible Institute’s inception a few years ago, my husband and I have wanted to take part in the classes, but for various reasons have either been unable to or decided that it wasn’t the right timing. Recently though, as I came

home from Bible Institute and reflected on how rich and wonderful the teaching is and how refreshed and enlightened I feel after being inundated with Scriptural teaching, I realized that I wish we would have started these classes a long time ago rather than dragging our feet about it, so to speak.

Then another similar thought came to me: how much richer my life has been by ministering to people around me, both within and outside the church. I just wondered in my mind at the excuses and hesitations that have held me back from getting involved when, now that I am being enriched by teaching and growth from personal ministry, I realize how lame and inconsequential those previous hesitations were. If I had known then how much richer my life really could have been by attending these classes at Bible Institute, or

*Continued on page 4*

*Striving to produce followers of Jesus Christ who are COMMITTED to growing in intimacy with God, CONNECTED in community with believers, and CALLED to influence our culture.*

**AWANA AND ALMS & LEGS:  
PARTNERING FOR THOSE IN NEED**

AWANA held a food drive Sunday Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> in order to supply the food cabinets at CBC and extend our giving to the community. A & L was able to donate some of the abundance to a local organization called PERC (Piedmont Emergency Relief Center) after restocking our current supply. Requests for food are most common around this time of year when many of the local organizations begin to see their shelves emptied due to the tighter budgets that leave services to the needy much slimmer than at other times of the year. Because of your generosity, CBC has never had to turn away a request for food, and consequently, we have been able to offer food for the spiritual hunger that resides in every one of us. The money gathered will also be used to provide for needs or gifts related to *Heart of Christmas*. Awana would like to **thank** everyone who participated in the "Bring-A-Meal" night. We collected over \$700 worth of food and contributions. The Sparks club won the pizza party.



**YOUTH FOCUS: MARC LODER**

Marc Loder is home-schooled and in the 12th grade. He is an energetic, vibrant, and sometimes even crazy young man. The youngest of three children and the only boy, a definite love toward his sisters, Laura, who lives near Myrtle Beach and Jean, who lives at home, shines through.

His future plans are uncertain at this point, but he has many ideas and options including but not limited to...chiropractic care, a rock climber, a missionary pilot and more.

For fun, Marc has several favorite activities he loves to participate in, including rock climbing, hiking, mountain biking, contra dancing, going to the beach, talking, fellowshiping, being "stupid" (that is short for doing things others would not dream of doing but living life to the fullest) and being with friends.

Marc is a Christian and prayed the "sinner's prayer" at age 5, but states that it wasn't until the age of 14 that he began actively pursuing his relationship with Jesus. He has grown in his relationship in every way since then, but one of the specific lessons that he has learned is accepting that although his plans contradict God's plans for his life sometimes, he's learned that God's way is truly the best way.

His heroes include all of his "mothers" - Terry Beach, Susanne Alewine, Laurie Francis, Dianne Hagen, and Debbie Dew - who have adopted him and looked out for his well-being, and Paul Jordan whom Marc views as being a guy who "when he does push ups, he pushes the world down" (a Chuck Norris joke).

Marc is the son of Dan and Carol Loder.



By Tamar Leemkuil

**CBC YOUTH EVENT CALENDAR**

**SENIOR HIGH**

- Senior High Winter Retreat
  - ♦ Weekend of January 30<sup>th</sup> through February 1<sup>st</sup>—Special Speaker: Kurt Hannah; more details to be announced asap
  - ♦ Parents: Give your teen the gift of our annual winter retreat, a time to connect, share, relax, and grow spiritually.
- Young Ladies Institute
  - ♦ January 10<sup>th</sup>—10:00 am to 1:00 pm



**AWANA CALENDAR**

- December 14<sup>th</sup>—NO AWANA
- December 21<sup>st</sup>—NO AWANA
- December 28<sup>th</sup>—NO AWANA
- January 4<sup>th</sup>—Leaders Meeting after 2<sup>nd</sup> service
- January 11<sup>th</sup>
  - ♦ Leader's Prayer Meeting @ 4:45
  - ♦ Pajama/Stuffed Animal Night
- January 25<sup>th</sup>—Beach Night
- February 28<sup>th</sup>—AWANA Bible Quizzing at Grace Baptist Church in Columbia
- March 14<sup>th</sup>—AWANA Games at Palmetto High in Williamston

- ✦ **All T&T clubbers:** Come enjoy a bowling activity with pizza in February. More details to follow.
- ✦ This year's **Bible Quizzing** will be on February 28<sup>th</sup> at Grace Baptist Church in Columbia, SC. More details to follow.



**OUR NOVEMBER OUT**

Our November Out & About was spent "monkeying around" at the zoo! Some of the moms even mastered the art of "talking" with the apes and they responded quite loudly! After an enjoyable walk through the zoo, we had a picnic lunch and watched the children play on the newly renovated playground at Cleveland Park.

Due to added expenses at Christmas time, we have planned a morning out at the church with crafts and snacks for our December Out & About. Please plan to join us on Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11:30 to make a few crafts, eat a few snacks, and relax with friends. There is NO charge to you for this event. The crafts will be set up in the room next to the kitchen and moms will have the opportunity to go around to different stations with their kids, helping them make the crafts. If you plan to attend, RSVP to Janet at janethaustin@yahoo.com or 335-8338, so I will know how many to plan for. As always, if you decide at the last minute to join us, come on!

By Janet Austin



**YOUNG LADIES INSTITUTE**

January 10<sup>th</sup>, is our first YLI date for the new year. We are planning to make a chicken and rice dish with Helen Richard as well as finish our aprons and other projects.

Please join us for all the fun as Young Ladies Institute seeks to maintain a mentoring spirit, not only between the ladies and the girls but also between each other. Come learn with us and/or share your skills. If you have a skill you want to share, please contact Barbara Brown, Laurie Francis or Tamar Leemkuil. We look forward to seeing you!

MISSIONS

The Kuvshnikovs in Ukraine

Recently very exciting opportunities have opened for the Kuvshnikovs in Ukraine to mentor even more students at KTS. Pray that Michael stays fresh in God's Word. Pray also for the English conversational class they teach to not only Ukrainian students, but also foreign students, including Muslims. Both Michael and Lindey assist Diane with these classes. Diane is spending time in the library of Kiev Christian Academy transferring their over 9,000 records to a new library program.

The village church in Krasnopilka continues to grow until the meeting house is about filled. Pray for Misha, a new believer there, as he goes through family difficulty.

Due to some changes in their support, the Kuvshnikovs need \$1500 (or a one-time gift of \$36,000) a month to enable them to complete their goal of remaining in Ukraine until June 2011. Contact SEND International at 800-736-3808 if you are challenged to give.

Persecution in India

Please remember the Cherians and other believers in India as the persecution and killing of Christians continues. One area where the violence has escalated is Orissa. If you want to know more or have a burden for this part of the world, search Orissa, India on the internet to find up-to-the-minute news.

Thailand Political Crisis

Keep David and Joy Speights and their family in your prayers as Thailand experienced a political crisis at the end of November that shut down two international airports in Bangkok and led to the deaths or injury of many people. The PAD, Peoples Advocates for Democracy, does not support the election of government officials and protested in order to remove the new Prime Minister from office. As of December 6<sup>th</sup>, he has been removed from office. Stranded travelers are able to fly out of the airports again and goods are once again able to be exported. David, Joy, Gabriel, Alena, and Jasmine are safe in Phuket. They say "no one knows what will happen tomorrow, but we are content to know that nothing surprises God."

The Daugherty Family in Australia ~ Friends of CBC

Merry Christmas from the Daugherty's Down Under! Andy had an amazing weekend at *Wild at Heart*. God did an awesome thing with him this weekend. He stays busy with Electrolux and he and two other blokes have created a Bible Study/Prayer time on Friday afternoons at the office. Several of his co-workers are attending. Noah and Suzie will have a 7 week summer break over Christmas. They are doing very well. Natalie continues to teach Scripture to primary school students in the public schools. She has also been sharing the Gospel and her Christian testimony to teenagers in high schools, and was able to share it again yesterday with about 100 teenagers. We got some good feedback and some opposition, but that comes with the mission. The best part was that several teenagers have asked for a Bible or they want to know more about Jesus. This town, this country needs Jesus. Christians need to witness a revival. Please be in prayer for us as we continue to find a church family. We miss you all and welcome visitors anytime! You can visit our website at [faithdownunder.com](http://faithdownunder.com) or email us at [faithdownunder@gmail.com](mailto:faithdownunder@gmail.com).

Ukraine Missions Trip 2009

Community Bible Church of Easley, South Carolina along with SEND International ([www.send.org](http://www.send.org)) is looking to send a team of around 10 people back to the Black Sea Camp in Odessa, Ukraine. We will be continuing to build the camp dormitory that we started last summer and working with the orphans.

Jeff Young is leading the team. The trip will be in June 2009 and will last two weeks. The cost for the trip is yet to be determined, but has generally run around \$1800 to \$2100 per person in the past. This includes air fare, accommodations, food, and other fees associated with travel. We strongly encourage you to raise this support and will assist you in how to raise support for a mission trip.

If you are interested or would like to know more, please contact Jeff Young at 335-9472 or 238-2335.



Orphans at Black Sea Camp



Two of four wings for new dormitory at Black Sea Camp for orphans

Updates from South Africa

David Brown traveled in November to a leadership conference in Zambia hosted by Central Africa Baptist College and attended by about 150 men. The central African pastors and preparing pastors are such intelligent and sharp men in their walk with God that David says "I could almost have my devotions just listening to them pray."

The MountainView church has grown into a vibrant body of Christ with about 80% of the adults involved in one or more of the ministries. Pray for God to continue to save and strengthen the South African people and for the leaders to lead in a Godly manner.

March holds plans for David to attend a massive conference in Uganda to train African pastors intensively in one book of the Bible that they can then go teach for a year in their own churches. He also plans to help train pastors in Botswana later in the year.

Two families, the Willoughbys and the Meyers, are planning to move to SA to head the Thandanani outreach. Pray for the Willoughbys' house to sell in Berlin and for the Browns to find them a house and car in SA. Pray for Brent Meyers as he guides the project.



CALLED... to influence our culture

UNASHAMED ADVERTISEMENTS, CONT'D

...serving in the church in a simple ministry such as EasyWorship, or ministering to friends in spite of my failures, wow I really would have "signed up" and started a lot sooner!

So my encouragement to you is this: Don't let fears, excuses, simple hesitations, and laziness hold you back from the rich life that God has for you in receiving teaching and in ministering to others. Find time in your schedule to not only do personal Bible study, but also become part of a small group Bible study. Find a ministry at church that intrigues you or allows you to use skill sets you possess, and get involved. You won't regret it! Not to encourage ministry-hopping, but if the first ministry you try doesn't work out, try another one. There is a plethora of ministry opportunities at our church and within our community...maybe one that could be started by you! There are many current ministries that could be far more effective with your support, so whether a new one is needed or not requires insight, wisdom, and a call from God upon your heart.

Not sure of the needs in our community or church body? Look around at your friends or acquaintances. Listen to what they say. The seemingly most casual conversation between friends can really be a subtle cry for help...can you hear it? Do you know what to say to give true hope and Biblical help and wisdom? What about the mother who's stressed about her children, or

the basketball buddy who's jokingly mentioned some marital problems or personal fears and struggles, or the young girl who's confused about a situation in her family, with her parents, or with her friends? Ministry to these people—the people in our marriage or family, the people we sit by in church or chat with in the nursery or hallway, the people we work with or meet in mom's club or at school—will enrich and grow your own spiritual life and faith when you are able to give them true Godly wisdom, point them to Christ, and watch their life bloom from despair and hopelessness into faith and hope and joy. Once you've experienced it, you will wonder along with me why you never did this to begin with, and you'll begin to look for more ways to grow your relationship with Christ and to help others.

Are fears of personal failure, current sin struggles, lack of Scriptural knowledge, or a simple lack of personal confidence holding you back from a real and victorious Christian life? Of course you want to answer "no" to this question, but most of us, if we are honest and transparent, will answer "yes." If these are things that are holding you back from growth and ministry, or you're waiting to attain more Godly wisdom before you begin helping others, then oh my friend...let me remind you that God grows us most when we realize our failures, see the same needs and failures in others' lives, learn by studying His Word how to

change and that we have hope, and grow and change together. Put yourself under the regular (daily, weekly) influence of a Godly person, and then use the wisdom that you have been given (even if seemingly meager) to grow a younger believer or unbeliever into a relationship with Christ. Gain wisdom and then share that wisdom. God commands us in several places throughout Scripture to grow in wisdom, and then to share that wisdom—older women with younger women, the wise to the fool, the parent to the child, the husband with the wife. Don't let Satan hinder your relationship with Christ by allowing these excuses and your forgiven sin to pile up in your life unnecessarily. Know that you are forgiven in Christ. Seek to develop your relationship with Him daily. Gain wisdom from His Word and other believers. Then share it.

My "plugs" I unashamedly reference in thought in this article...Bible Institute, CARE Groups, Personal Bible Study, Small Group Bible Study, Networking Class on Sunday nights (realizing your passions and using them for God), church service on Sunday mornings, and many ministry opportunities around you and in our church.

By Amy DeLeonardis

Counseling Conference  
February 2009

Register now for this vital conference! Expect to be challenged and stretched as God speaks to you about issues you face as you learn how to offer true hope and Biblical guidance for those struggling with the same effects of sin that effect you. Register by November 14th to avoid late registration price increases! Contact Jay Harlan, Administrative Pastor and Counselor, at the church office for more details and to reserve your place with the CBC group.

In last years' review of the conference, Steve Hicks brings out the most foundational goal of FBCM's counseling conference. "Any Christian who speaks a 'word of advice' to a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or family member, especially those who are considering counseling or mentoring people, should consider attending this conference next year." To read more, review last year's testimonies in our March 2007 newsletter online.

To learn more about this conference and sign up, visit [www.mycbc.net](http://www.mycbc.net) and click on the NANC conference newsflash.

**Christmas Dinner**  
Sunday, December 21  
5:00 pm  
Covenant Presbyterian Gym

Grab a "gift tag" from the board in the foyer to remind you to bring a side dish or dessert.

**MoneyWi\$e**  
Planning with Purpose

- How are you coming along on your path to financial freedom?
- Need some encouragement or coaching?
- Use the email contact link on our website found at <http://mycbc.net/moneywise> to sign up for financial counseling.

**DOES THE SHACK STAND OR FALL?  
A REVIEW OF THE SHACK**



*The Shack*, by William P. Young, has managed to make it to the top sellers' rack with relative ease. The book is a novel that seeks to answer the questions about suffering and grief. The main character, Mackenzie, is a man who is still grieving the loss of his little daughter when she is kidnapped and brutally murdered. He is invited by "God" to return to the place where his daughter was murdered, a shack, and spend a weekend with God. *The Shack* by William P. Young has created much discussion and controversy in various spiritual circles.

The secular world sees the book as a business phenomenon but otherwise could care less concerning the content of the book. The opinion of Christendom is divided between the opinion that the book is the next greatest fiction book that will further our understanding of God and the opinion that the book is heresy and should be denounced. Some people argue that the pros far outweigh the cons of this book and that any questionable material should be overlooked and forgiven because of the help and comfort that the book brings. Others are totally opposed to the book because they say that there are aspects of the book that are clearly misrepresenting God.

The pastoral community has much to say about the book, both good and bad, but some are becoming strong promoters of the book. The pastor of an eight thousand-member church was very opposed to *The Shack* when he first began to read the book. However, after finishing the book his attitude drastically changed and he became an advocate of *The Shack*. According to Rich's article in the *New York Times*, it seems as if pastors and other spiritual leaders are willing to overlook falsies because of the good in *The Shack*. Some pastors do not seem to have qualms about the book, as with Pastor Steve Berger who quotes on *The Shack* website, "Wrapped in creative brilliance, *The Shack* is spiritually profound, theologically enlightening and life impacting. It has my highest recommendation. We are joyfully giving copies away by the case."

According to Dwayna Litz in *Lighting the Way Worldwide*, several other figureheads of the Christian faith have endorsed *The Shack* including Michael W. Smith, Recording Artist, who writes: "My wife and I laughed, cried and repented of our own lack of faith along the way. *The Shack* will leave you craving for the presence of God." The endorsement on the cover of *The Shack* from Eugene Peterson reads, "When the imagination of a writer and the passion of a theologian cross-fertilize the result is a novel on the order of *The Shack*. This book has the potential to do for our generation what John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* did for his. It's that good!"

The negative critics of *The Shack* have made their thoughts be known as well. Cathy Lynn Grossman writes in *'The Shack' Opens Doors*, "Mohler, Driscoll and other evangelicals pick *The Shack* apart plank by plank. 'No, God can't be presented as a woman. No, the three parts of the Trinity did not all become fully human. Yes, there is a hierarchy in the Holy Trinity with God the Father in command. Yes, God will punish sin.'" These are just some of the attacks that *The Shack* is receiving. Other attacks are much

more serious, if possible, about the nature of the book and the ideas presented.

The more condemning views about *The Shack* seem to be very adamant in their opinions of the book. These kinds of views are not rare; there are many who share these same thoughts about *The Shack*. According to *Taking 'The Shack' To The Shed* by Tim Chailles, "Throughout the book there is this kind of subversive strain teaching that new and fresh revelation is much more relevant and important than the kind of knowledge we gain in sermons or seminaries or Scripture...At several points I felt as if the author was encouraging the reader to deconstruct what they know of Christian theology and to embrace something new. But the faith Young reconstructs is simply not the faith of the Bible." Some people feel very strongly about the ideas that *The Shack* is presenting. They fear that the theology presented within *The Shack* will lead people to accept a very misleading presentation of whom God is. They fear that even if Young is using analogies in his book, some people will not understand what he is saying, and it will affect their theology in a negative way. *The Shack* has experienced some very serious claims posted against it. In *The Twisted "Truths" of 'The Shack' & 'A Course in Miracles'* an article by Berit Kjos, he brings to light some of the themes in *The Shack* by comparing it with another book, but this book is much more questionable in its origins...

*Continued on [www.mycbc.net](http://www.mycbc.net)*

*By Josh Dew*



**LADIES!**

**There's still a limited number of open spots for next month's Ladies Retreat, *From Captive to Captivating*. Call or email Stephanie at 859.2662 or [scarroll@mycbc.net](mailto:scarroll@mycbc.net) to register. Check-in will be from 2-4 pm on Friday, the 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

**If anyone is able to give a little extra to help some ladies cover the cost of their registration, it would be greatly appreciated.**

Don't forget to mark January 23 - 25, 2009 on your calendars for an amazing weekend of luxurious accommodations at The Cove. We'd love for you to invite friends and neighbors outside of CBC as well! Community registration info is found on our website [www.mycbc.net/womens-ministries](http://www.mycbc.net/womens-ministries).