

# Is Your Group Too Safe?

## Care Connection

by Adam Workman

Is your group too safe? Before you answer that question, let me explain a bit. I'm sure you've heard people talk about the need for small groups to be "safe places." When we talk about safe groups, we are really speaking of a place where trust is highly valued and doggedly pursued. A place where a person can be who they really are without having to worry that everyone will bail because of it. That's a good kind of safe. But a group that doesn't take risks? That's too safe.

What about a group that week after week sits in a circle answering questions from a study guide but never sees the truth of God's Word violently collide with the life they live? That, my friend, is too safe. A group that doesn't make time to live the curriculum they study? Too safe. A group that chooses to ignore relational conflict rather than engage in the centuries old practice of biblical reconciliation? Too safe. A group that has found what they were looking for, so they close the doors of community? Too safe. A group that would rather talk about the love of Jesus than live the love of Jesus? Too safe. A group where everybody is fine and no one shares their deepest struggles? Again, too safe.

In his book, *Your God Is Too Safe*, Mark Buchanan writes, "The safe god asks nothing of us, gives nothing to us. He never drives us to our knees in hungry, desperate praying and never sets us on our feet in fierce fixed determination. He never makes us bold to dance. The safe god never whispers in our ears anything but greeting card slogans and certainly never asks that we embarrass ourselves by shouting from the rooftops. A safe god inspires neither awe, nor worship, nor sacrifice. A safe god woos us to borderland and keeps us stuck there. He helps us escape reality."

God is not safe, and He hasn't called us to live safe lives of comfort and protection, or to lead groups that would rather talk about community than leverage it to storm the world with the love of Jesus. Take a risk. Be vulnerable. Reach out. Make the kingdom of God tangible to the world around you. Speak the truth. Allow the Word of God to penetrate more than your ears. Let it run wild in your life. Tell your group that you want this to be more than a two hour a week activity. Communicate the desire you have that your group won't stop at changing your lives, but that through it, God might change the world. Do you believe He can? I do. I want my group to be a place that takes risks and launches out of the land of comfort into a place where we are absolutely dependent on God to do big things that only He can do and where we lock arms with each other, and don't let go. How about you?

From [smallgrouptrader.com](http://smallgrouptrader.com)



April 28th, 2010

firstBaptistchurch

# Life group prayer and praise

- **John and Linda Royer** need prayer for a ride to and from Ross Point Camp.
- Please pray for **Elna's mom**, who has had two strokes and is not doing well. Pray for her to either rally or peacefully to meet Jesus. ~ **Elna**
- **Ron Newman's mom** has an infection in her blood and her kidneys are barely working, please pray for her.
- Please pray for **Sara Mae Zell**, she has a compression fracture and is recovering in Mt. Vernon at her friends home.
- Please continue to pray for the pain in my lower back. My son, **Nathan** still needs a fulltime job, please pray that his part-time job can turn into that. ~ **Carolyn Kelly**
- **Rose Toscano** asks that you would please pray for her and her family.
- I have two different infections, (one was cured!), pray that they don't become on going because if they do, surgery would have to be done. ~ **Linda Royer**
- Update: God is good. Just got an update **Kyla Knospe** may be released at 7:30; she had surgery.
- Please remember to pray for our son-in-law **Al Carter** who had a stroke on 3/29/09 and is totally paralyzed. ~ **Lysle and Lois Pickard**

## National Day of Prayer 24 hour Clock

"Prayer is not preparation for the battle. Prayer is the battle." (Oswald Chambers) "Prayer itself is an art which only the Holy Spirit can teach us. Pray for prayer. Pray until you can really pray!" (C.H. Spurgeon) If you would like to sign up to pray, please contact Pastor Brian at 425.259.9166 or bharpell@fbc-everett.org. National Day of Prayer is May 6th at 12:00 noon at the Everett County Courthouse. (30 min. of prayer for our Nation)

12:00 noon First Baptist Church, Margaret Bacon	6:00 First Baptist Church, Eva La Strange	Mullen	6:30 Lost & Found Ministries
12:15 _____	6:15 Pierre FullerBethel Baptist	12:15 _____	6:45 _____
12:30 Bethel Baptist Church - Theresa Schaudies	6:30 Bethel Baptist Church <u>Shirley Whitkanack &amp; Theresa Schaudies</u>	12:30 _____	7:00 _____
12:45 Gail Dow Family, Bethel Baptist	6:45 Lynda Krestinski, Bethel Baptist	12:45 _____	7:15 _____
1:00 Soteria Church	7:00 Word of Truth/Soteria Church	1:00 Lost & Found Ministries	7:30 Lost & Found Ministries
1:15 _____	7:15 Word of Truth	1:15 _____	7:45 _____
1:30 <u>Lost &amp; Found Ministries</u>	7:30 Word of Truth	1:30 _____	8:00 Soteria Church
1:45 _____	7:45 Word of Truth	1:45 _____	8:15 _____
2:00 Bethel Baptist Church <u>Theresa Schaudies</u>	8:00 Word of Truth	2:00 Soteria Church	8:30 Bethel Baptist Church - <u>Theresa Schaudies &amp; Glenna Skegrud</u>
2:15 Sarah Pennington, Bethel Baptist	8:15 Word of Truth	2:15 _____	8:45 Margaret Steen, Bethel Baptist
2:30 Brandy Serl, Bethel Baptist	8:30 Lost & Found Ministries	2:30 <u>Theresa Schaudies, Bethel Baptist</u>	9:00 First Baptist Church, Pam Elkins
2:45 _____	8:45 _____	2:45 _____	9:15 _____
3:00 First Baptist Church, Carol Kelly	9:00 First Baptist Church, Donna Wirt	2:15 _____	9:30 Bethel Baptist Church <u>Dan McKernan &amp; Theresa Schaudies</u>
3:15 _____	9:15 <u>Helen Mock, Bethel Baptist</u>	2:30 _____	9:45 _____
3:30 _____	9:30 Bethel Baptist Church - <u>Rebecca Woods</u>	2:45 _____	10:00 Lost & Found Ministries
3:45 _____	9:45Jana Bendewald, Bethel Baptist	3:00 First Baptist Church, Jeanne Iversen	10:15 First Presbyterian Church of Everett
4:00 Lost & Found Ministries	10:00 Soteria Church	3:15 _____	10:30 Bethel Baptist Church <u>Freda McKernan</u>
4:15 _____	10:15 Ed Baines & Mary Hoppa, Bethel Baptist	3:30 _____	10:45 Sarah Pennington, Bethel Baptist
4:30 Bethel Baptist Church - <u>Mike Bendewald</u>	10:30 Lost & Found Ministries	3:45 _____	11:00 Soteria Church
4:45 Les Lewis& Arna Stolz Bethel Baptist	10:45 _____	4:00 _____	11:15 First Presbyterian Church
5:00 Soteria Church	11:00 _____	4:15 _____	11:30 First Presbyterian Church
5:15 _____	11:15 _____	4:30 _____	11:45Jake Krestinski, Bethel Baptist
5:30 _____	11:30 _____	4:45 _____	12:00 PRAYER at the COURTHOUSE
5:45 _____	11:45 _____	5:00 Soteria Church	
	12:00 (midnight) First Baptist Church , Kit	5:15 _____	
		5:30 Lost & Found Ministries	
		5:45 _____	
		6:00 First Baptist Church Bobbi Backstrom	
		6:15 _____	

## Pray for our Military

- Jonathan Michaels Estrella— son of Sharon Boswell.
- Jason Bjazevich—Megan Owenby's husband— Army Special Forces— Stationed in N. Carolina.
- Joel Ellis—son of John & Midge —Serving in Iraq.
- Scott Harpell—son of Brian & Lynne— Stationed at Fort Carson, CO.
- Aaron Weston—nephew of Ken and Kathy— Stationed in San Diego.
- Eric Schmidt — son of Gene and Pat Schmidt — Camp Fallujah, Iraq.
- Benjamin Lagonia—dear friend of the Naylor family—stationed in Manitoba.
- David Coyle—son of Karen Mark—residing in Seattle, member of the National Guard.
- Adam Flynn—a young Marine safely home and out of military.
- Brett Love—grandson of Wilma—Army National Guard-Serving at home.
- Robin Swartz - Serving in the military - currently home in Everett.
- Christian Chmielewski—nephew of JoAnn Couturie' - in the Marines.
- ENS Andrew E. Timpner (fiancé to Christin Suthard) on deployment with USS Momsen.
- Devin Abbitt—nephew of Paul Abbitt - Marine, stateside.
- Duane Neyens—brother to Kathy Chapman— Nat. Grd. Afghanistan.
- Philip Ankney-LCPL Afghanistan Cousin of Mary-Ann Peterson.
- Jeffrey Lillard—son of Barbara Lillard — Srg. In Army, Stationed in Afghanistan.
- Aaron Chmielewski—joined the Marines. Nephew of JoAnn Couturie
- Shawn Berland—deploying for 6 months

Check out our FBC website @ [www.fbc-everett.org](http://www.fbc-everett.org)

# Life Group Happenings

## All in the Family

by Florence Miller

A big **WELCOME BACK** to our seasonal follow-the-sun travelers, **Fred & Anita Prinzing and Tony & Lois Tysseling**.

Prayer is important right now for **Esther Friesen** and her need for a better environment in different living quarters.

We are sorry to learn of the death of **Annette Kerby, daughter of Jim and Lela Kerby**. She was the youngest (37) of their five children. As Lela said, "one isn't supposed to outlive one's children" and of course they are devastated. No formal memorial is planned. Lela thanks everyone for their kindness.

Did you see the large, Herald color photo of nine year old **Erik Linder** and his dancing partner **Rickie Taylor** as they competed in Blackpool, England? They placed higher than any young competitors of Team USA. Again, Congratulations! Check out the pic in the main hallway display case.

Of interest to the "old timers" of our church is the information that **Helen Ecklund** left to be with the Lord on April 21st. She and **Paul Ecklund** were stalwart, active members for many years.

**Sara Mae Zell** has been released from Bethany and is staying with her friends.

**Eleanor Peterson** Memorial Service will be Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. Baked cookies for the reception would be very much appreciated. Label the cookies and leave them in the kitchen off the Pacific Room. For more information contact Karen Mark at [kheller.Kaess@gmail.com](mailto:kheller.Kaess@gmail.com)

Read this most inspiring email from **Pat Alvarez** about the accident involving **Camp John 3:16's** project engineer, **Joel**. "Last week, our project engineer, Joel, was in a car accident that was quite scary - a wakeup call to many of us! Lou got a call from Joel in the late morning and went immediately to Baca to help him. Here's what happened that day and since: Joel was driving along a city street in Baca and remembers every detail of his very brief drive down that street. The next thing he remembered was opening his eyes to find he had hit a power pole. The pole was laying across the car. At first, he thought he had fallen asleep, but he doesn't believe he had been sleepy. This accident could have been fatal - or much worse than it was. He was not hurt at all! His foot must have hit the accelerator because of the force the car hit the pole with, yet he had been driving very slowly (there are numerous speed bumps on that street).

What could have been a much worse experience has also turned into many praises! Joel said the first thing he noticed (after realizing he'd hit a power pole) was a real peaceful feeling and 2 praise Psalms came to his mind: Psalm 103 and 51. So God prepared him for what would happen next. The state police came to the accident scene, and Joel quickly got in touch with Gama's attorney (the man that has helped Gama find the property and work through the legalities of the land purchase) for advice, but God took care of everything. The attorney first told him to find a way to leave—the state police are feared here. But, Joel believed God was telling him to stay, so he did. Normally, the state police don't ask a lot of questions - they just take you to the big jail in Merida (I think that's probably a horrible place). But these state police talked with Joel and Lou and said they wouldn't do that - that they'd let the Baca police handle this. Joel said they were very kind (very unusual)!

So the Baca police towed his car to their office and told him he'd have to spend the night in their jail (more like an office area) - but didn't say why - it's just the way they do things in Mexico. Given that he had worried about jail in Merida, this was probably not a great threat! Joel and Lou talked with the police for the entire afternoon, telling them about the camp project and what the camp will be used for and answering their many questions. The police finally said Joel could go home if they both promised to return at 9:00 in the morning.

The next day, they returned early and checked in with the police, then went to a larger pueblo to the electric company to pay the bill. We all were concerned with how much it would cost (thinking of the cost of replacing a power pole in the US). It turned out to be \$400 (US)! So Lou and Gama pooled their money and paid for that. When they returned to the police station, the police chief said Joel needed to pay another \$100 (US) but gave no reason why. They had used all the money in their pockets, so the police kept Joel's license until he could pay it. Joel returned yesterday and spent time talking with them again - and witnessed to them! What an opportunity! He then asked what the \$100 fine was for. They couldn't find the right article to charge him with (there really was none), so he said if they would like a gratuity payment of \$50, he was fine with that. They took it and all is ok now. This is amazing! Many people believe (all of us included) that this was a Satanic attack - Satan doesn't want this camp built (and the area around Baca is known for its witches) - so he'll do anything he can to discourage us - or worse. We were anxiously waiting to see how God would glorify Himself through this. And, He has! He protected Joel from injury or worse, gave Joel, Gama, and Lou opportunities to be good character witnesses to the police, and gave Joel an opportunity to share the Gospel with them - and I'm sure there is more glorifying going on that we don't see. The wakeup call is that we need to spend more time praying for the LORD's protection and praising Him for His power and glory!" God bless you all! Pat and Lou Alvarez

Now is the time to register for Ross Point camp. Mark your vacation calendars etc. Questions, feel free to email **Steve Dittoe** at [stevedittoe@verizon.net](mailto:stevedittoe@verizon.net). The cabins and lodges are all full, but you can still take your RV and/or tent. Dates for Ross Point are July 25th thru the 31st.

A Memorial Bench in remembrance of your loved one is being placed at First Baptist Church. Cost for each name is \$40.00 and is available on a first come, first served basis. Please call Debbie Benedetto, or Oma Kiniry for more information. Please make your check out to Debbie/Memorial Bench, you can pick up an application in the Office.

Join us for VBS...As they participate in fun-filled activities, children will learn about God's amazing love and His Word, the Bible! We will have a great time with lively songs, hilarious skits, creative crafts, exciting games, Bible stories and tasty snacks— all of the things that make Vacation Bible School so much fun for children.

**Where: FBC Campus When: June 28<sup>th</sup>-July 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Time: 9am-12:00**

**Who: Kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup> Grade**



# Lifegroup Contributing Opportunities

## Greeters needed

Greeters needed: Carol Kelly is looking for a few good people!  
We have a need for more greeters during the services on Sunday morning. If you would like to help out.

### USHER CAPTAIN 2010:

May— Craig Reisen  
Ron & Kay Olson

### COFFEE HOUR 2010

May 2nd

Bill Erickson  
Clipper Class

May 9th

Tom Warren  
Men of Integrity

May 16th

Deanna Baird  
Life Issues

May 23rd

Lars Linder  
Marriage Builders

May 30th

Alex Tarin  
20-30 Something



April 28th Alycia Washington,  
Michael Kinsman  
April 30th Dee Riddell  
May 1st Lynne Harpell,  
Leona Holttum  
May 2nd Debbie Cooper  
May 3rd Amy St.Clair

Happy Birthday

## Update

## April 25th, 2010

**Adult attendance: 281**

**Children: 9 am: 31 + 13      10:30 am 57 + 20**

**Youth Small Group: 11 + 20      Middle School: 16 + 4**

## S.A.M. Happenings

Days seem to whiz by and it will be May 7th before we know it. That is the date for our next luncheon. I'm sure there will be a full house for the anticipated program. Susie Tucker does storytelling in character and she will be doing "a Visit from Corrie Ten Boom". Sign up with Shirley Schapler at the SAM desk or give her a call.

May 8th is the bus trip to view the Snohomish Vaudeville show. There are a few seats left. The cost is \$8.00 with the bus leaving the parking lot at 1:30. Tickets must be purchased soon so hurry and get your name in!

The 2010/11 dues of \$10.00 are now due. Mary would like everyone to pay by June 1st so she can get going on the handbook. (If no dues are paid; then your name will not be in the handbook)

The book sale is coming up at the June luncheon meeting - that's another month away - so bring any books you've finished reading which you consider good so they can be added to the collection that David says already contain a lot of great new ones.

## V.B.S. Supply List

Here is a list of the supplies that are needed for VBS this year. If you could help in any way, please bring your things into the Office, we will update this list as needed. Thanks!!

- |                                  |  |   |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| • White Poster board (20 pieces) | • Construction Paper (Various colors)  | • Size (100)                              |
| • Crepe paper (5) various color  | • Paper Plates (700)                   | • Five Gallon Buckets (3)                 |
| • Bag of white Rice (10 Bag)     | • Paper Cups (700)                     | • Tarps (3)                               |
| • Paper towel tubes (100)        | • White T-shirts (Various Kid's sizes) | • Skewers (125)                           |
| • Ball of twine (2)              | • Rubber bands (400)                   | • Various gift cards to Winco or Wal-Mart |
| • Elmer's glue                   | • Brown Paper Grocery Bags-Standard    |   |

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