

## Gospel and Community at Work

by Jonathan Dodson

By 2000, forty million American white-collar employees were using the cubicle. What began as a customizable work environment eventually turned into an urban dungeon. Cutting us off from contact with the real world, the cubicle is scorned for suffocating productivity and community. Attempts to correct these individualistic work environments, such as co-working or collaborative workspace, have met with little to moderate success. Does work have to be so isolating?

### Tobacco and Community

In a thoughtful essay on tobacco production in *Sex, Economy, Freedom, & Community*, Wendell Berry lists the benefits of tobacco work. Among them is the practice of “work swapping.” Tobacco, Berry points out, is a very “sociable crop,” one that calls upon the entire community for help in the setting, cutting, stripping, and harvesting of tobacco. He comments:

*At these times, neighbors helped each other in order to bring together the many hands that lightened work. Thus, these times of hardest work were also times of big meals and much talk, storytelling and laughter.*

I suppose that tobacco farmers could have insisted on doing the work alone, but it wouldn't have been near as fun or efficient as swapping work. But there's more merit to work swapping than efficiency. Berry's reflections reverberate with community. Words like neighbor, each other, together, many hands, big meals, storytelling, and laughter seem foreign to the professional workplace, even to contemporary expressions of church. Yet, many of these words and concepts occur frequently in New Testament descriptions of the early church.

### Early Church Community

For example, Acts consistently describes a church that experienced a steady state of Christian community, not just meeting one another on weekends. They devoted themselves to sharing meals, sharing needs, sharing possessions, and sharing a mission (Acts 2:42-47). This radical community was in

response to the gospel of Christ, a community-cultivating message that enriched the surrounding social fabric of Jerusalem (Acts 4:32-37). The gospel promoted community in private and in public, through the ministry of reconciliation. They sought God-centered reconciliation (Acts 2,7,17), ethnic reconciliation between Jews and Gentiles (Acts 10,15), and social reconciliation of the poor, sick, and lame (Acts 3:1-10; 5:12-16). The gospel of reconciliation brought very different people together publicly and privately, renewing Jerusalem socially and spiritually.

### Gospel, Community, & Work

What would it look like to extend the community-cultivating power of the gospel into our cities, into our workplaces, into our churches? How would the workplace change? In the city, when our workload increases, community often declines. We buckle into the cubicle for days, only to emerge a worn-out mess. Berry recounts an increase in community when hard work sets in—more laughter, more meals, and more hands. On the contrary, urban work deadlines often bring about despair, fewer meals, less sleep, and less time at home with the family. Far from enriching community, office work can isolate individuals from coworkers and families. Ironically, Tom Rath has demonstrated that community can increase productivity. In his book *Vital Friends*, Rath points out that people with best friends at work are proven to be seven times more engaged in their job!

It would appear that the city has much to learn from the country. Although some vocations are not as sociable as others, the gospel compels us to work for community and reconciliation. To honor, serve, and love those that are different from us, even the employees that get on our nerves. What if you became an agent of reconciliation and community in your workplace? Company morale and output would likely increase, and so would the glory of God in your life. Perhaps some repentance from go-it-alone work is in order. The rural wisdom of work swapping could take us a long way in cultivating better work, better relationships, and better communities. Wouldn't it be great if Christians led the way?

# Life group prayer and praise

- **Paul Abbitt** asks that we pray for his friends **Brad and Brian** who were in a car accident and need healing.
- **Brooklyn McCormick** needs prayer.
- Please pray for me to deal with neighbors and a neighbor's father who is trying to make me deal with his abusive behavior and language. May my landlord take action since this man is a guest and not a tenant.  
~ **Darcy Stanyo**
- My mother-in-law, **Ramona Anderson**, has been diagnosed with mantle cell lymphoma, Drs. don't give much hope but we have a hope: Romans 5. Please pray for strength and healing. ~ **Ann Anderson**

- **Kathy Chapman's** mother-in-laws husband, **Mel Marcoux** needs prayer for healing for his heart, he is having stents put in on the 15th of June. Please pray for **Kathy's mother-in-law, Jeanne** who has just been diagnosed with lung cancer. She needs to decide what course of action they need to take.
- **John and Linda Royer** need a ride to/from Ross Point .
- 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**
- 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**

**Adult attendance: 263**

**Children: 9 am: 24 + 11      10:30 am 54 + 16**

**Youth Small Group: 11 + 3      Middle School: 10 + 4**

**Congregational Meeting:  
June 27th 9:00 am  
budget reports "It's All About Jesus"  
are ready now in the office**



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. We only have 7 places left, so get your order in now so your loved one won't be missed! 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. **THIS IS THE LAST WEEK TO GET YOURS ORDERED!**

## 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—on US soil, in El Paso, TX then CA.
- 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

**Ron Newman's mother, Shirley Newman**, quietly passed away on Thursday morning, June 3rd. Her graveside service will be on Thursday, June 10th at 11:00 a.m. followed by a memorial service and reception from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Fire Hall in Lake Stevens, 1825 Lake Stevens Road. Our sympathies are extended to Ron and family.

**Esther Friesen** has moved! .

**Dottie Duncan's** memorial service is Sunday afternoon, June 20th at 3:00 p.m.

**Attention Church:** This past May 26, our very own Bill Deller was inducted into the Everett Community College Athletic Hall of Fame. The induction dinner and ceremony took place in the Edward Hansen Conference Center at the Comcast Arena, in front of a 'packed house'. **This is a huge honor and a big deal.** Bill was honored for his years of coaching accomplishments at Everett Junior College. His coaching accomplishments include; Head Swim Coach (he started the men's swim program in 1964), Head Track Coach, and Head Golf Coach (including a State Junior College Golf Championship in 1969). Along with Bill, there were six former EJC athletes, 2 former EJC coaches, and the 1952 EJC football team inducted. A huge congratulations to Bill. He is a very special person that has touched the lives of many many young people in the athletic and academic arena's.

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.

Please bring your family and friends to First Baptist Church for our annual 4th of July Fun In The Sun street fair, 2:00-4:00 pm. It will be held on Wetmore street between Pacific and 32nd. Watch this publication for more information as the time draws near. If you would like to help, please call the church office at 425.259.9166 and they would be glad to sign you up. If you have a canopy that you would let us use, you can bring that into the office anytime, please mark it with your name and phone number so we can return it to you.

## July 4th service is going to be on July 3rd at 6:00 pm.

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

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! !!

- Crepe paper-various colors
- Bag of white Rice (10 Bags) small individual size
- Paper towel tubes (100)
- Ball of twine (2) thin twist
- Elmer's glue—small school size
- Construction Paper (Various colors)
- Paper Plates (700)
- Paper Cups (700)
- White T-shirts (Various Kid's sizes)
- Rubber bands (300)
- Brown Paper Grocery Bags-Standard Size (300)
- Five Gallon Buckets (2)
- Tarps (3) any size
- Wire Coat Hangers (100)
- Various gift cards to Winco or Wal-Mart

## V.B.S. SUPPLY LIST

### USHER CAPTAIN 2010:

June—Darrell Olson  
Marc Owenby

July—Luckey Elkins  
Pete Sontra

### COFFEE HOUR 2010

June 13

Barb Menia  
Women of Purpose

June 20th

Darrell Olson  
Foundation

June 27th

John VanDalen  
The Followers

July 4th—**FUN IN THE SUN**  
CHURCH SERVICE IS  
SATURDAY NIGHT AT 6:00 PM

## Jacob Isaac visiting Everett

Visiting Missionary from India: **Jacob Isaac**, Director of the Christian ministry "Kerygma India" that ministers to urban youth of the 3<sup>rd</sup> most populated city in that country, Bangalore, will be visiting in the Everett area and will be speaking at an informal gathering at the home of **Jake & Lynda Krestinski**. All who are interested are invited to their home on Saturday, June 12 @3:00. Refreshments will be provided. Their address is 1560 S.W. Camano Drive, Camano Island. If you have any questions, please call Jake at 425-971-0717 or their home at 360-387-7917. Whether you attend or not, you're invited to read about this ministry at [www.kerygma.co.in/about.htm](http://www.kerygma.co.in/about.htm).

## WE NEED CANOPIES

## NOW FOR FUN IN THE SUN,

## BRING INTO THE OFFICE

## WITH A LABEL, PLEASE.

## Happy Birthday

- June 10th Mary Smith  
Tom Warren
- June 12th Ron Newman
- June 13th LaNell Jansen  
Kirstin Wojahn
- June 14th Sandy Jodock

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