

Connecting with Dr. "J"

I have been working on restating and rethinking the vision for our church for the past year. I was told by many people (many church experts) that is what I needed to do. I have read books by many different people and I always felt the approach seemed rather empty as it seemed to me that the authors were attempting to make church growth a formula comprised of human centered activity. I read that we (our church) needed to have a vision statement, a mission statement and then out of that comes strategy plans and goals. I could see the good derived from intentionality but it seemed that something was missing. It seemed incomplete. I know that we need to be intentional in what we are doing and I know that we need to plan, but it still seemed too formulaic. I also know that many churches have written vision statements and mission statements and strategy plans but they don't seem to be doing a better job than we are at reaching people. Something seemed incomplete in approaching church growth as simply a strategic plan.

I had an "a ha" moment when reading an article from the Spring 2010 Leadership Journal that seemed to put everything together for me. John Ortberg in the article spoke of how the ministry of the church begins with a vision. A Francis of Assisi or a John Wesley is gripped by a vision that will not let them go. But it is not a vision of what they are going to do. It is not a vision of a preferred future. It is not a vision of human activity. It is a vision of what already is. It is a vision of God, and how good He is, and how wonderful it is to be alive and a friend of such a Being.

Out of this vision flows a desire to do good things for such a God. Once a church body has a sense of God's glory than it can begin to strategize ways of telling others of God's greatness. And sometimes these activities may lead to results that look quite remarkable or impressive. And then other people may

gather, and some decide they would like to be involved in such activities because it might give them a sense of significance. In time people begin to pay more attention to what they are doing than to the reality of God. At this point the mission replaces the vision as the dominant feature in people's consciousness. Once this happens, the failure of the church is inevitable. For now people are living under the tyranny of "Producing Impressive Results".

I have felt the tyranny of "Producing Impressive Results" and have sometimes allowed the enemy to accuse me of being a failure because I am not producing the results of baptisms, new church members, and increased giving that others churches are having. I became inwardly frustrated when goals, numbers and techniques replaced the goodness of God as the most frequent topic of thought and conversation. I have felt the frustration of feeling that I have to constantly motivate and hype and whip up enthusiasm in the church for doing and giving. I have sensed that the lack of joy in doing God's work has come about because I am attempting to do something that only God can do. (Jesus said, "without me you can do nothing.") I can't make the church grow; the Bible informs me that is not my job. My task is to proclaim the glory of God (planting the seeds of the gospel) and it is God's job to cause the growth.

The article continued to state that the number one "vision problem" with churches today is not (as is widely held) leaders who "lack a vision." The real problem is when our primary focus shifts from who God is (a vision that alone can lead to "peace of Christ reigning in our hearts") to what we are doing.

"So what, " you say? What does this mean that we need to do? This means we need to rediscover the beauty of the vision of God. What happens when we do this is that it frees us from the need to perform. I have read that when you are no longer in love with Jesus you need to think again, rediscover, read again about what excited you about

Jesus in the first place. In the next year, I pray that we will rediscover the glory of God. I pray that we will realize what Jesus has done for us. I pray that we allow the Holy Spirit to guide our lives. May the vision of God's greatness consume us!!

When that occurs we will attempt great things for God again.

Pastor Jesse



E.N.D.L.E.S.S.

Youth Ministry

For the past several months, the youth have been studying topics of Apologetics. Our goal was to equip the students to be confident in their faith, and to defend it. In early June, we made the transition out of the study.

You see, Apologetics can only take you so far. There is no denying the value in studying the subject, but head knowledge is only part of the picture. What we're looking for from our students is real, life-changing belief. Belief that can only come through the Holy Spirit.

We'll be going through the book "Forgotten God: Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit" by Francis Chan and asking questions like, "What keeps you from following the Holy Spirit's leading?"

Real, life-changing, world-changing belief can only come about through the movement of the Spirit, and we're going to be challenging our youth to let Him lead their lives. Pray for us as we go through this series, that the Spirit will move in amazing ways and that you will see our youth with a renewed passion for God and his people.

Justin Pressnall

Youth Director



What a glorious week we had with Vacation Bible School!!! I want to thank my wonderful team of teachers and helpers. There were over 30 teachers and helpers (every day) helping to make VBS a success. I had the best group this year. We worked so well as a team. We had an average 85 children each day. We had 3 salvations-Praise God!! And many seeds planted. The children had a penny war (girls vs. boys) and raised over \$700. This money will be sent to India to send 7 children to school. Thank you for your prayers and financial offerings to make this happen.

I just got back from camping with my family. We camped in an area where a lot of controlled burns had taken place. When a controlled burn takes place the base of the trees and the underbrush under the trees are burned. They do this for several different reasons, but one reason is to make the trees healthier and more vibrant and also to make the soil surrounding the trees healthier. (Would you believe under all the gross ash-already beautiful wild flowers are popping up!) As I looked at these trees all weekend I could not help but think about how God does this in our lives too. He allows "controlled burning" to take place in our lives for several different reasons:

1. To burn off all the "YUK" that is in us
2. To make us healthier and more vibrant in the end
3. To allow us to see that beauty will rise from the ashes if we allow HIM to work and move in us and not fight HIM
4. To give HIM the glory for any "good" that has come out of our "controlled burn".

May God be glorified as I continue in the "controlled burn" season of my life! I see some wild flowers on the horizon.

In His name,

Jennifer Myers

Children's Director

Stephen Ministry

Our Stephen Ministers have now completed their 50 hours of intense training to learn how to best be used of God in this wonderful and compassionate ministry of caring for people as they travel through their crises. We will now be relying upon you to inform us of those who are in need of someone to draw along side of and walk with them through their time of crisis.

Here are some of the needs that might typically benefit from a Stephen Minister: bereaved, terminally ill, hospitalized or convalescing, homebound, separated or divorcing, single parents, vocational stresses or loss of job, students living away from home, residents, disabled, spouses in military, survivors of natural disaster, spiritual crisis, dying and their families and friends, etc. The list is almost endless.

However, there are situations which Stephen Ministers are not trained to help. They are: minors, couples, family or other groups, serious mental/emotional disturbances, severe depression, personality disorders, manipulative individuals, abuse issues, suicidal, etc. These are conditions which require professionally trained people to deal with.

So what do you do when you become aware of someone who needs Christ's love and care? The best thing to do is to contact Candy Klatt at 928-778-7152 or visit with her at the Stephen's Ministry Kiosk in the foyer of our Worship Center. She is our Referral Coordinator, who is equipped to make sure that Stephen Ministry is the right kind of care for them,

and then match them with a Stephen Minister.

Please help us, and those you are concerned for, so that this ministry can now begin to provide "Christ Caring For People Through People."

If you feel God is calling you into this wonderful ministry, please stop by the Stephen Ministry Kiosk and speak with one of the fine ladies who will be glad to answer all your questions. Do this soon for our next Training Semester starts on August 9th.

To God Be the Glory!

Wayne Hawley



Harvest Project

Willow Hills Baptist Church will be distributing FREE produce. Harvesting has been delayed a bit due to unseasonal weather conditions, however, we believe that Saturday, July 10th may be our first opportunity to set up and

distribute farm fresh produce. This will all take place each Saturday throughout the summer months from 1-3 PM. We'll set up our "Fresh Produce Stand" in the green belt on Willow Lake Road, just east of the church, across from Willow Lake. Look for the signs!!

We'll need about 3-5 people each week to help customers with their FREE produce. Shade, tables and chairs will be provided.

Please contact the Church Office at 445-5520 to volunteer for a Saturday or two. **What a great family ministry!**





Upcoming Women's Bible Study

Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit By Beth Moore

September 9-November 18, 2010
Workbook Cost: \$16.00

This is a 10-week interactive Bible study of the Fruit of the Spirit,
as presented in the book of Galatians and concentrating on Galatians 5:22-23.
Beth walks participants through each trait listed in the fruit and encourages women
to know the freedom of a Spirit-filled life.

Thursdays 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
(Childcare provided)
Thursdays 6:30 PM-8:30 PM
(No childcare)

For more information or questions call Connie Hanson at 925-7768

About Us...

Willow Hills Baptist Church
1071 Mogollon Road
Prescott, AZ 86301

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM
Phone: 928-445-5520
FAX: 928-778-7382
E-mail:
willowhillsfbc@willowhills.com
Website: www.willowhills.com

Prayer Room: 928-776-8209

**Signing for the Deaf at all
Worship Services and Special Events**

Church Staff

Dr. Jesse Liles, Senior Pastor
jesseliles@willowhills.com
Dan Chandler, 9:30 Worship
DanChandlr@aol.com
Russ Womack, 11:00 Worship
russlesliew@gmail.com
Justin Pressnall, Youth Director
justinpressnall@willowhills.com
Jennifer Myers, Children's Director
jennifermyers@willowhills.com
Alisa Petty, Bookkeeper
alisapetty@willowhills.com
Sherry Shadle, Office Manager
willowhillsfbc@willowhills.com
Cindy Gathe, Receptionist
cindygathe@willowhills.com

Weekly Opportunities:

Sunday:

8:00 AM Early Bird Sunday School
9:30 AM Classic Worship Service
9:30 AM Sunday School All Ages
11:00 AM Contemporary Worship
11:00 AM Adult Sunday School
5:00 PM AWANA Club

Wednesday:

4:30 PM Praise Team Rehearsal
5:15 PM Family Meal
6:00 PM Adult Prayer & Bible Study
6:00 PM Childcare
6:30 PM Kids Choir/Missions
6:30 PM Youth Ministry
6:30 PM Worship Choir Rehearsal