



**WASILLA BIBLE CHURCH**  
CHRIST • SCRIPTURE • PRAYER • AUTHENTICITY • COMMUNITY

**WBC  
NEWS**

**WINTER  
2011**



## 987, 988, 989 ... 1,000

The Scriptures call us to be salt and light in this world. Every circumstance. Every condition.



In the spring of 2009 God pressed that call through a stirring of his Spirit within us. We answered with a prayer - a simple prayer of witness to be prayed for a thousand days. We had no outreach program to implement. No evangelistic campaign to engage. No witness classes to offer. No training groups to launch. We only had a prayer and the commitment to pray that prayer diligently and persistently until it became a part of us. On December 31st of this year the thousand days are done.

**There will be stories to tell.** God has answered that prayer in all sorts of circumstances. The stories are encouraging. They are also, in some cases, very sobering. We have told a few of the stories along the way in the congregation, in small groups, and in personal conversations. There are more to be told.

**There will be questions to answer.** Lots of questions. One of the first: "What will we sing at the end of our services now?" Other questions are more pressing. "What are the actual results of the effort?" "Has the main answer to the prayer already been experienced during the thousand days or is the main answer yet to unfold - after the extended season of prayer has been finished?" "What is our next step?" "Do we keep praying this prayer?" "Is there another 1,000 day project ahead?"

**There will be lessons to be learned.** We need to review what happened and gain wisdom. The military calls it an After Action Review (AAR). I expect that we will see things that went well. I also fully expect that we will see things we could have done better. The first is always encouraging. The second can be convicting. In both, wisdom is gained and that is of great value.

**Most important, there is a God to be heard.** We live in a culture of spin. We spin things up. Just as easily we spin things down. Words are used to accomplish our purposes, protect our positions, and promote our interests rather than to see truth.

The last thing we need to hear is my spin, or any other person's spin, on this project. We need hear, after a thousand days of prayer, the truth with which God answers to both our prayer and the way in which it has been prayed.

We will finish the 1,000 days by giving witness to the reality of Jesus in the celebration of Christmas and the New Year. Then, in the opening weeks of January, we intend to tell the stories, answer the questions, and learn the lessons of the Witness Prayer. Above all we will listen for God's word to us in the debrief process.

That last element is the distinctive dynamic found in serving our living God. He calls. We answer. He responds. We reply. It is the ongoing rhythm of a personal relationship. It takes congregational life beyond the mechanics of project planning, implementation, and evaluation. This is hearing and being heard - in the wonder of living life with God



~Larry Kroon, Senior Pastor

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**AND MORE!**

MAKING DISCIPLES AS WE...

WORSHIP TOGETHER.

LEARN TOGETHER.

SERVE TOGETHER.



## 2012 Adult Ministry Course Line Up

### Core Curriculum:

**Prayer Handbook Training: "Teach us to pray..."** (Luke 11:1) was the request put to Jesus by His disciples. We as disciples of Jesus have the same need to learn how to pray. Our pastoral staff has put together a Prayer Handbook designed for fathers, teachers, small group leaders or any others interested to be able to lead those within your family, class or other sphere of influence through Biblical lessons on prayer. Contact Pastor John at 376-2176 to arrange training.

### Adult Studies:

#### Beginning the week of January 4th

- **Proverbs:** 13 Lessons based on the book of Proverbs.  
Tuesday 6:45-8:30pm WBC-B03 Joe Kirkwood
- **New Testament Study:** In depth study of all the New Testament books. 28 Lessons.  
Wednesday 6:45-8:30pm WBC-B20 Joe Kirkwood
- **Old Testament Study:** In depth study of all the Old Testament books. 24 Lessons.  
Sundays 4-6pm WBC-204 Dan Davis

### Men's Bible Studies:

#### Wednesday Evenings: Resumes January 11th

- **Inductive group Bible Study in the Gospel of John.**  
7-8:30pm WBC-Annex Pastor Kroon

#### Tuesday Mornings: Resumes January 10th

- **Jude:** Interactive inductive group Bible study in the book of Jude.  
8-9:30am WBC-B10 Pastor Stamoolis

#### Tuesday Evening

- **Inductive group Bible Study in the Gospel of John.**  
7-8:30pm WBC-Annex Mark Doner

**Men's Connection:** The men of WBC meet weekly for discussion and prayer and to encourage one another.  
Sundays, 11:15-12:15pm Sports Complex Loren Kroon

### Women's Bible Studies:

#### Tuesday Mornings: Begins January 10th

- **Jude:** The church father Origen wrote that Jude "wrote a letter of a few lines, it is true, but it is filled with the powerful words of heavenly grace." This ancient letter has much to say to us today. Please join this group of WBC women for a rich time of fellowship that is centered on God's Word. We will learn and practice inductive Bible study skills as we explore the book of Jude together.

10-12pm WBC -204 Merry Doner

- **1st and 2nd Corinthians:** The Christians in Corinth not only struggled with the worldly pollution around them but with problems in their personal lives and in their local church. These letters outline for us how applying God's wisdom fulfills our spiritual needs, assists us in living to glorify Him, and keeps us from discouragement.

10-11:30am WBC-B20 Jenetta Hughes

#### Wednesday Evenings: Begins January 11th

- **Jude:** See above description  
7-8:30pm WBC-B04 Merry Doner

### Specialized Studies:

#### Tuesday Evenings: Begins January 17th

- **DivorceCare:** Find help and healing for the hurt of separation and divorce. DivorceCare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences.

6:30-8:30pm WBC-B20 Beth Winter

#### Wednesday Mornings: Resumes January 4th

- **MOPS:** MOPS stands for "mothers of preschoolers" - but don't let that confuse you. MOPS is about meeting the needs of every mom of a child from conception through kindergarten. MOPS reaches out to the community with the love and support of Jesus Christ. MOPS meets the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month.

9:30-11:30am WBC-Gym Sarah Brown

# ADULT MINISTRIES



## Men's Ministries



**W**BC Men's Winter Retreat: Mark your calendars for February 10, 11, 12 for the 2012 Men's Retreat at Camp Challenge, Wasilla. We will be meeting from Friday evening through Sunday morning. You can look forward to challenging words from Mr. Keith Lauwers\*; a coach, missionary, pastor, and motivational speaker. Plan on joining the ice fishing derby and fish fry (depending on the success of the derby....) Get connected. Some men are currently building hundreds of rounds of ammunition so you can have fun at the range. Look for details in the coming weeks, but set the time aside now and plan on attending. You will be glad you did.

★ Keith was born in British Columbia. He attended the University of B.C. for his teaching credentials. Keith then entered Theological Training after teaching school for two years. He was called to pastor his first church in Vancouver B.C. In 1967 he brought his family to Anchorage to pastor Sand Lake Baptist for 10 years. In 1977 Keith was called to be Executive Director and re-establish Anchorage Youth For Christ. In 1987 he returned to a pastoral ministry in B.C. after 20 years in Alaska.

In 1993 Keith and Lillian returned to Alaska to serve as Pastor to Missionaries with InterAct Ministries. In 1999 Keith was called to serve as an Associate Pastor at Grace Community Church, now known as ChangePoint. Keith has had wide community involvement over the years serving on the Governors and Mayors Prayer Breakfast Committee, the board of the Dome, chaplain with the Anchorage Fire Department, and pastoral counseling. In 2005 Keith retired from full time ministry and presently volunteers for the Church of Anchorage and does some counseling.

Keith has been married to his wife Lillian for 53 years and has been blessed with two married sons and two married daughters who have given them 12 grandchildren. They all live in Anchorage where Keith and Lillian enjoy watching their many sports activities and other pursuits.

Keith has been in awe of God's faithfulness, protection, and provision over the years and counts it a privilege to share with God's people.

## Women's Ministries

**P**risilla Shirer's Bible Study, called "SEED", was a sweet time to spend in fellowship with about 30 women. We all appreciated Priscilla's short videos in which she shared God's Word in real life lessons. God worked in each of our lives as we learned a new Bible Study method and focused on applying one verse to our daily lives. Priscilla stated it perfectly, **"We want to plant a SEED in your heart and then encourage you to allow God's Word and God's Spirit to water that seed... so that Scripture will leap off the page and matter to the personal details of your everyday life."**

Here are a few soundings from some of the ladies who joined us in this Fall's study:

"I'll share a short n sweet quote from Priscilla of which I'm STILL reminded in my day to day thoughts. 'God always speaks to be obeyed.' That always puts into perspective how I am to behave / approach a situation that I am unsure of. I ask myself; What is God saying in this given situation? It's then that I go to the word and gain clarity and truth which allows me to silence the static Satan uses to blurr Gods perfect answer(s)."

~Jami Postishek

"The thing that stuck with me the most was Gideon and his army of 300. Just like that army was not enough to accomplish what God was calling them to, I am not enough to accomplish the things God calls me to and that is just how He wants it. Then it is clear that it is He who is doing the work not me. Only in Him are the things He asks us to do possible."

~Carly Geagel

"We need to put on our spiritual armor and gear up to battle the enemy's two favorite intruders: Fear and Intimidation. Send them packing and refuse to let them back in. There are new guests to entertain: Competence and Adequacy. They come directly from God's Spirit. (2 Cor. 3:5-6)"

~Amanda Bacon

"The time she was on a run and a couple of birds attacked her, but she finds a stick and swings it over her head the next time around. I thought that was a great example of needing armor, too."

~Chrissy Cornelius

# YOUTH MINISTRIES



## Youth Leader Spotlight



**C**hristine O'Connor is one of our volunteers and works with the eighth grade girls. We have enjoyed working with her and getting to know her and we think that you should get to know her too. So we recently asked her some questions about her experience with youth ministry.

### How long have you been attending WBC?

Almost 5 years.

### What got you interested in getting involved with youth ministry?

My kids' teen years were some of my favorite times as a parent so I thought I would be able to encourage teens. I had seen how much wonderful mentoring my son had gotten through participation in Youth Group and I wanted to share that Grace with other kids. I really felt God's prompting to reach out to teens.

### What has been your favorite part of working with teens?

They are smart and funny and not afraid to dive into God's Word and ask the good questions. They pray with assurance, lifting each other up to God.

### What has been the biggest challenge?

Playing games! Being a natural bookworm and NOT a terribly coordinated person has not suited me to games. :- ) I'm so happy that my co-leader, Kathy, is an enthusiastic game player!

### How have you seen God at work lately (at youth group or in your own life)?

Our group is growing in Christian fellowship as we spend time in God's Word and praying for each other. I am blessed each week by spending time with them.

### Which middle school game are you most grateful we didn't make you participate in?

I skip most of them! But I love going to H2Oasis with the kids and am really looking forward to that again this year.

~Christine O'Connor, Youth Leader

## STUDENT CALENDAR

### High School (Crossfire)

December 21 & 28- No Youth Group  
January 8- S.A.L.T. 2nd Semester Start-up  
January 27 & 28- Boys Retreat  
March 14- No Youth Group  
March 25- Chili Cookoff  
May 12- Bondservant Workday  
May 19- Bondservant Workday  
May 23- Youth Group Ends  
May 26- Bondservant Workday  
June 2- Bondservant Workday

### Middle School (Crosswalk)

December 25- No Sunday School  
December 20 & 27- No Youth Group  
January 1- No Sunday School  
February 3- Boys Nerf Night  
February 9- Father Daughter Banquet  
March 3- H2Oasis  
March 13- No Youth Group  
May 20- Sunday School Ends  
May 22- Youth Group Ends

## WEEKLY YOUTH SCHEDULE

High School Youth Group (Crossfire)  
Wednesday Nights  
7:00pm - 8:30pm,  
Rm 204

Middle School Youth Group (Crosswalk)  
Tuesday Nights  
7:00pm - 8:00pm Gym

Middle School Sunday School  
11:15am - 12:15pm RM 204

# YOUTH MINISTRIES



## High School Fall Retreat & Middle School November Fest. 2011





## Song Story: Prayer for Witness



I remember the meeting well. It was a little over 1000 days ago. Larry had been talking about an upcoming congregational project called 1000 Days of Witness. I didn't know what he and the elders had in mind regarding this project, but I was hoping to find out as I climbed the stairs and headed for his office. Personally, I had been thinking, **"Wouldn't it be great if as a church we prayed the prayer Acts 4 for 1000 days? Just think of what God would do!"** Retrospectively, I can see how God prepared me for what He had planned for us, although I was completely unprepared for the form it would take.

When I sat down in Larry's office, he proceeded to talk to me about how it would be a prayer project. We would pray Acts 4 for 1000 days and that we would do so through a song that I would write.

**"That's great! Pray Acts 4 for 1000 days, that's what I had been thinking...only I was thinking verse cards or something,"** I stammered.

Larry talked up the song idea. It is a way that we can easily pray together. It is also an easy way to carry the prayer with us and pray individually. I eventually was convinced that a song was the way to go, but I was very nervous about writing it. I started to run through the different parameters into which it would have to fit. Our conversation went something like this:

**Joel: So let me see. The song needs to be short and concise, but also articulate the heart of the Acts 4 prayer. It needs to be a melody that works a cappella. It needs to be an interesting enough melody that we can sing it for 1000 days, but also easy enough that we can learn it quickly and you can lead it comfortably. And it needs to be ready by Palm Sunday.**

Larry: Yep.

Joel: Pray for me.

And Larry did, right then and there, and the elders also prayed, and my wife prayed, and the staff prayed. And God answered, though not instantly. I enjoyed some amusing trial and error. Since I knew that Larry was comfortable leading "The Lord Bless Thee", I wrote a few minor call and response melodies, but they didn't work well with the text and sounded like very poor imitations of "The Lord Bless Thee."

Then I started working on a short simple chorus with melodies like "I Love You, Lord" and "Sanctuary" as models. I remember pacing around the sanctuary trying out different lyrical and musical ideas, then calling Naomi and singing for her the different options.

Literally, I wanted to articulate the basic prayer from Acts 4 for confidence to speak (v29), requesting that God extend His hand and confirm our words (v30) and acknowledging the role of the Holy Spirit (v31). I also wanted to use the term witness, since the project was called 1000 Days of Witness. Unlike some of those praying in Acts 4, we have not witnessed Jesus face to face. However, like the believers in Acts 4, we have certainly come to know Him; we are witnesses of the truth and grace of Jesus. So I went to John 1:14: **"we have seen His glory...full of grace and truth"**. Eventually, I had a draft that I brought to Larry. He suggested I change the order of the words in the first line from "Give us confidence in every circumstance" to "In every circumstance, give us confidence", and the prayer song was set.



I am very grateful for the prayer song that God gave us. I don't think of the "Prayer for Witness" as a song that I gave shape to, but as a song that has shaped me. This prayer has been life-changing for me. It has affected the way I approach any given circumstance. It has given me direction when praying about various situations and for others facing various situations. As the 1000 days comes to a close, I am grateful for the many ways that God has been answering our prayer, answers that I couldn't have imagined as we set out on this project. And now, having laid a prayer base as a congregation for 1000 days, I am also very excited about the answers yet to come. **"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."** (Ephesians 3:20-21)



~Joel Stamooolis, Worship Pastor



## WORSHIP LEADER PROFILE: : Dale Tumey



### What instruments do you play?

Flute, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, Irish whistles, piano, electric bass.

**How long have you served in the worship ministry at WBC?** Since sometime around 1994 or 1995. I don't remember for sure.

### What are some of your favorite

**worship songs?** It's hard to know where to start! Here are just a few, in no particular order and the list does change slightly from day to day, but, let's start with some hymns: "It Is Well With My Soul", "Just a Closer Walk", "How Great Thou Art", "Be Thou My Vision".... Okay, I could go on and on...and some praise and worship: "How Can I Keep From Singing", "Amazing Love", "One Pure and Holy Passion", "In Christ Alone", "Days of Elijah", "I Love You, Lord", "Waiting Here For You", "Revelation Song", and of course, any "Joel song"....

**What is your favorite verse related to worship and why?** Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Why? Because I need to work on doing/living this every day.

**What do you enjoy most about leading worship?** When the congregation is "getting into" singing.

**What is the biggest lesson you have learned through leading worship?** That there is truth in the old saying "The Lord works in mysterious ways"....



### Tell us about a time you've been able to give witness to non-believers through playing worship music.

A few years ago, I played in a prison in Mexico with the "Good News Blues" (Paul and Karen Schindler, Jeff and Diana Morgan and my wife Kathy and I, were doing a music tour in Arizona and Mexico of various churches and prisons). Playing at this Mexican prison was a surreal experience. This was not a church service. With prison guards standing around with shotguns or machine guns on hips, guard towers and barbed wire silhouetted against the blue sky, it seemed more like a cheap movie set. The whole prison population came out to hear us. These men were hardened criminals. We knew that most had come to hear us simply because they were starved to see or hear anything from outside the walls. We prayed that some word or phrase from the music might be planted in a heart or that someone might be encouraged to follow after God. We may never know what we may have planted that day, but we definitely felt God was using us for His purpose.

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES CONT.



## Growing in God's Word

*"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

*John 1:14*

A couple of weeks ago, Wendy Golter and I had the privilege of teaching a much-anticipated Sunday School lesson to our first through third graders. For 13 weeks, we have walked through the Old Testament exploring our desperate need for a savior to come and fix our biggest problem: our sinful hearts. On November 20th, with the approach of the Advent season, it was such a pleasure to joyfully announce that Jesus, our promised Savior, God with us, had come. The rest of this school year, we will walk through the Gospels getting to know Jesus and the wonder of who He is and what He came to do for us. It is my prayer that our kids will be gripped by that awe from one week to the next as they come to Sunday school.

Our fourth and fifth graders have been getting to know Jesus in a different way: through the avenue of prayer. This semester, they have been learning about prayer; how to pray and why we pray. Using the Lord's Prayer as an outline, the kids explored what heart attitudes please God and how to trust Him with all their concerns as they pray. This next semester, I am really excited that the children will begin learning about how to read and study their Bibles in a deeper way. They will learn about the inductive Bible study method. This method is a way to slow down and really think about what you are reading in God's Word and gain deeper comprehension. Pray that our kids will get caught up in the adventure of studying God's word.

In GrowZone, our preschool families said goodbye to our coordinator, Kristy Hales, who is now teaching in our school district. Thank you, Kristy, for all your great work and friendly ways. We will miss you! Thankfully for us, we are enjoying the company of an old friend as an interim GrowZone coordinator: Juli Buzby. We are grateful for her stepping in at this time. Be sure and get acquainted with Juli as you pass through downstairs.



~Linda Anderson, Children's Ministry Director



### Girls Grades 3 – 5: Don't miss God's Girls Getaway January 14<sup>th</sup>!

- ❖ Bring your mom (or mom stand-in) for a retreat-style day together.
- ❖ It will be at WBC, downstairs from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- ❖ Cost: \$35 per mom/daughter couple & \$15 for each additional daughter
- ❖ RSVP Mandy Lund by Dec 20th @ 373-0124 or email @ [mlund@mtaonline.net](mailto:mlund@mtaonline.net)

# SUPPORT MINISTRIES



## Stephen Ministry

**W**e wanted to take this opportunity to answer a couple of basic questions about Stephen Ministry.

### What exactly is Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Ministry is a ministry in our congregation in which trained and supervised lay persons, called Stephen Ministers, provide one-to-one Christian care to individuals facing life challenges or difficulties.

### Who is involved?

Stephen Leaders are the ones who oversee and direct our Stephen Ministry. Stephen Leaders receive their training at a week-long conference out of state. They recruit, select, train, organize, and supervise our Stephen Ministers, identify people in need of care, and match them with a Stephen Minister. We currently have two Stephen Leaders and a third one will attend a training conference in January.



**Stephen Ministers are the caregivers.** They have engaged in 50 hours of training in Christian caregiving, including general topics such as listening, feelings, boundaries, assertiveness, and using Christian resources in caregiving. In addition, their training covered specialized topics such as ministering to the divorced, hospitalized, bereaved, and aging. We currently have eleven active Stephen Ministers.

**Care Receivers are the recipients of Stephen Minister's care.** They are people from our church or community who are experiencing divorce, grief, loss of a job, loneliness, hospitalization, terminal illness, or any number of other life difficulties. Stephen Ministers usually meet with their care receivers once a week for about an hour for as long as the care receiver will benefit by the relationship.

**W**e are entering our 6th year of Stephen Ministry in our church. We have trained 24 people to be Stephen Ministers. Dozens of people have had God's grace extended to them in their time of need through this relatively unseen and confidential ministry.

It is our desire to start a 4th training class for new Stephen Ministers in the latter part of January. If you feel God leading you to be a part of this rich and rewarding ministry please contact Pastor Jim for details at 376-2176.



~Jim Eller, Contact Pastor

# RESOURCE



## The Race Set Before Us

A major highlight over the past months has been finishing a commitment to pay off all church debt. This commitment has been on my plate from the day I first sat down at my desk. The two major elements of Wasilla Bible Church's financial resource allocation have been; first, a fully funded and supported ministry and second, whatever the Lord blessed us with above a fully funded and supported ministry would be prioritized to debt retirement. This has been a long commitment of the church and now we stop to thank our Lord for his blessing of provision in bringing us to this point.



I am excited now looking forward. The Lord has brought us to this point in preparation for his plan. Although there is much planning, scheduling, maintaining, budgeting, meetings, approving happening now and to come... I grip the truth of Hebrews 12:1-2: ***“Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith...”*** I rejoice in the blessing of God's faithful provision to his church. I also look forward to the race marked out for us.



Moving forward the logical question I get is “what's next?”. Just as the text above states, my commitment to answering this question is to continue to point to Jesus and the ministry He has called us to. Ultimately our success is not in the next big project. Although a big project can be physically exciting and gripable, it is not our goal. Our investments are unseen. Our treasure is built up in heaven. In light of this, our earthly resources are best used in the direct support of the ministry of making our Lords name known.

It is with great commitment that we pray that our resources would best be used in full support of ministry. So you ask again “what's next?” My answer is let us fix our eyes on Jesus and with endurance run the race that is set before us, in every circumstance give us confidence to speak His word as the Spirit Leads, giving witness to the one with power to save Jesus Christ full of truth and grace. I partner with you in pointing to our God, with all our resources to best make his name know. With His word as a lamp unto our feet we must continue to **PRAY** that the Lord provide **direction, discipline, and diligence** in the use of all our resources to best make His name know.



~Jake Davies, Resource Manager