



January 2010

Volume 4, Issue 1



Giving Greater by Pastor Casey Ingold

It's hard to believe ... I mean really hard to believe that it's been a decade since Y2K! But I have to say, I am even more excited about this next decade because I believe it will be the most significant spiritual decade of my life and in the life of our church family. Together we agreed to make some really significant changes this past year that will definitely impact our future. We have agreed to be single mindedly obedient to the Great Commission as we pour all our resources into helping hundreds become fully developing followers of Christ, including those already in our midst. We restructured our church leadership model in order to do that more efficiently and effectively. You were brave and let go of any loyalty except to Christ in order to make that change. God was honored by your devotion and courage.

We have a lot to implement and we will have set backs and make mistakes but if we are driven by the vision of helping friends and neighbors become fully developing Christ followers, we will never stop moving forward.

One thing remains heavy on my heart. We have yet to match our verbal declaration of faith with the financial faith it will take to actually see all of this come to pass. I know it's hard right now for some in our congregation. However, I believe that giving greatly to this mission of making disciples is vital. It's going to take more time, more people, more energy and yes, more money to do it well.

When you give, here are some ways the money is being used to directly empower the mission and not to just keep the lights on:

Leadership Development: One key reason churches stop growing is because they don't have enough leaders.

Leading entire families to live revolutionary lives for Christ

We will be doing five outreach events in 2010 designed to help build relationships and serve our community -- much like the Thanksgiving Meals and Sitting for Santa.

We need a part-time youth pastor to invest in and lead our students to build community and reach out into their schools.

We need to pour more resources into our children's ministry if we are going to reach families.

We are increasing our missions giving to Kansas Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists and to Kaw Valley Association of Southern Baptists. These agencies use our funds to support missions here and around the world.

We give monthly to the Topeka Rescue Mission -- a powerful ministry reaching the less fortunate in Topeka.

We give monthly to support Casa De La Gracia, a Hispanic church start on California Avenue targeting first-generation Hispanics.

I know it's hard to take on an expense that you are not used to having. You don't have to go from giving \$10 to giving \$500 a month in a week. You can make a plan to increase your giving incrementally. Start by giving what you would consider to be step of faith for you and your family. Then grow from there toward becoming a truly generous steward of the finances God has entrusted you with.

It isn't always easy give generously, but it is always worth it. God is incredibly

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Pastor Casey's sermons may be heard online at www.cbctopeka.com. Click on "Audio Sermons," then choose the sermon you would like to hear.

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Out With the Old by Sam Gonzales

Every year we set goals to lose weight, exercise more or chase other New Year's resolutions. This year I would like to challenge you to lighten your load and drop all that baggage we have been known to pick up along the way. Odds are just this morning somewhere between getting out of bed and leaving your house, you stepped over to the baggage carousel and loaded up without thinking. Do you think God likes you lugging around a load of guilt, fear and/or shame for your daily journey? There are many others we could add to the list, but you get the idea.

For the sake of those you care for, learn to set the bags down. For the sake of the God we serve, do the same; He wants to use you.



Exhausted men have a hard time answering God's call. Lightening your load will give you time to pray. Pray for spiritual wisdom. In Ephesians 1:15-23, Paul prays that God will reveal to his readers the riches of their inheritance: hope, calling, glory and power. Then he reminds them, they are Christ's body. Power influence and confidence all come from a strong sense of identity.

If we let Him, God will lighten your load. When we are secure in our identity, God becomes our baggage handler.

You will find the stress leave you as you gain freedom and an ability to see others around you who are carrying loads they could use some help with.

Calendar of Events:

Men's Bible Studies:

Wednesdays 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
@ Covenant Rm 124

Thursdays 6 - 7 a.m.
@ HyVee

Jan. 12, 7 p.m. Men's Basketball
@ the SW YMCA, 3635 SW Chelsea Dr.

Jan. 21, 7 p.m. Men's Basketball
@ the SW YMCA, 3635 SW Chelsea Dr.

Feb. 6, 8 a.m. Men's Breakfast @ Covenant. The Women's Ministry Team will be serving us.

For more information about Iron Man Ministries or how to get involved, please contact Sam Gonzales at 785-640-4232 or Todd Fischer at 785-640-4023.

Organized and Prepared for 2010

by Mike Reber

Life Groups, the core ministry at Covenant Baptist Church, will be seeing new and better things in 2010. My goals and prayers, under the leadership of our pastor, will focus on organization and preparation in our Life Group ministry this year. Leaders of Life Groups should have received a new form to use when reporting group attendance and activities. This is going to be a tremendous tool as we aspire to measure effectiveness and growth of the ministry. Numbers often reveal patterns and understanding patterns can help leadership understand outcomes and aim at improvement.

The church staff is currently working to arrive at an extensive Church Calendar for 2010. Think of all the things we have done as Life Groups this past year in the mission field and in ministry to the church. Often times a very few weeks or

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Life Groups at Covenant

Sunday

- ◆ 5:00 p.m. Ingold's Group, 2533 SW Windslow Court: 12 adults, 10 children/youth (1 year & up)
- ◆ 4:30 p.m. Garrett's Group, 822 SW Jewell: 10 adults, 10 children/youth (4 years & up)
- ◆ 6:30 p.m. Dale's Group, 1825 SW Crest Dr.: 6 adults, 2 children (0-2 years)
- ◆ 6:30 p.m. Thompson's Group, 3735 SW Cobblestone Pl.: 5 adults, 3 children (11-12 years)
- ◆ 6:30 p.m. Morgan's Group, 2744 SE Scorpio Dr.: 5 adults, 4 children/youth (7 years & up)
- ◆ 10:00 p.m. College & Career Group, Washburn University, LLC.: 8 recent HS grads – mid 20's

Monday

- ◆ 7:00 p.m. Litscher's Group, 2626 SE Virginia: 9 adults

Tuesday

- ◆ 6:45 p.m. Stark's Group, 3625 SW Cambridge: 11 adults

Thursday

- ◆ 6:30 p.m. Watts' Group, 5613 Foxcroft Circle N: 9 adults

Friday

- ◆ 7:00 p.m. Conny's Group, 8750 SE Berryton Rd.: 13 adults, 6 children/youth (10 yrs & up)

Saturday

- ◆ 6:00 p.m. Schmutzler's Group, 634 SW Webster: 7 adults, 11 children/youth (2 years & up)
- ◆ Lilley's Group, 5832 SW Clarion Lane: 4 adults, two middle school/youth

Praying for a Supernatural Year by Belinda Gonzales



FAITH LIFT

Another year is gone and with the New Year comes new hope. As I was sitting and thinking of my hopes and resolutions for the

New Year, I was reminded of a class I sat in not too long ago. I pulled out my notes and realized there laid all my dreams for 2010. I wanted to share these with you. I pray that you may see something in these notes that will inspire a new resolution, a new hope, or a characteristic of God that you had forgotten.

Read Mark 1:21-45 and pray that God will give you:

Supernatural Ability – Read II Cor. 3:5-6. God will give you supernatural ability to handle any task at hand. It is through our weaknesses that we see God’s greatness.

Supernatural Authority – (vs. 22) Pray that in your role as a mother, teacher, leader, coworker, your words are not just a story, a prayer, advice but that they are a message from God. We need power! Only God’s authority can change a life. Do you believe

Giving Greater (Continued from page 1)

faithful. I know you know and believe that. I want to challenge you to be a part of this mission to invade and impact the darkness of our culture at a brand new level. I am asking our entire congregation to Give Greater in 2010. Money should never be the reason we don’t join God.

I know these kinds of articles will rub some people the wrong way. I am not driven by bigger and better. I am driven by the mission of leading people to become fully developing Christ followers. I’m certain this call to Give Greater needs to go out. I make no apologies for that. We are in this together and if we don’t all Give Greater we will be stuck doing what we have always done and getting the same results. None of us wants that or we wouldn’t have voted the way we voted in August. Join me and my family as we all Give Greater in 2010.

that there are supernatural forces working against us?

Read II Corinthians 4.

Supernatural Vision – (vs. 23-25) In these verses, Jesus does not address the man, but the problem. Ask God to help you see the real problem. Ask Him to help you see what’s on the inside of someone. Verse 28 says “and immediately the news about Him went out everywhere.” If we pray continually for God’s supernatural ability, authority and vision, the news will go out everywhere. Our prayer will be “Lord help us to make “your” name great; not our ministry, not our church – You Lord!”

Supernatural Energy – (vs. 29-33) After a full day of ministry, Jesus was confronted with more. Remember, He was fully human. Jesus got tired. Jesus felt pulled from every direction. We as women can relate. When I read verse 33, I had to laugh. Have you ever felt like the whole world was waiting outside your door?

Supernatural Priorities – (vs. 35) After a very exhausting day, Jesus still got up early to go to be alone with His father.

Supernatural Focus – (vs. 36-38) People with good intentions, excellent ministries and serious problems were clamoring for Him; but He knew His Father’s plans. Read John 5:19 – If the Father ain’t doing it; I ain’t doing it. Maybe this year you need to reevaluate where your time and energy is being spent. Did you volunteer for something with good intentions, but know that is not where God wants you? When you

say “no” to someone you are freeing up that position for the person God intended to be in charge.

Supernatural Compassion – (vs. 39-41) Pray that God will help you to see others individually. We have to have compassion to work for others. Strive this year to serve others “in secret” with no thoughts of praise from others.

Supernatural Humility – (vs. 44) “...Say nothing to anyone.” Lord help us to not be eager to be celebrated, recognized or applauded. Do you remember John the Baptist? He had an amazing ministry. He had many followers. But on the day that Jesus approached him, he stopped and said, “Behold the Lamb of God.” John’s followers left him and followed Jesus. It wasn’t about John, but about his Savior.

Thank You

*Dear Carol Roberts and
Covenant Baptist Church,*

Christian Challenge at Washburn University would like to thank you all for the wonderful meal you provided for us a few weeks ago. It was delicious and greatly appreciated. The soups were fantastic!

Thank you so much!

Christian Challenge

With Gratitude

*Thanks for everything.
Your thoughtfulness was amazing.
Our Thanksgiving was great. Thank
you so much.
Dean & Linda Kisner Family*

Thank You

Your thoughtfulness was a blessing. Thank you so much for the Thanksgiving Dinner!

Lisa Kisner & Family

Music Notes by Renita Conny

I no longer come up with a list of New Year's resolutions. For the past few years I have been creating a yearly motto and related scripture that I memorize and live my life by during that year.

This year, I really need to focus on Jesus. I really need to trust Him. I need to focus more on God and less on myself. My heart's desire and prayer is that not just in my personal life, but as I lead this ministry team this year, I will not only be able to focus on Him, but to lead others to do the same. My motto will be "Focus on HIM in 2010!" Hebrews 10:22 says "Let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting Him."

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The youth, along with Wally Roberts and the adult tech team, are always a blessing when they serve in the worship service. As they served on Dec. 13, we were able to praise the Lord for their humble spirits.

Yearly Countdown by Mandy Gosney

I can hardly believe it is 2010! Seems like only yesterday we were canning meat and safeguarding our computers against the Y2K scare. The years truly fly by so quickly, which is why it is important we take the opportunity to teach our children about Jesus while they are young and so eager to learn.

According to the ReThink group, from the time a child is born until they finish high school, we have 940 weekends with them. Once they are in kindergarten that number drops to 637, third grade, 468 and by fifth grade, we only have 364 weekends left.

Although the numbers are high and at first glance it appears we have a lot of weekends to spend with our children, one can see how quickly the numbers drop. I am sure any parent of older children can tell you how precious this time with little

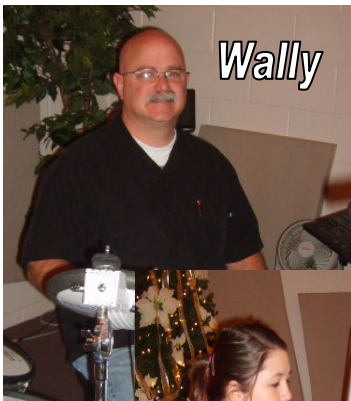
ones is and how it goes by in a blink of an eye.

We all want our children to know Jesus and pray for them on a daily basis. But I believe we need to take the opportunity to teach our children daily about our God. We can sit down with them and read God's word, pray with them, or let them know why Jesus is so important to us and what He has done for us.

There are many other ways we can teach our children about God. Find what works best for you and go for it! There is no time like the present to really let Christ influence your child's life and in the process, influence you.

Mandy Gosney,
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Wally



Daniel



Joshua



Johnny



Kelsey

12-13-09 Youth Team



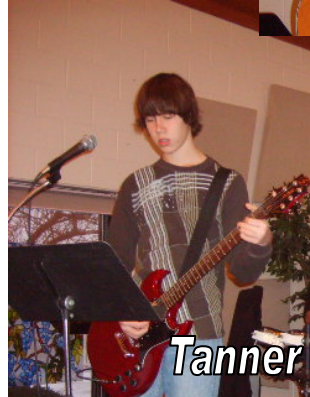
Zack



Sarah



Carlea



Tanner



Megan

January 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 New Year's Day Covenant Office Closed	2
3 Communion	4	5 9:15 a.m. MOPS	6 Wednesday Night Activities Resume	7 6:30 p.m. 1st Session DivorceCare, DC4K and DC Maturity Class	8	9
10	11	12 6 p.m. Iron Men Basketball Fellowship, SW YMCA	13 7:30 p.m. Faith Lift Team Meeting	14 7 p.m. Finance Team Meeting	15	16
17 6 p.m. Induction Service for New Covenant Board	18 Martin Luther King Day	19 9:15 a.m. MOPS 6:30 p.m. Deacons Meeting	20	21 6:30 p.m. Ladies Bible Study 6 p.m. Iron Men Basketball, SW YMCA	22	23
24	25	26 9 a.m. MOPS Steering Mtg.	27	28	29	30
31					Mark your calendars: The 2010 Super Bowl party will be Sunday, Feb. 7 at Covenant. Invite your friends and neighbors.	

Weekly Events at Covenant Baptist Church:

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study for all ages
10:45 a.m. Worship Service

Wednesday: 5:15-5:45 p.m. Wednesday Night Eats
6:15 p.m. Adult Prayer Meeting

6 p.m. **2.52 Youth** Activities (7-12 grades)

6 p.m. Music Team Practice

6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study

Thursday: 6 a.m. Men's Bible Study at HyVee

6:30 p.m. DivorceCare DC4K (6-13 years)

Childcare (0-5 years)

6:30 p.m. Ladies Bible Study (starting Jan.21 Jennifer Rothschild's "Lessons I Learned in the Dark")



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Leading entire families to live revolutionary lives for Christ



DivorceCare is an ongoing ministry of Covenant. It is designed for people to join us at anytime within the 13-week sessions.

The next session will start Jan. 7.

When: Thursdays, 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Where: Covenant Baptist Church, 5440 SW 37th St., Topeka

Contact: Covenant office at 273-2811

Cost: \$15 for DivorceCare and \$12 for DC4K which includes the workbook (or \$1 per week, if necessary.)

DC4K for children ages 6-13 years of age and free childcare for children 0 - 5 years of age. All children 6-13 will be enrolled in DC4K, not childcare.

Reservations are required for DC4K and childcare. This information helps us plan and provide the best care for your child.

Music Notes *(Continued from page 4)*



Calendar of Events

January:

Jan. 15-16: Worship Leaders retreat in Kansas City. I look forward to these retreats yearly as I always return with fresh ideas in leading worship. It is a time for meeting and talking with others in the same field, spiritual revival, and finding new and innovative to help the body worship together.



February:

Feb. 13 at 6 p.m. Youth Talent show for 30 Hour Famine. Plan now to support world hunger.



March:

March 5-6: Youth Worship Arts Camp in Salina. This event is a training session for youth who want to express themselves in the worship and arts area in the church. There are a variety of sessions including praise band, praise team, instruments, sometimes dance, photography, banners and tech team.

2010 Life Groups *(Continued from page 2)*

even days have been all the planning time available to the task. All year long we will strive to be aware of the calendar and upcoming opportunities to serve so we can better prepare.

I have a goal to visit each life group during the first quarter of the year, in order to hear from each individual regarding what they are experiencing, what is working and what they are still hoping for. I will also be available to give groups direction on opportunities to do ministry together. Life Group Leaders will see a schedule of at least six leadership meetings to take place throughout the year. These will be organizational and training opportunities. In addition, I hope to spend a lot more

face time with leaders individually to ensure clear communication and to offer encouragement and support

I hope you and your life groups are all planning on being at the Super Bowl party this year. Don't forget to bring a friend who doesn't know Christ. Speaking of which, is everybody tweaking chili recipes? I am not judging this year because I plan to throw my own hat in the ring of competition.

*Mike Reber
 Property and Grounds & Life Groups
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