

ASM Connection

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PASTORS' CORNER



Can you believe that summer is already over? If your life is anything like ours the last three months have been a blur of camps, vacations and missions trips. But it is now time to get back into our normal (if that can ever happen) routine. For us in Student Ministries that means back to the weekly programs that we all love so much. We know for most of you - Sunday morning and Wednesday evenings have a special place in your week. These programs are a time to connect with all of your friends, relax from the stress of school, and discuss some of the most important life issues of faith, friends, and family.

We are really excited about some of the new things we have planned for the Fall. It is our hope and desire to see our ministry reach out and connect with students from around the tri-city area like never before. An issue that has risen time and time again is that students feel it is difficult to invite their friends to our Wednesday program because of all of the academic pressure within our community area. Starting in September, we will be having a monthly Friday night event specifically geared to outreach. There will be parties, worship nights, scavenger hunts and many other exciting events that will make it easy for our students to invite their friends. So gear up and get ready because this fall is going to be just awesome.

Blair Coff *Kevin J. Glaze*

BIBLE PUZZLE

Fill in the missing letters to complete the passage. Solution on reverse.

R_j_i_e_v_r_o_e_r_y_w_t_o_t_e_s_n_I_e_e_y_h_n_g_v_t_a_k:f_r_h_s_s_G_d'_w_l_o_y_u_n_h_i_t_e_u.

EVENT, CAMPS AND ACTIVITIES

Spring and Summer came and went so quickly in student ministries. Our events and activities were a ball of blazing fire and fun for our students, despite the mild summer weather. We tried a heap of new stuff and got rave reviews from all our students and the many friends that they brought along with them. We had summer camps for both junior high and high school and both ministries participated in a mission trip.

The **Arizona Mission Trip** to the Navajo Nation included some great times but also a number of challenges. We endured snowstorms and car problems on the way there, but once we arrived, the team settled in quickly. The Navajo people again welcomed us with open arms and we were able to celebrate Easter together before getting down to work. Our team split up over a number of different work sites, serving alongside the Navajos. One team painted a house and a preschool, while a second team worked on replacing a roof and building a bathroom. A third team worked onsite at the church running electrical wires. The last team hung sheetrock to restore a house that had caught on fire. A few of the projects were able to be completed while others made great progress and planned to be done by the end of the summer 2009. One of the highlights was hiking down the canyon to see the Inscription House ruins and then hanging out at a bonfire. The last night was very touching when students and Navajo alike shared stories about what Jesus had done in the community during the week.



High School Extreme Summer Camp 2009 (called Desire), provided a week away from all the distractions of the world, filled with good food, leaps of faith, paintballing, awesome music worship, and endless crazy REC games. Our speaker, Mark Campbell, spoke on the Song of Solomon, explaining what it looks like to be a King or Queen for Jesus. Mark applied the Gospel by challenging the students to love others in their daily lives in a way that glorifies God.



The camp was an opportunity for leaders to be a influential part of the students' lives on a daily basis. Much of the week was about spending time with our students, encouraging them, and praying for them, as well as having great discussions. The significant part of summer camp is that the relationships we build with the students are leader/student relationships that can continue after we return home. Thank you parents for letting us spend a week with your kids.

A hot weekend for the **"Micro" Underground Summer Camp** with temperatures reaching 107 degrees made it perfect weather for white water rafting in Yolo County! Max Critchfield returned as our speaker this year and talked about how much God loves us and how He cares about the small, micro details of our lives. White water rafting was a blast! All of our students successfully conquered the infamous "Mother" rapid, the biggest rapid on the river! Around camp we roasted marshmallows by the fire, attempted to fish, played fun and crazy games and even had a late night leader hunt.



EVENT, CAMPS AND ACTIVITIES (continued)

Another summer, another **Family Mission Trip to Ensenada, Mexico**, and this year we sent down two teams! We partnered again with Genesis Diez, an organization based in Ensenada that uses their ranch as a summer camp for orphanages in Mexico. The first team worked with CAHOVA, an all boys orphanage from Mexicali and our second team worked with Manantial de Vida, a boys and girls orphanage also from Mexicali.



Our space themed Vacation Bible School went to infinity and beyond! We learned about God's amazing love for us as we traveled through space with Captain Planet and his astronauts. Our week was filled with games (including everyone's favorite with a stinky fish), soccer, crafts, singing, jumping rope and trips to the beach and park. Many special bonds and friendships were formed between our teams and the niños. During the week it was awesome to see families and students show Christ's love to the niños through their words and actions.

And what's next you ask? Well, here is a list of the planned activities and events through the end of 2009/2010. Please include these programs and events on your calendars. Costs are approximate at this stage.

Fall Frenzy	9/18/09	\$ 5
Human Clue Night	10/30/09	\$ 5
Worship Night	11/20/09	No charge
HS Christmas Snowball	12/18/09	\$ 15
JH Christmas party	12/18/09	\$ 10
HS Winter Camp	2/12 - 2/15/10	\$210
JH Winter Ski Trip	2/12 - 2/15/10	\$120
HS Mission Arizona	4/1 - 4/10/10	\$550
(Dates tentative)		
Family Mexico Mission trip	7/17-8/1/10	\$550
(Dates tentative)		

STUDENT LED HIGH SCHOOL SMALL GROUP

Based on a decision on Powerhouse to begin student led small groups, two of my friends and I started a girls' bible study small group during the summer. We were all previously in the same Bible study led by one of our leaders throughout high school and even most of our junior high years. This past year our leader specifically focused on showing us how to lead a small group as many of the girls were heading off to college next year. So far it's been awesome! We have met for a little over a month, and each week is better than the one before as we all get to know each other and bond. The hardest aspect of leading has been getting past the initial awkwardness that comes with being involved with a new group of people who don't know each other well. It's amazing to see these relationships grow each week. I can't wait for the day when we are so close that we can keep each other accountable and everyone will want to share what she thinks about the passage we're reading and what God's been doing in her life.

CS (senior HS student)

TEXTING/ONLINE SOCIAL NETWORKS – KNOW WHERE YOUR KIDS ARE

As a parent, you may feel overwhelmed by the task before you – but you're far from powerless! Beyond the obvious need to pray relentlessly for your kids, here are some practical guidelines.

Be watchful. Set up clear guidelines, or even a contract, concerning your kids' cell or Internet use. Be sure you have their passwords/access to their online pages or communications. Spot check frequently.

Understand technology...and its shortcomings. Know what MySpace or your child's cell phone plan allow him to do. You may find you can limit or disable certain features for added peace of mind. Content blocking software is great, but not foolproof – and certainly no substitute for parental vigilance.

Make the rules fit the child. A younger child or less mature teen may require more regulation online than siblings or friends. Whether or not it seems "fair," your specialized rules may protect children from stumbling upon situations they're ill-equipped to handle. Remember that emotionally disturbed, socially isolated or depressed kids are more susceptible to predators.

Caution Your Kids. As you begin conversing about Internet use – and setting boundaries – expect indignation. Explain to kids that it isn't them you don't trust...it's all the people in cyberspace that you don't know! Urge them to:

- **Maintain privacy.** Tell them not to post personal information, especially facts that would allow someone to track them down. Remind them to limit who can see their posts to real life friends. Urge them never to divulge passwords...even to a best bud.
- **Maintain integrity.** Even "good" kids often check their morals and judgment at the keyboard. While they'd never stroll naked through a stadium, they might not think twice about posting suggestive photos of themselves. Encourage young people to consider how God would react if He came upon their MySpace page or Web site, or if He viewed their communications or surfing practices.
- **Think about long-term consequences.** Reinforce the value of a good reputation. Deleting content from a social networking site may not make it disappear permanently; some pages are actually archived and retrievable! Let teens know that college admissions staff members or potential employers often look kids up online to get a feel for their character. In addition, teens need to realize that the words they write or pictures they post or send of others, even in jest, can leave lasting scars.

From focusonthefamily.org

BIBLE PUZZLE SOLUTION

Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. I Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NAS)

WHAT IF GOD HAD VOICE MAIL?

We have all learned to live with voice mail as a necessary part of modern life. But you may have wondered.—what if God decided to install voice mail? Imagine praying and hearing this.....



Thank you for calling My Father's House. Please select one of the following options:

Press 1 for request

Press 2 for thanksgiving

Press 3 for complaints

Press 4 for all other inquiries

What if God used the familiar excuse;

All angels are helping other customers right now. Please stay on the line – your call will be answered in the order it was received.

Can you imagine getting these kinds of responses as you call on God in prayer?

If you would like to speak with Gabriel, press 1 now

If you would like to speak with Michael, press 2 now

For a directory of other angels, press 3 now

If you would like to hear King David sing a Psalm while you are holding, press 4 now

To find out if a loved one has been assigned to heaven, enter the social security number followed by the # sign.

For reservations in My Father's House, press the letters J-O-H-N, then 3-1-6

For answers to common questions about the age of the earth and where is Noah's ark, please wait until you arrive here.

Our computers show that you have already called once today. Please hang up and try again tomorrow.

The office is closed for the weekend. Please call on Monday after 9:00 a.m.

We are blessed that we cannot call God too often and when we do call, the Lord does answer.

"Your cries for help will be answered – 'Here I Am'", (Isaiah 58:9)

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