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Fort Connections

Mike Demastus

September 2011

Sometime in early 2008, Kyle Phillips approached me with something that God had put on his heart almost a year earlier. He asked me about trying to put on a conference or seminar in our church for men. I told Kyle it was a great idea and we set a goal of having 40 men participate. In February of 2009, we hosted a conference for the first time here at The Fort called "Real Men." We had approximately 90 guys here for that event. Steve Deace was the main speaker. We considered it to be a huge success.

Then in February 2010, we held the second Real Men conference at Rising Sun Church of Christ. Our speakers were Jan Mikelson of WHO Radio and Fred Stoeker (author of Every Man's Battle). We had almost 250 guys show up for this event.

Convinced that God was doing something with this, Kyle and I decided to make Real Men an official ministry. This summer Real Men Ministries was officially born. We launched a website: <http://realmeniowa.org> where we are hoping to not only inform about upcoming conferences, but also be a resource for Christian men as well.

We have a board and a steering committee to help plan for the upcoming conference. Next year's conference is slated for February 24, 2012 at Rising Sun Church of Christ. Our main speaker for next year's conference is Mark Scott, former professor at Ozark Christian College. Mark is a passionate speaker and has a real heart for God. He will challenge all the men at the conference. We also have a special treat of getting to hear from Trevor Bane, the youngest NASCAR driver to win the Daytona 500. He will be sharing his testimony with us.

Real Men Ministries' purpose is to help Christian men be all God is calling them to be. As we move forward as a ministry I really need you to be praying for Real Men. Pray that God will continue to expand the boundaries of Real Men and be able to continue to encourage more and more men all over the state of Iowa. At our last conference we had men that drive from miles and miles away to come.

Pray that God continues to grow Real Men Ministries!

Sermon Series:
Nailing it Down
Continues in
September



<u>September Birthdays/Anniversaries</u>		<u>September Events</u>	
5th	Tanya Dobson	All Month:	
9th	Mary Rowedder	9AM Sunday School	
10th	Celeste Hodson	10AM Worship Service	
11th	Bob Hildebrand	Wednesdays 6:00PM– CIA	
13th	Arlyn Hodson	2nd	Movie Night
16th	LeAnn Peterson	5th	Labor Day
18th	Hodson (anniversary)	9th	Movie Night
24th	Richard Ivis	11th	Board Meeting (1PM)
26th	Ellwanger (anniversary)	13th	Elders Meeting (6PM)
27th	Miles Peterson	15th	Financial Peace University
	Russ Carter	22nd	Financial Peace University
	Dobson (anniversary)	23rd	Movie Night
30th	Ginny Carter	29th	Financial Peace University
		30th	Movie Night

Missions Ministry Update

By Marge DeRuyscher

Not only are “Shiloh Children” encouraged to do well in school, but they are taught many life skills including home repair, farm work- field and diary; home making and even bee-keeping. Children who might otherwise be ruined for life by family situations are thriving in the “Son Light” of Christian home situation. SHILOH CHRISTIAN CHILDREN’S RANCH is a ministry well deserving of our support– and MISSION OF THE MONTH, “Back to School” project.

From a recent letter from MEXICAN MISSIONARY ORGANIZATION (the Caldrons, our long-time missionaries in Mexico, and this report from a “second generation” missionary– a student at the Bible Institute in Queretaro, the city where the Caldrons started the first non-Catholic church four decades ago.)

Once again I write to thank you for the help you have given us to this moment. We would also like to share with you some of our experiences. Thanks to God and to your support, we are able to continue our studies in this institution. We have also been able to continue working with the youth at the church. Last time I wrote you about a youth retreat we had. As a result of the, several young people were baptized and are now part of the great family of Christ. With the help of God, we were able to disciple these young people and see the youth group grow. This fills us with happiness, since we have been blessed with the friendship of these young people. Working with the Lord gives us great satisfaction. Being able to continue preparing ourselves for the ministry has been a great experience, and we have learned so much. We ask that you continue praying that God will keep doing His great work in our lives and in that way we might be great ministers of Christ. We thank you with all our heart for the support you give and we wish that God would multiply it, that would bless your ministries, your sources of income and your families. Thank you very much for everything.

Juan Carlos Hernandez

In August IDES sent \$109,000 in Disaster Aid, \$19,000 in Medical Aid, \$37,000 in Hunger Assistance, \$10,400 for motor cycles for native evangelists, \$18,000 for clean water well in India.

Financial Peace University

Classes begin on Thursday evening, September 15th. If you are interested in attending, call the church office or speak with Kyle Phillips. FPU is a Bible-based money management class that will help you to learn to manage your money God's way. This class teaches you to look to the Lord and basic principles of money management to keep you from feeling desperate and hopeless about your financial situation. There is hope...and it doesn't come from the government, it comes from the timeless principles in the Word of God. If you need help in your finances, this class may be just what the doctor ordered!

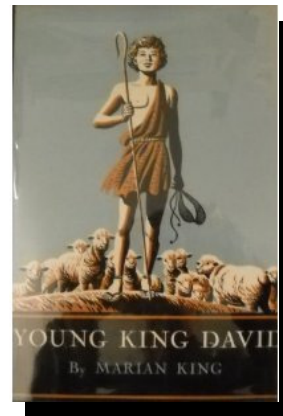
Fort Facts

Total Income for July:	\$12,314.21
Total Expenses for July:	\$12,320.50

Book Look

Last month, if one were interested, C. S. Lewis' *Reflections on the Psalms*, looked into their writing and their relevance in one's life today. *Young King David* by Marian King is a reconstruction of David's calling, and struggle to be the ruler of Judah, as the Lord intended. Written in the mid-1940's, and published in 1948, the author, Marian King, uses King James Version scripture quotation of passages in Samuel, Psalms and 1st Chronicles and outlines David's triumphs and troubles in a way one could never understand just reading through the Bible books.

By MargE DeRuyscher



Family Movie Nights

During the month of September, we are going to be holding Family Movie Nights most Friday evenings. The movies will start at 7PM. The last Friday of the month, we will go together to see Courageous (the new movie from Sherwood Pictures) in theaters. Here is the schedule:

Friday, September 2nd: The Grace Card

Friday, September 9th: Amish Grace

Friday, September 23rd: Soul Surfer

Friday, September 30th: Courageous (In Theaters)



This is going to be a nice family-oriented activity that you won't have to worry about language or gratuitous violence. These movies are powerful films that have a wholesome message and point people to the Lord. I hope you'll come and bring your friends and family along with you! Bring some pop corn and snacks to share as well!





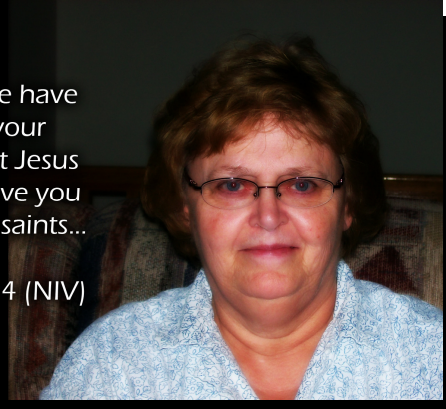
The CIA have had a whirlwind summer experience. They have helped out at a crisis pregnancy center, served food to the homeless downtown through Hope Ministries, spent a day at Adventureland and just enjoyed fellowshiping together. As school starts, so do busy, busy schedules. Pray that this year God continues to grow the faith of these young believers. Pray that they will stand the many tests and trials that await them at school. Pray that they will stand for truth, even if they happen to be standing all by themselves. We begin meeting in September studying how to live life knowing that we don't have many days prom-

ised to us on this planet. I am excited about the year ahead for the youth. I would say that it is time as a church that we begin praying for a youth minister. I love serving the youth but realistically they need someone to commit to them full-time. Pray that God would send us the right individual.

My Favorite Scripture

By Patty McMichael

Patty McMichael is the individual chosen for this month's My Favorite Scripture. She wrote, "I have many favorite scriptures, but my new favorite is Colossians 1:4. Colossians is one of the books written by Paul when he was in prison and he most likely had never been to the city or met any of the people. The equivalent in our world would be receiving an E-mail from Billy Graham



...because we have
heard of your
faith in Christ Jesus
and of the love you
have for the saints...

Colossians 1:4 (NIV)

saying, "I have heard about how faithful you are and I have been praying for you." As a child growing up I always heard that our lives may be the only Bible some people ever read. Then I thought that was a very scary thing. I didn't want anyone watching me. Now I know that we make a difference to the people who are part of our lives, sometimes in a big way, sometimes small. I want the people in my life to see that I love Jesus and want to be the person he made me to be, a faithful follower." Patty is the wife of Richard McMichael. She raised three children (Debbie, Kathy and Rick) and currently has her heart stolen by all of her grandchildren. Patty is a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother and friend to all who know her.

Thoughts from the Leadership

By Kevin Rowedder, Deacon

Let go and let God. This a great philosophy that is very hard to follow. I often have to be reminded of who is in control, and it is not me, it is not my wife, it is not my boss at work, it is not anyone. It is God!! All that I have is because God has deemed it useful to me in his quest to further His Kingdom. God should be in control in every aspect of our lives, in the movies we watch, in our daily conversations with other people, in how we spend His money, or in how we invest the money he has blessed us with. Recently, I was in an interview, and was given an opportunity to inflate myself to obtain a new position for the job. I was honest and explained the circumstances to which I was seeking a new position. I did not get the job, but I was able to keep something more valuable than a job. Self respect. God will provide all that we need, when we need it. All we have to do is believe and ask Him to provide. God is great.



	9/4/11	9/11/11	9/18/11	9/25/11
10 am Service				
Greeters	Powells	Saylors	Heutons	Powells
Scripture	Jacob	Noel	Lori	Doren
Praise Team	Bob/Mary	Hoodjers/DVD	Demastus/Nate	Hoodjers/Band
Offering Meditation	Richard	Kyle	Luther	Bob
Communion Meditation	Nate	Mike	Doren	Ramona
Server 1	Roy	Jack	Terry	Austin
Server 2	Lonnie	Bob	Kyle	Doren
Closing Prayer	George	Kevin	Jim	Lonnie
Stewardship	Nate/Richard	Jim/Floyd	Lonnie/Luther	Terry/George
Children's Helpers				
Nursery/Toddlers 11:00am	Rachel	Shannon/Jon	Lelanie/Austin	Bev/Emma/Lillie
Junior Church	Julie/Jacob	Phillips'	Saylors	Sue Klinger
Other Ministries				
Communion to Sick	Jim	Nate	George	Kevin
Communion Prep	Schefflers	Schefflers	Schefflers	Schefflers

Kingdom Kids Update

By Cleo Meisch

Kingdom Kids Kickoff

Wednesday, August 31 -- 6:00 p.m.

Age 4 through 5th grade -- Join us for pizza and fun!

We are thinking about Christmas! **Happy Birthday, Jesus!** is a journey through the Bible to discover God's plan for salvation. From the early prophecies to the angel's joyful announcement, children will find that we need a Savior, God had a wonderful plan, God keeps his promises, and Christ is our hope.