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# In The First Place...

May 2008

## KNOWING WHAT YOU BELIEVE

George Whitefield was a well-known Eighteenth Century evangelist. One day Whitefield asked a man what he believed, and the man replied, "I believe what my **church** believes." "But what does your **church** believe?" queried Whitefield. "My church believes what I believe," he retorted. "Well," the evangelist questioned, "what do **you** believe?" "**We both believe the same thing!**"

Although I am unsure if this interchange could technically be described as an example of circular reasoning, it certainly evidences suspicious reasoning! It almost sounds like a ruse to avoid acknowledging that the individual really does not know what they believe.

During the month of May Pastor Mike continues his current sermon series, "This We Believe." This series encompasses eight foundational Biblical truths, focusing on these major doctrines: Theology Proper – the Doctrine of God, the Inspiration and Authority of the Bible, the Person and Work of Christ, the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit, Anthropology – the Doctrine of Man, Soteriology, Ecclesiology, and Eschatology.

While it may not be important that we can accurately spell each of these technical terms by the time the series has concluded, it is quite important that we know what we believe **and** can articulate that in an understandable way.

Why is that important? The following quote from J. I. Packer's book, [Knowing God](#), gives one of the more memorable answers that I have heard to that question. *Knowing about God is critically important for the living of our lives. As it would be cruel to an Amazonian tribesman to fly him to London, put him down without explanation in Trafalgar Square and leave him, as one who knew nothing of English or England, to fend for himself, so we are cruel to ourselves if we try to live in this world without knowing about the God whose world it is and who runs it.*

Why is it important to know and understand what we believe? Because it has direct impact on our life. It is foundational to our understanding of the purpose of life. It provides perspective for responding to all that we are faced with in life. It gives hope when circumstances appear hopeless (at least from our human perspective). What a secure place to be when we know that the world in which we live exists because of the creative power of God, and that His sovereign care and oversight have never wavered!

One of the most extensive theological treatises in the New Testament is the book of Romans. As Paul closes that book he says, *Now to him who is able to **establish** you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and make know through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him...* (Romans 16:25-26)

May God's grace help us to know what we believe; and be established in our lives through that belief.

Pastor Dick

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## GUATEMALA MISSIONS TEAM

On May 23 four college students will be leaving for a month long mission adventure to Guatemala. Bryan Knowles, Laura Ketchum, Taylor Hepburn, and Bethany Olsen are going to the Seminario Biblico Guatemalteco in Chimaltenango, Guatemala. They will spend a month living in the dorms with the students, helping in the kitchen, doing some construction / maintenance projects, and serving as English Language Partners for students of Bob Henriques.

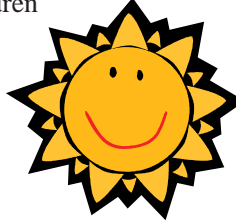
We are excited to start a new ministry program of partnering with the Seminary in Guatemala. If this experience goes well we will look forward to providing more students in the future to help in the Seminary. Please pray for Bryan, Laura, Taylor, and Bethany as they step out in faith to serve in this way. Pray also for Kirk and Michelle Lightfield, the CAM missionaries who will be the on site coordinators for this trip.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



The theme for the summer is *Walk the Talk* and it is a theme I can get excited about! It is what motivates everything we do in Children's Ministry. From nursery and childcare to elementary ministries we want to help children become and then grow as lifetime disciples of Jesus. Children learn what it means to live their faith by hearing (good teaching

and reading their Bibles), by doing (opportunities for service), and by watching (at home and through relationships with other believers). Our sincere prayer is that the activities that we plan will do much to build children up in their faith. I hope you will mark your calendars, register early for events that require registration, and that you'll find ways for your family to **Walk the Talk** this summer!



### ***Events for the church family:***

**First Free Does the Park!** Sunday, June 8 at Sedgwick County Park  
Pack a picnic dinner and come play. We'll meet to eat at Shelter #4 at 5:00 p.m.

**First Free Does the Zoo!** Tuesday, July 1 at Sedgwick County Zoo  
5:00-8:30 p.m. Bring a picnic supper for your family. We'll eat together and then you're free to "do the zoo!"

### **Summer Sundays** June 1 – July 13

Summer staff will take over for Sunday School teachers. Elementary children will step into the book of James (matching the sermon series for the summer) as we learn how to walk the talk—living out our faith in the world. Watch for details and schedules.

### ***Events for kids:***

**Wonder Week** June 24-27 9:00-11:30 a.m.

*Little Wonders* is for children 3 years old (by June 1) through entering kindergarten this fall. Preschoolers will explore the wonder of God through art and music.

*Wonder Workers* is for children entering 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> grades this fall. These children will be awed by God through experiences in science and nature.

### **Kids Great Getaway** July 22-26

Resident camp experience for kids entering 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grades. Register by May 18!

### **Cannon Bowl Blast** June 10 & July 8 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Kids entering 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades can hang out with their friends and sponsors at Northrock Lanes.

**Elder Buddies** June 5, 12, 19; July 10, 17, 31; 1:30 -3:30 p.m. Elementary aged children will go to Catholic Care Center to build friendships with the residents. Preschoolers can attend with a parent.

**Hilltop Helpers** June 4, 11, 18 July 9, 16; 9:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m. 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders travel to Hilltop to help serve Manna Meals and work in the Thrift Shop.

Lace up your boots, grab a friend. and join us as we hike into summer.



## ***Family News***

Kyle and Tiffany Welk  
announce the birth of  
**Andrew Mason**  
on February 5, 2008

Daniel and Jane Schaible  
announce the birth of  
**Madeline Jane**  
on March 27, 2008

Mike and Christie Reynolds  
announce the birth of  
**Benjamin Jeffery**  
on April 16, 2008



**Thursday, May 1**  
**6:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.**  
Come to the Chapel any time  
that day to pray.



The Kids' Choir presents  
***Once Upon a Parable***

Sunday, May 4, at 6:00 p.m.  
in the Worship Center.

Reception will follow.

## STUDENT MINISTRIES



### BASIC 113 PAINTBALL!

Saturday, May 3

If you signed up and paid, be at the Outpost at 12 noon!

### AVIATORS 8TH GRADE PROMOTION

Sunday, May 18

The 8th graders who completed the *Aviators* curriculum on Sunday mornings will be recognized in both the 9:00 and 10:45 a.m. services this morning. They will be presented with Bibles.

### 8TH GRADE FAREWELL

Wednesday, May 28

6:00 p.m. at the DeKonings

All BASIC 113 students are invited to say goodbye to the 8th graders at a farewell party at the DeKonings. Their address is 1802 N. County Line Rd, Wichita.



### SENIOR APPRECIATION NIGHT

Wednesday, May 14

7:00 p.m.

### PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

Friday, May 2, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Childcare will be provided by the middle school and high school Student Ministries youth. This is a fund-raising opportunity that goes toward summer camps. The cost is whatever you would normally pay for an evening of childcare, and anything else you would like to give above that. Sign up at the Welcome Center or call the church office.



### FIRST FRIENDS REGISTRATION

Registration for children has begun and workers are needed for the 2008-2009 First Friends year. First Friends is the new name for our parents' day out/kids' day in program for children age 1 year - 6 years old. It will begin meeting on **Thursdays** in the fall. The hours are 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and half-day options are available. There is an early registration fee per child of \$30 through June 1, 2008. After that the fee is \$40. The tuition for full day is \$60 per month per child and \$45 for half day per child. Brochures with complete information can be picked up at the Welcome Center or in the church office. Call Karen Klein at 681-0664 if you have any questions.

## First Free Women



### GRADUATES...



### LET US KNOW

If you or your child is graduating from high school or college this semester, please call and let the church office know by Monday, May 12. Names will be listed in the May 18 bulletin when we honor our graduates. For high school graduates, please give the name of the high school. For college graduates, please give college name, degree, and major.

### THIS SUMMER AT FIRST E FREE!

Here are some special things you will see this summer at First E Free! There will be 4 single services held on July 20, 27, August 3, and 10 from 10:00 - 11:15 a.m. Childcare will be available on those Sundays for children up to age 4. On the last Sunday, August 10, there will be a dedication of the E/F Hall and Skip Lewis will be our guest speaker. In addition to that are *Summer Sundays*, where elementary kids will explore the Book of James on Sunday mornings as we discover how to *Walk the Talk*, studying the same passages as the sermons. *Summer Sundays* runs June 1-July 13.

Read about all the opportunities for children and their families this summer on the Children's Ministry Page.