

March 2010

▶ “WHEREFORE ALSO WE PRAY ALWAYS FOR YOU, THAT OUR GOD WOULD COUNT YOU WORTHY OF THIS CALLING...”
II THESSALONIANS 1:11

The Vandover Call

Winter Olympics has come to VBC

Inside this issue:



We are having a Winter Vacation Bible School on March 12-13-14 for children age 4 through grade 6. It will start

at 5:30 PM Friday and Saturday and end at 8:00 PM. Sunday will be from 4:30 - 7:00 PM.

It will have an Olympic theme. We have some fun games planned that have been modified from the Winter Olympics. Children will make some fleece crafts to keep and some to give to ministries in the St. Louis area. The evening will begin with a light meal. Bible study and learning activities will help children discover how spiritual training prepares us to live for Jesus. The night will conclude with singing praise songs together that will remind us that it is Jesus who we are living for.

Annie Armstrong	2
Pastor article	4
Schedules	5
The Cross is Pivotal	6
Hosanna	7
The Easter Experience	7



Sunday Services:

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:45 a.m. AM Worship
- 6:00 p.m. PM Worship

Wednesday Services:

- 7:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting

A Day with Annie Armstrong

Dear Brother,

I wish with this letter I might send you a large palm-leaf and a very attractive pitcher of iced lemonade, for I think if you had these, you might have more patience to consider the numerous items which I will now have to present to you, but as these comforts, or rather necessities during this intensely hot weather, cannot be sent through the mail, I will have to ask that you either provide them for yourself or— consent to be a martyr.

- Letter to T.P. Bell from Annie Armstrong, June 30, 1894

So began the letter Annie Armstrong wrote to then secretary of the Sunday School Board, T.P. Bell, on June 30, 1894. I could just picture "Miss Annie," fingers tapping quickly the keys of her well-worn typewriter, trying to add some humor to the somewhat routine task of gathering and giving information. I could also picture Mr. Bell opening the letter and chuckling at her words.

As the first corresponding secretary of Woman's Missionary Union, it was obvious that Annie took very seriously the word "corresponding." She wrote thousands of letters - lengthy epistles that touched on everything from personal details to professional concerns.

The **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering** supports NAMB's two major thrusts: evangelism and church planting. An estimated 220 million people in the United States and Canada do not know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The agency provides assistance to churches, associations, and state conventions in soul-winning training; interfaith witness; and church and community ministries, which include *Alternatives for Life* ministries and special evangelistic events.

Southern Baptists are starting more than 1,700 new churches every year, more than any other faith group. Yet, we still fail to keep pace with population growth.

- continued next page-

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

On Palm Sunday, many congregations sing a hymn written for children but loved by adults, too. Jeanette Threlfall, an English-woman, composed "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" in 1873.

Threlfall's parents died when she was still very young, so she was sent from one relative to another. She also had two serious accidents during childhood, leaving her disabled.

Threlfall handled her difficulties by developing a beautiful, cheerful character. She was more concerned about others than herself. People loved to visit her because they left feeling uplifted and joyous. Threlfall became known for her sacred poems and hymns. Many are considered classics,

filled with sound doctrine and fervent devotion. Here is the first stanza of her Palm Sunday anthem:

Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast,
The children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.



An Easter Experience

Once the events of the Easter story impact our lives everything changes.

We are going to be using *The Easter Experience* in a small group setting. Some will meet at church, but we have a goal to have 4 other small groups that meet in homes.

We are looking for some host homes and study facilitators for this small group study. If you are interested in doing either of these let Pastor Steve know.

The Easter Experience consists

of six weeks of small group discussions. The whole church will be encouraged to be involved in 40 days of prayer and quiet time using *The Easter Experience* devotional guide.

The author of this small group experience encourages us to; "Paint yourself into the story and transform Easter into a truly life-changing experience."

Make plans now to participate.

The Cross is Pivotal

Pivotal means crucial or absolutely necessary. Such is the cross on which Jesus died. It represents salvation from sin and death. To see sin in all its cruelty and depravity, look at the cross. The cross can jar a person to the core.

In his parent's bedroom, a teenager noticed a picture he'd never paid attention to before. It was a vivid scene of the Crucifixion. As the boy studied it, his emotions began to stir. He saw the helpless Christ dying, the helmeted soldiers bearing spears, the crowd seething with hatred. Jesus was pinned to the cross, bleeding and helpless. Mary stood nearby, consumed by grief.

The picture revealed sin and its

results: suffering and death. What if the room had a different picture, with an empty tomb and an angel announcing Christ's resurrection? Those represent that God loves mankind so much he still wants to save us, no matter what we've done.

"May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world" (Galatians 6:14, NRSV).



His Hands Ministry

His Hands Ministry will meet on March 4 and 18 at 11:00 am. Bring a lunch and plan on being God's hand as we seek to communicate with our community that God is at work in Fenton.

Come and make a visit or phone call. You can make a blanket, send a card, a gift, or some cookies to share with a neighbor or friend.

We start at 11:00, eat lunch at 12:00 and will finish by 1:30. See you then!



Annie Armstrong continued-

NAMB provides resources and strategies for establishing churches and missions among all ethnic and language groups in the United States and Canada.

In Matthew Jesus tells us,

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...

God has gifted us in unique ways to accomplish the Great Commission. Your 5,300 North American Mission Board missionaries are committed to living out their unique call, with urgency, and are grateful for your partnership. As the Holy Spirit moves, your missionaries experience daily the transforming results of God's power. Lives are changed. Communities are changed. As you reflect on the North American mission field and the amazing work being done— and the work still needing to be done— join your hearts and your hands with them as we all pray exceedingly for, give abundantly to, and serve excitedly in all aspects of North American missions.



Our church goal this year for the Annie Armstrong Easter offering is \$500.



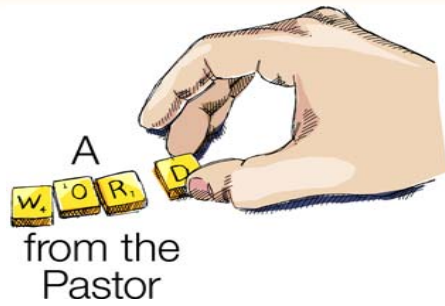
NATIONAL GOAL:

\$70 MILLION

WWW.ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM



From the pastor



from the Pastor

As I look outside today I see bright sunshine and yet it is very cold. I am encouraged that it is almost March. Soon it will be warm again and flowers, grass and tree leaves will begin to grow. Seeing everything changing and growing reminds me that God is at work. Not only in the changing of seasons, but in the changing of lives.

We have been involved in a study of parables about the Kingdom of God and have discovered some truths about the Kingdom. The Kingdom of God changes lives, permeates all of life and it is open to all who would respond to God's call. When God's word is heard and obeyed it produces many times what was received. The Kingdom of God is powerful and the word of the Kingdom is powerful. Those who are members of the Kingdom have the power of God at work within them.

We continue to seek people for the Kingdom of God. We invite people to come and hear God's word preached and taught. God brings the

growth. God changes lives. We are encouraged in Matthew 9:37 to pray for God to send people who will help build the Kingdom. There are people here in this body that can go, tell and invite. Pray that others would join us. Pray that we would be faithful to invite people to enter the Kingdom of God.

Let this spring season be a challenge to be more aware of God working in our lives. Let us be bold in our Kingdom building. God says that many are ready to respond to Him. Let the Kingdom of God permeate all of our lives and it will permeate to all of our community.

Your Partner in Kingdom Building,

Steve



The week of:

- Mar. 1 Marvin Toothaker, Larry Shaw
- Mar. 8 Geri Warren, Frances Scheller
- Mar. 15 Nick & Valerie Ems
- Mar. 22 Maurice Williams, Jim Mangnall
- Mar. 29 Marvin Toothaker, Larry Shaw

- Mar. 7 Volunteer needed
- Mar. 14 Lynn Miller
- Mar. 21 Roy and Norma Scott
- Mar. 28 May Mangnall

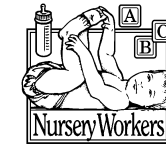


- Mar. 7 Pat Bender
- Mar. 14 Pat Bender
- Mar. 21 Pat Bender
- Mar. 28 Pat Bender

Mar. 7 Valerie Ems

Mar. 14

Mar. 21 Jennifer Shaw and Frances Scheller



Mar. 28 Cherri Roberts

What is Faith?

"Sight is not faith, and hearing is not faith, neither is feeling faith; but believing when we neither see, hear nor feel is faith; and everywhere the Bible tells us our salvation is to be by

faith. Therefore we must believe before we feel, and often against our feelings, if we would honor God by our faith."

—Hannah Whitall Smith

An Easter Experience

On March 21 at 6:00 PM, there will be an introductory session of *The Easter Experience*. *The Easter Experience* asks the question; "What if what happened then changes everything now?"

- continued on page 7