



BCK Ministry and Worship Center

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Pushing Past the Gates in 2008: A Year of New Passion and Intimacy By Pastors Brad and Cathy Westover

Praise the Lord for a new year! We are so looking forward to a fresh, renewed start in 2008. In the latter end of 2007 we have been studying about moving forward, letting go and pressing on. We want to believe with all our hearts that everyone is ready to shake off the past, forget those things which are behind, and press (push) towards the goal.

Phil 3:13-14 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. NIV

Do you notice in this scripture Paul states, one thing? I do: Forget what is behind and strain (push) toward what is ahead. This is one act. We are encouraging all of you to grab hold of this one act. Forget the past. We can't despair over the loss of our days of innocence as it is a natural progression for us to obtain knowledge of what is good and what is evil. We can't mourn the days of our youth. It is natural for us to grow in stature and knowledge. We must forget our past errors, guilt and hurts and have the heart to try again, forgive again and love again. In one act we must forget those things which are behind and push to perfect our character and service in the Lord. In 2007, through fasting, trials and blessings, God has revealed to many of us our true character and what is really in our hearts. Now we move on, with a new passion and desire to be in and do His will.

It is our prayer that this you will grow more in love with Jesus than you have ever been. It is our prayer that you will want to seek His face and not His hand. It is our prayer that you will have a desire to meet with Him, know Him like you have never known Him. Could we, for this year, stop looking to what He can do for us and just fall in love with Him? When you love your spouse with all your heart you don't have to ask him or her to serve you or meet your needs, it just happens because of love. Could we fall so in love with Jesus that our only desire is to please and serve Him with our whole heart, mind and body? Can we take this year ahead of us and use it to get to know our Savior? Can we find out what pleases Him, what He enjoys and what His desire and plans are for each one of us? Where do we belong in His plan? What has He ordained for us? How can we cause Him to take delight in us to sing and rejoice (spin wildly) over us? Can you remember when you first fell in love? That feeling of unexplainable joy and contentment, that place where we are mesmerized, overwhelmed and the thought and sight of that someone special literally takes your breath away. Can we fall that head over heels with Jesus this year?

In this new year, will you find a place of passion and intimacy with Jesus? Will you push past the gates of praise and go deeper with Him into the Holy of Holies? Will you grow in spiritual maturity where you find yourself wanting Him and not what He can do for you? This is your Pastors' hearts for this coming year. Let us pray for one another, love one another, encourage one another but above all else...

Deut 6: 5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. NIV



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January Calendar of Events

- 13—Board of Directors' Meeting, Time to be announced
- 14—Women's Bible Study, 6:30-8:00 pm
- 28—Women's Bible Study, 6:30-8:00 pm



Sessions from the Worship Director's Studio

By Dan and Kim Gargon

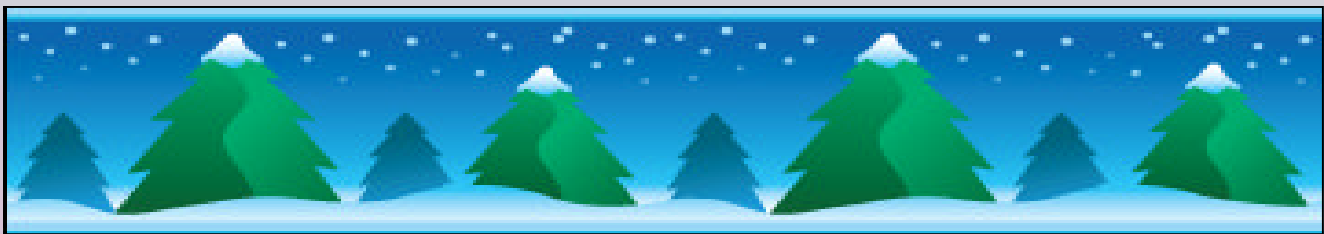
Happy New Year! 2008 is upon us and, as Worship Directors here at BCK, we feel the need to thank everyone in the congregation for being the Spirit-filled and Spirit-seeking worshipers you are. We would like to personally acknowledge the hard work of all the musicians on the team, especially, the young people who have shown their willingness to serve when called upon.

2008 is the 9th year of, not only this decade, but also in this new millennium and, while I wouldn't pretend to know all that this could mean for the church spiritually, I do know in part, that 9 is the number of Holy Spirit completeness, and the fullness of blessings and divine fulfillment. Our prayer this year for the BCK worship is that we would experience together, the completeness and fulfillment of the blessing of deeply and intimately worshipping our God. May 2008 be a year of surrender and openness in our worship and may we all desire to meet face to face with the Lord in worship, as never before.

As I'm writing this the question occurs to me. What comes after completeness, the fullness of blessing and divine fulfillment? You may have your own answer, but what comes to me is "ETERNITY." It would be awesome if this year we would seek God so hard in worship that we would experience Heaven and the Glory of the Kingdom of eternity. WOW!

In His Love,

Dan & Kim



A Merry Heart

A polar bear walks into a restaurant and says to the waitress, "I'd like a hamburger and..."

Several minutes later, the bear finishes, "...french fries."



The waitress looks at the polar bear and, in a puzzled manner, asks, "Hey, what's with the big pause?"

The polar bear, holding up his front paws looks at them and says, "I don't know. They've been that way all my life."




Thank You's and Looking Ahead...

By Christian Education Director, Michal Makin



Well, the Christmas season has come to an end and we are now facing a brand new year. I just wanted to say thank you one more time for all of you who helped so much with the Christmas pageant this year. So, here it is:

Thank you to all the parents who practiced lines over and over again with their children. Thank you to the children who worked hard and came to the practices and even practiced extra on their own. Thank you for all the teachers of BCK who helped our program run more smoothly. Thank you to everyone who lent us your stuff as props in the show. Thank you, Sam and Dianne, for all the effort you put forth in getting that curtain track up. Thank you, Kathy Nalisnik, for racing to sew the curtains together. Thanks, Megan, for making the kids be quiet and listen and thanks to Dezi and Samantha for always being there to help with whatever. Thank you, Butch, for putting up with the madness back in the sound/light board. Thank you, Pastors Brad and Cathy, for your patience and support (and also for letting us use your office as an entrance) I am very appreciative for everyone's help. Every little bit helps.

 We have planned for 2008 to be our best year yet in Kids' Praise. To start the year off, everyone will be learning about Creation and Dinosaurs. When I say everyone, I mean EVERYONE. From the littlest to the biggest we will be learning about the world and how it was made. Have you wondered if the Bible talks about dinosaurs? Where did they go? How did they get here in the first place? Is the Loch Ness Monster real? How did Noah fit all those animals in the ark? Is my little brother a monkey (or is he at least evolved from one)? Well, we have the answers for you. We will be talking about all these things and more—like Darwin and how foolish he was. Then we will talk about dinosaurs and when they roamed the Earth. We will even be doing some science experiments to prove to ourselves that what we believe – that there is a Creator who made everything and everyone just by speaking it into existence. That's the whole truth and there is nothing else. Don't miss a single week! We will be learning all this until the end of March, so buckle your seatbelts and get ready for the ride because it's going to be a good one!

A Few Thoughts to End 2007 and Begin 2008

By Mitzie Simmons

I've become a goal setter. I don't handle resolutions very well, I guess that, in a way, goals and resolutions are the same – but to me resolutions set me up to fail. I **hate** failure. I feel condemned when I fail. If I miss my goal I feel like I can start again without losing ground. Kind of like the old adage "pick yourself up, dust yourself off and start all over again". Oops, gave my age away on that one, how about the song, "So You've Had a Bad Day". Okay ;)

Back in 2003 I set a goal to be "Debt free in 03". Ok, I had a large – in my eyes – credit card bill. I figured if I paid a certain amount each month I'd be debt free in 10 months. Well, you know how things go, "a speed bump" came along and I needed to reset my goal. But in 2006 I paid that little demon off! I still have the final payment stub as **a victory flag**. Several times I needed to reset my goal and I had to adjust my plan of attack. But Praise Jesus, the goal was reached.

Sometimes in my walk with Jesus, I have to do the same thing. I've learned a lot in 2007. I learned I'm not all that good at doing "food fasts". Every day during our corporate "food fast" I failed miserably. But every morning I began again – for me that was a real step forward. But then Holy Spirit sat me down one morning and said that I needed to look at these things as if I were on a "recovery plan". One step at a time, so I began my day with a different type of prayer, "Lord, just for today help me to keep my fast." You know, it worked...I finally realized that without HIM, I can do nothing; or maybe we want to look at it this way – APART from HIM, I can do nothing.

We all know someone who is so dependent on Jesus that they even ask HIM for to "prime" parking spaces – the legal ones. Some of us are so independent in our hearts that we don't **need** HIM to find us a parking place. OOOoops, "independent in our hearts". That is a pretty strong statement. Perhaps Judas was independent in his heart. Perhaps Judas couldn't see the Cross for the forest. Perhaps I am not as strong as I think I should be. Maybe I need to look to the CROSS for my independence and realize that without the Cross I am unable to save myself, my friends, my family, etc. Without the Cross, I cannot find any parking place; I cannot fast food, or even set a goal. Without the CROSS, I can do nothing.

Resolutions are usually begun on New Years day and by January 15th are non-existent, but it is never too late to set a goal. It is never too long to reach that goal – because, **In CHRIST** I can do **ALL THINGS**. Our goals, no matter what they may be are always reachable in Christ.

What is your goal, Precious Ones? Are they "in Christ"? Can you see the Cross among the forest?



“Click” on God

Lying, alcohol use, crude language, violent content. Not things you would want your son or daughter (or niece or nephew) to see in a movie, huh? But how can you know? It's tough to make wise decisions when you're uninformed.

So get informed! Go to www.pluggedinonline.com. It's an awesome website that can help you know what to do when faced with questions about modern media. Developed by Focus on the Family Ministries, www.pluggedinonline.com was designed to equip parents, youth leaders, teachers, ministers and teens with up-to-date information about current movies, music, tv shows and dvd's.

When you check out this website, you'll see up-to-date reviews, which are divided into several sections: A Summary, Positive Elements, Spiritual Content, Sexual Content, Violent Content, Crude or Profane Language, Drug and Alcohol Content, Other Negative Content, and a Conclusion. Reviews are very specific, so be prepared.

Making holy choices is easier when you “click” on God.



pluggedⁱⁿ



BIBLE STUDIES

CHURCH

FUN

WORSHIP

Real Youth

God Cared So Much That He Answered, “Three...”

This year has already started out as a trying time for me and my family. As most of know, we have been praying for Louise Shaffer (Dylan's great-grandmother) who had cancer. This past week she passed on to go Home and be with Jesus! Praise God, I can honestly say I am a little jealous! We are not heartless, but now she is where there is no more suffering and no more sorrow. And we rejoice in that. During this time we have spent quite a bit of time with the family and Gram. OverChristmas we all got together around Gram and prayed for peace and an end to her suffering. If any of you have witnessed or dealt with a loved one dying of cancer, you are well aware of the toll it takes on a person's body. Amazingly enough, as we finished praying, my heart broke to see Gram so changed by the battle she was in. I asked God (in my thoughts), “How much longer will she suffer? How much God?” In a still quiet voice I heard, “three.” Now this was a Tuesday so, of course, in my own mind I thought, “Okay--Friday. Friday is the day she will rejoice with the angels in Heaven.” Well, Friday came and went and I was puzzled by what I thought I heard. “Wishful thinking, I suppose.” Then, this Thursday I got the phone call that Gram finally went to be with Jesus. Do you know what the date was? January 3, 2008! What an awesome God we serve. He cared enough to answer, but I cared enough to listen! Remember, when you are looking for answers, take the time to listen. Be still and know that He is God!

We would like our Church Family to keep a few things in prayer this New Year that is filled with New Beginnings. . .

- 1.) We will have some new members joining the youth board and a few that have moved on to new beginnings in their ministry...wow...and hooray for all!
- 2.) Our youth, who are constantly growing, changing and battling.
- 3.) Pray for all of us to be still and silent, with our ears attentive to what God is trying to show and tell us as individuals and as a united body.

May Your New Year be filled with New Beginnings!

Patrick & Dustyn Wirick



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“A Passion for His Presence”



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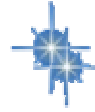
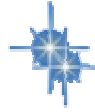
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New Year's Wishes

May you get a clean bill of health from your dentist, your cardiologist, your gastro-enterologist, your urologist, your podiatrist, your plumber and the I.R.S.

May your hair, your teeth, your face-lift, your abs and your stocks not fall; and may your blood pressure, your triglycerides, your cholesterol, your white blood count and your mortgage interest not rise.

May what you see in the mirror delight you, and what others see in you delight them. May someone love you enough to forgive your faults, be blind to your blemishes, and tell the world about your virtues.

May the telemarketers wait to make their sales calls until you finish dinner, may the commercials on TV not be louder than the program you have been watching, and may your check book and your budget balance - and include generous amounts for charity.

May you remember to say "I love you" at least once a day to your spouse, your child, your parent, and your siblings.

And may we live in a world at peace and with the awareness of God's love in every sunset, every flower's unfolding petals, every baby's smile, every loved one's kiss, and every wonderful, astonishing, miraculous beat of our heart.

HAPPY NEW YEAR