



**WELCOME Good morning and welcome to Bear Creek Church!** Thank you for joining us on this wonderful Lord's Day, an important day for those who prize the gift of God in Jesus above all things or people. Please sign the guest book on the back table if you are visiting today since we love to know who are our guests. We hope that you are made to feel very welcome, because we take your decision to join us with deep gratitude. If we can be of any help to you, or if you have any questions about knowing Christ, or what BCC is about, please don't hesitate to write me at [pastordale@aol.com](mailto:pastordale@aol.com). In the meantime, God bless you and yours with a deep appreciation for the treasure afforded us by his gift of his son Jesus.  
*Pastor Dale Meador*

The next Ladies Prayer Meeting is Thursday, Dec. 3rd, 1:00, at Barbara Taylor's (145 Willow Bend Way, Central Point, 664-2620). I hope to see many of you there, praying with us for the needy, and thanking our Heavenly Father for his many, many gifts to us – Barbara

At the Book Table: *A Praying Life* by Paul Miller. Penny Green writes:

"This book opens the floodgates to more meaningful, personal and continual prayer. Mr. Miller attacks the fallacies we tend to believe about prayer with sound scriptural references. He shows us how to pray 'childlike' prayers and to put away our cynicism toward prayer. He shares his own life as an example of how every life has a story, and how we can weave our own prayers through the tapestry God is providentially creating. Very exciting. A must read only if you want to give your prayer life a boost." (From Lynn Barton: I heartily agree. I'm seeing God's activity with fresh eyes; I was missing a lot because I wasn't looking for the story. Most helpful book on prayer I've read in years. Special note: he has a severely autistic daughter and is involved with Joni and Friends.)



BCC High School Boys and Dads Breakfast: Saturday, January 9 at Black Bear Diner, 7 am.

Our Christmas Eve service is coming up, and we're looking for families (of all shapes!) that would like to participate in the scripture reading portion of the service. If you're interested in helping us tell the story of the ages again, please call Dianne Heitmanek at 541-535-8115.

Ladies - discipleship is meant for us to grow in our faith. It is a one on one study with another woman. If you are interested in this study, and the encouragement that comes with it, contact me, Marla Lance, at 664-5796 or [bormiance@charter.net](mailto:bormiance@charter.net). For more information pick up a brochure on the back table entitled, "Encouragement for Women." - Marla

Thank you for your generous financial support of this ministry, especially over this holiday season. As a recent bulletin noted, a portion of all gifts go to support Christ-centered needs here in the body, in our community, and around the world. One emphasis of our holiday giving will be to support the gospel-exalting, church planting ministry of Sam Machaka, our friend in South Africa who soon will move to his native Zimbabwe to start a work there. That country has so much going for it: exotic wildlife, fertile

farmland, and special people. But these assets and more have been nearly destroyed by dictator Robert Mugabe, who last year finally entered into a power-sharing agreement with opposition head Morgan Tsvangirai. Of the hope this agreement bred, and of the dashing of that hope, the Zimbabwe Times wrote:

*It is generally agreed, in Zimbabwe at least, that 2008 was the worst year in the modern history of the country and its people. It was so bad, in fact that Zanu-PF [Mugabe's political party], the main architects of that misery, "accepted" change and agreed to "share" power with an opposition that they had ridiculed and vilified. 2009 therefore started with an optimism not seen in the country for many years. It was an optimism based on some changes that we all thought would bring relief to our bruised and battered selves.... As we come to the end of 2009, the optimism, still in evidence if only because there is no other option, is beginning to wane and one senses the dropping of shoulders as Zimbabweans realize that the changes are not delivering - at least not at the pace they expected. The inclusive government is still in place, but seems to lurch from one crisis to the next, offering little relief to "the people". In fact, it appears to me that the various parties concerned are interested more in positioning themselves for the expected elections, even though the dates for these elections are still an "outstanding matter".*

Zim is a country desperate for hope and for change (90% unemployment and 40% HIV/AIDS infection reported rates), and strong voices need to sing out that this hope comes only from Jesus and the gospel. We can have the privilege of encouraging that song through our support of Sam and Mildred, and it will be a privilege to do so.

Learn how to use your skills and passions to glorify God - no matter your location or vocation. The Perspectives course explores the plan of God to be glorified by all the world, and YOUR part in God's plan. Each week you'll hear from different speakers explain their insight on God's plan, with a four-fold emphasis on Biblical Foundations, Historical Progress, Cultural Distinctives, and Strategic Involvement. The classes run Tuesdays from 6:30-9:30 p.m., starting January 26, 2010. Cost is \$240 with early-bird and family discounts available. First night is free if you want to check it out. For more info, look for the black salt shaker flyers on the info table, or visit [www.Perspectives.org/Medford](http://www.Perspectives.org/Medford) or ask Aaron Tweeton, (541) 531-9537 or [aaron@tweeton.com](mailto:aaron@tweeton.com). *"Perspectives has been essential in mobilizing hundreds of lay people in our church to be World Christians and instilling passion for God's supremacy."* - John Piper

Registration now open. First come, first served.

# BCC's Parenting Retreat

With Pastor Dale

- How to build a home where peace, play and prayer happily co-exist
- The difference between a child-centered and Christ-centered home, and how that difference can save your children's lives
- Building immediate obedience, with a glad heart, in your children
- Raising teens who love the Lord
- How to make a strong marriage, and what that can do for your kids
- And much more

For new parents and expectant parents and experienced parents. Makes a great gift for young parents.

**Friday, January 22 7-9pm & Saturday, January 23 9-2pm**

Ashland Springs Hotel

Includes one night stay and Saturday breakfast and lunch \$130 per couple (\$110 for alums)

Registrar is Juli Hulce ([jjhulce@gmail.com](mailto:jjhulce@gmail.com))

From former attendees: "I really needed help with my role as a husband, an area I was neglecting in my marriage." "All of this has been so helpful...thanks for the encouragement." "There is so much to draw from in this material that will be truly helpful.." "The material was very clear and to the point. Your examples are wonderfully helpful." "Being away from home was very helpful. The info we took away was also very helpful..." "Excellent! Let's do this more often..." "With such a difficult subject I appreciate your light-

Other upcoming Events: Sunday, December 6: Ugandan Orphan's Choir; January 9: BCC High School Boys and Dads Breakfast, 7-9 am; January 22-23: Parenting Retreat, Ashland Springs Hotel; Saturday, February 13: Disability Ministry Respite Day; Joni and Friends Family Retreats (Santa Cruz CA: June 7-11 and July 19-23; Rockaway Beach OR: Aug 15-20)

See [www.bearcreekchurch.org](http://www.bearcreekchurch.org) for a complete list of our many small group weekly meetings.