

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW: BCC CHURCH FAMILY CAMPOUT AUGUST 12-

BEAR CREEK CHURCH 12-13-09

A very special Christmas event is planned for all BCC seniors on Sunday evening, December 20th. We will meet at the Apostolic Church on Sunset and Jackson St at 5:15 for a Christmas program with full orchestra, choir, and drama. If you have never attended their program you are in for a treat. Following the program we will go to Anne Bowman's home for dessert, coffee, and fellowship. Contact Bob and Marla Lance, 664-5796 by December 15, if you plan to attend so we can save enough seats. Also, let us know if you need a ride.

The next Ladies Prayer Group Meeting will be on Thursday, December 17th., 1:00, at Barbara Taylor's home at 145 Willow Bend Way in Central Point. All ladies are welcome. Call Barbara at 664-2620.

Parenting in the Pew Tip #17: Sit closer to the front. Many parents of young children sit near the back so that they can exit quickly and quietly, but sitting closer to the front puts your kids closer to the action. It's often easier for children to pay attention with less in front of them to distract them. And remember, we love children and love having them in the service with us even though that may mean a little more noise and movement.

The next Homeschool Moms meeting will be held tomorrow night, Monday, Dec. 14 at the home of Penny Green, 2779 Donnalee Drive in Medford. Come at 6:45pm for refreshments and chat; we will begin the meeting promptly at 7:00. Contact Robin Reed at (541) 779-0665 for additional information.

Rose Bowl Party here at St. Mary's



Gym
Friday, January 1, 1:30 or so to ?

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 or write her at dine@tndhome.net.

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. 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,

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.

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. Zimbabwe 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.

Other upcoming events: Friday, January 1: Rose Bowl Party, 1:30; 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); August 12-16: Church Family Campout

BCC Small Groups

Sunday
Eastwood Evening Home Group- 5:30 pm (Tom Eastwood; 776-6315)
Murphy Evening Home Group- 6:00 pm (Steve Murphy; 858-5919)
Phelps Evening Home Group- 7:00 pm (Pastor Brian Phelps; 261-8426)
Monday
BCC Homeschool Moms- 7:00 pm (Robin Reed; 779-0665)
Tuesday
BCC Gospel Class- 7:00 pm (Pastor Brian Phelps; 261-8426)
TOPSoccer- 6:00 pm (Tom Eastwood; 776-6315)
Wednesday
Men's Study- 6:00 am (Travis Dick; 772-4012)
Men's Study- 12:00 pm (Greg Stiles; 772-5868)
Hulce Evening Home Group- 6:30 pm (Jason Hulce; 821-7474)
Pritchett Evening Home Group- 6:45 pm (Bill Pritchett; 665-3869)
Dads/Sons Group- 7:00 pm (Dave Vorgang; 779-7975)
Moms/Daughters Group- (5th-6th Grade)- 6:30 (Lynn Barton; 535-8065 or Lori Vorgang; 779-7975); Moms/Daughters Group (7th-12th Grade)- 6:30 pm (Angie Bowman; 734-9706)
Thursday
Men's Study- 6:00 am (Dan Ross; 944-1240)
Ladies Prayer Group- 12:00 pm (Barbara Taylor; 664-2620)
Heitmanek/Moser Evening Home Group- 7:00 pm (Tom Heitmanek; 535-8115)
Cartwright Evening Home Group- 6:30 pm (Pastor Jim Cartwright; 821-0343)
Disability Team (GEMS)- 7:00 pm (Faye Harp; 324-9711)
Friday
Men's Study- 6:00 am (Bill Pritchett; 665-3869)

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. 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

CHILD AND TEEN OBEDIENCE IS IMPORTANT. HERE ARE 10 REASONS WHY

An open letter to Bear Creek Church parents, and others

Dear Parent:

I see it a lot: at the grocery store, in airports, even at church. Parents pleading, cajoling and bullying their children into obedience. "I'm going to count to three..." Or, "How many times do I have to tell you to stop (undesirable behavior)?" Or, "Mommy will buy you (shameless bribe) if you (revert to desired behavior)." Or, "Sit down and stop touching (stuff in the checkout lane; sibling; everything)!"

Wouldn't it be great if you could count on all your children or teens to obey you immediately, and to do so happily? This is a worthy goal, and within reach whether we're talking about your toddler and the stuff on grandma's curio cabinet, or your teenager and the keys to the car. It is important to know that you can trust your children to obey your instruction. But lest you think this goal is driven only by some maniacal, parental zeal for power, let me share some important reasons why immediate obedience - with a glad heart - is so important.

Before I do, let me note that I write not as an expert or authority. Like many of you, I am just trying to do my best as a Dad, making mistakes, and counting on God's grace. But I have been blessed with a wonderful wife, a Christian upbringing, and a lot of wise counsel when Nancy and I were first starting out. As a result, I can say that we never had to give a second thought to taking our children out in public, and that our home was a place of quiet peace and raucous play, and could go from one to the other in minutes. Raising our children has been a ton of fun, and today I get a kick out of encouraging other parents. That will be my goal at our upcoming Parents Retreat, January 22-23, when we will talk a lot more about how you actually make all this happen, especially the very important part about how discipline should be applied at different ages, from toddlerhood to adolescence. Plus: what's a glad heart? (Read to the end for registration information.)

Now then, some of the reasons why it is so important that your children obey you immediately, and with a glad heart, and why this is not just a subject of interest to control freaks only! In no particular order:

1. YOUR MARRIAGE: If you're always battling your children, or if issues in parenting are the source of frustration in the home, or (worse) a bone of contention between you and your spouse, your children will drive you and your spouse apart.

2. YOUR TESTIMONY: say what you will about the Lord's work in your life, but when people see that your children are out of control, your testimony won't mean much to them.

3. MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES: if you're up to your eyeballs trying to subdue children who are slow to obey, you won't have the time or energy to serve the Lord. And that's true whether we're talking about baking a casserole for the neighbor that's just home from the hospital, or if we're talking about a move to another country to be a full-time missionary. I know pastors who have been disqualified for ministry by their children's behavior, and I know missionary hopefuls who just couldn't get to the field because of concerns for their teens' attitudes. (I deserve to be in this category, but by God's grace still am humbled to serve and am grateful for good kids.)

4. YOUR HEALTH: when a person is described as a "frazzled" or "harried" Mom or Dad, those words are chosen because parenting is having a physical effect on them. Disobedient children can make you sick – literally – because you are anxious, worried, fearful, or simply because you don't get enough sleep!

5. YOUR CHILD'S SAFETY: I almost lost my wife in 1985. We celebrated my graduation from seminary with a trip to England. We had just arrived and were walking narrow streets in London when Nancy stepped off a curb directly in front of a double-decker bus (having looked the wrong way). I only had time to choke out the words, "Get back!" Thankfully, she recognized the stress in my voice and responded immediately, missing the bus by inches. Your children need to hear your voice amidst all the noise and respond in the same way, for their own health and welfare. This is true whether we're talking about the way little ones behave around a pool, or the way adolescents choose their friends: their lives can be at risk if they don't hear Mom and Dad above the din!

6. YOUR CHILD'S SALVATION: you can't force your children to know and love the Lord. But so much of a good relationship with the Lord can be modeled in their relationship with Mom and Dad: their affection for loving parents; their submission to authority; their appreciation for sovereignty (first, for parental sovereignty and then God's universal sovereignty); their familiarity first with a loving and disciplining earthly father and then a loving and disciplining heavenly father, and more!

7. YOUR CHILD'S ATTITUDES: remember that we're not talking here about rote obedience: not, "I'm obeying, but I don't want to!" Any parent with leverage (like imposing size, or the financial purse strings) can bully a child into submission. Instead, we want our children to comply with glad hearts. Obedience that isn't accompanied by a submissive heart isn't commendable, it's condemnable. So immediate obedience with a glad heart is critical since it addresses the child's motives, and not his or her behavior only.

8. YOUR CHILD'S SIBLINGS: If one or more of your children are out of control, it is going to be real hard for you to parent those other kids properly. That challenging child will get more attention, much of it negative, and this is likely to have a deleterious effect on brother and sister, who may swell with pride at their own perfection; or act out in order to win a bigger share of the parental pie.

9. OBEDIENCE TO SCRIPTURE: well, this should be obvious. There are so many scriptures that command us to take serious our children's rearing, nurture, and discipline. Making sure that our children are under loving command is not an option for the believing parent.

10. HAPPINESS: I've met people who think that winning their child's immediate compliance, with a glad heart, must be drudgery and a ton of hard work. It does require a strategy, the unity of Mom and Dad, tons of prayer together, and consistency. But believe me the results are soooooo worth it. As I watch parents struggle with their children I often wonder why they don't put all that angst and tension into a concerted effort to eliminate the disobedience and rebellion in their children or teens so they can all relax and enjoy each other's company?

Well, I'm sure I could think of more reasons if I had more time, and some chocolate chip cookies, which seem to help me think, but I've got to run. We'll talk much more about all this at our next Bear Creek Church Parenting Retreat for couples at the romantic Ashland Springs Hotel on January 22-23 (Friday night from 7-9 and Saturday from 9-2). The price is just \$130 per couple (\$110 for alums) and includes your overnight stay at this historic hotel, breakfast and lunch on Saturday, and the Retreat itself. Registration is limited to 12 couples. Contact Registrar Julianne at jjhulice@gmail.com.

Here is some of the written feedback I've received from previous Parenting Retreats:

"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 lighthearthedness..."

Thanks for your time. As always, I enjoy hearing your feedback.

Your partner in parenting,
Pastor Dale

