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Is
God's
work
going
forward
because
of
you?

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Grapevine

April Issue 2010

You Are Needed

For God's work to move forward here at GEBC, it will take you!! For God's kingdom to advance, YOU are necessary! You must take an active part!

Please keep reading.

Don't click to another page.

A Christian mother had been sharing the gospel with her four year old. One day this mother said, "Son, would you like to have Jesus in your heart?" The boy thought about it for a few minutes and then rolling his little brown eyes he said, "No, I don't think I want the responsibility". That boy understood what many Christians still have not figured out: Salvation is a free gift, but it comes with some built in responsibilities.

God's word says this in I Corinthians 3:5-9a;



5 "What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. 7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. 8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers..."

We at GEBC are God's fellow workers! It has been said that at the average church; 20% of the people do 80% of the work, and 20% of the people give 80% of the money. I would like to think we are NOT an average church, but only you can change those statistics. You are needed at your church.

Are you serving?
Are you giving?
Are you praying?
Are you encouraging?
Are you blessing?
Are you sacrificing?

Is God's work going forward because of you?

We are God's fellow workers. Not spectators, bystanders, or onlookers! Workers!

We are on God's team and

He expects us to be game-changers. The only way we can lose is if we do not participate.

Although the major thrust of I Corinthians 3:5-9 is to diminish the importance of individuals, it is obvious that without Paul and Apollos doing their part, the people at Corinth would not be Christians. Verse 5 tells us that Paul and Apollos were "servants through whom you believed."

Paul and Apollos are insignificant compared with God Himself, but they are vital and necessary to God's plan. Paul and Apollos each had a part to play in God's work AND SO DO YOU!! People would not have been saved without Paul and Apollos doing their part. That's amazing and convicting.

It is going to be exciting to see who comes to faith in Christ and who grows in their faith because of your involvement. Please don't procrastinate!

God Bless
Pastor Jim

T.E.A.M. Work



Jay Schilling
Worship Pastor

GOD gets

The glory!

It's a

WIN WIN

Situation!



Serving
Together

Have you ever worked on and completed a puzzle by yourself? I have done it only once! It took longer than I wanted it to and by the end I vowed to never do it again. In contrast, have you ever put together a puzzle with other people, especially family or friends? It is so much more enjoyable and the time spent working on the puzzle is a great time to talk and listen as everyone contributes to completing the project. Some of our greatest family memories have been over a puzzle. It gives great meaning to the phrase “many hands make light work.”

I bring this up because it is the same way in ministry. When we try to serve God on our own, **minimum results** are the usual. But when we work as a team to serve and meet a need in God’s name, **everyone benefits and God gets the glory**. Did you hear that???. When we work as a team to love others as Jesus would, everyone benefits and **GOD gets the glory!** **IT’S A WIN – WIN Situation!** Why is teamwork so important to the success of

our church? Well, scripture reminds us that though God made everyone different, each person plays an important part of a healthy and growing church. Check out these verses from 1 Corinthians 12:

(vs. 12) - “*The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts*

(vs. 18) – “*But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as He wanted them to be.*”

(vs.24b) – “*But God has combined the members of the body...so that there should be no division in the body but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.*”

(vs. 27) – “*Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*”

I’m so thankful that God left us with some important directions on how to “do” church. Many people have great ideas on how church should function, but since God made the church, He should be the One to know how it works best. Former pastor and author John Maxwell came up with the following acronym (T.E.A.M.) that rightly describes the attitude we should have when serving in the church:

- Together
- Everyone
- Accomplishes
- More

So this leads me to two thoughts:

#1 – **Have you gotten involved in the TEAM yet? Why not?**

#2 – **There are some great opportunities to get involved NOW!** Here’s a few:

- Help with the **Easter Egg-
spedition (April. 3rd)**...we could use extra help!

- **GrahamJam** is on Sat. July 17th! We always need helpers to make this great community event happen.

- Sign up at the **Productive Christian** table this Sunday in the lobby to get connected!

- Come to my **SHAPE Class** on Sun. March 28 from 6-8pm to discover where God has shaped you to serve. You’ll learn about your spiritual gifts also.

Don’t wait another day! Start serving NOW! Remember the T.E.A.M.!

In Him,
Pastor Jay

Together Everyone Accomplishes More

SEEDS FROM CEBU

The Cebu Missions Team was commissioned last summer with a bold ambition to "Plant Seeds In Cebu". With prayer, moral, and the financial support of the church, we did succeed in planting many seeds. Little did we



know, however, just how much this would be reciprocated by the rich, warm hearts of the Philippine people. I am pretty sure that everyone on the team shares this same sentiment... that far more seeds were planted in our hearts than we ever could have planted in Cebu. Each one of us has stories to tell about how God used this trip to open our hearts. My story begins atop a winding mountain road at the fairly isolated Happy Hori-

zons Children's Ranch.

Many of us have the all too familiar image burned into our minds of children living in shanty towns, playing on garbage heaps, and running around in cesspools of sewage, but this was clearly not the case at Happy Horizons. I was amazed at the cleanliness of the facilities, and professionalism of the staff. It was obvious that they genuinely cared about the children.

*“going on
this trip was
getting out
of my
comfort
zone “*



SEEDS FROM CEBU

I was impressed by the fairly regimented routine that emphasized productivity, spiritual disciplines, and education. I can remember gazing at the orphanage facilities, and thinking that the very heart of God must be in this place.

We only spent two days at the orphanage, and did not have a great deal of time to get to know the kids. Most of the time, we were involved in structured activities which left

us little time for individual interaction. We spent much of the time tutoring the children, giving group devotions, and teaching them some games. The most memorable moments that I had with the kids were during mealtimes. It was during one of these times that I had the privilege of meeting a sixteen year old boy named Mark.

Mark was a quiet, clearly intelligent boy who really enjoyed chatting with us. Mark would

quickly drift into the background when more outgoing kids came along so I made it a point to engage him "on the sidelines" whenever possible. I have never had the "gift of gab", and usually find it awkward to engage in small talk with anyone, but I realized that part of going on this trip was getting out of my comfort zone and allowing God to be strong in my weaknesses.



The Heavens Declare the Glory of God!



The above statement is true. God intended it to be so, for He provides evidence for our faith. He does so in our personal salvation, in Scripture and yes, even when we look into the depths of His star filled sky. God sometimes works through miracles, but mostly through the natural laws He established. But is there any difference, for the complexity of His Creation seen in modern science is a miracle in itself? He is the “inventor” of science and His Bible has a great deal to say about it. Creation scientists start with the Bible to guide their research whether in biology, geology or astronomy. We can truly say Christ is guilty...Guilty of Creation, for He left His fingerprints all over it. There is not only a preponderance of evidence, but evidence beyond a shadow of doubt. The best scientific theories are predictive. The Bible itself is predictive on several scientific matters. Let's look at a few.

SEEDS FROM CEBU *continued*

I was able to leverage off of our shared interest in the guitar to strike up conversations about his interests, and plans for the future.

I never realized how much these seemingly trivial conversations meant to the young man until the next day when he handed me a folded up note to "Please pray for me and I will pray for you always". I told Mark that I had a routine to pray for a member of my family each day. I let him know that I would pray for him every Tuesday at the same time that I pray for my son Rainer. He made the commitment to pray for me every Sunday. I knew that God always hears the prayers of the orphan, and was somehow comforted to know that I would have

one praying for me!

Despite the best efforts the staff made to make the lives of these children as fulfilling as possible... it was still an orphanage. The kids rarely had the opportunity to venture outside orphanage grounds. Though I never once heard any of the kids complain about anything, their pain could somehow be felt through their smiles and words of thanksgiving to God for ever being sent to the orphanage.

The toughest part of the trip for many of us was the night that we left the

orphanage. The kids were outside saying "bye" and hugging us for what seemed like an eternity. Many of them were in tears and kept shouting "don't forget us". As we closed up the van doors, I was overcome by a strange sense of "survivor's guilt" for leaving. I will never forget these kids and hope to visit them again soon. If any of you have an open prayer slot on Tuesdays, please add these kids to your list!

Bill Schasteen

The Heavens Declare cont.



1. The earth is round! Isaiah 40:22 “he sits above the circle of the earth”. What a profound scientific statement. Wait you say, “Any fourth grader knows that”. True, but those of Isaiah’s time did not know this simple fact (unless informed by God); for they had not flown around it nor into space to confirm it. But wait, earth could be circular yet flat! True, but go to Job 26:10 and find the description of what astronomers call the terminator. God “inscribed a circle on the surface, a border between light and darkness”. That’s only possible if the earth is a sphere. That’s a God’s eye view of earth! Neither Job nor Isaiah nor anyone until the 20th century would/could confirm this statement until earth was seen from space. Scripture was way ahead of man’s knowledge (science) & the Bible was divinely inspired. God takes the simple to confound the intelligent.

2. The earth floats in space! Job 26:7 “God hangs the earth on nothing”. Big deal, some say, another truism. But then consider that once again Job had no way of knowing this in 2000 B.C. Some ancients thought Atlas held up the earth. Then came the airplane and we could finally agree with the Bible. Perhaps it’s best to believe God’s truth from the get go and always give science time to catch up!



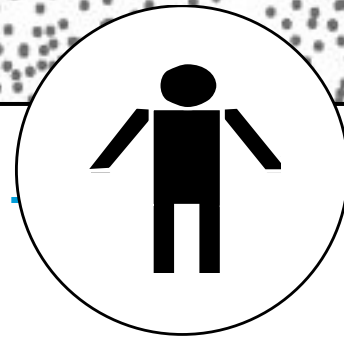
3. The number of stars is uncountable! Oh man, that’s dumb, everyone knows that! Well yes, today, but what of God’s promise that Abraham’s descendants would be as uncountable as the stars (Gen 22:17 with Gen 32:12). Ancient astronomers did indeed count the stars...Then came the telescope, the reflecting telescope, the Hubble deep field telescope and space probes. Guess what? Stars are now considered as uncountable as grains of sand on a beach. I rest my case!

These are just 3 simple examples of how the Bible is preemptive and confounding to man’s fallible knowledge. Empirical science is compatible with the Bible. So called historical or origins “science” is conjecture. The Bible is THE trustworthy history book of the origin of the universe and of life.



Where are you in the body of believer's?

This Months Focus Family



The Body

God never intended for Christians to live in isolation, sealed in our own private, stained-glass bubbles. You were designed for relationship at an intimate, real level. To know and be known. To find support when you fall and comfort when you hurt. To fit in, to be needed, to be used of God. To accomplish, as one part of a tightly-knot organism, that which you could never hope to alone.

That's the body dynamic in action. The church of Jesus Christ—the Body—is a responsive agent of God's kingdom, each part fit together and moving in harmony to strengthen its members and bring light to a dark world.

Your help is needed!

