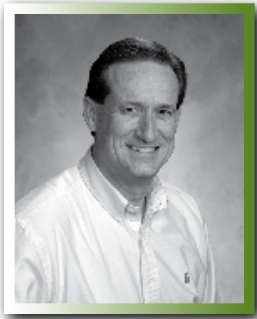




JANUARY 2009

fbcmodesto.com

From Pastor Wade



As we begin our tenth year of the 21st century with many changes looming before us, it's important for us to remember and hang on to that which is certain, unchanging and foundational.

Before the elections, a friend sent me the following:

Top 10 Predictions No Matter Who Wins the Election

1. The Bible will still have all the answers.
2. Prayer will still work.
3. The Holy Spirit will still move.
4. God will still inhabit the praises of His people.
5. There will still be God-anointed preaching.
6. There will still be singing of praise to God.
7. God will still pour out blessings upon His people.
8. There will still be room at the Cross.
9. Jesus will still love you.
10. Jesus will still save the lost when they come to Him.

... and God approves this message!

I'm sure each of us could add to this list. How about: God will continue to provide for His people; God will still forgive sin; God will still give wisdom to all who ask in faith; God will still replace the peace of Christ for our anxiety. The list could go on and on!

When you start feeling anxious, hopeless, desperate, fearful, depressed or stressed, remember God is with you, His Word will guide you, comfort you and remind you of His unchanging promises.

As King David loved to say, "The Lord is my Rock!"

With great confidence,
Wade

Roy Dooley, well known around First B because of his servant's heart, has just become a volunteer chaplain for the Ceres Police Department. Roy has for years served the Lord through leadership in the First B Men's Ministries, the weekend security team, the pastor's prayer team and has been a key leader on the Drama Team. Roy is always ready to lend a helping hand where needed, as evidenced by his stage managing the Veterans Day production at the Gallo, which included overseeing 256 performers! He's one of those folks with the spiritual gift of serving, and exercising that gift is life-giving to Roy.

"My whole adult life I wanted to be involved in police work, but the Lord seemed to always say no," says Roy. "Even though I ended up going through the training to be a reserve officer twice, He always had something else in mind for me to do. Fast forward 35 years and I find myself with my kids grown and ministries I used to be very involved in no longer needing the time they once did. Now I am also

much older but still with the fire in my heart to be involved. Then I realized I could serve two desires with one ministry. To become a chaplain allows me to work in the law enforcement world using the



lessons God has taught me through the ministries I have served in during the past 30 years."

Roy is employed by Northern California Surgery Center in Turlock as a materials manager. He and his wife, Deb, have two adult children and will soon be first-time grandparents. Their journey through life has been marked by serving others, enjoying the fellowship of their Home Group and ministry partners and using their gifts to build God's Kingdom.

Roy's life is an example of how God uses all we do to prepare us for our next life assignment. Roy adds, "God didn't say 'no' 30 years ago, He said 'later' and 'different.'"

Lessons From A Hunting Dog

When I was a kid growing up, my family owned a lot of dogs. The other day I realized I could actually still recite the names of 12 different dogs who resided at my house during those years, each with a look and personality all its own.

As each animal grew more comfortable with the family, it was always dad who grew the most uncomfortable with the dog, and he would inevitably come up with creative and logical reasons for the exit of Dudley, Lurch, Duster or Tammy. His reasons always made perfect sense, and the dogs were given away or sold.

In direct contrast to my childhood multi-dog upbringing, my wife, Cindy, was raised with one dog that provided 13 years of love and friendship to her family. You can imagine the discussion between us as we're deciding to introduce a dog into our young marriage. Cindy announced that we would keep the dog until the dog died. To her it wasn't just a dog, it was a family member to whom she would grow attached. We were not going to have a revolving door for dogs at our house!

Barney entered our family as a nine-week-old yellow Labrador retriever puppy. I completely enjoyed the process of training him to hunt upland game, and I loved him as our pet. He became a wonderful addition to our growing family and proved to be a great friend and distraction for me when the ministry became consuming. Some of my most satisfying times

were training out in the field with Barney, watching him work off my whistle and hand commands and seeing how happy and proud he was of his accomplishment, eager for my praise of his work.

But in order for me to praise him, he had to do exactly as I instructed. That was the whole point of training Barney – obedience that led to trustworthiness. In order for him to learn to obey me so that I could trust him and so that he could be the best dog he was meant to be, he had to watch me closely. Yes, Barney had to keep his eyes on me, give me his attention, and know what my gestures, my voice and my body language meant.

As much as I loved Barney before he was trained, as much as he endeared himself to me as a goofy, loveable puppy, I wanted Barney to be my obedient, loving pet who could be an accomplished hunting dog eager to please me, his master. One day in the midst of a training session, it occurred to me that our relationship was a bit like the one pictured in Psalm 123:

“I lift up my eyes to You, to You Whose throne is in Heaven. As the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid look to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord, our God, till He shows us mercy.”

I am a lot like Barney – a servant in training who must watch his master intently and be ready to respond immediately. A hunting

by Larry Bull

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Looking Back At Great Moments Of 2008

It's good to give thanks to the Lord for what He has done, and there's no better time to look back and recall His goodness and blessing than at the beginning of a new year.

Here are just a few of the blessings God has graced our ministries with in the last 12 months. As a form of biblical praise, you might try reading each one aloud, followed by saying, "His love endures forever!" as the Jews of the Old Testament did in Psalm 136.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

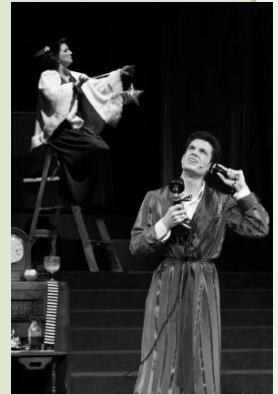
- We celebrated 83 baptisms, including five from our Chinese Church.
- We welcomed 106 new members to our First B family.
- We began a ministry to veterans.



Another great moment: Lao, Chinese and Vietnamese congregations share a meal

WORSHIP MINISTRY

- We've discovered and are discipling several young musicians, training them to lead in worship.
- The Slovenia New Hope Team had a great ministry proclaiming the Gospel across that nation this fall, evangelizing, encouraging and building the Kingdom.
- Our choir has an active and effective prayer team, and God has answered prayers for healing, provision and salvation through their ministry.
- We have enjoyed serving the community through working with Memorial Cancer Services leading a music class for survivors.
- Our Drama Team served the community by providing drama and music for the Veterans Day production at the Gallo Arts Center.
- Our Drama Team presented an effective, moving Christmas play that captured the hearts of many.



YOUTH MINISTRY

- The Junior High Ministry has doubled in size in 2008.
- Students are excited about their relationship with Jesus and are inviting others to church.
- Dozens of junior high students have committed their lives to Christ.

Continued on page 5

Looking Back At Great Moments Of 2008

- High school students came to faith in Christ at both winter and summer camps.
- “Let’s Make A Deal” drew dozens of new students and some have returned.
- High school mission trips to both Mexico and Belize saw students taking leadership like never before and growing in their faith and service to others.
- There was great growth and transparency in our high school small groups.
- IGNITE, the college ministry, has increased in numbers, spiritual health and unity, with Sunday night gatherings meeting needs and inspiring growth.
- IGNITE mission trip to Reynosa, Mexico had great impact on the locals, as well as our team.
- IGNITE began a ministry house called The Plex, located across from MJC. Six young adults live there, with a vision to create a spiritual community of believers that reaches out to young adults.
- Winter and fall camps saw God touch hearts.
- We saw God stretch, develop and mold several students into future quality leaders.



KID COUNTRY

- Tweenage Summer Camp was on target!
- Counselors did an outstanding job of influencing the lives of our kids.
- About 20 campers prayed to receive Christ.
- Eleven campers rededicated their lives to Christ.
- One entire cabin of boys received Christ.
- Camp was meaningful to kids who know the Lord and continue to grow.

ADULTS

- Thirty four Home Groups meet regularly for Bible study, prayer and friendship.
- Home Groups served at Monday Night Church, adopted missionaries, visited and ministered at convalescent homes, adopted underprivileged families providing food and gifts; helped people move, provided complimentary gift wrapping, produced Sentimental Journey and other community outreaches.
- Pacesetter’s Mexico Missions trip broke new ground under the leadership of Stan Risen and Rich Erickson, providing physical and spiritual support at the Rancho Santa Marta orphanage.
- God has raised up a team of seven Sunday School teachers in the Pacesetter’s Ministry.
- A congregational care team has been formed this year to meet needs and minister to people.
- Twenty three volunteered for a short-term missions trip, working at Gleanings For The Hungry.

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Proud of Junior Highers

In November of 2007 we decided to have our junior high students focus on giving to those in need. Each year, hundreds of thousands of children go without receiving a Christmas gift. Samaritan's Purse, a worldwide Christian organization, sends gifts to children throughout

by Matt Moore

the world during their Operation Christmas Child drive. They depend on churches to provide the gifts. Churches around the world supply gifts that fill shoe boxes. Boxes are filled with toys, games, puzzles, toothbrushes, and basically anything that these deserving kids could possibly need. Last year our students stepped up to the challenge and made 22 shoeboxes. Samaritan's



Purse then provides each gift box with a small book proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ.

I was extremely proud of our students' selflessness and their desire to give out of their abundance. In November, I had high hopes of our students doubling the number of boxes sent to needy children. I challenged the students to reach a goal of 50 Christmas shoe boxes. To my amazement, our junior high students packed, wrapped and sent 126 Christmas shoeboxes.

Each shoebox can change the world of a little boy or girl. Children who often go without any luxury, comfort or entertainment, get a chance to enjoy a gift, play with their new Christmas toys and most importantly, learn about the greatest gift of all! Each box can change the world!

Lessons From A Hunting Dog Continued

dog's master sees the big picture and can see what the dog in the brush cannot. He trusts his master to give clear directives, and he knows that if he is diligent to do his given task well he will be rewarded with love and a hearty "well done." My Master loves me far more than I loved Barney, but I wonder sometimes if I possess the focused desire to please Him. What would life be like if I were instantly joyous and attentive in the presence of my Master?

Barney was a good hunting dog. He lived to please me. He learned

from me, but I learned from him what living to please one's master in a pure and simple way looks like. Although my life is far more complex than his, I will always carry that picture in my mind of honest, uncomplicated obedience.

This year I want to keep my eyes open and ears tuned for the commands of my Master. I want to achieve that simple obedience. I want to respond immediately and with an eager heart to please the One Who will someday say, "Well done."

Looking Back At Great Moments Of 2008

MEN'S MINISTRIES

- Nineteen Men's Groups meet weekly for Bible study, support and prayer.
- Battlezone discipleship ministry was launched and piloted in Men's Ministries.
- Men's Ministries launched four Quest For Authentic Manhood classes, which are changing men's lives.
- One hundred sixty two men met at a mountain retreat, many dealing with the pain of not experiencing their father's blessing and received God's healing.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

- New Small Group Bible studies began in the workplace
- We saw prayer answered: Robbie and Laurie Allred's daughter, Reghan, grew a kidney. During Laurie's five-month ultrasound, Reghan had two kidneys. At birth they checked and she had only one. She had five ultrasounds from birth to two years of age that only showed one kidney until her last ultrasound at age two that showed she now has two!
- Women's Ministries began a Crown Financial class for single women, teaching them God's principles about money and budgeting.
- Our Women's GriefShare class consistently had 12-14 participants throughout the 14 weeks of classes, providing comfort and support to the bereaved.

PASTORAL CARE

- When young Megan's antibiotic-resistant staph infection caused doctors to doubt if she would make it, God healed her, prompting hospital staff to call her "Miracle Megan."
- When Collette was in grave condition, close to death in ICU, on a ventilator and losing ground, God healed her, and she's back home. Again, hospital staff called this a miracle.
- When Florence Tan's niece was fighting for her life, God provided treatment and answered prayer. She is in 100% remission, and some in her family who are not believers are seeing God's hand at work.
- We rejoice to have lay people participate in hospital visitation and follow-up.
- God is working through grief support groups, ministering to those who have lost loved ones.

VSEM SLOVENCEM



500 let



New Hope

POHONO U SLOVENIJI!

GLASBENO-DRAMSKA PRIREDITEV U POCASTITEU
500. LETNICE ROJSTVA PRIMOZA TRUBARJA

**Back from their tour of Slovenia
The New Hope Slovenia Team 2008 Concert**

*An evening of inspiring music, drama and some comedy
Amazing stories about God's faithfulness*

Friday, January 9 • 7 pm
Worship Center

Reception following concert

Membership Class

New Five-week Class

- Begins Sunday, Jan 4, 9 am
- Pavilion Garden, rm 931
- Taught by various pastors
- A basic introduction to First B and how to get connected, no need to pre-register for this class

Membership questions?
extension 2370

Believer's Baptism

Sunday, February 22

- 9 & 10:45 am
- An opportunity to express your faith in Jesus Christ publicly and allow others to share in your joy

If you'd like to be baptized, please call the church office

Baptism questions?
extension 2370

World Outreach

Night of Prayer For The World

- Monday, Jan 5 (first Monday each month)
- 6:30 pm, 1325 11th St

Reception For

Todd & Sarah Hunnicutt

- Sunday, Jan 11
- 5:30 pm, Pavilion Garden

Chinese Ministry • Sunday

- 10:45 am, The Point, upstairs

Laotian Ministry • Sunday

- 10:45 am, 1325 11th St

Cambodian Ministry • Sunday

- 10:45 am, CE Bldg, rms 340 & 341

World Outreach questions?
extension 2320

Budgets That Work Workshop

Sunday, January 18

- 3-6 pm, The Point
- \$15 single or couple for materials
- Presented by Crown Financial Ministries
- Register early by calling the church office or online at fbcmodesto.com
- Space is limited

Budget Workshop questions?
extension 2360

Home Groups

Home Groups – a place to belong

- Connect with other adults
- Various groups and locations
- Call or go to fbcmodesto.com

Home Group questions?
extension 2370

Monday Night Church

Service and Meal

- Monday, Jan 12, 19, 26
- 6 pm, Pavilion Concourse

Are You Able To Volunteer?

- Help with childcare, prayer partners, sign language or food service
- Sign up this weekend on your communication card or call the office

Monday Night Church questions?
extension 2350

STUDENT MINISTRIES

Fusion Junior High

Sundays - Center Stage

- 9 am, Chapel

Fusion Insideout Small Groups

- Wednesdays, 6:45 pm, Chapel

Fear Factor

- Wednesday, Jan 28, 6:45 pm, Chapel

Check Out Fusion Online

- fusionjrhigh.com

High School

Elevation - Winter Camp

- Friday, Jan 30-Sunday, Feb 1
- \$145 through Jan 14; \$165 after \$50 deposit holds lower price
- Old Oak Ranch

Broomball & Ice Skating

- \$5; Wednesday, Jan 7
- Oak Park Ice Arena, Stockton

The Deep End - Sundays

- 9 am, Pavilion Concourse

128/Fuel Groups

- Wednesdays
- 6:45 pm, Pavilion Concourse

Check Out 128 Online

- 128online.com

College Ministry

18-20 Somethings

IGNITE - Sundays

- 7 pm, Pavilion Concourse

Winter Weekend @ Chinquapin

- \$95; Friday-Sunday, Jan 23-25
- Crossroads college group from Turlock will be with us

Check Us Out Online

- fbcignite.com

Student Ministries questions?
extension 2506/2508

Single Adults

Single Focus

- Sundays, 9 am
- The Point, upstairs
- *What Really Matters? Let's See!*

Single Adult questions?
extension 2373

Young Marrieds & Young Families

Sundays

- 9 am, Pavilion Garden

Come check out our class as we *live life together*. During the morning we enjoy sharing with one another as we focus on biblical truths, faith, building strong families and more.

Young Marrieds & Young Families questions?
extension 2373

Family Dynamics Marriage • Family • Parenting

Beginning January 4 9 & 10:45 am

- The Point, downstairs
- *The Four Principles of Living in Relationship*
 - The Principle of Love*
 - The Principle of Integrity*
 - The Principle of Wisdom*
 - The Principle of Change*
- Led by Terry Benner

Family Dynamics questions?
extension 2373

Women's Ministries

Small Groups

- Various groups meeting at various times and locations

Women's Ministries questions?
extension 2316

Pacesetters

Sundays

- 10:45 am, Pavilion Garden
- *Luke, Christian Ethics and Heaven, God's Great Reward*

Monthly Prayer Meeting

- Monday, Jan 5, 3:30 pm
- Fireside Room

Pacesetters questions?
extension 2355

Men's Ministries

Super Bowl Breakfast Simulcast

- Saturday, Jan 31
- 7 am, breakfast
7:30-9 am simulcast
- Pavilion Concourse

Men's Small Groups

- Various groups available

Men's Ministries questions?
extension 2355

Worship Ministries

Worship Choir

- Thursdays, 7 pm
- The Point, downstairs
- High school and up welcome

Worship Orchestra

- Thursdays, 7 pm
- Worship Center
- High school and up welcome

Worship questions?
extension 2113

fbcmodesto.com

Check Us Out On The Web

- Easy to use
- Register and even pay for camps
- Listen to weekend messages
- Find information on classes and events
- Read back issues of *Around the Rock*
- Connect with others in groups of all sizes

Rancho Santa Marta Mission Trip

January 16-24

- Help with mechanical, carpentry, yard work, painting, computers, sewing, orchard pruning, clean-up, work with local children and orphans
- \$250 per person

Rancho Santa Marta questions?
extension 2355

Sunday Night Teaching Time

Galatians: Being Free in a Tense Time

Can you be a true follower of Christ and live totally free? Are these two paths compatible? Discover what true freedom is and how to grow strong in your faith in these uncertain times

- Sunday, 5:30 pm
- Pavilion Garden

Sunday Night Teaching Time
questions?
extension 2320



Welcome New Members

*Calysta Bouck
Aren Clegg
Jon Dressel
Shelly Dressel
Lovetta Serry*

Dedication of Parents and Little Children

*Zyllah Kai Bradley
Jackson Wade Bright
Willow Brook Raney Byrne
Zadie Adele Carraway
Nolan Charles Cheek
Tyler Andrew Espanola
Noah Christopher Henn
Chloe Rose Jones
Tyler Joseph Lencioni
Taylor Joy Monday
Caleb Paul Pratt
Carter Michael Shroyer
Emalyn Grace Vass*

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**First Baptist Church
Modesto, California
Wade Estes, Senior Pastor**

Looking For A Place To Serve?

Here's An Idea

- Serve as an usher
- Ages 16 and older

Usher questions?
extension 2807

Recovery In Christ

Ministries Support Groups

Substance abuse, dysfunction and dependency

Thursdays, 7 pm, Pavilion Garden

Childcare provided, birth-sixth grade

Various groups available for men and women. Our recovery ministry is designed to help people work through difficult issues that cannot be worked through alone.

Search For Significance For Women

- Begins Jan 8, 7 pm
- Pavilion Garden

Recovery In Christ questions?
extension 2350

Kid Country

Good News Bible Clubs In City Schools

- Beginning in January
- You can provide prayer support, supplies or teach
- Call to sign up

Christian Martial Arts Class

- Ages 8-17
- Thursdays, 5:30-6:30 pm
- Saturdays, 9:30-10:30 am
- The Family Room
- Small monthly fee

Opportunities To Serve In 2009

- Many opportunities for you to help children learn more about Jesus
- Fill out a 2009 Kid Country helper card and turn it in Sunday

Kid Country questions?
extension 2120