

August 2007

Issue 8

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On Our Prayer List:

Leonard Uitenham, Peter Rode, Bryan Brown and Joe Kaplan are in Romania visiting the church there. They plan to return on August 5th.

Sue Ann Laughlin is recovering from knee surgery. She expects to have shoulder surgery soon.

JoAnn Curtis has not been feeling well. She is at home.

Linda Laughlin is unable to get out and would appreciate prayers.

Continue to remember:
Sheri Brown
George and Edith Teeters
P.D. Kirby
Sandy Malsom's parents
Jim Crotts
Malinda Gregory's nephew, Ryan

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Bonnie Koger and family on the loss her husband, Frank; to Tinker Clayton and family on the loss of his father, Harold Clayton; and to Mark Slayton on the loss of his grandmother, Ruth Collins.

	Attendance	Offering
7/1	409	\$ 12,461
7/8	381	8,057
7/15	370	12,122
7/22	393	9,761

It's Time For VBS 2007

August 5 – 9

6:30 each evening

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Summer Class Series

Journey with Jesus continues through August 26. Invite a friend to take the Journey with you in our children's and adult classes.

Coming this Fall



Friendly Avenue will host a World Missions Workshop October 27 – 28. Watch for more information in the coming weeks.



This Should Make You Stop and Think!!

1. Do you love life? Then do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of.
2. Try not to become a person of success, but rather a person of virtue.
3. Conformity is the jailer of freedom and the enemy of growth.
4. Courage is never to let your actions be influenced by your fears.
5. There are enough targets to aim at without firing at each other.
6. He who provides for this life, but takes no care for eternity, is wise for a moment, but a fool forever.
7. Never give the devil a ride, he will always want to drive.
8. It is better to work with the construction gang, than with the wrecking crew.
9. Money is an excellent servant, but a terrible master.
10. Blessed is he who, having nothing to say, refrains from giving wordy evidence of the fact.
11. Sometimes the Lord calms the storm, sometimes He lets the storm rage and calms His child.
12. Wisdom is the quality that keeps you from getting into situations where you need it.
13. Devoting a little of yourself to everything means committing your all to nothing.
14. Some people reach the top of the ladder of success only to find it is leaning against the wrong wall.
15. Contentment isn't getting what we want but being satisfied with what we have.
16. Great minds discuss ideas,
Average minds discuss events,
Small minds discuss people.
17. Many a person thinks that they have an open mind about a subject when it's merely vacant.
18. CELL PHONE vs. BIBLE
I wonder what would happen if we treated our Bibles like we treat our cell phones?
19. What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?
20. What if we flipped through it several times a day?
What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?
What if we used it to receive messages from the text?
What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?
What if we gave it to children as gifts?
What if we used it when we traveled?
What if we used it in case of emergency?
This is something to make you go...hmm, where's my Bible?
Oh, and one more thing. Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill.
Makes you stop and think "where are my priorities?"
NO REJECTED calls!
NO FLAT BATTERY!!!!
NO "pleases call me's" because He'll call on you ALL THE TIME!!!!

Keep the Faith!!

Mission Report to San Juan De Le Maguana

On 06/23/07 John & Marie Harris ventured to San Juan to meet with their leadership and discuss our future together.

Thanks to God, our trip was very productive and we accomplished all we set out to accomplish.

All flights were on time, our delays between flights were perfectly timed and except for a little turbulence travel was uneventful.

We arrived at our hotel very late on Saturday evening and found ourselves in the midst of a festival honoring St. John (i.e., San Juan) and had to endure very loud music and noise until approximately 1:00AM Sunday Morning. I declined Bolivar's invitation to appear on TV the next morning (i.e., Sunday morning) because of fatigue and the lack of an experienced translator.

LEADERSHIP TEAM:

At 8:30 on Monday morning, I met with the leadership team for San Juan and at 11:30AM several Ministers from the outlying congregations joined us.

The San Juan leadership team consist of:

- o Braudilio Beltre, Deacon.
- o Juan de dios Suero, Deacon
- o Pedro Ruben Suero, Deacon
- o Jacob Oyando Ayuino, Minister
- o Robert Terrero, Elder/Minister
- o Bolivar Ramirez, Elder/Minister

Realizing these names don't mean much to our readers, but I include them to emphasize the fact that the congregation has both, Elders and Deacons.

Leaders From Outlying Congregations:

- o Efrain Soler, Minister/Pedro Corte
- o Cristobal Figueneo, Minister/Juan de Herrera
- o Andres Alcantara, Minister/Juan de Herrera
- o Lodi Alcantara, Minister Sabaneta

WHEN I ASKED FOR THE MENTAL, PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL "STATE OF THE CONGREGATION(S)." THIS WAS THE RESPONSE:

Braudilio Beltre (Deacon): The Church is healthy, because of a decision 9 years ago to take time twice/month approximately 45 members of the church to come together for nothing but prayer and fasting. The benevolence they receive and distribute to help people build and repair homes, etc helps the church grow.

Juan de dios Suen (Preacher): Spiritually the church is going well and is very healthy. Many women are keeping the church going well and are the backbone of the Church.

Pedro Ruben Suero (Deacon): Spiritually healthy, many of the men & women in the church are working hard and will continue to work hard because their hearts are in the kingdom.

Jacob Oyando Ayuino (Preacher): Spiritually healthy. Few have the attitude to continue working. Older Christians are helping new converts

Robert Terrero (Elders): Church men and women are able to keep the church spiritually strong. Economically needy, but they continue working with the resources they have available to them. With more economic help they could reach more souls.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS IN EACH OF THE CONGREGATIONS:

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>	<u>BUILDING</u>
SAN JUAN	175	YES
JUAN DE HERRERA	30	YES
GINOVE	9	NO (NEW WORK)
LAS MATAS FERXAN	30	NO (NEW WORK)
BARRIO NUEVO	45	YES
SABANETA	19	NO (RENT SPACE)
ARROYO LORRO	6	NO (NEW WORK)
PEDRO CORTE	25	YES (FINISHED BUILDING WITH OUR SUPPORT)
MABRIGIDA	10	NO (RENT SPACE)
HONDO VALLE	20	NO (RENT SPACE)

(MISSION REPORT CONTINUED)

2007 VBS

On Monday evening, Marie met with the teachers to explain how to use the VBS material that we brought to them. After approximately 2 hours meeting and several questions everyone was satisfied and very happy with the VBS material. Everyone was very excited and the positive energy was very high. They conducted the 2007 VBS the week of July 9th through the 13th with the San Juan members taking complete control. Friendly supplied them with advice, supplies and financial assistance. They averaged 250 kids per day without any buses running to pick kids up from the outlying areas.

2008 STM TRIP

We discussed our plans for 2008 and I explained that we will bring a full team back in 2008. We also discussed the purpose and goal of that visit. Following are a few suggestions for that visit:

- VBS for certain
- Various work projects
- Training in the areas of
 - Administration
 - Teaching Techniques
 - Leadership Skills
 - Financial Peace
 - etc...

However we all agreed that they don't need any training on "How To Evangelize."

Thanks to your prayers and God we had a safe trip and look forward to our visit in 2008

Submitted by John Harris

From the Desk of Joe Kaplan

Hello, when you read this newsletter, I am already gone to Sibiu, Romania with others. Please pray for our trip to be successful and safety back home... I really excited to work with those deaf people in Romania. I have been learning their sign language. It's fun and challenging for me to learn their language.

I would also like to let you know that my father, Ron Kaplan, has recently moved here to be near the grandchildren. He is looking for a place to park his van and trailer. He would be interested in exchanging lawn and garden care or other maintenance for a place to set up. He is a general contractor and would like to do home repair. Contact him at 504-606-7078.

Thank you and see you after Aug 5th when we return from Romania!



Would you like to:

- learn about a Biblically based plan to help you and your family eliminate debt?
- avoid the end-of-the month crisis?
- stop fighting about money?
- save and invest for a stable future?
- give more money to your church?

Please join us for our next class of **Financial Peace University**.

A **free preview** will be held on Tuesday, August 21, 2007 at 6:30 PM. You may register at the preview or you may register now by going online at www.daveramsey.com. Look for the box that says "find a class in your area" and sign up. The cost for your kit will be \$97 per family (includes children up to age 18.)

For more information about our class, please see Tom Stratton or contact him at Thomas.stratton@syngenta.com or call 336-508-1520.

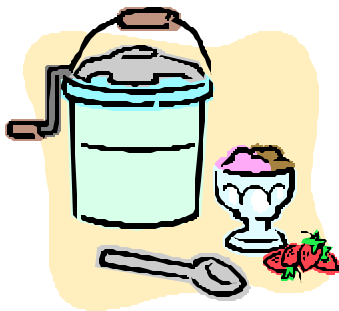
If you have previously taken the FPU class you may repeat it at no extra charge. For class planning purposes, please let us know that you will be attending.

Friendly Youth Activities

Middle School Activity- August 10th

Fun Sunday - August 12th

Youth Rafting Trip August 15th – 17th (**Must sign up by August 5th**)



Ice Cream Contest and Fellowship

August 25th

Watch for more information.

Please Join Us

Sunday

Bible Study 9:00 AM
Worship 10:00 AM

Sunday Evenings

Small Group Bible Studies meet in homes at various locations. Please call the church office for a group near you.

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 PM

Our Ministries

Assembly Management
Audio – Video
Benevolence
Deaf
Drama
Education
Fellowship
Finance
Financial Peace University
G.E.M.S. (Women's Ministry)
Hospitality
Interior Design Coordination
Interfaith Hospitality Network
LASC
Leadership Training for Christ
Maintenance (Building, Grounds)
Marriage and Family
Missions
Man to Men (Men's Ministry)
Music
Nursery/Children's Worship
Rainbow of Christians
Small Groups
Spanish Ministry
Super Seniors
Worship
Youth

Announcements...

Welcome

Cole Wyse, son of Ashley and Danyell Wyse, was baptized on July 8th, Steve McClaine placed membership on July 8th.

LTC Fall Kickoff

The date is August 26th. Watch for more information.

Items Needed in the Pantry:

Macaroni & Cheese Canned soup, vegetables, and meats

Senior's Fellowship

The July Senior's fellowship will be Thursday, July 16th. Hosts are Maria and Randy Smith.

Items Wanted for Service Project

Sample size or hotel bottles of shampoo, bars of soap and other toiletry items are needed for the next GEMS service project. Please drop them off at the office during August and September.

Friendly Red Hatters

Red and Pink Hatters are meeting at Macaroni Grill in Friendly Center on Monday, August 13th. Please let Mary Litchford know if you plan to attend.

Baby Showers

A Baby boy shower is planned for **Milena Mezza** on Saturday, August 11 at 3 PM in the fellowship hall. She is registered at Babies R Us.

A baby shower has been planned for **Susan Girdner** on Sunday, August 26th from 2 – 4 PM at the home of Jennifer Hardiman. Susan is registered at Wal-Mart.

New Address

Neil Barrett would love to hear from you. Drop him a card at:
AB Barrett Neil M
140 Phantom St Unit 12574
Keesler AFB, MS 39534

Thank You Notes

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for the beautiful potted plant, calls, and cards.
My family joins me in thanking you for the man volunteer helping hands that made the Memorial Luncheon for Frank go smoothly.
In Christ's love,
Bonnie Koger

Dear Fellow Christians,

We just wanted to let you know how much we have appreciated the support you have given our daughter, Susan Beth Girnder, her husband, Dan and their son, Ian, and the twins.

Thank you again for everything.
Bill and Nancy Hill