

AUGUST
2007

UPBEAT

a ministry of First Baptist Church, Sun City West
linking lives with God and others

FROM THE PASTOR

Think with me about a word, **impossible**.

One way is to **look at a dictionary**. In good dictionary style, the definition reads, “incapable of being or of occurring” or “felt to be incapable of being done, attained, or fulfilled.” We say of a task, “It is impossible;” we mean we think “it can’t be done.”

Another way is to **remember how we feel when we use the word**. Remember the last time you used the word? Feel overwhelmed? Disheartened? Think “Why try?” or “What’s the use trying?” Feel hopeless?

We can look at **impossible situations as the Bible reports them**. Listen to Abraham and Sarah respond to the idea of a late-life baby and hear the exhilaration at a baby’s birth. Listen to the ten Hebrew spies after they scout the country across the Jordan; watch the people two generations later under the guidance of Joshua and Caleb as they cross the river and claim the land. Listen to Phillip say “We can’t feed the crowd” and watch Jesus distribute fish and bread to 5000. Hear Jesus tell a double handful of the faithful to go into all the world and watch what starts at Pentecost.

Brings to mind a **chorus** we sang when I was a college student. It began with a question: “Got any rivers you think are uncrossable? Got any mountains you can’t tunnel through?”

Most of us do. Or, we have had. And we may have yet more.

But the chorus also assures its singers: “God specializes in things thought impossible, he does the things others cannot do.”

Only later I learned the chorus was part of a gospel song. Three stanzas of the gospel song put us in touch with Old Testament Joshua. The third of the three verses throb with assurance: “God is the same and His Word is dependable./ He’ll make a way through the waters for you.”

I think it easy to forget. At this stage of the journey, we have a world of experience written into our resume. We “know” how things are and how things work. We have the dust of life’s travel in the nostrils of our souls. We have seen much that was “impossible.” We might find it easy to dismiss the chorus as unrealistic.

A fresh taste of “Got Any Rivers” may be the tonic we need. God has dropped us and our church into the midst of great needs and great opportunities. At times, I have said to you, “We are knee-deep in opportunities.” “Experienced” as we are, we may look at them and be tempted to say, “Can’t be done.”

Imagine: God using **you** to connect with people who need Christ and his church. Impossible? Not if you believe the God of the Bible.

Imagine: God using **you** to care for people in our membership who find themselves in life’s hard places. Impossible? Not if you believe the God of the Bible.

Imagine: God using **you** to take assignments in the church that will help our church be its best. Impossible? Not if you believe the God of the Bible.

Remember the line the angel used with Mary? “For nothing is impossible with God.”

I recall a scene from “Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade.” In this film, Indiana and his father are searching for the Holy Grail. Indiana’s father is shot just at the end of their quest.

With his father groaning in the background Indiana walks ahead. He comes to the brink of a chasm deeper than the eye can see. There is no visible way for him to cross the chasm. Indiana is faced with the impossible. All he sees is the sheer cliff edge and the vast gulf beneath him. Then, as he studies his guidebook, he says, “It’s a leap of faith.”

His father whispers, “You must believe, boy, you must believe.” And Indiana looks straight ahead, gathers his courage, and slowly raises one foot into the empty air in front of him. With a thud, his foot lands on solid ground!

That sounds like Bible: “It’s a leap of faith.” “You’ve got to believe.”

Someone writing about business said, “**Everything is always impossible before it works**.” That is what entrepreneurs are all about – doing what people have told them is impossible.”

That’s God’s business: doing what people have said is impossible. And he can do it with folks like us – even with people who say, “Why, I could never do that!”



Please continue to pray for our extended family serving in the United States Military at home and abroad.

WANTED: ALL COOKS

From time to time, a person in our church family has a need for one or more meals to be prepared while recovering from surgery, an illness, or the loss of a loved one. When possible, we call on the person's Bible study class to provide meals, however, this is not always possible.

Sharon Nesbitt, our Caring Phone Ministry Coordinator, has agreed to arrange for the meals to be prepared by calling and assigning meals when the need becomes known. If you would be willing to prepare a meal, we would appreciate you letting us know by signing up on the tear-off sheet in the worship guide or by calling the office and letting Eileen Denny know. We will take your phone number so Sharon can then call you on a rotating basis as needed.

For more information you can call Dr. Paul at 623-584-5738



Christian love and sympathy is extended to Ray McClary in the death of his wife, Dimple; Clay and Anna Johnson in the death of their daughter, Teresa Crawley; and to Mari Green in the death of her sister, Elsie Wittick.

FELLOWSHIP MEAL

(Prepared by Sue Moser)

August 15 5:30 PM
Christian Life Center

Cost \$3.00 per person

CALENDAR

- | | | |
|----|----------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | 9:30 am | Samaritan Visitation (ea Wed) |
| | 10:30 am | Faithful Bible Study (ea Wed) |
| 2 | 9:30 am | Building & Grounds Committee |
| 3 | 11:30 am | Game Day at Sue Moser's |
| 5 | 5:00 pm | Lord's Supper, CLC |
| 6 | 9:30 am | Outreach (ea Mon) |
| 7 | 8:00 am | Men's Breakfast |
| | 9:00 am | Deacon's Meeting |
| 13 | 11:30 pm | Library Committee |
| 15 | 5:30 pm | Fellowship Meal |
| 20 | 10:00 am | Care Giver Support Group |



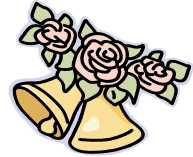
BUILDING
RENOVATION FUND
Total to date...\$75,615

Happy Birthday

- 1 Virginia Prettyman
- 2 Barbara Gurule
Cecile Peterson
- 3 Florence Phillips
- 5 Tommy Coy
Charles Dankevich
- 8 David Daniel
- 9 Charlie Brannon
Marion Csaszar
Nancy Foster
Eldora Wimp
- 11 D. C. Jones
Rev. Wade McKinley
- 13 Clayton Johnson
Ruth McCollum
David Willis
- 14 Jeanne Klimek
- 16 Lori Hulen
Ada Lloyed
Miriam Peterman
- 18 Cornelius Cherry
Janice Lewallen
- 19 Stan Nelson
- 20 Stella Glaab
- 23 Wilma Coy
Judy McPherson
- 24 John Lyle
- 25 Barbara Spann
- 26 Juanita Beasley
- 28 Bill Wade
- 29 Alberta Nichols
Betty Jean Parks
- 30 Marihelen Willis
- 31 Audrey Orlove
Dick Winsor

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

() number of years married



- 1 Shirley & Jerry Domilise (46)
- 6 Audrey & Hal Orlove (59)
- 7 Wilma & Jim Malaska (26)
- 9 Dr. Ron & Loretta Hornecker (44)
- 10 Dr. Dan & Dean Rainbolt (56)
- 11 Gordon & Juanita Willis (57)
- 12 Dr. Paul & Norma Kinnison (40)
- 14 Danny & Janice Lane (52)
- 15 Lloyd & Ginny Denton (41)
- 17 Chuck & LaDonna Love (32)
- 30 Rev. Wade & Kathy McKinley (50)

() number of years married

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Helen M. Johnson
18031 N. 134th Dr.
Sun City West, AZ 85375
623-544-0409
By Letter

Anita J. Stanley
17620 N. 102nd Dr.
Sun City, AZ 85373
623-972-1389
By Statement



GAME DAY!!

The first Friday
of each month
11:30 A.M.

Sue Moser is hosting at her house.
Please let her know if you are attending.



Library News

August is still one of those **really** good reading months! It's still too hot outside to do anything other than drive to the mall for a walk in the air conditioned interior or read a really **good** book. Have you tried the J. Vernon McGee commentaries yet? They are Messages given on the Five Year Program of Thru The Bible Radio Network. Many of our ladies are enjoying them as they read through the Bible. It is a good way to get a little background as you read. They are conveniently separate books that follow the books of the Bible.

Do you need help checking out a book? First remove the Library Card found in the pocket just inside the cover of the book. In some cases, it may be a page or two inside. On video's, DVD's, and CD's it is found at the back of the case tucked into the clear pocket. Take a pen and write the date first, and then your name on the line provided. Put the completed card into the front of the wood box on the desk in the Library. If you are borrowing an item found on the Library Cart, you may put the completed card into the box on the top shelf of the cart. If you have further questions, ask someone on the library committee. Committee members are Mari Green, Judi Dillard, Jeanne Klimek, Ailene Thouvenelle, Millie Bertrand, and RoseMarie Isbell. One of us are always available on Sunday mornings. We can show you where to look for what you want to read.

OUR STAFF

Dr. N. Larry Baker, Pastor
E-Mail: Lbaker@fbcschw.org

Dr. Ronald Hornecker
Minister of Counseling
E-Mail: 2rhornecker@cox.net
623-628-3796

Dr. Paul F. Kinnison, Associate Pastor
E-Mail: Pkinnison@fbc.org

Paul Barnes, Minister of Music
E-Mail: Pbarnes@fbcschw.org

Wanda Baker, Organist
Virginia Egli, Pianist

Telephone: 623-584-5738
FAX: 623-584-0155
E-Mail: office@fbcschw.org
prayer@fbcschw.org
Website: www.fbcschw.org

Eileen Denny, Pastoral Assistant
Jean Smith, Ministry Assistant

First Baptist Church, Sun City West
17419 N. Conquistador Drive
Sun City West, AZ 85375-5181

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