

EAST MOUNTAIN GOOD NEWS

APRIL 2011

A Word from Bro. Wes

“Do I really need this?”

One beautiful Sunday morning, the preacher announced to the congregation: “My dear flock, I have here in my hands three good sermons. A \$100 sermon that lasts 5 minutes, a \$50 sermon that lasts 20 minutes, and a \$10 sermon that lasts a full hour. After the offering I’ll let you know which one I’ll be delivering!”

A sermon need not be long to fulfill its purpose (yes, I really am the one writing this!), but this pastor has keyed in on a weakness of many believers today. We are more concerned with what we think is best for our lives rather than with what God knows we need. We are often tempted to place our preferences over His principles. Why is this? Are we really that selfish? Maybe some are, but I think an underlying reason we supplant what we want for what we need is that we consider our needs only in terms of where we should be and not in terms of what it would take to help get us there. Sometimes it might look like this:

“Lord I know that I need to spend more time in prayer, will you help me to pray more...I’d like to be put on the prayer list I just found out that (I have cancer, I lost a loved one, whatever difficulty you would like to list)...Lord, why do I have to go through this...Lord, is this every going to get any better...Why did this happen to me???”

We often forget that God disciplines those Whom He loves. Discipline should not be confused with punishment though sometimes it requires punitive measures. Discipline is a process of intentional shaping. A person who loves their body disciplines it through exercise and diet so that it is in peak condition. It would be unloving of God to not send to us things that discipline us for the purpose of shaping us into the image of Christ (see Romans 8:29). It is not a requirement of discipline that it be painful, but is usually hard to shape a person without some change that hurts. But what does it look like from God’s perspective when we will not embrace the situations that He uses to help us get to where we need to be spiritually? Can’t be pretty.

In Micah 6:8 God said through Micah, “He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you?” Indeed, what does the Lord desire for you in this place at this time?? Be forewarned that it may not be the most convenient answer...but believe God and embrace it anyway! You’ll be glad you did! We pray that God will bless you and want you to know that we will miss you!

Love,

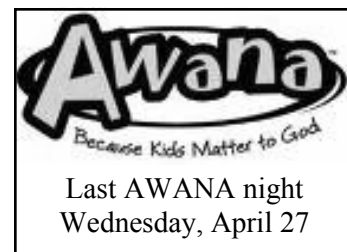
Bro. Wes, Misty, and Abby

From our Youth Minister

“Without breaking a sweat.” We’ve all heard the phrase and probably used it on more than one occasion. “I could do that without breaking a sweat.” It means that something is easy to do or it takes little effort to accomplish. We like to do things without breaking a sweat, but is this always the best approach? I recently started getting up early each morning to exercise. I’m not a real big fan of early mornings or exercising. Do you want to know the worst part about it? No, it’s not rolling out of bed and hitting the treadmill at 5:30 A.M. It’s not at the end of the workout when my side is cramping and I think my legs will fall off. It’s the moment right before I break a sweat. My body begins to think I’m trying to kill it. My skin begins to tingle and itch. My head feels like it’s on fire and I can hear my heart pounding in my ears. My chest is tight and I just can’t seem to get a big enough breath. My stomach begins to turn and I feel like I’m going to be sick. This is the moment right before I start to sweat. It’s the moment when I think, “This is so not worth it”. It’s the moment when I believe the difficulty is more than I can bear. I want to quit, throw in the towel, and never look back. The problem is, if I did quit just before breaking a sweat, I would gain nothing. I wouldn’t lose the few pounds I’m trying to shed. I wouldn’t be improving my health by strengthening my heart. I know that if I’m going to improve anything, I’ll have to break a sweat.

Many of you know exactly what I’m talking about but maybe it relates a little differently to you. Perhaps you’ve been struggling to hold that marriage together and you’ve come to the place where you just don’t think it’s worth it anymore. Break a sweat. Maybe you’ve been pulling your hair out over that child and you feel the difficulty is more than you can bear. Break a sweat. Or maybe you’ve become frustrated at the work God has called you to do, perhaps teaching a Sunday school class or just attending church, and you’re ready to call it quits. Break a sweat. In a culture where we want everything handed to us with as little personal effort as possible, we tend to quit and run away at the first sign of a struggle...at that moment just before we break a sweat.

I have found in my workout sessions, that if I just press on, I experience relief after breaking a sweat. My body says, “Ok, I see what you’re doing now. Let’s keep going.” I’ll confess the pain in the legs and side doesn’t go away. I’m still breathing pretty hard and heavy, but I find a renewed strength that sees me through to the end of my workout. Hebrews 12 tells us to “run with endurance the race that is set before us”. This means that we have to keep going when things get tough. It means that we are going to have to endure some difficult things in order to experience the reward. Sometimes God is going to make us sweat for Him. So whatever you’re struggling with right now, hang on, and whatever you do, don’t stop going. Ask God to strengthen you and be sure to break a sweat.



Special Guest: Larry Linam

Sunday, April 17, 2011

You don't want to miss his amazing story

EMBERS
"Bring Your Favorite Dish"
Luncheon
Monday, April 11th
noon

EMBERS
Gaston Oil Museum at
Joinerville & Lunch
Thursday, April 28th

Coming in June...



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Sunday-Thursday
June 12-16

If you're interested
in helping in
**VACATION
BIBLE
SCHOOL,**
see Janet Noe!

Church Staff

Rob Bowen, Children's Minister
Aaron Handorf, Worship Minister
Gara Handorf, Youth Minister
Veronica Carnes, Ministerial Assistant
Jodi Smith & Kerah Smith, Nursery Staff

Weekly Schedule

SUNDAYS

9:30 am	Sunday School
10:45 am	Worship Service Children's Church in the gym
5:00 am	Adult Choir Practice
6:00 pm	Evening Service Children's Choir

WEDNESDAYS

3:30-5:30 pm	After-School Program (K-6th grade during school year)
4:30 pm	Kids Meal (Part of After-School Program)
5:30-6:30 pm	Adult & Student Meal
5:50-7:30 pm	AWANA
6:30-7:30 pm	Youth Service Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

Deacons of the Week

(This is for a 2-week period)

April 3-16

Shane Mayhan (903-734-1286)

Mike Pritchett (903-734-1174)

April 17-30

Rob Bowen (903-452-4007)

David Reynolds (903-759-4769)


“He
is risen;
he is not here.”

MARK 16:6