



## SCRIBBLINGS FROM SCOTT **LIVIN IT OUT!**

### Serving, and Reaching Out.

Two weeks ago we started a new series on Monday nights called **LIVIN IT OUT!** This series is focused on our vision at First B and how we can live it out. Some months back now, Pastor Rich did a great job speaking and writing about our vision and 5 ways we can implement (or live out) this vision of *Loving God and loving people through Christ* in a balanced way. So on Monday, February 8th we spent time talking about **Worshipping** and last week I touched on **Connecting** (fellowship); in weeks to come we will reflect on **Growing**,

Imagine if each of us took seriously our call to Worship, Connect, Grow, Serve, and Reach Out! How exciting! What a goal! I would encourage all of us to reflect on these purposes of God and pray about how we are doing at each one. Think on each and ask God--*How am I doing?*

### To wet our appetite, here is some of what God says about the five purposes we hold high at FBC:

†Romans 12:1 says, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's

mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship." God wants our everyday life, our whole being, to be given to Him! How are you doing with this kind of Worship? †In Hebrews 10:25, we are called to, "...not neglect our meeting together...but encourage and warn each other." This says something about the importance of Connecting! How are we doing? Is it a priority to you?

†How about Growing? Colossians 3:16-17 emphasizes letting Christ's words live in us to make us wise and

to teach and council each other. We are all "Under Construction" so to speak. Are we open to growing? Are you teachable? †Ephesians 6:7 says, "Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men." How are you serving? †Mark 16:15 says, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." We preach the good news through word and deed! Is it your priority to reach out and share Christ? Just some food for thought as we seek to be all God has called us to be!

-SCOTT  
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†Bodylife #4 - "Healthy Thinking" page 1 & 2



†Student & Family Ministries page 3



†Notes from Church Leadership page 4



†Upcoming Events page 4 & 5



†Prayer Requests page 5



†LIVIN IT OUT page 6

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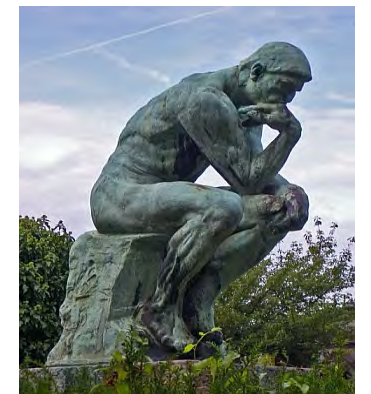
Mar-April 2009

# First Baptist Church

WITH ALL WE ARE, LOVING GOD AND LOVING PEOPLE THROUGH CHRIST

From the Desk of Pastor Rich...

## Bodylife-#4 "Healthy Thinking"



We have all heard, "You are what you eat." Just as true is, "You are what you think."

I have long felt that one of the hardest tasks we face as Christians is to control what goes on between our ears. In that arena we wrestle with the powers of darkness (Eph. 6:12). In that arena we are enjoined to "...bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ..." (II Cor. 10:5). In that arena Paul fears that we may be "...

in Christ (II Cor. 11:3). It would seem the real battleground is in the mind.

Vivid connections are made in the Scripture between how we think and how we live as members of the Body of Christ. We are urged to focus our minds upon things that are "true... honorable... just... pure... lovely... commendable..." (Phil. 4:8). If we really want to accomplish this we should probably reconsider how much time we spend in front of the television,

what reading material and internet sites we choose to imbibe, how long we leave the iPod plugged into our ears, etc.

Citing himself as an example, Paul immediately exhorts us in the next verse to put into *action* the very things he has told us to think about. If we do this, His promise is: "... the God of peace shall be with you" (Phil. 4:9).

Who among us would not love to  
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continued from page 1...

have our hearts at rest, our souls at peace? It is no mistake that the next four assertions in Paul's discourse are: "I re-joiced..., I have learned..., I know... and I can do..." He can rejoice over the faithfulness of others, he has learned the secret of personal contentment, he knows God is in the center of both abundance and humility, and he is convinced that he can do anything through the strength of Christ.

Paul's model seems pretty clear; how we think affects how we live. Healthy thinking leads to healthy actions.

Two chapters earlier in Philippians Paul also connects relationships in the Body of Christ to proper thinking. "Fulfill my joy" he urges (Phil 2:2). How? "...by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind." By what mechanism does the thought life of other believers result in Paul's joy? How does "what they think" affect "how Paul feels?"

The answer follows in the next verses—because what they think will determine how they act. "Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others (Phil. 2:3-4).

To his argument Paul attaches the greatest of all illustrations about right thinking leading to right actions. Rather than putting Himself first, Jesus laid aside His own rights for our needs. There is no finer example for Paul's exhortation: "Have this mind among yourselves... (Phil. 2:5).

If focused thinking about what is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely and commendable seems a little esoteric, may I suggest that Colossians 3:1-5 will help.

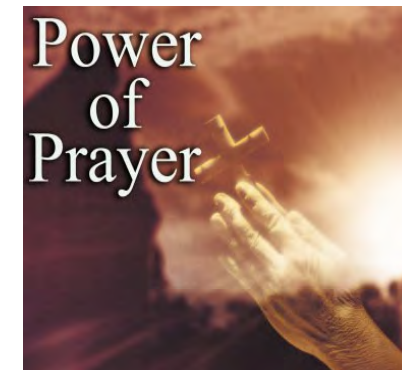
Because we are part of the Body of Christ and we have a new quality of resurrection life in Christ, God has provided specific things for us to think about. "Set your minds on things that are above, not on

things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God" (Col. 3:1-3).

As I shared last time, we are part of God's new creation, we are holy, we are God's maturing sons, we are highly graced and we are righteous. Let's set our mind on wonderful truths like these, keeping them frequently in our thoughts. Such meditative thinking will enable us to accomplish what God asks us to do in Col. 3:5— "Put to death there-fore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness...."

Someone has quipped, "Nowadays most brains are suffering from chronic unemployment." May it not be true of ours.

Pastor Rich



## Please pray...

† For grieving families

† For our nation, the election

† For our military and families

Tyler Budge

Michael Humphrey

Chris Patchen

Jon Roberts

Brian Garrison

Jason Steware, nephew of Jane Kranenberg

† For those undergoing surgery, cancer treatments, medical care and ongoing health issues

† For world leaders

† For our missionaries - at home and overseas

### Would you join us in prayer?

If you would like to join our prayer chain, we would love to have you. Please call or email Jane Kranenberg to be added, or if there are any changes to be made to the current list.

Jane can be reached at: 733-4185 or janekj@aol.com

## Upcoming Events...

For further details, refer to our weekly bulletin.

- March 8 Daylight Savings begins...Spring forward!
- 11 Compass Bible Study resumes @ 5:45pm
- 12 Elder Mtg. @ 5:30pm; Diaconate Mtg. @ 7pm
- 15 LIFE Group Leaders' Luncheon @ Noon, FH
- 20 Gals' Nite, 6-10pm in Fellowship Hall
- 21 Elders' Breakfast @ Steve Gieck's home @ 8am
- April 2 Gals' Nite, 6-10pm in Fellowship Hall
- 5 Palm Sunday
- 9 Elder Mtg. @ 5:30pm; Diaconate Mtg. @ 7pm
- 9-10 Vespers at the Cross Service & 24-Hour Prayer Vigil
- 12 Community Easter Sunrise services @ Snow King  
Easter Worship Services @ FBC
- 25 Memorial Service for Tom Stodola @ 2pm
- May 15-16 Women of Faith Conference in Billings

### Weekly Events You Can Count On...

#### Sundays:

- 9:00 am: Morning Praise, Adult Sunday School Class
- 10:30 am: TRADITIONS  
HiZ Kids Kingdom Sunday School  
Young Adult Study
- 5:00 pm: Junior High Youth

#### Mondays:

- 6:00 pm: AWANA for kids 3yrs. — 6th grade
- 6:15 pm: Monday Nights @ FBC, Infant care provided

#### Wednesdays:

- 7:30 am: Hour of Prayer
- 5:45 pm: Compass Bible Study (resuming Mar. 11)
- 6:30pm: Choir Practice
- 7:00 pm: High School Youth



Pastor Rich will be leading the next Compass Bible Study set to resume on Wednesday, March 11, at 5:45p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Get in on the beginning of this new series entitled "Dispensations."

A Note from our Church Leaders...

Dear Friends and Members of 1st B,

As I don my Finance Committee hat I bring you news of our further advancement into the 21st century. For those of you who love to pay your bills without writing a check, i.e. by means of direct withdrawal and deposit, we bring you that opportunity. To help alleviate that "forgotten month of giving," you can set up your offerings to be

deducted every month from your account. This will save you time, money and ink, it can't get much better than that, can it? Please see Liz Jacobson or Diane Gieck to make this dream come true.

In His Service,

David Auge' on behalf of the Finance Committee (Liz Jacobson, Patti Patterson and Rick McMullen)

"...remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Acts 20:35



There will be a memorial service for Tom Stodola on Saturday, April 25, at 2p.m. here at First B. This will be an opportunity to celebrate Tom's life and his love for the Lord. As we are blessed to have had Tom as part of this congregation, let's come together with Nancy and their family and friends to thank God for Tom's days here on this side of eternity. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.



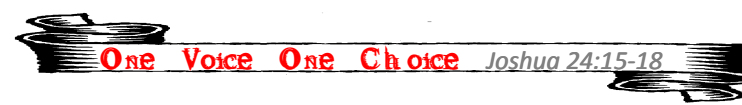
Our LIFE (Living In Faith Everyday) Group coordinators, Dave and Dawn Hazen, have scheduled a luncheon for group leaders and folks who are interested in becoming leaders. We will meet and eat together on Sunday, March 15, immediately following the 10:30am Worship service in the Fellowship Hall. Please plan on attending as we take this opportunity to share about how our groups are doing and ideas for growing and living in faith everyday! Questions? Please contact Dave or Dawn at 734-1382.



Women of Faith conference is coming to Billings on May 15-16. This is a wonderful opportunity to join with Christian women for a blessing. There are discounts for early registration. If you would like to go as part of our group, please contact Judy Johnson at 730-0228 (cell) or 733-0228 as soon as possible. All are welcome! Let's share this fantastic experience together!

Check out the website: [womenoffaith.com](http://womenoffaith.com)

As we drove along the roadway, my daughter spouted from the back seat with her unique & characteristic voice, "What do you get when two giraffes crash into each other?... A giraffic jam!!" We all laughed - a little with amazement and a little to encourage. My beautiful Landrey made this joke up & first told it when she was about four years old. Her creative initiative brought a smile to my face and joy to my heart - and still does.



Little did I know that that moment in time would serve as an illustration for my ministry but that time has come. As I consider this recent ministry season I have determined that I must be one of those giraffe stuck in the giraffic jam! There has been a flurry of activity in recent weeks. Our winter retreat was slated for the Salt Lake City area and planning began in December. Our Student Leadership Team selected the location, approved the theme and identified how to structure the event sessions since they desired to invite the junior high students for a collaborative event. However, President's Day weekend, usually a good weekend for many students due to the Monday off from school, turned out to be a packed weekend with competing activities and registered attendance was excessively low. Coupled with staffing challenges due to work schedules and lodging complications we made the decision to relocate the event to the home front. This posed some challenges in planning as the event had to be modified to fit a new schedule & location. A small group from Oregon joined us for an all-night lock-in Friday night and after joining y'all for worship Sunday we headed up

for some skiing, dinner together and then a closing session. The theme was *Living It!* based on Ephesians 4:1 - live a life worthy of the calling you have received. (paraphrase) In addition to this event we also began our student missions fund-raising season with a sweetheart's Valentine's dinner. We were blessed to serve 52 very generous guests consisting of parents, elders & wives, new couples, older couples, a few single folk and even one mother-son couple! What a joy to serve & share with those folks! It was a great team effort that would not have happened without the help of nearly 25 students and Dream Team staff. Special thanks to Tricia Scalia, Deb Burchichter, Nicole McMullen, Ian Chapman and my wife Heidi for their hours of sacrificial service. Most of all I praise God for moving those who attended to such generous giving. We were blessed to raise over \$2,000.00 toward our Mission Africa effort. Add a couple weekends of hosting guests in there and the Men's Retreat and you might see how my whole family might feel like one of those giraffes in the giraffic jam! And yet, I can't help but wonder, even believe, that God may be identifying with how I felt as I watched & listened to my daughter share her joke. Is he smiling and overjoyed with how we are growing and using our creative initiative to follow His command to Love God & love others in the areas of worshipping, growing, serving, connecting & reaching out? I bet He is!

Our theme for the year is *Connect!* based on Jesus' prayer in John 17:21. His desire is that we be

one to such extent as to enjoy the oneness that He and the Father share so that the world may know that He loves them. We have had some excellent discussions in both youth groups as of late where students are exploring their role in the church, His purposes for us collectively and how we all fit in the world. One young man, freshman Andrew Miller, has really caught fire. He takes his Bible to school, reads it on the bus headed to basketball games and has me feeding him Bibles to give to friends! We're up to five now! Just the other day in both Sunday morning services I shared a voicemail message I received from Andrew. He called to tell me how two young men on his basketball team, Lars & Tanner, placed their faith in Jesus just before the Star Valley game. You could hear the excitement in his voice as shared what happened and asked for another Bible! Don't forget about Dyllon & La La, two recent additions to our high school youth group, who helped to form a student coalition called Y.O.U. - Youth Overcoming & Uniting - with the express intent of helping their peers overcome issues that may be threatening a healthy young life and promoting togetherness. Both these young people enter into Y.O.U. with a Christian world view and have a desire to "love one another" just as Jesus commanded and prayed for. And so, while I may feel like a giraffe in a giraffic jam I am utterly rejoicing with Jesus at the creative initiative our students are engaging in. Please continue to pray for your students you prayer warriors! You may only have a name but God knows what their need is! For His Glory, Pastor Jeff

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pastorg@firstbjackson.org Page 3