



the

Berean Banter

Vol. 13 No. 7

August 2011

Mission Work at Home

by Pastor Bill Heaton

Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

For a lot of people when they think "missions" they think "overseas." People especially think of Africa or the "10/40 window." But if you look at Acts 1:8, Jesus starts with sending His disciples first to their city, Jerusalem, then to their country, Judea, then to foreign countries, Samaria, and finally, to the ends of the earth. I have been so aware lately that for Berean, you and me, to do **international missions** we don't have to necessarily travel overseas. Have you always wanted to share your faith internationally but, for whatever reason, just can't join a short-term team from Berean? Here are some great opportunities for you to get involved in international missions and never really have to leave your home!



1. Global Media Outreach: "Using the internet to reach the world for Jesus Christ." Ted Ryan, from Berean, first introduced me to this opportunity. Two to three times a week I get an e-mail with a person's name and response to this website. Some responses are for first-time decisions; some are for rededication; some are with questions about growing spiritually. I then have the opportunity to contact these people and share Jesus Christ with them. Many, many of these individuals are from the Middle East or Southeast Asia, although I have had many from the U.S. I have had multiple e-mails from some individuals and I have the opportunity to pray for them each time! You may never see these people face-to-face but they are real people from somewhere else in the world looking for a Christian to talk with. You can do this! www.globalmediaoutreach.com

2. Ashland University Friendship Family: Ashland University is bringing international students to your doorstep; well not actually, you have to drive to Ashland but its only 25 miles. This year Ashland had 275 international students from 44 countries. That is amazing! And, many of those students want an American "Friendship Family". They are looking for families who will befriend them and show them what Americans are like, what

American culture is like. Over the past 5 years Julie & I have been friends with 13 different international students: two were from Taiwan, one each from India, Argentina, Ukraine, China, five from Japan, and presently a young couple from Saudi Arabia. Lee & Elsa Beer befriended Hiroko 5 years ago. They were her Friendship Family all four years she was at Ashland. They continue to maintain a relationship with her as she is in graduate school in Missouri. Students love coming to your home for holidays, meals, to learn how to cook American dishes, to cook for you, and to just be with you. If you would like to know more about this program, please contact Julie Heaton, 419-756-6634.

3. High School Foreign Exchange Student:

Patti Harris writes, "My mother told me when I was younger, we carpoled to and from preschool with a little blind boy. When he would get nervous, I would reach out and put his hand on mine and tell him, 'It's okay, Gary, I'm here with you.' Years later, as I pursued and graduated with a degree in social work, that desire to help and reach out to people was still there. God had planted that seed of desire, even as a young girl!" The Harris family is about as international as any here at Berean. They have two children from China and two from Taiwan. Then in the spring of 2010, God began stirring their hearts with the idea of hosting a foreign exchange student for the school year. God brought Geoff from Hong Kong to live with the Harris's." Geoff brought a new culture and way of life to their family, but God used it to bring Geoff to faith in Himself! Later, Patti said, "We truly had little idea of what to expect when we agreed to host Geoff, but like him, we figured things out as we went along. What an impact each of us can make right here in our own homes when we just take that first step to open them. I used to be under the misconception that 'missionary work' could only happen when you packed a suitcase, boarded a plane with your shot record in hand and landed in a third world country. After hosting Geoff and seeing the impact we could make while we were just merely living our lives, I've come to the conclusion that 'missionary work' **can** take place in our home when we extend a hand and open our hearts to what God is calling us to do."

Is God calling you to missionary work right here in your own home? Don't deny yourself the joy!

Dave Ramsey's FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

STOP WORRYING ABOUT MONEY!

More than one million families have attended Financial Peace University with amazing results. On average, these families paid off \$5,300 in debt and saved \$2,700 in just the first 90 days! Stop worrying about money, and start your journey to Financial Peace today.

Begin your journey to Financial Peace!

Preview: August 28, 2011 at 6:00 PM

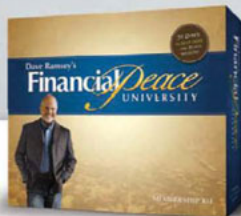
Class Begins: September 4, 2011

Class Meets: Sunday at 6:00 PM for 13 weeks

Live without Limits



Money should fund your God-given dreams, not determine them.



Financial Peace University is a 13-week class that sets you free to live without limits. Get empowered to use money as a tool to fund your God-given vision instead of letting it limit you!

MORE INFO

Preview: August 28 @ 6:00 p.m.

Class Begins: September 4

Class Meets: Sundays @ 6:00 p.m.

an update of the best-selling *A Heart Like His*

BETH MOORE DAVID

Seeking a Heart Like His



David: Seeking a Heart Like His

by Beth Moore

God will never give up on you. Join us in this 11-week study on how David's life proves this promise to be true in this updated edition of the bestselling, *Seeking A Heart Like His*.

In this examination of the "man after God's own heart," David will delight and disappoint you. You'll want to be just like him at times and nothing like him at others. If you've ever experienced doubts, temptations, losses, family problems, or personal inconsistencies, this study is for you!

Women's 11-Week Bible Study

September 15th

Morning 9:30 a.m.

Evening 6:00 p.m.

You will need to purchase a workbook for \$16. Stop by the church office or sign up in the foyer beginning August 14th. We will provide childcare in the morning sessions.

September 11: An Opportunity to Reenergize

by Steve McElhatten

On September 11, 2001, I was on a flight to Minneapolis, heading for a management retreat in northern Minnesota. My thoughts were still on the missions trip to Albania I had just returned from a mere twelve hours earlier. I reflected upon how little the Albanians had in material possessions, but how rich the Christian believers were in faith and worship. These believers who had so little were giving of themselves to learn how to win others to Christ and share their meager resources with those who had even less.

My spiritual life had become stale and stagnant. The church I was attending was lacking in any evidence of spiritual life and vitality. It was, however, comfortable. We had made friends with many of the members over the past two years of attending there, but the Holy Spirit was making me very uncomfortable in my spiritual lethargy. Deep down I knew I needed a good push.

All of a sudden, the pilot of our plane came over the cabin intercom and announced, "We have been ordered to land due to a national emergency. We have not been told what the emergency is but we must land immediately at the closest airport, which is Milwaukee." My mind was racing. Was it a nuclear attack? Had Russia declared war on us? I began to pray for my family, my country and our president. It wasn't until we landed that we learned of the multiple terrorist attacks.

After calls to our families, my supervisor and I called our office in Galion. We were told that our associates wanted us to come back as soon as possible. We were able to rent a car and drove back to the plant that evening. The next day I was asked to conduct a prayer service in the plant's conference center. It was then I realized this was the spiritual push I needed. After spending some time in prayer, I felt the Holy Spirit telling me to find a church that was alive and to serve there to further the Kingdom of Christ.

My wife, Linda, and I had heard that Berean was a really good, spiritually alive church, so I called the church office to find out more about it. I was directed to Pastor Craig Hamm. He told me more about the church and invited Linda and I to join a small group Bible study that met in the home of Tony and Jenni Maples. Although we weren't sure this was something for a couple that was just "testing the waters" to be attending, we decided to give it a try.

That small group became the cement that bound us to the Berean family. Tony and Jenni's hospitality and sweet spirit, the warmth and sincerity of the other couples, the Christian fellowship, and the desire on everyone's part to study God's Word and apply it to our daily lives made my wife and I realize that this was the kind of fellowship we wanted to be part of. We came to realize that in the small group environment we could really minister to one another and spur each other on in our Christian walk. The spiritual lethargy was replaced with encouragement and accountability. This was exactly what we needed.

I encourage everyone who calls Berean their church home to prayerfully consider joining a small group this fall for the eight-week "Come and Follow" series. New groups will be forming and many existing groups expanding. On Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m., September 11, Berean will be having a "Connections" evening to provide opportunities for you to join a small group. Please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to "connect" with others on our spiritual journey with the Lord. Just as I was prompted to reenergize my spiritual life on 9/11, this is an opportunity for you to do likewise. "Come and Follow" your fellow Bereans as we embark on the next phase of our spiritual journey together!

COME & FOLLOW

THANK YOU

Dear Loved Ones,

We want to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for your gift to Missions in memory of our precious son, Jonathan. At this time of loss, your gift means a great deal to our family. With your kind gift and that of others, Jonathan's dream of missions to India can be realized. About \$11,000 has been given in his name — we stand overwhelmed at the kindness and generosity of so many. We give praise to our Savior who prompted your heart and generosity. May you be blessed in your giving.

With love and gratitude,
Dave and Sharon Pound and Family

message from one of our missionary families:



Dear Friends and Family at Berean,

Hoe gaat het (How's it going)? How's your summer shaping up? We're all doing well here in Amsterdam. We're still enjoying the lengthening of days (for example, today's sunrise was at 5:22 in the morning, and our sunset won't be until 9:58 tonight!), and it's amazing to think that we get two more weeks of even longer days! But even so, there's something special about Midwestern summers that I always remember fondly, too. Hope you're doing well — and that you enjoy our prayer letter for this month (copied below)...

*Save us, God our Savior; gather us and deliver us from the nations,
that we may give thanks to your holy name, and glory in your praise.
(1 Chronicles 16:35)*

Greetings from Amsterdam! It's getting into the summer travel season here, even though Dutch schools don't let out until the second half of July, and the streets of the city are full of tourists. It's amazing to see how this international city becomes even more international during peak travel seasons. All kinds of languages can be heard on the city sidewalks and in cafes, and it makes me excited to remember one of the primary reasons why we originally came to this strategic global crossroads — to spread seeds of the Gospel to the four winds. It's an ongoing process that we've been able to experience for the last eight-and-a-half years now, and by God's grace it continues month-in-month-out, winter and summer, throughout the neighborhoods of Amsterdam and around the world.

This month, our church is particularly excited to be following the story of one particular individual whose international adventure is unfolding as we speak.

For the purposes of this letter, we'll call this friend "Adnan". He grew up in Albania during the last days of Communism; and after the dictator's iron grip was finally loosened in the early 1990s, his family was caught up in one of the many ferocious "blood-feuds" that flared up in that period of Albanian history. After several years of involvement in organized crime, both in Albania and in Spain, Adnan fled to northern Europe in search of a new beginning. By God's grace, he eventually found himself in a Christian youth hostel in Amsterdam's city center, and there he heard the Gospel for the first time — both through the ministry of the hostel and through our church, which had just been established in Amsterdam around that time. His mother having been Jewish and his father having been Muslim, Adnan argued vehemently with the Christians who were reaching out to him at that time. But after a week or two of debate, Adnan experienced a personal encounter with Jesus through a series of dreams; and he made the dramatic decision to follow Jesus. In September of 2003, he was one of the first seven people who participated in our church's first baptism celebration, and since then he's been a treasured member of our church community. There's a whole book waiting to be written from what I just condensed into just one paragraph, here! I'm convinced that it would be an absolutely riveting, incredible, best-selling kind of story... But for now, we'll just have to leave it at that.

Anyway, for the last eight years, Adnan has been living in a strange "legal limbo" with the Dutch immigration authorities. People from our church have tried to work with him on multiple occasions, attempting to navigate the system and figure out a way for our friend to live securely and legally within the Netherlands — but we've never been able to get things satisfactorily worked out. However, about six months ago, we figured out a new way of going about things that would benefit Adnan in more ways than just his immigration paperwork. With considerable help from people in our church, Adnan ended up applying to, and being accepted by a seminary in one of Amsterdam's suburbs called Tyndale Theological Seminary (see www.tyndale-europe.edu, for more information). Finally, just last month, Adnan received an official student visa from the Dutch government!

The story doesn't end with the student visa, though! In order for everything to work out, Adnan was first required to travel back to Albania and process his paperwork. In order for that to happen, Adnan would first have to come up with the funds for traveling and processing his paperwork, and then he would have to navigate his way through the border crossings, which are always tricky for people like him who have been living in legal limbo. I can't adequately explain all of the complexities of his situation, but you'll have to take my word for it that just getting Adnan to Albania and back is quite the ordeal! In the end, people from our church gave generously to fund Adnan's travel costs. A friend helped to drive Adnan to Germany, where he could more easily fly into Albania (via Slovenia), limiting the complexities of border crossings as much as possible. And we all prayed like crazy for Adnan to

make it back to Albania without any problems. When the day of travel finally transpired, a couple of weeks ago, you can imagine our joy and relief when we received the following message from our friend, sent from Albania:

Hi Everyone!!! I want to thank you for all the prayers and support that you all have given me! I'm blessed by you all, the most beautiful people of God's family! It was the easiest flight I have ever had in my life!!! And The Lord Jesus did that because of you all loving me! But! Because you all loved God first! I love you all, with all my heart and soul!

God is writing a magnificent story through this young man's life. Not only is Adnan establishing himself legally within the Netherlands; he's also starting to prepare himself for a career in ministry — strategically positioning himself to reach out to Muslims and atheists and criminals in a way that few others could ever do. Things are still very much "in process", and it would be great if you could continue praying with us for the successful conclusion of this chapter in Adnan's story. As of the 22nd of June, he is expected back in the Netherlands for the beginning of the seminary's summer term. But for that to happen, all his paperwork needs to be processed, which can be challenging in a country such as Albania. He needs to be physically protected from old family enemies; fortunately, a truce has been called in the blood feud with which his family had been involved, though Adnan has not been back in Albania since that time. And he needs to cross more borders and travel back to the Netherlands, which should be less stressful this time around, but still... We need to keep praying for this brother in Christ!

Would you please pray with us for this situation? Please also pray for more opportunities to see these "seeds of the Gospel" spread from Amsterdam to other parts of the world and take root. We're so grateful for your involvement in this ministry — and we hope you realize you are a critical part of making stories like this possible! Thanks for everything. We'll be in touch...

*Eric, Marci, Elliot, Olivia, and Cor Asp
Great Commission Ministries
Amsterdam50, The Netherlands*

God's Promises are True

He has given us His very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

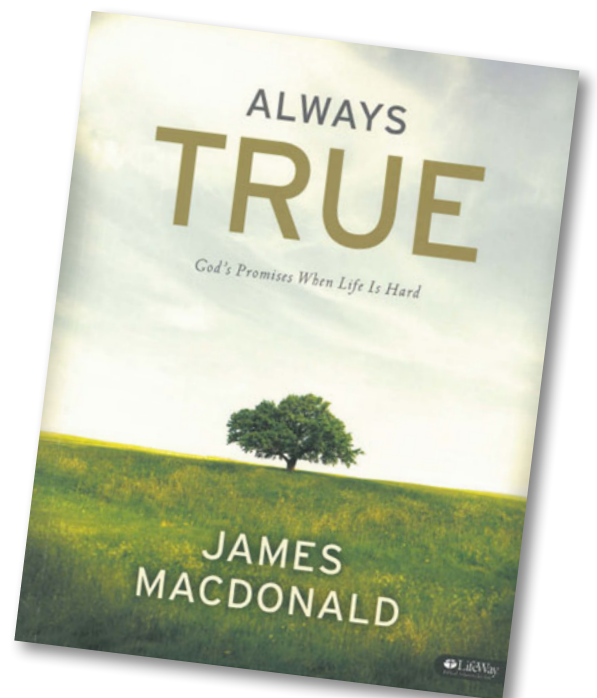
II Peter 1:4

If we take God's promises to heart, we will find them to be our greatest resources for fighting the battles of this life and for embracing a walk of ever-growing faith. When God's promises prove to be effective and true in our own experience, they become precious to us.

In his book, *Always True — God's Promises When Life is Hard*, noted Author and Pastor James MacDonald looks at five special and powerful promises of God that have stood the judgment of history. The people who first received these promises and countless others who have followed in their steps know that God always keeps His Word.

Here are five promises that are always true. God is always with you — so you don't have to fear. God is always in control — so you should not doubt. God is always good — so you must not despair. God is always watching — so do not falter. God is always victorious — so you will not fail.

No matter what you are going through, you can always count on God's promises when life is hard. The Men's Ministry of Berean will be examining these five promises in a DVD-based study, by James MacDonald, on Monday evenings beginning September 19th. If you are interested in participating, look for the registration table in the lobby between Sunday services starting September 4th or contact Pastor Craig.



healing kids' hearts



it's a gold rush!

"In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Colossians 2:3

As we prepare for the new year of Children's Ministry, we are looking for volunteers eager to share the riches of Christ with children! And we want to prepare you for this ministry, so take a peek and plan your calendars:

intro to children's ministry

For first-timers and those who started part-way through last year. In other words, if you've never attended this training session, we need you to!

OPTIONS: Sunday, August 21st, 9:00 a.m. in Room 141 (Blue Room)
Tuesday, August 30th, 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room (no child care)

children's ministry

For every Children's Ministry volunteer, first-timer and veteran, teacher, and memory verse listener. We'll discuss this year's theme and goals and distribute curriculum. All nursery, preschool, elementary, and support volunteer should choose one time to attend.

OPTIONS: Sunday, August 28th, 10:45 a.m. in the Community Room
Wednesday, August 31st, 7:00 p.m. in Room 141 (Blue Room)

all 66!!

We've been working on them all year. Now is your chance to show what you've got! Visit the gym after either service, on August 28th or September 4th, and recite all 66 books of the Bible to get a special prize!

there's gold in them thar hills!

We've been working on them all year. Now is your chance to show what you've got! Visit the gym after either service, on August 28th or September 4th, and recite all 66 books of the Bible to get a special prize!



we're on the lookout!

There are many places to serve the Lord in Children's Ministry: Sunday A.M., Wednesday P.M., American Heritage Girls, childcare during Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS). You can minister to infants, toddlers, preschoolers, or elementary kids. We'd love to have you join us! Listen to memory verses & decorate bulletin boards. It's fun – with significance! If you would like to serve on a dynamic team that's healing kid's hearts, contact Kelly Canfield (KCanfield@bereanfamily.com or 419-756-3300, ext. 243). Checkout our training sessions!

movin' on up!

All children advance to their new classrooms on September 4th! Preschool parents should look at the signs closely – you're child may move up or not depending on their birthday!

beat the "rush" in september

All nursery, preschool and elementary children need to be registered each year. You can save yourself a long line by filling them out early — the last two weeks in August. Thanks for helping us efficiently serve your family with excellence!



Thailand 2012

Santisuk English School

January 4 – February 4

- Team Teach Conversational English
- Berean's 7th consecutive year
- Cost about \$2,000.00 for airfare, insurance, hotel & food
- Limit of 8 people

Contact Pastor Bill with interest and/or questions
bheaton@bereanfamily.com

www.santisuk.org

SURGE

student ministries



JR. HIGH & SR. HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:45 A.M.



Find us on
Facebook

Sr. High
 Jr. High

www.facebook.com/SURGEMansfield
www.facebook.com/surgejh

You'll find all of our upcoming events, pictures, videos, encouragement and more!

There is NO Wednesday night youth group during the month of August!
Don't miss our Fall Kick-off on Wed. September 7th.

August is a month of rest, refreshing and regrouping for us in the world of student ministries! We are winding down from a busy schedule of mission trips, youth group, special activities and Wired shows! We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people who support us in so many ways to make all the things we do possible. We could not do it without our adult leaders & volunteers, the generous financial donations, and the prayers of so many! We look forward to sharing all that God has done on our mission trips this summer on D2S Sunday, August 28th during both services.

If you would like to find out how you can be involved with SURGE Student Ministries for the upcoming school year, please call the Student Ministries office at 756-5082 or rfinn@bereanfamily.com. The annual SURGE Dinner & Meeting will be Friday, Aug. 19th from 6-9 p.m. and Sat., Aug. 20th from 9 a.m.-noon. All returning and new leaders should plan to attend!

surge august schedule

WHEN

Jul. 31 – Aug. 5
 Sun. Aug 7
 Tue. Aug 9
 Sat. Aug 13
 Sat. Aug 13
 Tue. Aug 16
 Fri. Aug 19
 Sat. Aug 20
 Sun. Aug 28
 Wed. Sep 7

WHAT

D2S Joni & Friends
 Berean Picnic
 6th Grade Lunch
 Father/Son Paintball
 WIRED
 Mother/Daughter Shopping Day
 SURGE Leader Dinner
 SURGE Planning Meeting
 D2S Sunday both services
 SURGE Kick-off

WHO

Joni & Friends Team
 Everyone!
 New 6th graders
 JH Guys
 All Ages
 JH Girls
 New & Returning Leaders
 New & Returning Leaders
 All D2S Teams
 Jr. High & Sr. High Students



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Worship Services:

9:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School:

9:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.



Ice Cream Social

August 7th 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. Lexington Community Park

Get your tickets next week between services!

Mark your calendars for August 7th and bring yourself, your family, your lawn chairs, and an appetite to Lexington Community Park (on Lexington-Springmill Road) at 4:00 p.m.

We'll eat hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad and chips; for dessert enjoy some ice cream and pie; and then play basketball, volleyball, corn hole and fun games for the kids, organized by Pastor Nate, and relax to some musical entertainment.

Tickets for the Ice Cream Social are \$2.00 (maximum for family \$10.00) and can be purchased at the church office or in-between services on Aug. 7th.

