



# Berean Banter

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December 2011

## *Footprints In The Snow*

As winter approaches and I hear some extended forecasts of higher than normal snow fall, I try to prepare mentally to embrace *endure* the next three months. My appreciation for Ohio winters has somewhat diminished with age, but at the same time my appreciation for spring has increased immeasurably. I would like to share a couple of my memories from winters years ago that God has used to teach and challenge me in my walk with Him.

Growing up on a small farm near Lucas meant daily trips to the chicken house and to the barn to care for the animals. In the winter following a heavy snow, these trips were rather difficult for a small boy. But I soon learned that if my dad had already gone before me, walking in his footprints was much easier than trying to make my own path. When I was real young, I stretched and strained to reach his footprints, but the older I got the easier it became to follow in his steps. I remember also when Dad knew I was following him he would shorten his stride to make my walk easier.

Similarly, when Jesus says to us, "Come, follow me," we need to seek to walk in his footsteps. I John 2:6 says: "Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did." The path may not always be easy but following him is always better than trying to blaze your own trail. Even though we have to stretch to reach his footsteps; they will never be too far apart, for I believe he will shorten his stride for us. And as we grow, the drifts may get higher, but walking in his footsteps will get easier.

A number of years later I was walking through the snow and behind me, walking in my footprints, were two small boys (my sons). I gladly shortened my stride to help them, but at the same time became acutely aware of the responsibility for how I lead those who are following. Now I have grandchildren who follow their dad's footprints (and maybe grandpa's once in awhile).

The spiritual challenge, I trust, is obvious. How are we leading those who are following us? Can we say as the apostle Paul, "Follow my example as I follow the example of Christ?" (I Corinthians 11:1) Will those who follow us be lead to the cross of Calvary and to the feet of Jesus? If not, then let's get back on the path and again begin walking in the footsteps of Jesus. "Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit." (Galatians 5:25)

Have a blessed and safe winter and may your footprints lead others to our precious Savior.

*Pastor Jim*

## WHAT A BLESSING ...

to have more than enough food to distribute during Thanksgiving this year. We were able to provide a turkey with all the trimmings for a full Thanksgiving feast to all the families on our Bread of Life Food Pantry distribution list, thanks to your generosity.

We would like to thank Mary Anne's Meats for their generous support during this past year and MedCentral Health Systems for their donation of turkeys for our November distribution.

**Here's an idea:** Consider having your Bible study, small group or community group adopt our Bread of Life Food Pantry for one month in 2012. We can use any non-perishable food items and monetary donations are also appreciated. If you would like a list of suggested food items, please call Sonya Lieb at the church and she will be glad to coordinate your group's sponsorship of our Bread of Life Food Pantry.



## Men's Bible Study

starts Monday, January 16th  
7:00-8:30 p.m.  
in the Surge Student Center

You can find plenty of advice on how to get rich. But where do you learn to be rich? And how do you define "rich" in the first place?

In this four-part series, Andy Stanley moves beyond the "get rich" mentality and explains God's instructions for the vast majority of us who are already blessed with more than we need.

Men, look for our registration table in the foyer between services starting Sunday, January 8th, or come to our Second Saturday breakfast on January 14th to register and pick up your study guide.





## There will be NO Second Saturday, Men's Prayer and Praise Gathering in December

Get Connected!



In his book, The Purpose-Driven Church, Rick Warren writes, "The average church member knows sixty-seven people in the congregation, whether the church has 200 or 2,000 attending. A member does not have to know everyone in the church in order to feel like it's their church, but he or she does have to know someone." That's why we want to create as many opportunities as we can for people to meet and get to know each other. *The best way to get to know people at Berean is to join a small group.*

Why should you join a small group? Here are four of the most important benefits of our small group ministry: 1) Friendship - Small groups are the best way for a large church to experience fellowship, community and a sense of family. (1 John 1:7) 2) Acceptance and Encouragement- Small group

members support and encourage each other. (Galatians 6:2) 3) Prayer Support- Small group members show they care by praying for each other during and between meetings. (1 Timothy 2:1) 4) Accountability- Small groups are a "safe" place to talk about our struggles in the Christian life and hold each other accountable. (Proverbs 27:17).

How do small groups get started? The answer is in a variety of ways. All you have to do is to take the first step: tell us that you want to join a small group. You can do this by filling out the form below, or calling the church and talking to Pastor Craig or Sonya. We are ready to help you. What happens next depends on how involved you want to be in the process. Some people want to choose the people in their group. We have found that people you already know or people who share common interests tend to stay together longer. If you are new to the church, or you want to meet some new people, we will place you in a group for a six-week trial period. At the end of the six weeks, you can either join the group or try another one. It's that simple.

# Yes! I want to be CONNECTED!

Please complete the following information and someone from Berean will connect you with a small group.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_, OH Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to reach you \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

I'd like to learn more about becoming a Small Group leader.

# SURGE

## student ministries



**YOUTH GROUP FOR 6TH THROUGH 12TH GRADES WEDNESDAYS 6:45 – 8:30 P.M.  
JR. HIGH & SR. HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:45 A.M.**

 Find us on  
**Facebook**

Sr. High [www.facebook.com/SURGEMansfield](http://www.facebook.com/SURGEMansfield)  
Jr. High [www.facebook.com/surgejh](http://www.facebook.com/surgejh)  
Jr. High Parents [www.facebook.com/surgeparents](http://www.facebook.com/surgeparents)

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



**Senior High Ministry Team** students will be serving with Under His Wings Ministry in Collins, OH on Dec. 10th for their Parents' Night Out. Under His Wings is a non-profit, non-denominational Christian organization that provides a free 4-hour break (respite) for special needs families six times a year. Individuals with disabilities and their siblings (all ages) are each paired with a "buddy" (volunteer). Together, they enjoy various activities and entertainment while their parents do whatever they want to with their free time!

It takes about 40 to 50 volunteers to make each respite happen. **This is the area where our help is needed!**

We will provide one-on-one support for typical siblings or those affected by Down's syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Autism, etc. Time spent with these families will be a blessing to us as well as the families! Our students will be paired with each individual as they arrive at the event. A variety of activities are available for all to enjoy with or without assistance.

### Sr. High Arena Football League

will be played on Thursdays, 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the gym beginning Dec. 1st. Come as an individual or invite your friends to make a team! There is no cost or pre-registration required...just show up & play! College students and adults are invited to join The Legends team if you think you have the skills to take on our high school students!



**Jr. Highers** have some fun holiday activities coming up as well. On Wed. Dec. 7th is the Holiday Door Decorating Contest and on Wed. Dec. 21st is "Christmas Chaos" night! Mark your calendars for Feb. 25-26 for the Wet N Wild Winter Weekend.

### The Sr. High Winter Retreat

is scheduled for Jan. 20-22, 2012.  
Make plans to attend our biggest winter event!  
Registration will begin after the first of the year.

*Invite Your Friends!*



# SURGE Holiday Schedule



## WHEN

Thur. Dec. 1,8,15,22  
 Sat. Dec. 3rd  
 Wed. Dec. 7th  
 Sat. Dec. 10th  
 Wed. Dec. 21st  
  
 Wed. Dec. 28th  
 Sun. Dec. 25th  
 Sat. Dec. 31st  
 Sun. Jan. 1st

## WHAT

AFL  
 Leaders Christmas Party  
 Holiday Door Decorating  
 Under His Wings Ministry  
 Christmas Caroling  
 "Christmas Chaos"  
 NO Youth Group  
 NO Sunday School  
 ZOOMBAAH! BASH  
 NO Sunday School

## WHO

Sr. High  
 All SURGE Leaders & spouses  
 Jr. High Students  
 Sr. High Ministry Team  
 Sr. High Students  
 Jr. High Students  
 Jr. High & Sr. High  
 Jr. High & Sr. High  
 Everyone  
 Jr. High & Sr. High

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR THE BEST NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY!

The annual ZOOMBAAH! BASH will be Sat. Dec. 31st 8:00 p.m.-12:30 a.m. in the SURGE Student Center. Great bands, inflatables, laser tag, the Mechanical Bull will be back! We'll enjoy Chipotle, have a HUGE celebration at midnight and then start off 2012 with the SURGE Praise Band. All ages welcome! \$10 at the door.



# healing kids' hearts



## Memory Work Day

Due to Christmas we're moving **Memory Work Day** to **January 1st**. Recite Psalm 19:10 to earn a prize!



## Adventure Club Specials

December 14 – Royal Christmas Ball

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! His Royal Majesty King Jesus invites all Knights and ladies, princes and princesses to attend a royal ball in honor of the anniversary of His birth! Come dressed in a medieval costume or formal attire. And bring a friend!

**NO Adventure Club December 21st OR 28th!**

## A Classic Children's Sing Along— Elementary Children's Christmas Program

- December 4 - 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
- December 11 - 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
- December 17 - 10:00-12:00 p.m. (Full dress rehearsal) in the Sanctuary
- December 18 - 6:00 p.m. - PROGRAM  
7:00 p.m. - Birthday Party for Jesus in gym



## Preschool Christmas

Bears and Kindergarten practice between services on Sundays in the Bears room (114). An additional practice will be on Saturday, Dec. 17th 9:00-10:45 a.m. in the sanctuary.

## Christmas Specials

We're looking for willing volunteers to serve in the nursery during the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service. Let Kelly know if you are able to help!

## Holiday Child Care Schedule

- December 4 - 6:00 p.m. - No childcare for annual meeting  
(bring your kids with you to the gym)
- December 24 - 5:00 p.m. - 0-3 childcare
- December 24 - 10:00 a.m. - No childcare
- December 25 - 10:45 a.m. - 0-3 childcare (no service at 9:00 a.m.)
- December 31 - 6:00 p.m. - No childcare (kids invited to sanctuary)
- January 1 - 10:45 a.m. - 0-3 childcare (no service at 9:00 a.m.)

As there is only one service on Sunday, December 25th (10:45 a.m.) and on Sunday, January 1st (10:45 a.m.) we are asking our **FIRST** service nursery volunteers to serve on Christmas and our **SECOND** service nursery volunteers to serve on New Year's Day. No Sunday school either week. Let Kelly or Pastor Nate know ASAP if you are not able to serve! [KCanfield@boreanfamily.com](mailto:KCanfield@boreanfamily.com) or 419-756-3300 ext. 243



In their book, ***Christmas Readings to Recapture the Wonder of the Season***, Sanna Baker and Mary Horner write,

*Christmas is a magical time when anticipating good things leaves one sleepless; when believing the impossible with wide-eyed wonder is the most rational thing in the world; when giving from the heart is a joyous thing to do; when remembering the Child of Christmas yields the best hope in life. Perhaps at no other time of the year do we have the delight and luxury of becoming childlike again, reveling in the mystery of the season.*

Along this same line, Charles Dickens penned, “It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when it’s mighty Founder was a child Himself.” There’s just something special about Christmas—a wonder, a mystery, a drama that escapes clear definition. All too often hurry and worry replaces the drama of Christmas, and the wonder is lost.

Christmas is a wondrous time that began to unfold before the foundation of the world. It’s a drama about a God so in love with the world that He chose a special people through which He came in the flesh. It’s also a drama of conflict as the evil one defiantly vowed to destroy God’s plan for redeeming the world.

Dr. David Maines



# Your Worldview Matters: Ideas Have Consequences

by Lynne Smith

“Come let us reason together, says the Lord...” (Isaiah 1:18), “Be ready always to give a reason for the hope that is within you...” (1 Peter 3:15). Obviously, God is a reasoning God who constantly through Scripture reasons with his people. Rationality, being part of God’s character, is part of ours who are made in His image. We are the only species utilizing reason in decision making. Though often physiologically and anatomically similar, rationality sets us apart from all other creatures. It is a gift to be used in our relationship with God and others. Unfortunately, by the time John Dewey and other educators set out to eradicate Christianity from American education and culture, the church had largely abandoned teaching a rational defense of Christianity. Thus a major hole was left in the Christian’s defensive armor. None too soon, that hole is being filled today largely by “parachurch” organizations. Today, students are bombarded with reported “reasons” why Christianity is just one of numerous man-made religions. (They are all basically the same they say.) Only the uneducated and intolerant would believe otherwise. Nothing could be further from the truth, and a Biblical Worldview education exposes that lie. It enables a student to integrate Biblical truth with truth found anywhere, for all truth emanates from God who is truth. Thus, truth is on our side, and parents are encouraged to educate themselves and their children in the rational defense of our faith that includes a Christian worldview. Some sources include Focus on the Family (True U, Truth project), The Colson Center, Summit Ministries, Josh MacDowell Ministries, and RZIM.



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### Worship Services:

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

### Sunday School:

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



## Holiday Schedule of Events:

**Sunday, December 4th – Annual Meeting – 6:00 p.m. in the gym**  
Come early for a piece of pie! No Childcare Available

**Dec. 18th – Children’s Christmas Program – 6:00 p.m. –**  
“A Classic Children’s Sing-A-Long”

No Childcare available – all children not in the program are invited to the sanctuary to enjoy the program!

**7:00 p.m. – Birthday Party for Jesus in the gym**

**Dec. 24th – Christmas Eve. Service – 5:00 & 10:00 p.m.**  
Childcare 0-3 yrs old provided 5:00 p.m. service only

**Dec. 25th – Christmas Day – 10:45 a.m. service only**  
Childcare 0-3 yrs old provided

**Dec. 31st – New Year’s Eve**  
**5:00 p.m. – Dinner in the gym**  
**6:30 p.m. – Service with Communion in the Sanctuary**  
No Childcare Available

**Jan 1st – New Year’s Day – 10:45 a.m. service only**  
Childcare 0-3 yrs old provided