

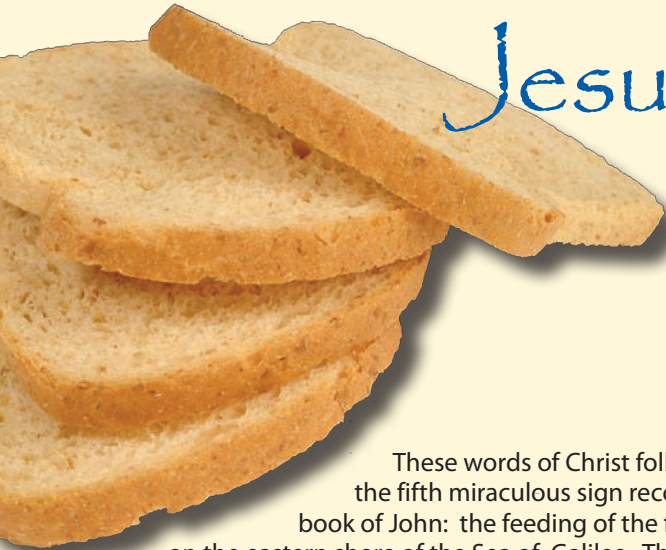


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# Berean Banter

Vol. 12 No. 2

February 2010



## Jesus, the Bread of Life

*Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Your forefathers ate manna in the desert, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If a man eats of this bread, he will live forever."*

**John 6:48-51**

These words of Christ follow the fifth miraculous sign recorded in the book of John: the feeding of the five thousand on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee. The time was spring, shortly before the Jewish Passover. The five loaves contributed by the boy were loaves of barley which links this miracle by Jesus the Messiah to Elisha's miraculous feeding of a hundred (II Kings 4:42-44). In these feeding miracles, there is disbelief, the command to distribute loaves, and the fact that all ate with food left to spare.

When the multitudes chase Jesus down, He knows why they follow Him: "I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill." (John 6:26) Christ knew that these people were coming to have their physical needs met, but some of them also had their spiritual needs met as they encountered the "bread of life."

For the past eight months, people in Richland County have been calling Berean that would never have picked up a phone to call our church. They have been inviting us into their homes. We have been meeting with them, praying with them and even sharing the good news of the gospel with them. Why have we had this opportunity? It is because we have been meeting their physical needs. We have been feeding them, just like Jesus did.

Jesus knew people's true motives, but He still fed them. He fed them because He had compassion on the multitudes. He knew they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he came to seek and save the lost. That's why we are feeding people. We know many of them are lost and we have compassion on them.

All of the people being touched by "Great Food for All" and the "Bread of Life" food pantry have been grateful that their physical needs are being met. We hear their thanks, we see the wide-eyed excitement of the children and we receive their notes expressing appreciation. One lady wrote "thank you for the wonderful food you have been providing for me. My cupboards and freezer have not been this full in years."

Some of the people have also encountered Jesus Christ, the "bread of life," and have been changed. One man who we first met while delivering food to his apartment has been coming to Berean faithfully for about 3 months now. I was having lunch with him recently and asked him how he has been doing in reading the study Bible the church provided to him. I had challenged him to read an hour a day. He told me it's been more like two or three hours a day for him. He has also been attending our Men's gatherings and meeting with a mentor since he prayed to commit his life to Christ. His new life began on the day we were delivering him some food in the name of Jesus.

This ministry is possible only because of your generous giving. We have been helping 50-60 families a month, but the need is much greater. About a dozen of them are from our own church, and the rest are from our community.

When you see the "Great Food for All" sign in the foyer two Sundays a month, please stop by and either order food for yourself or make a donation to help a needy family. You can also order food on-line at [www.greatfoodforall.com](http://www.greatfoodforall.com) or in the church office during the week. We receive a \$2 donation for every \$30 box of food you order, and you receive about \$60-\$70 worth of quality food products. It's a win-win situation for all of us, but only if you participate.

Together, we can reach our community with the life-changing message that Jesus is the "bread of life." We can do what Jesus did. He met the physical needs of people with compassion, so that He could meet their spiritual needs.

*Jesus told the crowd: "Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."*

**John 6:27**

*Pastor Craig*



# healing kids' hearts



## Burton Bankbook

All 1st – 5th graders who have been working toward earning half off their summer camp tuition don't forget about the specials in February.

- February 3rd** Bring a friend to the Adventure Club Muscle Party
- February 7th** Solved Puzzles due
- February 14th** Camp Burton Acrostic due
- February 17th** Bring a friend to the Adventure Club Valentine's Party
- February 21st** Burton Poster due

Make sure you are praying & reading your Bible every day. Wear your Camp Burton Button to church every Sunday and Wednesday (there are three Surprise Button Bonus Days in February.)

**All projects must be finished and books turned in by March 7th.**

## family time training

These monthly meetings provide engaging conversations about developing spiritual maturity in kids. We also provide two object lessons you can use that month in your homes as a devotion time. February's theme: misguided and appropriate teaching methods for spiritual growth in the home. Join us on Sunday, Feb. 7th at 10:45 a.m. in the Community Room.



## homeschool group

We meet the third Thursday of the month at 3:30 p.m. All homeschool parents (and their kids) are invited for a chance to talk about homeschooling issues and get some free time in the gym. Plus you'll get two FamilyTime devotions to lead at home.



## wildwood forest: adventures in following God

Wednesdays 6:45-8:00 p.m.

### ADVENTURE CLUB SPECIALS FOR FEBRUARY

- February 3rd** Strong Man Party (fill your clothes with muscles)
- February 17th** Valentine's Party (you and a friend dress like twins that day)

## parentlink newsletter

This monthly newsletter contains information about current events at the church & in the world to encourage you as parents. Contact Pastor Nate at [PastorN8@bereanfamily.com](mailto:PastorN8@bereanfamily.com) to receive a copy of the newsletter by email, pick up a hard copy at the check-in booth downstairs or check out a copy on the Berean Website.



## memory verse ribbon month

Sunday, February 28th is memory verse day. King Leo will be at the back doors to remind you to bring your children to the gym after service to recite all three memory verses for the quarter (December, January and February) to receive a ribbon. And don't forget to work on the TableTalk questions on the memory verse sheet.



Building Relationships ...  
...Supporting Communities

## February Order Schedule

**January 23rd – February 4th**

*Monday-Friday – 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.*

**Sunday – January 24th & January 31st**

**BEFORE AND AFTER EACH SERVICE**

**OR ORDER ONLINE AT**

**[www.bereanfamily.com/gffa](http://www.bereanfamily.com/gffa)**

## Distribution Day

**Saturday, February 20th ■ 9:00–10:30 a.m.**

*Pick-up orders in the Student Center ■ Located in the rear of the church*



## second saturday

**MEN'S PRAISE AND PRAYER GATHERING**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH**

**8:00 A.M.**

**BREAKFAST IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM**

# SURGE

## student ministries



Youth Group every Wednesday night for all students 6th -12th grade  
 6:45-8:30 p.m. in the Student Center. Sunday School 11:00 a.m.  
 Life Hurts God Heals Sundays 2-4 p.m. in Student Center Room 9

Find us on **facebook** [www.facebook.com/SURGEMansfield](http://www.facebook.com/SURGEMansfield)

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

Jr. High Students check out [www.mychurch.org/SURGEJH](http://www.mychurch.org/SURGEJH) to keep up on everything going on in Jr. High ministry.



### INDOOR SOCCER LEAGUES ARE BACK!

**Sr. High students** play on Thursday nights beginning Feb. 4th from 6:30 p.m.-10 p.m. Cost is \$2 per week or \$15 for the 10 week season.

**Jr. High students** play on Saturdays beginning Feb. 13th from 8:30 a.m.-noon. Jr. High students must complete a registration form. Cost is \$15

The new session of **LIFE HURTS GOD HEALS** begins Sun. Feb. 14th.  
 Contact Melissa Benjamin at 419-961-7263 for more information.

### The annual Sr. High ski weekend to Holiday Valley is Feb. 19th-21st.

The price is \$160 which includes transportation, hotel, breakfast and a 2 day lift ticket.  
 See Pastor Steve if you are interested.



The schedule for the Sr. High **Dare 2 Serve 2010** mission trips has been set.

Haiti: June 13th-22nd                      Mansfield: July 6th-10th                      Chicago: July 18th-24th

Watch for details about the trips and prices.

## UPCOMING events

WHEN	WHAT	WHO
Thu. Feb. 4th	ISL begins	Sr. High Students
Sat. Feb. 6th	ISL begins	Jr. High Students
Sat. Feb. 6th	WIRED	8th grade & up
Feb. 19th-21st	Ski Weekend	Sr. High Students
Sat. Feb. 20th	WIRED	8th grade & up



**February 6th** THE HOMECOMING, SHINE BRIGHT BABY, THE HEARTS, TYRANNIC FUSION

**February 20th** THE MAJOR, NINEBALL, LIFE ON REPEAT, SLEEP FOR SLEEPERS

*All Shows \$5.00 at the door. Starts at 6:30 p.m. 8th Grade and Up*

# Worship Ministry News

**We serve a RISEN SAVIOR.....Hallelujah!** This is the foundation of our faith. In celebration of this wonderful truth, we will be offering an **EASTER PASSION PLAY** production the weekend of March 27 & 28. We plan on having live music with choir and instruments, full drama with costumes, lighting and special effects, and much more! **Please look for more information** in next month's issue of the *BANTER*, as well as online at [www.bereanfamily.com](http://www.bereanfamily.com)!

## Volunteers Needed for Easter 2010!

### Join the CAST!

**Choir** – we've already begun rehearsing, but if you can sing, WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU!

**Drama** – you can audition for either speaking or non-speaking parts...**kids, teens & adults!**

### Join the CREW!

**Technical Crew** – If you're "tech-savvy," we have several needs to fill

**Costumes** – Lots of costumes have to be made!

**Set Construction** – We will need to build a complete biblical stage set

**Artwork/props** – We will need artists to paint and make props

**Hospitality** – to keep cast and crew members fed and hydrated during the presentations

**We've had a good response for volunteers, but we still need more! If you're interested in this ministry opportunity, fill out a green card, or call the church office and speak with Judy Berry.**



## women's ministry

Mark your calendars for the next Hot Topic's Cafe on Tuesday, February 16th at 7:00 p.m. Come and meet The Mystery Team! We don't want to give you a lot of details (because then it wouldn't be a mystery). We do promise a night of fun and fellowship. Just a clue: the Mystery Team might be wearing pink sunglasses. :-). Our goal is to cheer you on in your walk of faith....don't miss it. Watch your bulletin for sign up details.



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www.bereanfamily.com

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**Worship Services:**

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

**Sunday School:**

9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Mansfield, OH  
Permit #187



## Life Action Ministries Is Coming Back to Berean!

Let's prepare our hearts for revival. The President of Life Action Ministries, Byron Paulus, will be speaking at Berean on Sunday, February 28th. He will preach in the 9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. morning worship services and at a special 6:00 p.m. pre-summit meeting in the Sanctuary.

Byron Paulus has three decades of experience in leadership with America's largest revival ministry (over 200 staff). His vision to see God send another spiritual awakening to our nation has given him an opportunity to influence thousands through speaking, writing and leadership venues. The Life Action team, led again this year by Ryan Loveing, will be coming May 2nd.

Mark your calendars for pre-Summit Sunday, February 28th. This will be a very important day in the history of our church, and the pastors strongly encourage everyone to attend both the morning and evening worship services.

Life Action Revival   
**summit**