

September Birthdays:

2-James Spencer
 4-Emma Ventura
 5-Natalia Delgado
 7-Courtney Brock
 7-McKenzie Brock
 10-Jason Brock
 16-Bonnie Jordan
 17-John Asi
 20-Jeffrey Snowbarger
 20-Guyla Adams
 27-Julian Morales
 29-Tyler Ramirez
 29-Kayla Ramirez



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September Anniversaries

1- Bob & Maureen Flores
 24- Paul & Janet Woodall



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**Golden Hills Community
 Church of the Nazarene
 744 Oak St.
 Paso Robles, CA 93446**



Family Connection

Golden Hills Church Of The Nazarene

September 2010

Care Partners By Pastor Mike Osborne

One of the metaphors God uses in the Bible to describe a local congregation is that of a flock (you might not like being thought of as a sheep, but to the Lord it's a term of affection and endearment—as well as a statement of our need for leadership!). Of course Jesus is the Good Shepherd and the Chief Shepherd (John 10:11; 1 Peter 5:4), but he raises up human beings as under-shepherds as well.

God lists the requirements for human shepherds in Ezekiel 34: 1)Take care of the flock, feed the sheep; 2)Strengthen the weak; 3)Heal the sick; 4)Bind up the injured; 5)Bring back the strays; 6) Search for the lost. But how to provide this level of care for all the sheep? It's too big a job for any one person. He could wear himself out, and still not be able to meet all the needs. Sound familiar?

The Israelites were traveling through the desert after being delivered from slavery in Egypt. Moses' father-in-law, Jethro, came out to meet him—and here's what he saw: a line of people stretching as far as the eye could see, waiting for Moses to hear their case and give them a ruling. Jethro told Moses that this arrangement wasn't serving anyone well, and offered him some advice: "Teach them God's decrees, and give them his instructions. Show them how to conduct their lives. **But** select from all the people some capable, honest men who fear God and hate bribes. Appoint them as leaders over groups of one thousand, one hundred, fifty, and ten" (Exodus 18:20-21, NLT2).

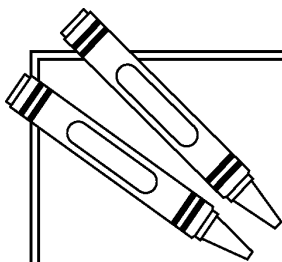
When Jill and I first came to this church in September of 2000, my vision was to fulfill this principle through an expanding network of small groups, led by shepherds that I would train and coach. In my opinion, this is still the very best way for the flock to be cared for and leaders to be developed. In my experience, people involved in a small

group tend to grow more than those who don't participate; and it's impossible for a small group member to "fall through the cracks!"

But how best to care for those not involved in small groups? I've had two different people with a nurturing gift help me with this ministry in the past, but who have since had to withdraw. That brings me to our latest effort to care adequately for the flock without placing too much responsibility on any one person. When I contacted the nominees for 2010-2011 church board, I shared with them a new expectation for board members: they would be responsible for the "shepherding" of no more than five families, calling them, praying for them, writing them notes, and occasionally visiting with them.

Eight men and women accepted this responsibility and were subsequently elected to serve on the church board. You already know their names, but here they are again: John Asi, Beth Brock, Susan Clark, Scott Clays, Paul Osborne, Tim Rego, Becky Rios, and Paul Woodall.

We kept together those already in small group relationships and divided up the rest. This should serve the church better, cause these shepherds (or "Care Partners") to grow spiritually, and enable me to "give my attention to prayer and the ministry of the word" (Acts 6:1-4). I'm definitely not giving up on small groups; even as I write this I'm working with people to form new groups. If you'd like to be part of a group, please let me know what days and times would work best for you. And as AYSO told me when Paul was a little guy, "Your son may not have a team unless you coach." I had no experience or skill, but I coached—and Paul was able to play on a team. If your leadership made the difference between being in a group or not, would you be willing to expand your comfort zone and JUST DO IT? If so, I'll do my best to help you! Let me know!



Just for **KIDS**

GOD'S INSTRUCTION

The Bible is a guide for how we should live. In Sunday school and at home, we learn how God loves and saves us. Solve this puzzle to find Proverbs 4:13 (NIV), which tells about the importance of God's Word.

First, write the word that means the opposite of the one given. Then write the correct letters on the number-coded lines below.

young 1 2 3 death 2 6 7 8 cold 4 1 5 come 9 1

sweet 10 1 11 12 can't 13 14 15 no 16 8 10 later 15 1 17

"H 4 1 2 3 1 15 5 1

6 15 10 5 12 11 13 5 6 1 15 ' 3 1

15 1 5 2 8 5 6 5 9 1 ;

9 11 14 12 3 6 5 17 8 2 2 ' 7 1 12

6 5 6 10 16 1 11 12 2 6 7 8 .



"Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life." (Proverbs 4:13, NIV)

Answers: old, life, life, hot, go, soup, can, yes, now

Smart cookies

September is an exciting time, as you begin growing in wisdom with a new year of school and Sunday school. Be a "smart cookie" by making this special container for your kitchen. Change the pictures as your year goes by. Or fill the container with cookies to give as a gift.

- What you need:**
- 2 identical disposable plastic containers (rectangular and clear)
 - 1 lid
 - 4 photos or drawings
 - Scissors
 - Sticky bow or ribbon (optional)
 - Cookies

- What you do:**
1. Cut four different pictures or drawings to fit the sides of your container. Allow the edges to slightly overlap around the four sides of one container.
 2. Gently set one container inside the other. Then slide the pictures or drawings down between the two containers to cover the four sides. Press the inner container down to secure the pictures in place between the sides.
 3. Fill the container with cookies, and put the lid on top of the inner container.
 4. You can put a sticky bow or ribbon on the lid to make the container look like a present.

Back to School By Jill Osborne

Ahhhh. The First Day of School.

The lunches are in the refrigerator, made the night before. Everyone's outfits are laid out on a chair, picked out the night before. Kids jump out of bed before the alarm rings, because they went to bed early the night before. All the smiling carpool kids are waiting for you at the curb on time, because they have also prepared for everything the night before.

Uhhhh. The Second Day of School.

The alarm clock rings, and there is silence for a long time. The silence is broken by your pounding on your kids' doors begging for someone to wake up. Lunches consisting of a bruised banana, crackers and some string cheese are thrown into a brown sack because the designer lunch bags were left at school yesterday. (Who ate all the food that you had designated for lunches this week?) You hurriedly shove everyone into the car. A minute later someone notices they forgot their jacket, but there's no way you're going back because you're late. "Where in the world are those carpool kids?" you wonder as you hear their father's voice echoing in the cul-de-sac, "Hurry up, she's here! Grab your brown sack of food and get out there!"

UGGH. The Third Day of School.

The alarm doesn't ring, because you forgot to set it. An hour later, everyone scrambles out of bed, and jumps in the car praying that someone will share their lunch with them today. You blow past the carpool kids' house - they aren't anywhere to be seen. They can find their own ride. How dare they ask you to drive them everyday anyway!

This is a slight exaggeration (okay, a big exaggeration), but you all get what I'm trying to say.

We start out with such great intentions, and then something happens. We let things slide a little, then a little more. Before we know it, we're back to our old habits again, and then we can't wait for summer to get here because we're convinced school's a drag.

This happens in our spiritual lives as well if we're not careful. We make a commitment to read our Bibles, pray, attend church and find a place to serve, and then one day we find that we're not doing any of that, our spirits are dry, our relationship with God is distant, and we start to grumble and complain about the inconvenience of it all.

How can we avoid this?

The only way I have ever been able to meet a goal, finish a project, or stay focused on any task is by having some kind of accountability. A deadline got me to write this article (thanks, Trina!) A workout buddy encourages me to go running when I feel like napping instead. A Christian friend reminds me to pray instead of complain ("Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about you." 1 Peter 5:7). It doesn't matter how long you have followed the Lord, you are still human, and you need accountability.

I urge you as we begin this new school year to get some accountability in place, especially in the area of spiritual things. If you have a chance to be in a small group—do it! If your current circumstances don't allow it, call someone up and arrange to meet together on a regular basis so you can encourage and build one another up. Don't be too shy to call and therefore neglect this important aspect of your spiritual life—we need to team up with other Christians against our enemy, whose job it is to "steal, kill and destroy." That's his *only* job you know, and he's good at it.

If you are a parent of an elementary school child and would like some accountability in the area of disciplining, check out "Passing the Baton: Guide Your

(Continued on page 4)

Grapple Schedule

NO GRAPPLE SEPT. 1st or SEPT. 8th

September 15th

You're Not My Friend: What if Someone's Weird?

Learning Not to Judge Others

September 22nd

You're Not My Friend: What if Someone Needs Something From Me?

Helping Others

September 29th

Who is God? : Where Did God Come From?

God is Eternal

October 6th

Who Is God?: How Can God Be Everywhere?

God is Always With Us

October 13th

Who is God?: Why Does God Let Bad Things Happen?

God Is in Control



Passing the Baton:

Guide Your Child to Follow Jesus 10-Week Parent/Child Experience

A Passing the Baton is a 10-week discipleship process for you and your child. It requires that you spend 45 minutes a week of refreshed, relaxed and unhurried time covering the basics of being a follower of Jesus. Each family who participates will attend a kick-off party where they will receive their "baton" and easy-to-use discipleship materials. Throughout the 10 weeks, families will receive coaching and prayer as needed. At the end of the 10 weeks, all families who complete the process will celebrate at a culmination party!

Kick-off Party: Sunday, September 12th 4:00 pm

Culmination Party: November 21st 4:00 p.m.

Where? The Upper Room—744 Oak St.

Interested? Call Children's Pastor Jill Osborne

Golden Hills Community Church of the Nazarene 238-4300

Please RSVP by August 30th.

Identity – Part I By Mark Assi

I was recently reminded of the importance of knowing who God is, and while I know there are a lot of resources out there that will give me a neat and concise list of scriptures related to this subject, I decided to examine God's word for myself. While this list of scriptures may not be as complete or all inclusive as those previously made by others, this is my list. I am more intimate with these scriptures of who God says He is, because as I prayed and searched God's word for myself, these are the verses that were revealed to me. Maybe, if you have the notion, before you read my list you might consider examining God's word and making a list of your own. So...

Who does God say He is?

I am the Creator of "the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).

"I AM WHO I AM" (Exodus 3:14, NIV).

"I am compassionate" (Exodus 22:27, NIV).

"I am holy" (Leviticus 11:44, NIV).

"I am God, and there is no other" (Isaiah 45:22, NIV).

"...I am he who comforts you" (Isaiah 51:12, NIV).

"[I am the] Lord your Maker, who stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth" (Isaiah 51:13, NIV).

"I am the Sovereign Lord" (Ezekiel 13:9, NIV).

"I am the Lord your God" (Ezekiel 20:5, NIV).

"I am gentle and humble in heart" (Matthew 11:29, NIV).

"I am generous" (Matthew 20:15, NIV).

"I am the bread of life" (John 6:48-49, NIV).

"I am the light of the world" (John 8:12, NIV).

"I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11, NIV).

"I am the way and the truth and the life" (John 14:6, NIV).

"I am the vine; you are the branches" (John 15:5, NIV).

"I am a king" (John 18:37, NIV).

"I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death



and Hades" (Revelation 1:18, NIV).

"I am he who searches hearts and minds" (Revelation 2:23, NIV).

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End" (Revelation 22:13, NIV).

It is awesome to know that I serve a God who is so ultra mega great. It reminds me of a time when I was on a job assignment in Morocco. During my six weeks there, I became good friends with the Moroccan company representative, the line manager, and the three line technicians who worked on the equipment my company supplied. Now Morocco is primarily a Muslim country, and these guys I worked with during my assignment there were all Muslim as well. During our time working together, they learned that I was a Christian, and because of the close relationship that grew, they started asking me questions. One question centered on forgiveness and heaven. In Muslim theology, before one is allowed into heaven, one must make restitution for sin by spending a proportionate amount of time in purgatory. I shared with them how Jesus paid the price for our sin, so that when a follower of Jesus dies, he goes straight to heaven. It was a hard concept for them to grasp. In their hearts they were asking, "How could someone go straight to heaven? Where is the justice?" I guess, as I look at their theology, I would ask, "Where is the love?" So one day, they thought to stump me with a question regarding Charles Manson. If you recall, Charles Manson became somewhat of a cult leader whose followers were responsible for the murder of Sharon Marie Tate on August 9, 1969. So they asked, "Mark, if Charles Manson were to honestly believe in Jesus with his whole heart just before he died, would he go straight to heaven?" I did not want to give them a simple "yes" answer, and in the moment, God revealed something to me. I thought about the five pillars of Islam, which are the fundamental foundations of Islamic theology. They are: professing faith in Ala and his prophet Mohammad, fasting at Ramadan, making a pilgrimage to Mecca, giving alms to the poor, and praying five times a day.

(Continued on page 4)

September 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 The R.I.O.T. 6:30-8:00 No grapple	2	3	5
5 Celebration Service: 10:45	6	7	8 The R.I.O.T 6:30-8:00 No grapple	9	10	11
12 Celebration Service: 10:30 Passing the baton Kick off party 4:00	13	14 Board Meeting 6:30	15 The R.I.O.T 6:30-8:00 Grapple 6:30-8:00	16	17	18
19 Celebration Service: 10:30	20	21	22 The R.I.O.T 6:30-8:00 Grapple 6:30-8:00	23	24 Grapple Party 4:00 to 11:00 pm	25
26 Celebration Service: 10:30	27	28	29 The R.I.O.T 6:30-8:00 Grapple 6:30-8:00	30		



(Continued from pg.2)

Child to Follow Jesus,” a 10-week Parent/Child experience. It only takes 45 minutes a week, and by the end, you’ll be closer to your child and to the Lord. Call me at the church office if you would like to take part, and we’ll sign you up for the kickoff party on September 12th.

Let’s partner together to make this year the best ever for the glory of Jesus Christ!

Serving Him,
Jill



Put these words of mine in your heart and soul Teach them to your children
Deuteronomy 10:16-19, NRSV

Bible Quiz

The 12 men in Jesus’ inner circle of followers had a variety of backgrounds, but most of their occupations are unknown. Which combination of jobs listed below correctly matches two of Jesus’ disciples?

- A. Fisherman and Doctor
- B. Fisherman and Tax Collector
- C. Carpenter and Tax Collector
- D. Fisherman and Farmer



Answer: B (See Matthew 4:18 and 10:3)

(Continued from page 3)

As I thought about their prayer, I recalled that wherever Islam is predominately practiced, there are mosques, and at prayer time the Muslim cleric, or Imam, will climb to the top of the mosque’s tallest tower and chant, “Allahu akbar,” which translated into English means, “God is great!” When a Muslim person hears this, it is not simply, “Yes, yes, God is great, that’s nice.” To a Muslim worshiper, this means that God is greater than anything that can come against them. It means that God is greater than any problems they may face or any struggles they may go through. So in regards to the question my Muslim friends asked me, of whether or not Charles Manson

would go straight to heaven if he suddenly professed faith in Jesus before he died, I just looked at them and said, “Allahu akbar!” They blushed and the argument was over. God is great! No matter what we face in life, He is bigger. No matter what hardships come our way, He can overcome. No matter how long a person has lived in darkness, God can immediately bring them into the light. GOD IS GREAT! It is good to know who God is.

Family Connection is published monthly by **Golden Hills Community Church Of The Nazarene**

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