



REDEEMING GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

# THE ENCOURAGER

JULY 2010

## FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN



The Most Personally Impactful Sermon I have preached at RGBC

Every so often someone asks me what they think is the most important or most personally impactful sermon I have ever preached at RGBC. The first time I was asked I did not have an answer right away. After all, every preacher thinks the best sermon he preached was the last sermon preached and the next will be even better! I did not have to think long, however, to come up with the answer to that question.

In a series on Malachi, I preached a sermon entitled: "Worship that Enrages God." The key verse was Malachi 1:10—*"Oh that there were one among you who would shut the gates, that you might not uselessly kindle fire on My altar! I am not pleased with you," says the LORD of hosts, "nor will I accept an offering from you."* Did you get that? God was telling the Israelites to shut the gate and not to even come into the Temple to worship Him. This is akin to God telling believers today to shut the doors of the church and not to come in and worship Him. This is both startling and frightening!

The implications of this text are extremely important.

-You may be impressed with the history of your church, but God is not! God is looking at the hearts of the people as they are now.

-God would rather a church shut and lock the doors rather than be open and not do

things His way.

-We must be serious about what and how we do things at church. People's feelings are not as important as God's being pleased with how we do things.

-God only accepts offerings from us—whether money or service—when they are given His way.

-In Mal. 1:9, God says don't expect His favor when you serve Him half-heartedly, if you serve Him at all.

-It is an honor to serve God in any capacity and God is disgusted when we act like serving Him is such a chore.

I could list more, but I am running out of space. But in short, this is by far the most important and personally impactful sermon I have ever preached—and it is so, not because I preached it, but because it is God's word! This passage gives me the resolve to do what I think pleases God regardless of what people think or like. I will preach His word through His grace no matter if the church grows larger in number or shuts down. That is God's option. My only option is to faithfully preach His word.

Pastor Mike

## CHURCH STAFF

**PASTOR:**  
**MIKE O'BRIEN**

**MUSIC DIRECTOR:**  
**BILL BORING**

**SECRETARY:**  
**STACY WILSON**

**DIRECTOR OF YOUTH  
AND CHILDREN:**

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THE WORD  
WORSHIP  
WORLD EVANGELISM

**MAGNIFYING JESUS**  
THROUGH WORSHIP AND  
THE WORD; **MOVING**  
**BELIEVERS IN JESUS**  
TOWARD MATURITY AND  
MINISTRY, AND **MAKING**  
**JESUS KNOWN** TO OUR  
NEIGHBORS AND THE  
NATIONS

**Calendar:****July 2010 Redeeming Grace Baptist Church**

1		21	6:30 pm Bible Study/Children's Program 7:30 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm Praise Band Practice
2	6:00 am Men's Bible Study/Breakfast	22	
3		23	
4	9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service 3:00 pm July 4th Celebration at the Laslie's	24	
5		25	9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service 6:00 pm Evening Service/Cookout
6		26	
7	6:30 pm Bible Study/Children's Program 7:30 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm Praise Band Practice	27	7:00 pm Small Groups Study
8	6:30 pm Elders'/Deacons' Meeting	28	6:30 pm Bible Study/Children's Program 7:30 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm Praise Band Practice
9		29	
10	2:00 pm Anthony Settje's Graduation Party	30	
11	9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service 6:00 pm Evening Service/Cookout	31	11:00 am Celebrate Jesus Day
12			
13	7:00 pm Small Groups Study		
14	6:30 pm Bible Study/Children's Program 7:30 pm Choir Practice 8:00 pm Praise Band Practice		
15			
16	6:00 am Men's Bible Study/Breakfast		
17			
18	9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Service		
19			
20	6:30 pm Homeschool Mommas Meeting		

Announcements



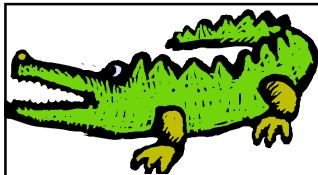
Opportunities for All

Our Sunday evening services and cookouts will be held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays in July at 6:00 pm. Come to the service and then join us outside for a time of fellowship afterward. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

From Keith: On Saturday, July 10th we are having an open house for Anthony's graduation in the parlor from 2-5pm. This is an informal time as we will be playing some yard games and have some refreshments as well. Everyone is invited to come.



Come to the Laslie's house (201 Cambridge Drive) for their annual July 4th Celebration! The fun starts at 3 p.m. Come with a towel and bathing suit if you would like to swim, a lawn chair, and a side dish to share with all. There will be a wiffle ball game and then fireworks after dark. If you need directions call the Laslie's



**CELEBRATE JESUS DAY  
WITH DAN "THE ANIMAL MAN"**

**ON SATURDAY, JULY 31ST FROM 11 AM UNTIL 4 PM WE WILL HAVE "CELEBRATE JESUS DAY." DAN "THE ANIMAL MAN" WILL BE THERE FROM 12 UNTIL 2 WITH HIS ALLIGATOR AND OTHER EXOTIC ANIMALS. THE KIDS WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO GET THEIR PICTURE TAKEN WITH THE ALLIGATOR! THERE WILL ALSO BE GAMES FOR THE KIDS, REFRESHMENTS, INFLATABLES, AND FACE PAINTING. PLEASE INVITE EVERYONE YOU KNOW TO COME TO THIS WONDERFUL TIME OF FAMILY FUN.**

**WE NEED EACH AND EVERY CHURCH MEMBER TO HELP OUT TO MAKE THIS A SUCCESS. THERE ARE SIGN-UP SHEETS IN THE INFORMATION CENTER FOR 4 DIFFERENT TEAMS. TAKE A LOOK AND DECIDE WHERE YOU THINK YOU COULD BEST HELP. AND DON'T FORGET TO INVITE EVERYONE TO COME ON JULY 31ST!**

### Pavilion and Building & Grounds Updates:

We have contracted with a builder to do the "heavy lifting" on the pavilion to have it complete for use by late July. There will still be lots we need to do including landscaping, staining and finishing the storage closet and some trim work. Also the playground will need some attention to re set the landscape ties and mulch in the new swing location.

Many thanks to the folks working on the childrens' wing painting project. If you haven't taken a walk back there in a while please take a few moments. You should be pleased.

We are also hoping to do some painting and updating of the main hallway and corridors behind the auditorium in the coming weeks.



## GLOBAL OUTREACH TEAM

### FOCUS: NEPAL

Nepal is a small, land-locked country, north of India in the Himalaya Mountains. Nepalese are a gracious and gentle people who walk wherever they go, grow whatever they eat, and make by hand from the raw materials around them everything they own. Life is a struggle to survive with none of the luxuries western culture takes for granted.

Nepal is primarily a Hindu country (75%) with Hinduism as the national religion; with Buddhism (16%) as the second most common religion. Christians make up less than one percent (1%) of Nepal's population. Religious freedom is only partial, a Nepalese citizen may choose their religion but it is illegal to convert others.

There is a great need for mature, trained leaders to guide the church in Nepal. Allow the Children, one of the mission organizations that Redeeming Grace is supporting and working with on mission projects, is working through a number of orphanages in Nepal and has aided in the training of young, lay leadership for the church but there is still a need for church pastors. Pray that God will call out a number of young, Nepalese men who will commit to train for the pastorate. There are also many villages in the mountains of Nepal that have never heard the gospel message. Pray that God will provide the resources and the evangelists to travel into these remote villages and share the love of Christ.

We are starting small groups at Redeeming Grace this summer. This is a family friendly environment, in which we intend to cultivate our relationship with our Lord and with each other. We want our whole church family to be a part, from college students, young families, to grandparents.

We will be meeting every other Tuesday at 7 pm starting on June 1st. Our aim in this study is to help you understand God's word. The Bible can be very intimidating, even though that was not the intention of God. But God's word is amazing. It can nurse the simple and confound the wise. It is through his word that we have all things necessary for life and Godliness (2 Tim 3:16, 2 Peter 1:3). We want to help you unleash its power in your life. If you are coming across this late in the summer don't hesitate to join. We have arranged our material to be helpful for those who will read every page of the book and those who can only come every so often. Remember part of the goal is relationships with each other. To whatever degree you can be a part you are welcome. We as a church are very excited to see how the Lord will use this in our individual and corporate lives together.

To get involved email Ryan Minnie. The book, Knowing Scripture, by R. C. Sproul, will be provided by the church at a small cost of \$10 per copy