

A monthly newsletter for members and friends of
First Baptist Church of Painesville - August 2011

CHURCH LINK



A Note from the Pastor

A Summary of the Trip to Iquitos, Peru:



Leaving home was tough. I really was worried about Sarah and Elianna and how they would cope while I was gone. I tried my best to prepare everyone and get everything set up so they would be ok while I was gone.

The check in and flight from Cleveland to Newark was easy. What became a lot harder was the five hours we were stuck in the plane on the tarmac at Newark. When it finally took off, we were still ascending when the plane was struck by lightning and caused an electrical burn smell to fill the plane. It felt as if the lightning struck under my seat. After that incident, the rest of the flights to Lima and then Iquitos were uneventful.

When we arrived in Iquitos on Saturday, we were greeted by Pastor Ramon and driven in a taxi to the Bible School. That taxi ride was wild! There are these things called motorcars that are half motorcycle and half car. They drive down the road like a bunch of little kids pushing in line to get to the front, 3 - 4 - 5 wide at times. With cars, trucks, people all in the road as obstacles. That does not even take into account the potholes, strange bulging manhole covers, construction, etc. I thought that just riding in

the city would make me crazy. It is amazing how few accidents there are.

Saturday evening we meet with the leadership of MEPI and learned about the crusades to Indiana and Mazan. One of the best parts of the evening was after the Chinese meal when we took time to pray. Our interpreter Guido became a very important part of our trip from this point forward. I also found that the Spanish Mrs. Haines taught me in High School was very useful.

Monday was a quick breakfast and then off to the port to take a speedboat to Indiana. It was on our way there another storm happened. It was so bad that the pastors on the boat prayed and rebuked it. The storm subsided and the weather, although hot, was tolerable.

It was in Indiana that we had our first encounter passing out flyers door to door. The people were so gracious and kind. We were even invited into the schools to pass out the flyers. In Indiana dad got sick the first time and we were able to solve his problem by making him eat a papaya. (By the way, when you cut one open it smells like dirty feet!) Before giving dad the papaya, he spent the night in bed during the crusade. Geno and I were able to spend time praying for the people. I shared a testimony about God's work in my life. 90+ people responded to the gospel preached by Pastor Itililo.

The next night (dad felt better after the papaya and even played volleyball that afternoon); the three of us taught over 100 people about the basics of faith. They received Bibles, bread, and Bimbo Soda. It

The principal asked me to come back to teach for a whole semester if possible. I think that would be a great sabbatical opportunity in the future. That evening I went out with Guido and his fiancé for dinner and met a Baptist pastor in the area. He has over 13 churches with connections to 25 Baptist churches. They have not been connected to Baptists outside of Iquitos for over 25 years. They were excited to meet me. Friday was spent relaxing and learning more about the culture. That evening Guido, Anita, and Samantha took me shopping in the market in Iquitos.

Saturday was again a quiet day. We were able to visit the zoo. Guido asked Anita to marry him and gave her the ring. I was the photographer. It was really touching. Guido cried. That evening Guido arranged for a few of his friends to go to a movie and I went with him. It was weird watching an American movie in Spanish. The voices were really funny because they were not even close to the same tone of the American actor. It was a lot of fun. Sunday morning I returned to Manacamini to celebrate with them. That was the first church we visited here in Iquitos where I preached. The pastor had a lunch prepared to share with me. Guido introduced Anita as his fiancé. Everyone cried and cheered. It was really touching.

This was the church we visited before our trip to Indiana and Mazan. We took a man out to lunch from the village that was a shaman. What we did not know was a week before he turned his back on being a shaman and accepted Christ. When I returned to the village at the end of my trip I was looking forward to seeing him in worship. He was not there. A brother in the church saw us take him to lunch and gave him a job running a boat between the village and Iquitos.

That evening, I went to a Baptist church for worship. It was very similar to our worship. I recognized the hymn tunes. I gave a greeting from our church. They are interested in collaborating with us to help train leaders and grow their church. I think it would be good to bring a team from FBCP to Iquitos to encounter the culture here and help reach people for the gospel. The Baptist church is in desperate need of a new keyboard. I pray we might be able to raise some funds to help with the needs of building churches, supplying keyboards, and training pastors as we look at what opportunities are there for us to serve God and advance His kingdom here in Painesville and Iquitos.

God Bless,
Pastor Pete

From the Spiritual Life Ministry Team

God was so good to our church family during the month of July—just full of love and joy in so many of the following ways—

The service at Camp Koinonia on July 3 began with worship (with piano tid-bits by Logan Fredebaugh), communion, food, swimming, and fellowship. The highlight of the day was the sharing in the baptism of two adults and four young people: Mike Rakes, Alesha Enos, Erica Enos, Kailen Dean, Lane Dean, and Hannah Sophia Raftery (granddaughter of Larrie and Martha Beam). What a lovely scene there by the river in the serene setting as each person showed their love and commitment to the Heavenly Father!

Pastor Pete left for Peru that week of the 3rd along with his father, Geno, and three joining Peruvian helpers. Their trip entails a long trip down the Amazon River and all of us praying for protection and blessings as he goes forth with the Word to those who know Him not.

Our Wednesday night prayer and Bible study has returned to the pavilion. It's a spiritual time—in such a serene and quiet setting, with the endless gentle breeze! Come join us!

How nice it was to welcome the Dean Family from Mississippi! They are a joyful addition to our church family. Get to know them! They are Jim Dean and wife, Holli, children: Kailen, Lane, Cory, and Eli.

Our thanks to Rev. Jerry Hillyer for filling the pulpit while Pastor has been gone. His tender messages have spoken to our hearts and left us with a word of wisdom—"Keep your eyes upon Jesus!" Thanks to Gordon Kuntz, Fred Sell, Jiyoun Park, who is the musician filling in for HyunSoo Kim this month, and Sandy for all their help in keeping the service together.

Preparation is now in progress for Convoy of Hope on July 31 and for Vacation Bible School August 8 through 11. Volunteers are still needed.

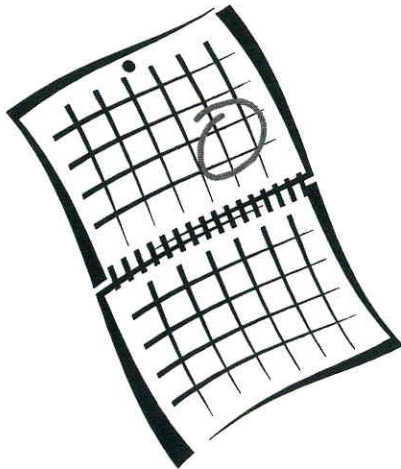
There is "joy in serving"—just read chapter 2 of Philipians! It will fill your heart!

Jackie Dwyer

CIRCLE YOUR CALENDAR FOR AUGUST 21!

Our church picnic celebrating 175 years!!

Sunday, August 21, 12 noon - 4:00 p.m.



- * picnic lunch provided
- * fellowship
- * music - Marteny Family (Gospel Trail)
- * games for all ages
 - * hay rides
 - * history hunt
 - * hoop races
 - * prizes
 - * pie contest
 - * horse shoes

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 175TH ANNIVERSARY

THEME: "For Such a Time as This"

SCRIPTURE: Esther 4:14

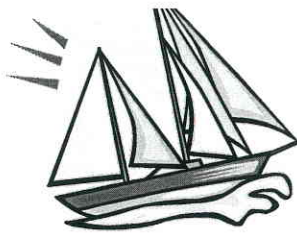
HYMN: "In Times Like These"

SAVE THESE DATES:

Sunday, August 21 – Picnic

Saturday, October 8 – Catered Dinner (\$10)

Sunday, October 9 – Worship Service & Potluck Following



August



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:30 p.m. Courage to change (AI-Anon)	2	3 7:00 p.m. Kid's Club 7:00 p.m. Bible Study/ Prayer Meeting 8:00 p.m. Praise Team	4 8:00 p.m. Pearl Street Thursday (AA)	5 9:30 a.m. The Church at Prayer Painesville Friday (AA)	6 Lake County Captains
7 9:00 a.m. Bible Blast/ABF 10:00 a.m. Praise Team 10:30 a.m. Worship, Com- munion, 5:30 p.m. Faith Flyers Youth Group	8 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School - Mega Sports Camp at FBCP with Assembly of God (5:30 p.m. Registration)	9 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School - Mega Sports Camp with Assembly of God (5:30 p.m. Registration)	10 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School - Mega Sports Camp with Assembly of God (5:30 p.m. Registration)	11 10:00 a.m. Mary/ Martha Circle 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School - Mega Sports Camp with Assembly of God (5:30 p.m. Registration)	12 9:30 a.m. The Church at Prayer Painesville Friday (AA)	13 9:00 a.m. Men's Fellow- ship
14 9:00 a.m. Bible Blast/ABF 10:00 a.m. Praise Team 10:30 a.m. Worship 5:30 p.m. Faith Flyers Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Kensington Sunday (AA)	15 7:30 p.m. Courage to Change	16 7:30 p.m. Ministry Team	17 7:00 p.m. Kid's Club 7:00 p.m. Bible Study/ Prayer Meeting 8:00 p.m. Praise Team	18 "Link" Reports Due 8:00 p.m. Pearl Street Thursday (AA)	19 9:30 a.m. The Church at Prayer Painesville Friday (AA)	20
21 9:00 a.m. Bible Blast/ABF 10:00 a.m. Praise Team 10:30 a.m. Worship 12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m. 175th Anniversary Picnic 5:30 p.m. Faith Flyers Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Kensington Sunday (AA)	22 7:30 p.m. Courage to Change (AI-Anon)	23	24 7:00 p.m. Kid's Club 7:00 p.m. Bible Study/ Prayer Meeting 8:00 p.m. Praise Team	25 8:00 p.m. Pearl Street Thursday (AA)	26 9:30 a.m. The Church at Prayer Painesville Friday (AA)	27
28 9:00 a.m. Bible Blast/ABF 10:00 a.m. Praise Team 10:30 a.m. Worship 12:30 p.m. 1st Baptist Singers 5:30 p.m. Faith Flyers Youth Group 7:00 p.m. Kensington Sunday (AA)	29 7:30 p.m. Courage to Change (AI-Anon)	30	31 7:00 p.m. Kid's Club 7:00 p.m. Bible Study/ Prayer Meeting 8:00 p.m. Praise Team			