

Two children color at the Vacation Bible School our Belize Team put together for the children in Cristo Rey. A team of 28 members went to Cristo Rey, Belize July 5-12.

THE INTERIM

Volume 71 Issue 15

July 20, 2014



FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH
STATESVILLE

In The Beginning...

■ Rich Kraft

Intentional Interim Pastor

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." The very first statement in the Bible (Genesis 1:1) is amazing. It helps answer the question, "What do you understand life to be? A biblical view of creation really forms for Jewish and Christian believers a world-view of how to live in this life.

We recognize that we live in a world that promotes a different theory of beginnings that is based on an evolutionary process that leaves us with the impression that our lives are a product of "chance." The mental picture we are exposed to is of lower forms of life growing and evolving into man. We are told that we are just a little higher than the animals. The central statement of the Bible about mankind, however,

is that we have been given, or are provided by God, a nature that is not a little higher than the animals, or that comes out of animals, but is intentionally and purposefully created "in the image of God Himself."

Are there pointers we are confronted with that, "In the beginning, God created...?" Does our world, the larger and more private world, convey to every one of us something of our need of something beyond ourselves?! For those who hold to a biblical world-view and have experienced God's presence in their lives, the answer is ABSOLUTELY! Creation, nature, the very nature of human life points us to the Creator. The larger universe, nature, points to "the glory of God!"

Over the next Sundays, Pastor Kraft will be sharing three messages that bring us back to this needed point of reference, "In the beginning, God created..." Let's prepare for a review of what lies at the heart of our faith.

ThankFULL: Belize It Or Not

■ Emily Magnus

Belize Team

The word "warmth" has become a common word in my vocabulary these past 7 days of my life. If you look up warmth in the dictionary you are given a multitude of definitions. One of them being the quality, state, or sensation of being warm; moderate and comfortable heat. If you were wondering where my location has been this past week I was on a mission trip in Belize, which is located right near Mexico for all you non-geography individuals. The sun seemed a little closer and the sweat seemed to never cease. It was hot, but the warmth we felt from the heat didn't compare to the warmth that radiated from the open arms and love that permeated from the villagers in Cristo Rey. Some synonyms of the second definition of warmth are friendliness, affection, and enthusiasm. Those few words don't even make a dent in all the adjectives I could use to describe the individuals that welcomed us into their lives.



I could sit here and attempt to bottle up the emotions, memories, and high lights of the trip but my words wouldn't do it justice and I would have a miniature book written by the time I started diving into the stories.

So let me just tell you one of my favorite memories of the trip that trace back to a man named Miguel. During the mission trip we would go on prayer walks throughout the village during the afternoon. We walked from house to house with Spanish Bibles in hand, gospel bracelets on wrists, and the Holy Spirit in our hearts ready to share the Good News with the locals. The morning before one of our walks I was preparing my heart for the day and dove into some scripture flipping my Bible to a random page that happened to be Matthew 10:11-14;19-20.

"Whatever town or village you enter, search there for some worthy person and stay at their house until you leave. As you enter the home, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it;

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Schedule

Sunday, July 20

- 8:30 a.m. Early Worship - FLC
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
- 9:45 a.m. Look Up Lodge Parents Meeting - Adams Hall
- 10:55 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Monday, July 21

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Sewing Group
- 12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

Tuesday, July 22

- 7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, July 23

- 6:00 p.m. Bible Study - FLC
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, July 24

- 8:30 p.m. Senior Basketball - Gym

Friday, July 25

- 12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

Sunday, July 27

Jubilee Sunday

- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages
- 10:55 a.m. Joint Worship in the Sanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. Luncheon in FLC

Monday, July 28

- 9:00 a.m. Prayer in Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Sewing Group
- 12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

Tuesday, July 29

- 7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball - Gym

Wednesday, July 30

- 6:00 p.m. Bible Study - FLC
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, July 31

- 8:30 p.m. Senior Basketball - Gym

Friday, August 1

- 12:00 p.m. Line Dancers - Gym

Prayer Point

"Adjusting Our Prayers"

Lord, it just occurs to me: Nearly every prayer I hear (or pray) involves a lot of asking You to "be with" this person or that one, or with the one praying. I'm sure You must be thinking, "How about asking that the person be with Me?". Dear Lord, help me to ADJUST my prayers. May I "be with You" today, walking in Your steps and thinking Your thoughts. Keep me "with You" in my words and actions. Even when I'm close to someone else, may I be even closer to You. When I start to stray, nudge me to remind me where I am and where I need to be. And Lord, for others I pray keep them "with You" today as they trudge through life's struggles, trials, and pain. "With You" - the only place that can bring peace to a troubled heart, the only place where prayer is answered, and the only place where love prevails. "Come to Me...I will never leave you nor forsake you." (Matt. 11:28; Heb. 13:5)

What a difference might it make in our lives, those we pray for, and our beloved church if we began to adjust our prayers? God is always with us; may we ever be with Him - as individuals and as a church.

His servant and your friend,
Ginny Stikeleather

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of July 6 & 13, 2014

7/6

Church in Bible Study	.94	134
Church in Worship	200	279
8:30 a.m. service	54	100
10:55 a.m. service	146	179

Financial Statistics

Weeks of July 6 & 13, 2014

7/6

Budget - Received	\$9,414.25	\$8,883.30
Alms	287.00	0.00
Designated - Received	824.00	1,733.30
Building Reserve - Received	130.00	165.00
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 7/6/14		10,655.25
TOTAL GIVING WEEK OF 7/13/14		10,781.60
Budget for 2013-2014		913,066.79
Budget Received-Year to Date		610,119.93
Remaining in Budget - Unfunded		302,946.86
Designated Funds Received-Year to Date		134,263.38
Alms Received-Year to Date		5,746.55
Building Reserve-Year to Date		10,782.00
Total Giving-Year to Date		768,846.37



Please save your water bottles (with the cap). We will need them for a very special VBS activity.

Church Staff Directory

Rev. Rich Kraft.....	Intentional Interim Pastor
Mr. James Martin.....	Minister of Music & Worship
Mr. Landon Senn.....	Minister of Students
Ms. Melissa Wilson.....	Minister of Children & Families
Mr. Eddie Wiseman.....	Accompanist / Music Assistant

OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Mon - Fri Tel: 704-873-7231

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Student Ministry

We are back from Belize way too quickly! Thank you to everyone who supported us in every way to ensure Christ made His way to Cristo Rey. Don't miss the Belize highlight night, Wednesday, July 23 in the FLC.

Pool Party at Baymount ~ Tuesday, July 22 ~ 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

We are having a summer get together at the Baymount pool. Bring some sunscreen and a swim suit and you're all set. This is a great opportunity to invite your friends.

Awesome God Festival and VBS Prep Day ~ Sat., Aug. 2

We will spend all morning preparing for VBS, then we will take off to the Second Annual Awesome God Festival. The cost is only \$5.00. Details found at their website, <http://www.awesomegodfestival.com>.

Landon Senn, *Minister of Students*

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if it is not, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet...Do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At the time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you."

It was like God was shouting promises of affirmation in that scripture. He was telling me to speak boldly and enter into a village to proclaim the gospel. I wrote the verse down in utter joy of how evident God was and the day hadn't even begun yet. Under the verse I wrote- "Lord, this is my prayer today. Allow me to have this spirit of boldness in You on prayer walks. Give me Your words, which only you can provide." And provide is exactly what He did. That was the day I met Miguel and the day I got to speak truth over his life about Jesus with some of my best friends. We got the chance to sit in the dirt for hours describing to Miguel that he is loved by a Savior who died to know him. We shared our own testimonies with him, explaining that life is never easy but somehow the burden seems to weigh less when the control is not in your hands any longer. This man was full of challenging questions-about Jesus, about the devil, about what to believe in and other religions. He thirsted for answers about this mysterious God that filled our smiles and fueled our spirits throughout the village.

We left Miguel with a Spanish Bible to read only to come back two days later to find out his dedication and knowledge expanded as he perused through it. This man went from 0 to 100 in a matter of two days. He asked us about certain Bible stories and we helped clarify. That day, sitting on the dirty ground for over an hour and a half the Kingdom gained a follower. Miguel made the decision to completely turn his trust



Children's Ministry

Important Dates

Sunday, July 20: Look Up Lodge Parents Meeting, 9:45 a.m., Adams Hall

Tuesday, July 22: Water Day, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Front Lawn
July 27 - 30: Kids at Look Up Lodge

August 4-8: SonTreasure Island VBS

We ordered the T-shirts! I will let you know when those come in! If you did not get a chance to pick a size for your child I ordered a few extras! Keep sharing the VBS registration link! VBS is only a couple of weeks away!

Don't forget to visit our new website www.kidsatfirst.com. If you did not pick up your new Children's Ministry Calendar, they are available at the Welcome Center!

I am still accepting Look Up Lodge Deposits! Please make plans to attend one of the parent meetings. It will be a time to fill out those lovely forms and get a few packing tips for camp!

I still need a few more volunteers for Bible School! Please let me know if you can help out that week!

to God. That is a moment I will never forget. Our hands over him we got to lead him in prayer homeward bound to his Father. I could hear the

angels rejoicing as my smile spread from ear to ear. That right there is what the mission field is about. Yes it's important to help people and to fix houses, but the true goal lies within the structure of building the relationships. People yearn to know they are loved. They hunger for ears that listen to their stories and hearts that will accept them where they are. God filled His words through our mouths as we explained to Miguel that following Christ doesn't mean you have to have it all together. You're gonna mess up. Life is going to continue to throw you

hurdles. And the devil will only tempt you more when he sees you succeeding. But remember that you have something greater to lean on now, you have the support of the ultimate Supporter. He will never leave or forsake you.

Getting to be a part of that one changed life was worth it all. Seeing that moment and planting that seed was something I'll never forget. As

we were leaving Miguel rushed over to the bus to tell me how grateful he was that we took the time to invest in him. The funny thing is, he thought we were only benefiting him but in reality he was the one that changed my life. He was the one that taught me to step out of my comfort zone and boldly proclaim my faith. Think about it. If we declared this truth more often instead of keeping our mouths shut more people like Miguel could come to know God too. So many times we pass up opportunities to share our faith with others. We take a back seat hoping somebody else will take care of the job or we ignore the chance and

pretend it's not there. Truth be told that one conversation can bring someone to eternal life. God is using us as vessels. Are we going to pour it in the trash or shine the truth? Ordinary people are used in extraordinary ways when the plus sign in the equation is Jesus.



815 Davie Avenue
Statesville, NC 28677

Worship With Us Sunday 8:30 a.m. or 10:55 a.m.
Message By: Rich Kraft

Volume 71 Issue 15

July 20, 2014

Announcements

Christian Sympathy...

...is extended the family and friends of Polly White in her death on July 11, 2014.

A Note of Appreciation From Iredell Christian Ministries

Greetings!

On behalf of Iredell Christian Ministries, Inc. I gratefully acknowledge your donations of 48 pounds of food and other items during the second quarter of 2014. We thank you for your continued support of ICM as we work to respond to the growing need of people facing hardships in our community.

Your contributions along with other donations are distributed wisely to the folks who come to our doors for help.

Sincerely,
David Comer, *Director of Operations*

14th Annual Christmas In July Celebration Sunday, July 20, 2014 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. Statesville Civic Center

We invite you, your family and friends, co-workers, and congregation for a Christmas lunch - summer style - and you won't want to miss the best auction ever. Come support this annual summer tradition and raise needed funds for Fifth Street Ministries. Be a sponsor of Christmas in July, donate to the silent auction, make something for the bake sale, enter the Best Decorated Christmas Bicycle contest, be a part of the Christmas in July parade. Call 704-872-4045 for more information.

Camp Rainbow Monday, July 28 - Friday, August 1

Do you know a child who has experienced a loss and would benefit from a grief camp? Hospice of Iredell's Rainbow Kidz program is offering a free week-long camp from July 28 - August 1, 2014. Camp Rainbow is designed to help children, ages 5 - 18, cope with their grief and build a larger community amongst peers. It offers a mix of fun and structured exercises including - art projects, games, team building exercises, counseling, and a memorial service. If you would like to learn more about Camp Rainbow contact Leigh Ann Darty, LCSW at 704-924-4313 or Chaplain Lynn Kunkle at 704-761-2428.

Sherrie Lee Receives Doctorate of Nursing

Dr. Sherrie Gregory Lee, daughter of Carol & Mickey Robinette, received her doctorate of nursing degree from Gardner-Webb University on May 12. Dr. A. Frank Bonner, president of the university, conferred the degree during the commencement ceremony held in the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center in Boiling Springs. Dr. Lee received her bachelor of science in nursing from East Carolina University and her master of nursing degree from the University of North Carolina Greensboro. She is married to Robert W. Lee III, and they have two sons. An honors graduate, Dr. Lee serves as director of education at Iredell Memorial Hospital.

Worship Greeters Sunday, July 20

Bill Henderson	Gary Fyfe	James McNeil
Chris Buckner	Patricia Fyfe	Wilma McNeil
Matthew Waugh	Butch Price	Stan Williams

Sunday, July 27

Eddy Sipe	Hilda Lee	Jim Van Zee
Monica Williams	Clarence Poole	Nedra Van Zee
Ginny Stikeleather	Mike McLain	

Acolytes Sunday, July 20

Alexis Williams, Luke Williams, Jacob Palmer

Sunday, July 27

Alli Eudy, Andria Eudy, Audrey Allison

Coffee Rotation Sunday, July 20

David Potter

Sunday, July 27

Gary & Patricia Fyfe

Jubilee Sunday July 27, 2014

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:55 a.m. Joint Worship in Sanctuary
12:00 p.m. Luncheon in the FLC

Please join us for this very special Sunday. We will honor our members that have been part of our church for 50 or more years and those that are at least 90 years of age. Please join us for this very special celebration!