

CURRENT

AT TAFT AVENUE COMMUNITY CHURCH



FEBRUARY 2011 VOLUME 13 ISSUE 2

CHALLENGE TO MEDITATE

When we begin to esteem the work of Christ and who He truly is, it is a sign that the Holy Spirit is active in our lives through the Word of God. When we speak about loving Christ, we do not mean only an emotional experience, but an emotional experience guided and driven by the Scriptures. He was and is the Jesus who became a man, was born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless, perfect life, died and rose again for sinful men. When these truths penetrate our minds and hearts, we can be assured that the Holy Spirit is

active. When Christ left this earth He gave us the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, who would guide us into all truth. He works by revealing the Scripture to us. Therefore, love for Christ will always come with a love for the Scriptures.

Love for Christ shows a life filled with the Spirit and controlled by the Spirit. Satan would never move in the life of a believer a love for the Scriptures that saw Christ as preeminent and central. Jonathan Edwards, probably the greatest American theolo-

gian/preacher remarked, "Evil spirits never cry 'To the law and to the testimony' (Isaiah 8:20). The devil does not say, as Abraham did, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them listen to them' (Luke 16:29). Nor will he say the words that came from heaven about Christ, 'listen to Him' (Luke 9:35)." So let us exalt Christ. Let us continue in His Word to us, illuminated by the Spirit, seeing our dear Lord more clearly, because in Him are hidden the secrets of wisdom and understanding.



CONTRIBUTORS:

- *Challenge to Minister*
Pastor Bob
- *Call to Worship*
Laura Baxter
- *Changing and Growing*
Marcia Lichte
- *Co-Laborers on the Field*
Bill Petersen
- *Charting our Mission to Orange, India and the World*
Steve Hicks
- *Charge to Action*
Ministry Leaders

CALL TO WORSHIP

Hebrews 13:15 tells us, "Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name" (NIV). The word "continually" means that our worship should not end Sundays at noon. Instead, we must learn to praise God with every breath,

every day.

A few months ago, I started a new job and had the privilege of meeting Debbie. Debbie, an African-American woman, has spent 25 years with the company. Her job is not glamorous—she is responsible for coordinating office

furniture and supplies. Nonetheless, Debbie performs her duties with extraordinary care. When I first arrived, Debbie made sure that my work space was comfortable, attractive and ergonomically correct. Debbie's attention to detail made me feel welcome immediately.

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CHANGING AND GROWING

Our children are always changing and growing! I find myself amazed by my kids every day, sometimes in good ways, sometimes not so good. But as parents, especially if you have younger children, I'm sure you have many questions, worries and concerns that go through your minds every day about your kids:

*Is my child a good friend to others?
Does she choose good friends?*

*Is he getting picked on by other kids,
or is he picking on other kids?*

*Does she eat the lunch I send to
school or toss it in the trash?*

*When she goes to a friend's house,
does she do things she wouldn't be
allowed at home?*

*Is my child making good choices
when I'm not around?*

But our greatest concern is "who will my kids become?" This one question drives me to know God and to impress His love upon their hearts. This is **paramount**.

Jesus told us that the greatest

commandment was to love God, then love others. Even further back in the Bible, Deuteronomy 6:5-7 tells us the same thing. This passage clearly communicates three things:

- First, we are to love God with all we have--110% percent.
- Second, we need to treasure His Word and hold it close to our hearts.
- Third, it is CRITICAL that we impress God's love and His Word on the hearts of our kids.

Seems simple on paper, but in practice it can be much harder to accomplish. But there are some basic principles that we can follow:

Moms and dads need to be devoted to God and to their marriages. It is impossible to pour water out of an empty pitcher--parents must go to the Living Water on a regular basis if they expect their kids to latch on to their faith.

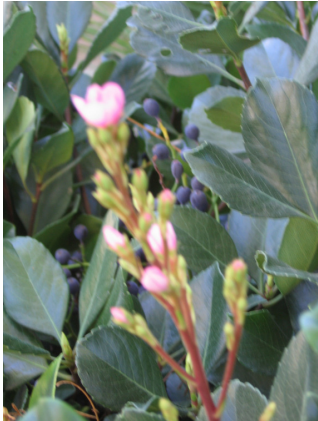
Parents need to have a solid relationship with their kids. This rela-

tionship must include trust, time, energy and value for it to be effective in impressing God's heart onto the hearts of their children.

Parents must be ready, willing and able to have conversations with their children about faith, spiritual truths and values that we hold dear and that lead to a saving knowledge of and commitment to our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

We can't afford to miss the mark in passing on our faith and values to the next generation. For this reason in the months to come, Children's Ministries will begin to provide materials and opportunities designed to help parents and children open the lines of discussion and begin passing the most valuable lessons of our faith journey on to the hearts of our children.

*Adapted from "Paramount Parenting" by Matt Markins, director of the D6 Conference
(www.D6conference.com)*



BUT OUR GREATEST
CONCERN IS "WHO
WILL MY KIDS
BECOME?"



Eunice Castle

CO-LABORERS ON THE FIELD

4,000 days in Russia!!!

After eleven years of faithful service with ReachGlobal in Russia, Eunice Castle will be retiring on March 31, 2011. Eunice arrived in Moscow in 1999 and represented ReachGlobal in her roles at Hinkson Christian Academy. She first served as a board member and then as the school secretary.

When asked about the highlights of her time in Russia, Eunice she recalled a couple of things:

- Developing relationships with nationals, particularly with those who participated in Bible studies in her home over the years.

- Experiencing the impact that hospitality and the opening of her home had in Moscow.

While she will be closing this chapter of her life, Eunice is looking forward to being closer and more available to family as well as exploring

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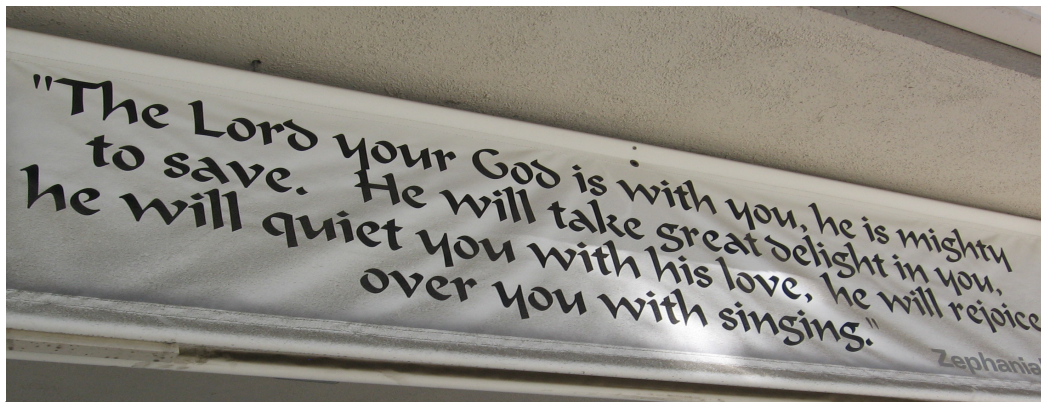
CHARTING OUR MISSION TO ORANGE, INDIA AND THE WORLD

Happy New Year, and blessings to all as we continue to send and support those who take the gospel to all parts of the earth.

Last month, members of TACC went door to door in the neighborhoods surrounding the church, in an effort to invite our neighbors to our Christmas Eve worship services. The turnout was great, even though it was raining part of the time; we were able to reach many homes in a short period of time. This is a wonderful outreach to our neighbors. Please pray for this ministry, as well as Bill Petersen and Mark Menashe's work in their neighborhoods.

We also learned that Eunice Castle had been in the U.S. for what she thought was minor medical treatment. It turns out that she had an 80% blockage of an artery to her heart and required a stent to be inserted to open up the artery. Also, Eunice has notified EFCA that she is retiring, effective March 31, 2011. After retirement, Eunice will return to Southern California and get a part-time job. The Missions team authorized a one-time gift to help cover Eunice's moving costs. Please pray for her health, for a safe and easy return, and give praise that she was faithful to the Lord's calling in Moscow.

The Missions team is asking for those interested in going to India in 2011 to contact one of us so we can begin planning. As of now, we plan on going to India in April and in October. The dates have not been 100% set, and are subject to adjustment, but please don't let that deter you from showing your interest. You will need to fill out an application, which you can get at the missions table on Sunday.



EUNICE WILL BE LIVING WITH THE DURHAM FAMILY IN BREA, WHILE SHE ADJUSTS TO LIFE IN THE U.S. AND EXPLORES HER OPTIONS.

CO-LABORERS ON THE FIELD CONTINUED

what God has for her as she continues to build His kingdom and serve others. She will need to work part-time, but hopes to have the opportunity to volunteer or to "temp" with Christian endeavors as time and energy permit.

When she returns to Califor-

nia, she will be living with the Durham family in Brea, while she adjusts to life in the U.S. and explores her options. She will be living about an hour away from her sister Elizabeth and is looking forward to spending time together.

Eunice expressed how thankful she is to all who have sup-

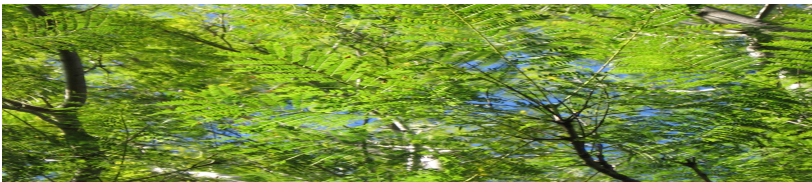
ported her over the years. Whether through finances, prayer, or welcoming her home when she was in the U.S., she appreciates everyone and wouldn't be serving without you.

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CALL TO WORSHIP CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As I got to know Debbie, I found out that she is a believer. Now when we talk, Debbie exhorts me with one Bible quote after another. I know "exhort" is a funny word, but if you heard Debbie talk, you would agree that it fits. Although Debbie has no pulpit, she has become one of my favorite preachers (after Pastor Bob, of course!). Debbie's life and words together demonstrate a sincere desire to please God in all things. She is continually offering to God the sacrifice of praise, and I am thankful for her example.



CHARGE TO ACTION

30-Hour Famine: Youth & Others

Friday, February 25-Saturday, February 26

Secret Sisters Starting Again

TACC Women: Pray & bond starting February 20th

Got a photo, poem or idea for the Current?

Email Ingrid at office@TaftAvenue.org. She would love your help!

HIGHLIGHTS:

- *Let us continually praise God in word and deed.*
- *Changing and growing as parents*
- *Eunice Castle is retiring March 31.*
- *Hankering for India? Talk to the Missions Team.*

NEW AND IMPROVED
WEBSITE!

WWW.TAFTAVENUE.ORG
