

# I was just thinking...

Ronny Russell, Lead Pastor

## Great Faith Builders

I heard a participant in a recent mission project that involved numerous people from Mission describe the project as a “great faith builder.” This prompted me to thinking: what are some experiences that really build our faith?

Some people have found their faith strengthened by tragedy or loss. In such situations, they have learned to trust in God and not themselves. Trusting in God is what faith is all about. Right? Not many of us would wish for loss and tragedy but it is true that God uses such circumstances to build our faith.

Others have found their faith built and strengthened by engaging in regular spiritual practices. Worship, Bible study, prayer, giving, serving, solitude, meditation, and others done on a regular basis can enhance our faith over time. Sometimes we are tempted to abandon these spiritual practices when they don't produce immediate results but this is a symptom of our culture, to seek instant gratification.

Mission trips and projects are another great faith enhancer. This happens because of the intensity of these experiences and the fact that we often have to rely on God to help us through tough and challenging times. Those who have gone on both international and domestic trips have found this to be true. There's something about being away from home, whether it's for a night or a week or more, that helps to remove distractions from our spiritual formation.

It is also true, I think, that working with others on a team is a huge factor in faith building. We are forced to learn to communicate, to work out our disagreements, and to work together as a team. Often there are obstacles that cannot be overcome unless a team is working together in problem solving or difficult circumstances.

Looking back on your own spiritual formation to this point in your life, what have been the major faith builders for you?

What can you do going forward to build your faith?

At Mission, we believe that church life should be all about faith building. Paul wrote about this in Colossians, admonishing his hearers to “continue to live their lives in him (Jesus), rooted and built up in him.”

Look through this *Mission Messenger* and other announcements through the e-Messenger, on facebook, the weekly worship folder, and other means. Evaluate the areas of your life where you need faith building and take advantage of the opportunities provided to “continue to live your lives in him...”

*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness (Colossians 2:6-7).*

## Fellowship Club

Be a friend and bring a friend as we gather on **Valentine's Day, Feb. 14th!** What could be more enjoyable than spending some time with your friends?

This month we will have a pot luck meal! Be sure to bring enough food for those you invite. **The meats, drinks, and bread will be provided.**

After our meal Koni & Kolis will be leading us in a time of singing as we all lift our voices in praise to the One who loves us the most!

Door prizes will be given before we end our time together.

Martin & Carolyn will serve as host & hostess.

**“Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” [1 John 4:11](#)**



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If you took a bottle to collect donations for the Pregnancy Resource Center, please return it, regardless of the contents, by February 13th. There will be a container in the lobby for collection of the baby bottles. Thank you for your participation!

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**Grace Life International presents: The Foundation for Transformation Weekend in Stanly County.** Learn how building your life on this foundation provides answers you and others have been searching for about how to live the Christian life without trying harder! Dates and times for the event are Thursday, March 24 and Friday, March 25 from 6-9pm and Saturday, March 26 from 9am-5pm. It will be held at North Albemarle Baptist Church and the cost is \$100. To register or for questions, contact Sandy Witherspoon at 704-522-9026 or email at [sandy@gracelifeinternational.com](mailto:sandy@gracelifeinternational.com).

the art of  marriage™

Friday, February 11, 7-9pm  
Saturday, February 12, 9am-3:30pm  
Contact Barbara or Jim Lowder  
704-982-3866 or JALBSL67@earthlink.net  
or call the church office for information.

### Sunday Worship Times

Praise and Worship:  
8:30am and 11:00am  
(worship care provided for  
infants through age 3)

Mission @ Stanfield 10:00am  
<http://missionstanfieldworship.ning.com/>

Bible Study for all ages: 9:45am  
(Mission Campus)

**Next Newsletter Deadline: February 21, 2011**

**Lead Pastor**  
Ronny Russell - ronnyr@missionchurch.org

**Music Ministry Leaders**  
Kolis Moore - music@missionchurch.org  
Koni Huneycutt - music@missionchurch.org

**Campus Pastor**  
David Troublefield - davidt@missionchurch.org

**Pastor of Spiritual Formation**  
Jeremy Hyde - jeremyh@missionchurch.org

**Children's Ministry Director**  
Beverly Cobb - beverlyc@missionchurch.org

**Ministry Assistant**  
Charlene Lowder - charlenel@missionchurch.org

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**Mission Baptist Church**  
12444 Mission Church Road  
Locust, NC 28097

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# The Mission Messenger

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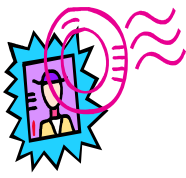
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## Sermon Series for February:



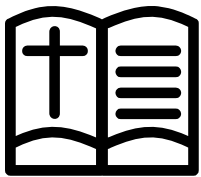
**ONCE UPON A**  
*marriage*



## Thank You...

To Mission Church: I want to send you a letter of extreme gratitude for allowing our mission team to borrow your bus for transportation to and from the Charlotte airport on Dec. 16 and 23. Our team was composed of some families that had no one to meet and transport them to and from the airport, so it was essential that we have transportation. Trent Harkey was invaluable for his availability and servant's heart. Gregg and Zach Martin represented Mission Church with such a giving spirit and get it done attitude immersed in humor as only they can! Thank you! Your fellow servant, *Cliff Swink*

During the first semester of Evening MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) at Mission, there were 16 mothers in attendance representing 23 preschoolers and 3 newborns. Evening MOPS began building community at Mission while reaching further into our community by volunteering at "Smith Splash" in memory of 2 year old Smith Snuggs to benefit free swimming lessons for children and also by sponsoring a social and providing Christmas gifts for a group home in Norwood that cares for autistic boys. We are very thankful for the support Mission has provided Evening MOPS in our first semester of ministry and look forward to the addition on new moms. Thanks! *Beth Blalock*



## Memorials

### **General Fund:**

In Memory of Reece Huneycutt by  
Mr. & Mrs. Todd Huneycutt

In Memory of Vi Crayton by  
The Oakboro Business Association,  
Pina Nance

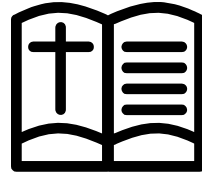
In Memory of H.B. and Martha Hatley by  
Van Hatley

### **Challenge to Build:**

In Memory of Vi Crayton by  
Mr. & Mrs. Marney Lowder

### **Judson Whitley Memorial Fund:**

In Memory of Judson Whitley and Opal Whitley by  
Mr. & Mrs. David Schackmann



## Mission Welcomes New Members

Tommy McCall  
PO Box 105  
Stanfield, NC 28163

Kristen Owens  
951 Country Mill Rd.  
Stanfield, NC 28163

Walter & Julia Norton  
8366 Harvell Rd.  
Stanfield, NC 28163

Mark McKinney  
910 Country Mill Rd.  
Stanfield, NC 28163

Cameron Barbee  
937 Star Mill Rd.  
Stanfield, NC 28163

George Rushing  
PO Box 4  
Midland, NC 28107

Chuck & Sybil Byrd  
16103-A Hazard Rd.  
Oakboro, NC 28129

Daniel Burleson  
5524 Thomas Lane  
Stanfield, NC 28163

Gabrielle Lucas  
879 W. Stanly St.  
Stanfield, NC 28163



There will be a Parent/Child Dedication Service on Sunday, February 6th. at 11:00. Come and join with the families at this special celebration.

Boy Scout Troop 202 and their leaders will be recognized at the 8:30 service on Sunday, February 6th.

## **2010 Contribution Statements**

You should have received your statement through the mail by this time. Please contact the church office if you did not receive a statement or if you have any questions or corrections to your giving record. If you do not receive numbered envelopes and would like to, please call the church office. Properly filled out envelopes help ensure correct accounting of your tithes and offerings.



Children's Ministry: Joining families in teaching children about Jesus!

Connect your child's heart to Jesus in a special way:

- Spend some time outside and talk together about God's creation.
- Read the Bible or pray together at a new time.
- Sign up for biblical ideas to share with your child in a newsletter at [www.d6family.com/splink](http://www.d6family.com/splink)
- Do something together with your children for a friend/neighbor who is alone this year.
- Ask your child if they would like to invite a friend to church.
- Pray with your spouse for your child's present needs and future needs.

### Names of God Challenge

What an awesome job the parents & teachers are doing at encouraging the children to open their Bibles? So far, the children have found 25 different names of God. Teacher David Ross says that there are plenty more. Can your family find a name of God that hasn't been posted yet? Let's see how many names we can find. The children will be reporting the names of God to the church on children's day.

*Everlasting father  
prince of peace  
shepherd  
Mighty God*

### Calendar of events:



Parent Child Dedication 2/6 at 11:00  
Discovery Class 2/6 to 2/27 Sundays at 9:45  
Children's Day 3/27 at both services  
Camp Mundo Vista or Caraway 7/25 to 7/29

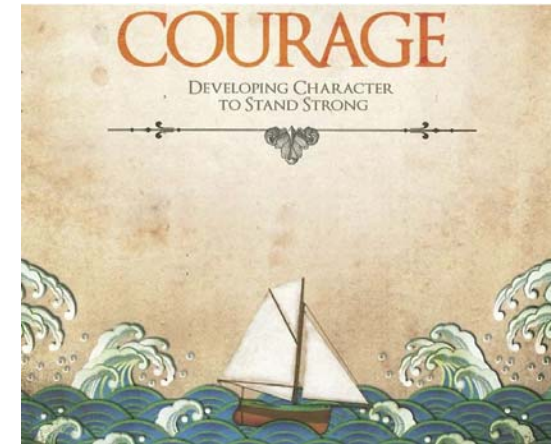
### February Calendar for Worship Care

Hostesses: Feb. 6, Angie Fink; Feb. 13, Michele Roper-Shue; Feb. 20, Beverly Cobb; Feb. 27, Shelly Hyde  
8:30 Babies and Ones: Feb. 6, Andrea Harkey, Krista Ross; Feb. 13, LouAnne Lucas, Leigh Anne Veazey; Feb. 20, Paulette Harris, Alice Hatley; Feb. 27, Melissa Eudy, Candice Mullins  
8:30 Twos and Threes: Feb. 6, Robby Fink, Jennifer Estridge; Feb. 13, Kamela Efird, Steven Lucas; Feb. 20, Eddie Harris, Dwight Hatley; Feb. 27, Clint Eudy, Jeremy Mullins  
11:00: Feb. 6, Reba Tucker, Tom Moore; Feb. 13, Richard Tucker, Beth Blalock; Feb. 20, Danny Harwood, Tammy Geelen; Feb. 27, Angie Bumgarner, Jennifer Price



### Student Ministry

ConnXion @ Night on Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00pm.  
Come join your friends on Wednesday nights at Mission!



Courage: Study by Francis Chan  
Starting in February during ConnXion @ Night on Wednesdays!

ConnXion A.M.  
Every Sunday, 9:45-10:45am, in the Café  
Breakfast, fellowship, Bible lessons



"What Love Really Means" will begin in February during ConnXion A.M. on Sunday mornings. Come learn the true meaning of the different types of love!

### Breakfast List for February

February 6: Courtney Grant, Alexa Kennedy, Wyatt Proffitt  
February 13: Crystal/Thomas Childers, Erika Lowder  
February 20: Anissa/Marisa Huneycutt, Joe Nicewonger  
February 27: Matt/Nick/Angie Newman, Bruce/Lisa Whitley