

# I was just thinking...

Ronny Russell, Lead Pastor

## pray

In the weeks leading up to Easter, Jeremy and I did a series of teaching on the subject of prayer. It was called "40 Days of Prayer" as was part of a larger emphasis on this most important of Christian practices.

Included in the last message of that series was a two-fold challenge to Mission:

- **Pray for five new converts and disciples of Jesus Christ in whatever group or groups you belong—an ABF, small group, ministry team, prayer group, your family, or just at least 2 or 3 people you can find to begin a prayer group. Be specific about the people for you whom you are praying. In other words, name them and pray for them over the next twelve months.**
- **Pray for the financial resources of Mission to increase by 20% over the next 12 months over what they have been the past year. Again, pray for this in your group and be faithful to continue to pray throughout the year.**

Why these requests and why now? First of all, the mission God always gives His people is to "go and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:19-20). Both of these prayer requests are directly related to this commission given to us by Jesus Himself.

Secondly, the call to prayer touches us at practically every level of our walk with Christ. For example, the practice of prayer is also connected to our worship. Expressions of praise (a key dimension of worship) are an essential part of prayer.

Prayer is also directly related to Bible reading and study. Reading and listening to God's Word is part of the practice of prayer. Contemplative prayer actually involves reading a scripture passage and then allowing God to speak to us through that Word. Knowledge of Scripture helps us to pray "in accordance with God's will."

Other spiritual practices such as solitude, giving, service, confession, and thanksgiving are directly involved in the practice of prayer.

To share the gospel around the world ("make disciples of all nations"), involves vast financial resources. True, much can be done without money such as personally sharing our faith with friends and neighbors, but if we only do the things that do not require financial resources, do we not limit what God can do and actually cheapen the commission He has given us?

*...Pray and see if God will not bring a harvest of souls, delivering numerous people from lostness and brokenness.*

*...Pray and see if God will not open the window sills of heaven and pour out His blessings on us (Malachi 3:10).*

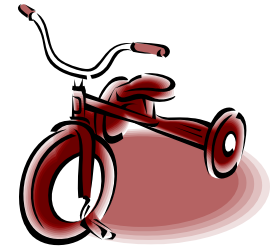
*...Pray with humility and earnest seeking and see if God will not hear from heaven, forgive our sins and heal our land (2 Chronicles 7:14).*

*...Pray and see what God will do!*



## The Perfect Gift

### Red Springs Christmas Project



**Wanted: Bikes, tricycles, and other riding toys that can be refurbished for children at Red Springs.**

**Now is a good time to do some spring cleaning and get rid of those riding toys that are too small or need a few minor repairs. We have volunteers to get them ready for our Christmas project. Call the church office or Richard Tucker at 704-485-4521 if you have a donation.**

## Fellowship Club



An afternoon of food and fun will be at our next gathering, Monday, May 9 at 11:30. The meal will be Subway sandwiches with all the trimmings, delicious salads, and yummy desserts! All you have to do is come, and enjoy spending some time with your friends. Our entertainment will be games by Larry featuring YOU! LA and Carol are our Host/Hostess this month.

**Remember our soldier, Marty Little, serving in Afghanistan. A box of treats is being mailed to him monthly. Any item or card that you would like to send, may be placed in the basket in the lobby. Small cans of food with pop tops are appreciated.**



## Thank you....

Fellowship Club and church family,  
Thank you for adopting Marty as "your soldier" during his tour of duty in Afghanistan. We are overwhelmed by the outpouring of your love, prayers, support and words of encouragement during this challenging and unsettling time in our lives. Thank you for the care packages that are truly packed with love, care and appreciation. Marty has expressed to us his gratefulness for your generosity, kindness and "goodies" Thanks again for all you have done and continue to do. *Delanie & Rosa*

## Memorials

### General Fund:

In Memory of Joyce Hatley by  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Crayton, Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Price

In Memory of Mary Russell by  
Mr. & Mrs. Odell Almond

In Memory of Dink Moore by  
Mr. & Mrs. Max Morton

### Challenge to Build:

In Memory of Mary Russell by  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Downer

## 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)

# The Mission Messenger

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**Next Newsletter Deadline: May 20, 2011**

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## Aftershock 2011

**Sunday, May 1st, 7:00pm**

An evening of worship with our  
creative movement team Friends!  
Everyone is invited!!!

# "Ride for Stella"



In honor of **Stella Griffin**, a local 7 year old little girl fighting Leukemia from Locust, NC

Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011

TAILGATORS, Locust, NC

Registration: 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

**BIKES LEAVE AT 10:00**

Come join us for a ride to Morrow Mountain and meet back at Tailgators in Locust NC

Cost: \$15.00 for Single / \$25.00 for Double  
(Cost includes bracelet)

Donations may be made to: Bank of Stanly / "Prayers for Stella"

Contact: Teresa Hinson 704-888-0790  
Mary Wilson 704-888-5061

There is a Breakfast Benefit Fundraiser being held for the Union County Homeless Shelter at Benton Heights Presbyterian Church, located at 2701 Concord Hwy (601) in Monroe. The breakfast will be country ham, bacon, eggs, grits, biscuits and gravy. Cooking by Union County Christian Cooking Convoy, donations only, proceeds going 100% to the homeless shelter in Monroe. Time will be from 6am-10am, Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>.



**We will celebrate two years of worshipping our Lord at Mission @ Stanfield on May 15th.** A cook out will be provided following the worship service. Take time to give thanks for all that God has done through our dedicated campus pastor, David Troublefield, and also the worship, technical, greeting, hosting, and child care teams that serve at this avenue of worship at Family Sports & Fitness in Stanfield!

## Mission Opportunities

2 Trips Are Being Planned for Honduras



1. Mission trip to Victoria, Honduras to install a water purification system, August 7-13. Estimated cost: around \$1100. See Steve Richardson or fill out the communication card on the Sunday worship folder
2. Mission trip to Roatan, Honduras to work with children in a camp setting and provide Tom's Shoes to children. Through Cross Training Ministries. Dates: Any one of three weeks, June 26-July 16. If enough interest, we'll all go together for one of those weeks. Cost: around \$1500 (rough estimate). See Pastor Ronny or fill out the communication card on the worship folder.

## Concord Night Shelter May 1-8

Pray for those volunteering as well as those being served!

**Stella Day**  
**May 7, 9am-2pm**  
**Locust Town Center**  
**Purple Hair Extensions, Pony Rides**  
**Cotton candy, Sno-Cones and more!**

### "Go Purple for Stella"

In honor of Stella, a local 7 year old little girl fighting Leukemia from Locust, local hair salons are participating in going "Purple". You can help by going "Purple". We can make a difference as a community in this precious little girl's life.

#### **Prices are as follows:**

Purple Keratin (human hair)	\$20.00 per strand
Actual Purple Color Streaks	\$20.00 - \$30.00
Purple Clips or Combs	\$15.00

**100% of the profit goes to the "Prayers for Stella" account.**

**Local Salons participating in this event:** Salon 2000 (Stanfield, NC) Salon 2000 (Locust, NC)  
Mainstreet Salon (Oakboro, NC)  
Shear Design (Midland, NC)



**Children's Ministry:  
Joining Families in  
Guiding Children on  
their Spiritual Journey**

**A Special THANK YOU to the many people who teach children each and every week!  
Will you thank a teacher this week?**

**Pray for our school teachers as they try to focus on the children, with all the pressure  
and the unknown in the school systems this year.**

**Child Safety Training – Canceled**

**I'm A Christian Now – May 15, 22, & 29<sup>th</sup>**

Your child is now a Christian; they have made the most important decision of their lives. Now what? We are offering this 3 week class to help them transition into being a disciple of Jesus Christ. Also, some of those "churchy" words will be explored. Please let me know if your child would like to attend.

### May Calendar for Worship Care

**Hostesses:** May 1, Beverly Cobb; May 8, Shelly Hyde; May 15, Tammy Joyner; May 22, Misty Broadway; May 29, Renee Sides

**8:30 Babies and Ones:** May 1, Paulette Harris, Alice Hatley; May 8, Melissa Eudy, Candice Mullins; May 15, Cami Yost, Wesley Joyner; May 22, Roxanne Hiott, Wendy Tucker; May 29, Keith & Marie Morton

**8:30 Twos and Threes:** May 1, Eddie Harris, Dwight Hatley; May 8, Clint Eudy, Jeremy Mullins; May 15, Dewayne Eudy, Michael Sides; May 22, Shelley Hancock, Greg Tucker; May 29, Volunteer Needed, Larry Honeycutt

**11:00:** May 1, Danny Harwood, Tammy Geelen; May 8, Angie Bumgarner, Jennifer Price; May 15, Barbara & Jim Lowder; May 22, Andrea Burris, Ronnie Hatley; May 29, Mike Geelen, Lore Hatley



### Student Ministry

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

**Mystery Adventure  
Saturday, May 21  
See Thomas to sign up!**



**ConnXion A.M.**

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

**Youth T-Shirts  
Are Now on Sale!!  
\$15 Girls or Guys  
\$10 for "neutral"  
Rising 7th graders will receive a  
Neutral Shirt as a gift,  
but may order another if they  
would like!**

Next Caswell payment is due in June. A meeting will be scheduled and the balance will be collected at that meeting. Date to be announced.

**Graduation Sunday!**  
If you are graduating from high school or college,  
Please supply Thomas with 4-6 pictures for the Graduation Video, as well as the name of the school you are graduating from.

### Breakfast List for May

May 1: Lauren/Susanne Burris, Olivia Tucker  
May 8: Colby Edwards, Harley Hinson, Brandi Swank  
May 15: Taylor LaFollette, Stoney/Valorie Hatley  
May 22: Jessica/Cody Gardinier, Ben/Sarah Harwood  
May 29: Alex/Amber Harkey, Jordon Hartsell