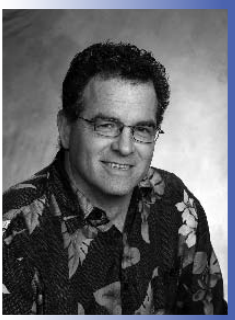




JULY 2008

fbcmoesto.com

From Pastor Zeek



Do you remember what it was like the first time you came to church? Most of us have forgotten those first, awkward weeks trying to find our way

around, hoping to come across someone we knew and wondering what this large church is really about.

Most people decide if they are going to return to a church based on their first experience. Since this is such an important time in a person's life, we decided to get some input. We asked a few people to visit our church and tell us about their experience. These people weren't church attenders, they were just normal people from the Central Valley.

They came to church two weeks in a row. After two weeks they wrote down their experiences. Here are a few of the positive comments:

"Clean campus"

"Loved the Park Café"

"Smiling people"

"Enjoyed the service"

Here are a few comments that show us we have some work to do:

"People were smiling and friendly but no one talked to me"

"Wasn't sure where to go"

"Does anyone care if we are here?"

Overall, the input shows we are doing a lot of things well, but we are missing it on engaging new people. I spoke personally with one of the guys who attended. He said he was impressed by the friendly groups of people. They obviously enjoyed talking to each other and loved being at church. He said it appeared they were so focused on their group they didn't notice others around them.

It has been about six months since we had this conversation and it has caused me to make a new goal. Every Sunday I am going to meet someone new! Over these months it has been wonderful to meet new people every weekend. I mentioned this story to the choir and a number of people in the choir have decided to do the same thing.

So here at First B, we've started a new ministry called First Impressions. Every week we have people going out of their way to greet others and we're beginning to see and feel a difference. What would it be like if we all broke out of our comfort zones and engaged someone we didn't know in a conversation? It could have eternal consequences.

Paul Zeek

by Gail Parker

Moses stretched his hand out over the Red Sea and God parted the waters so His people could pass through to safety. That was undeniably a miracle of God, and God still works *Red Sea* miracles today.

Two years ago on a drizzly, wet evening our daughter, Jennifer Holly, gave birth to our granddaughter, Natalie. That blessed moment quickly turned to catastrophe when Natalie was born ghostly pale and nearly lifeless, with the umbilical cord wrapped tightly around her neck. In shock from a severe loss of blood in an unusual complication during labor, she wasn't breathing, her heartbeat was so faint it couldn't be heard and other vital organs had shut down.

In an energetic effort to resuscitate her, Natalie's

lung collapsed. She was put on full life support, given an immediate blood transfusion and a chest tube was inserted in her side. Our first glimpse of her was startling as she lay there in a coma with many tubes and I.V.s attached to her. She was eight pounds, five ounces at birth and looked out of place beside the premature babies in the NICU, and she had the most beautiful shock of copper red hair.

Working to stabilize her enough to transfer her to Stanford, the doctors gave a grim prognosis of six to eight weeks in the NICU with little hope of survival. They predicted a future living with the consequences of severe brain damage. Her kidneys needed to begin functioning within 48 hours or dialysis would be added to her treatment. Jen and her husband, Eric, were devastated. There was little we could do for them but pray. Through several loving friends, family and FBC staff, prayer quickly spread among the Body of Christ that night and in the days following. It even reached across the ocean as

strangers lifted a baby girl's desperate need for healing to the Lord.

When my husband, Mike, and I walked out of the hospital late that night I looked up to the black sky and cried aloud to the Lord, "We need a miracle



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Our Red Sea Miracle Continued

here! Not just any miracle, we need a *Red Sea* kind of miracle!” Distraught, neither of us could sleep. I picked up my Bible and tried to read it but could barely focus on the words; I was so numb. I cried and asked the Lord to please give me some word of comfort and hope to cling to. I reached for a little devotional book I’ve had for over 30 years called, “*Come Away My Beloved.*” I opened it randomly. My eyes fell on a passage and I began to read. (Remember, I had just prayed for a *Red Sea* miracle an hour earlier.) This is what it said:

“But look to Me, and I will be your beacon in the night, and you will not stumble over the hidden things. You will walk in a way of victory though turmoil is on either hand, even as Israel marched through the Red Sea on a path My hand hewed out for them. Yes, it shall be a path of deliverance, and My Spirit shall go with you, and you shall carry the glad tidings of deliverance to people that sit in darkness and captivity.”

I praised God right then for the healing I knew He was going to bring to Natalie. It was the impossible, but I believed God was going to deliver her and He would be glorified in it!

Before 24 hours had passed, Natalie’s kidneys began to function. Day by day specific prayers were miraculously answered, astonishing the doctors and nurses. She began to breathe on her own, she came out of her coma without seizures, she began to eat and test after test came back proving everything to be

normal. The Lord literally restored that which was lost! Beyond everyone’s expectations, Natalie went home on the eighth day healthy and whole!

For the next two years Natalie underwent follow-up testing and evaluation by the hospital to monitor her developmental progress after her traumatic birth. Her final evaluation came shortly after her 2nd birthday. She exceeded her age level benchmarks and scored as a three-year-old!

I like to think that our omniscient God, knowing I would call out for a *Red Sea* miracle, created Natalie with that startling **red** hair as a testament of His faithfulness to us! Wherever I go with her, people stop to comment on her hair. I take that opportunity to briefly tell the “glad tidings of deliverance” and the living miracle of God she is. This grandma has even taught her to say, “I’m a miracle!” And she is!



God's Hand And Shilo's Heart

*"God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm."*

-- William Cowper

by Jackie Tharpe

These words have proven true in the life of 10-year-old Shilo McClay.

Shilo was born with Ebstein's Anomaly, a birth defect that takes the lives of many newborns. However, he did not die at birth but continued to live with the debilitating effects of the disease in which the right side of the heart is malformed, preventing proper valve function. This meant that Shilo had to be on intense medication that could potentially damage his eyes, lungs and blood. He also had tachycardia, and a hole in his heart could not be repaired. Hence, the doctors couldn't take care of the mis-firing electrical path because the electrical path was directly over his heart. His condition was serious.

Enter into the picture, Pat and Jodi McClay. Already the parents of four, they met Shilo, who was in foster care, and couldn't get him off their minds. They felt drawn to him, and even though they didn't know how much time they would have together because of the seriousness of his heart problems, they knew they wanted to love him. When Shilo was five years old, he became the McClay's foster child and the family immediately began adoption proceedings, a difficult process that stretched over two and a half years.

But when he was finally their child, Shilo's health became significantly more stable. God was already working for his good.

Meanwhile, the cardiologist made it clear that eventually Shilo would have to have another heart surgery, he would always be on medication, and his future was uncertain. Shilo had undergone heart surgeries as a newborn, and again at two and five years of age, but episodes of rapid heartbeats became more frequent; the electrical problem in his heart was becoming worse.

Pat and Jodi hoped that as Shilo grew these past five years, God would move the bad electrical pathway so it could be more easily identified and destroyed, enabling doctors to route blood so he could have more oxygen. Yet once the electrical path was destroyed, the medicine he was taking would no longer work, so if he had any more attacks, Shilo would need electrical shocks to reset his heartbeats.

Then came the miracle! Weeks ago Shilo returned to the hospital for another open heart surgery. Cardiologists were surprised to see that his right ventricle had grown larger - much larger than expected, and that he had one and a half ventricles instead of just one. Finally, doctors were able to single out the specific route causing the



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problems.

While Shilo was in the operating room, doctors decided to test his heart to see if it could withstand the pressure if they closed the hole, and it did. The cardiologist was bursting with pleasure and amazement and they all praised God together. The result? Shilo no longer has to take medication and can participate in regular activities. In three to six months, if he has not had any other problems, doctors will be able to perform a routine surgery to close the hole in his heart.

Looking back, Jodi is awed at how God has worked. On the way to the hospital that day, Jodi had begun to cry and Shilo wanted to know why she was crying. "When Mommy was on junior high staff, we used to sing a song that 'some trust in horses, some in chariots, but we will trust in the name of our God.' We don't trust in doctors, we trust in God Who moves the doctor's hands," she told him. They had peace the rest of the way to the hospital. Many people

were praying for Shilo, and his Sunday school class sent him a big card that gave him comfort.

Shilo came through a three-hour procedure that could have been an eight- or nine-hour surgery. Jodi said she had "just been praying he would be well enough to go to tweenage camp after the open heart surgery and now he can go because there is no open heart surgery facing him. He will still have less energy because of the hole in his heart but he can still go. His spirit is great. He has a peace now that he didn't have before, knowing God has touched his heart and made him well."

As Jesus went along, He saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life." (John 9:1-3)

And so, God still moves in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform ... just ask Shilo.

Talk Around The Rock

In July, First B family members **Barry** and **Claudia Courtney** and their children, **Kellie** and **Matthew**; along with **Rebecca Kauffman**, **Jen Jacobs** and **Katie Dion** will be part of a contingent of Modestans traveling to China. As part of a group of 120 high school band and color guard members, the group will be part of the Beijing Olympic Orchestra. The Olympic Orchestra will include 2,008 musicians from 40 countries.

Lin Sexton and **Caleb Sexton** traveled to Slovenia, where they joined Todd Hunnicutt and two Slovene pastors; they visited churches in Southern Germany where Slovene Protestant Reformer Primoz Trubar pastored. They videotaped interviews with pastors and scholars, shooting footage that will be used in this year's New Hope production – a celebration of Trubar's 500th birthday.

Our high school ministry always looks forward to spending time at Vertigo, our annual summer camp. Every year we spend our week at Koinonia Conference Center, in the Santa Cruz Mountains. As we prepared to leave for camp, we were on edge knowing

by Jeff Mollett

there were fires in that area. After talking with camp staff, we realized just how God has His hand on Camp Koinonia. The fires came within feet of camp property, but because of God's power and His control over the weather, a wind sent the fire right around the camp. It was because of this that we knew God had big plans for some high school students' lives.



Tim Barley, Student Ministries Pastor of Valley Bible Church in Pleasanton, taught God's truth to our group, calling out questionable things in this world that displayed evidence of God's power and existence.

Throughout the week, the 179 students and staff were challenged to find something to lay before the cross. On the last night of camp, we were given this opportunity,

and many students made first-time decisions or commitments to God.



Four students even chose to be baptized at 128 the Wednesday after camp to make their commitment public.

Throughout the week, students were given the opportunity to meet new students and compete with them in team competition and crowd breakers. Pastor Jeff Harmon has lost this competition for eighteen camps in a row and went into camp with little hope of winning. At the end of the week his team finally came out victorious, making his record 1-18. Despite winning and losing records, it was awesome to see God do work in the lives of students and watch them make decisions that would change their lives forever.



Tweenagers Clip Their Leaders

Our Tweenagers are awesome! Back in January the kids in *Worship the Rock* (our Tweenage ministry at 10:45) were challenged to complete their weekly Bible lesson assignments for extra credit. They were told they would receive four tickets for each assignment turned in to eventually redeem at our Tweenage store. A big deal was made about this to motivate them to do better in completing their assignments. Last year, only 20 on average were turned in each week. Tweenage Director Don Rowe, and leaders Richard Burton and George Johnson, in their excitement proclaimed to the kids that if they were to turn in 55 devotions on a Sunday, Don and George would get their heads shaved

Sunday morning, June 1 was a special day as the Tweenagers turned in their assignments, creating a huge stack of papers. The stack continued to grow and the energy in the room grew with it. Word spread that a hair loss event may be the order of the day.

After the final call was made to turn in assignments, sheets were counted and it was discovered that we were two sheets short of our goal.

There was a mighty moan and then silence. A girl in the group stood up and said, "Wait a minute. I might have a

couple still in my Bible." She looked and sure enough there they were. She brought them up and the room went crazy.

Don and George were immediately suspicious and demanded a recount. Enter Brandon Estes, offering to be the neutral party conducting the recount. At the moment Brandon declared the count to indeed be 55, the rest of the room of about 90 Tweenagers erupted into near chaos. Brandon immediately offered to run home to get his clippers. Leader Kelly Morad offered

by Pastor Tom La Core



to serve as the hair stylist/shearer. As *Worship the Rock* dismissed that Sunday, the kids were sitting outside on the Chapel steps witnessing masses of hair falling to the ground as Don and George got clipped. This also delighted the rest of the church as they exited the worship service.

It was a day not forgotten that will hopefully contribute to many more assignments being completed and our Tweenagers learning and applying Godly truths to their lives. I wonder what will be next. Hmmm ... I'm thinking goldfish?





JULY 2008

First B Saturday Night

Chapel @ 6:00

- Kid Country programs available birth through sixth grade

Share Your Faith Class

Tuesdays

- Beginning July 15
- 6:30-9 pm
- Pavilion Garden, rm 931

Share Your Faith questions?
extension 2621

Sunday Night Teaching Time

The Book of Isaiah

- Sunday, 5:30 pm, Pavilion Garden

Sunday Night Teaching Time
questions? extension 2622

Believer's Baptism

Sunday, August 24

- 9 & 10:45 am

*If you'd like to be baptized, please
call the church office*

Baptism questions?
extension 2609

WEEKENDS IN JULY

What Would Jesus Say To ...

learn more

OPRAH

BOND

CARRIE
UNDERWOOD

RUSH

ELLEN
DEGENERIS

fbcmdesto.com 521-0181

Home Groups

Home Groups – a place to belong

- Connect with other adults
- Call or go to fbcmodesto.com

Home Group questions?
extension 2609

Worship Ministries

Worship Choir Is Taking The Summer Off

- Mark your calendar for
Thursday, Aug 21

Worship Orchestra

- Thursdays, 7 pm
- Worship Center
- High school and up welcome
- Childcare by reservation only

Worship questions?
extension 2113

Monday Night Church

MNC Service and Dinners

- Mondays, July 14, 21, 28, 6 pm
- Pavilion Concourse

Opportunities to Serve

- Help with childcare, prayer partners,
sign language or food service
- Sign up this weekend on your
communication card or call the office

Monday Night Church questions?
extension 2621

Single Adults

Single Focus Sundays

- 10:45 am
- The Point, downstairs
- *God's Love: Living, Loving, Sharing*

Single Adult questions?
extension 2618

Dedication of Parents and Little Children

Father's Day
Sunday, June 15, 2008

Christian Jacob Bradley

Liam Evan Caligiuri

Neal Thomas Clark Jr.

Emma Vargas Clark

Evan Richard Criswell

Morgan Kenley Dickens

Bryce Aiden Farley

Samuel Alan Fertig

Makayla Lael Kimball

Mia Xiana Martinez

Xander Elijah Martinez

Erica Renee Mattingly

Sadie Sherie Meyers

Charlotte Rose Nuding

Alanah Alan See

Addison Jean Simpson

Zechariah James Steel

Esmerelda Taylor Stearman

Lucas Richard Teague

Parker David Watson

Church Offices Closed

Friday, July 4
Independence Day

STUDENT MINISTRIES

Fusion Junior High

Sundays

- 9 am, Chapel

Wednesdays

- 6:45-8:30 pm, Chapel

Check Out Fusion Online

- fusionjrhigh.com

High School

The Deep End - Sundays

- 9 am, Pavilion Concourse

128/Fuel Groups - Wednesdays

- 6:45 pm, Pavilion Concourse

San Francisco Giants Game

- Wednesday, July 2
- \$20

Santa Cruz Beach Day Trip

- Saturday, July 19
- Cost and details coming

Check Out 128 Online

- 128online.com

College Ministry

18-20 Somethings

IGNITE BBQ

- Sunday, July 6, 6-8:30 pm
- College Ministry houses
418 & 420 College Ave

IGNITE

- Sundays, 13, 20, 27, 7 pm
- Pavilion Concourse

Reynosa, Mexico Mission Trip

- July 19-27
- Ask God to bless and protect the team while away

Check Us Out Online

- fbcignite.com

Student Ministries questions?
extension 2506/2508

Welcome New Members

Kayla Burton

George & Sue Foster

Sharron Frey

Mark & Rebecca Honberger

Lloyd & Kristine Kauffman

Bill & Lona Stonebreaker

George Wilma

Recovery In Christ Ministries Support Groups

Substance abuse, dysfunction and dependency

Thursdays, 7 pm

Pavilion Garden

Childcare provided, birth-sixth grade

Various groups available for men and women. Our recovery ministry is designed to help people work through difficult issues that cannot be worked through alone.

Recovery In Christ questions?
extension 2621

Family Dynamics Marriage • Family • Parenting

Sundays

- 9 am
- Pavilion Garden
- *Belonging to the Church Family, Are You Ready for Some Challenges?*
 - *The Father Always Liked You Best*
 - *Making Assumptions About the Church Family*
 - *Expectations of the Church Family*

- Note: there are no classes at 10:45 am during the summer, see you in the fall

Family Dynamics questions?
extension 2618

SoulScape

Retreat For Women

- Friday-Sunday, August 1-3
- Old Oak Ranch
- Register online at fbcmodesto.com

SoulScape questions?
extension 2623

World Outreach

Night of Prayer for the World

- Monday, July 7 (first Monday each month)
- 6:30 pm
- 1325 11th St

Chinese Ministry • Sunday

- 10:45 am, The Point, upstairs

Laotian Ministry • Sunday

- 10:45 am, 1325 11th St

Cambodian Ministry • Sunday

- 10:45 am, CE Bldg, rms 336 & 340

World Outreach questions?
extension 2622

Kid Country

The Great Treasure Hunt Day Camp

- Monday-Friday, July 7-11
- \$25
- Age four (by 12/1/08) – grade three (this fall)

Family Camp

- July 21-25
- *Chinquapin Charlie and the Hunt for the Golden Pinecone*
- Register in the Kid Country office during the week

A Great Opportunity

- Help change a child's life while helping in Kid Country, call for details or stop by the Kid Country Visitor Center on Sundays

Kid Country questions?
extension 2120

Park Café

A Great Place

- An opportunity to be a part of a fast-paced hospitality ministry
- Sign up in the Park Café on Sunday

Park Café questions?
extension 2618

Membership Class

New Five-week Class

- Begins Sunday, July 6, 9 am
- Pavilion Garden, rm 931
- Taught by various pastors
- A basic introduction to First B and how to get connected, no need to pre-register for this class

Membership questions?
extension 2609

Young Marrieds & Young Families

Sundays

- 9 am, The Point, downstairs
- Interactive teaching relevant for today - grow in your love for God, one another and those who don't know Him

Newlywed Workshop

- Sundays through Aug 10
- 9:10 am, The Point, downstairs
- Includes: living life as one, sex, in-laws, money, friendships and more
- For couples married two years or less

Coming Up ...

- Family BBQ and swim party Saturday, July 12
- Family Camp at Chinquapin Friday-Sunday, Aug 8-10

Young Marrieds & Young Families questions? extension 2618

Women's Ministries

Summer Fun

- Kindred Hearts/Creative Hands
In-house Retreat, Friday-Saturday, July 18-19, Pavilion Garden
- Bike Trip in San Francisco, Angel Island, Saturday, July 19, 8 am
Carpool from First B
Bike rental \$10 per hour or \$35 day
Ferry fee \$13.50, cash or checks only
Bring lunch or purchase on the island
Call to reserve your spot

SoulScape - Retreat for Women

- Friday-Sunday, Aug 1-3
- Old Oak Conference Center
- Register online at fbcmodesto.com or Sundays in the street

Small Groups

Call for times and locations

Sunday –

- Sisters *Who Calls Me Beautiful?*

Monday – encouragement and prayer groups

- Perfect Gifts moms of children with special needs
- Grandmoms in Touch

Tuesday – childcare for morning groups

- *Women of the Bible*
- *Summer Sampler*

Wednesday –

- *GriefShare for Women*
Now through Aug 27, 6:30-8:30 pm
1325 11th St, contact Pat for details, pshuman@fbcmodesto.com

Thursday

- MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)
Park Days, various meeting places during the summer, call for details

Encouragement & Prayer Groups

- Various groups, call for details
- *Ladies in Waiting* – deals with infertility
call 521-4143 for details

Women's Ministries questions?
extension 2623

Pacesetters

Monthly Prayer Meeting

- Monday, July 7, 3:30-4:30 pm
- 818 Needham St

Sunday Lunch Bunch

- July 13, noon, Pavilion Garden
- Single adult women 60+

Giants vs. Padres Baseball Game

- Saturday, Aug 23

Coming Up ...

- Sept 5 – Modesto Rotary Senior Walk
- Sept 26 – Annual Concert & Dessert

Pacesetters questions?
extension 2617

Men's Ministries

Golf Tournament

- Saturday, July 19, Manteca

BBQ Dinner and Speaker

- Friday, Aug 8
- 6 pm, Pavilion Concourse
- Speaker, Michael Pouliot, president and founder, BattleZONE Ministries
- \$15 each; \$25 for you and son/guest

Paint Ball

- Saturday, Aug 23

Soft Top and Sports Car Run

- Saturday, Sept 20

Men's Small Groups

- Monday: *Purpose Driven Life, Epistles*
- Tuesday: *12 Ordinary Men, Through the Bible, Spiritual Leadership*
- Wednesday: *Wild at Heart, Acts*
- Thursday: *Open Discussion, God is Closer Than You Think*
- Friday: *James, Sunnier Side of Doubt, Master Plan of Evangelism, Ephesians, 2 Timothy*
- Saturday: *Man in the Mirror, Disciplines of a Godly Man*

Men's Ministries questions?
extension 2617