

KOINONIA

FALL 2012



Koinonia is a Greek word whose primary meaning is “fellowship or sharing in common.” It means that we are in agreement with one another, united in a common purpose, and serving alongside each other. It is the ideal state of fellowship, community and family that should exist within a body of believers. It is this ideal state, this *koinonia*, that we hope to encourage through this publication. Our hope is that it would be far more than just a fancy listing of events, but that people would get a greater sense of who we are as a church, that they would see our heart, not just our hands and feet.

This magazine is a collaboration of a large group of people of all ages and ranges of talents and abilities. If you are interested in becoming a part of this Media Arts Team, please contact Michael Hickman, or Andy Byers, or email koinonia@dnbc.org. We would love to have you join us!

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A Word From The Pastor

Prayer, Persistence, and Politics:

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. 1 Timothy 2:1-2

In his letter to Timothy, the apostle Paul wrote that believers are to pray for those in positions of authority so that we can live quiet lives focused on godliness and holiness. In American politics, however, believers have more responsibility than simply praying for those already in positions of authority, we have the additional freedom and obligation to influence who is placed into those positions of authority. As with all Christian endeavors, this responsibility of electing officials to serve the public good should begin with prayer. As a nation we face increasingly complex and difficult problems: energy independence, a burgeoning national debt, increasingly expensive healthcare, balancing compassion for the needy without violating the Biblical injunction requiring personal industry and responsibility, just to name a few. Believers are not excused from problems because they are hard, rather, God expects believers to be all the more involved because they re-

quire wisdom beyond that of man. As believers, we must pray for these national issues.

“As with all Christian endeavors, this responsibility of electing officials to serve the public good should begin with prayer.”

Our responsibility, however, does not end in prayer. As we move closer to Election Day, candidates and their parties are presenting the positions and the values for which they stand. No candidate or political

party is infallible. Therefore it is imperative that believers investigate the candidates and their positions on each issue. Do not abdicate your responsibility to party machinery, be it Democrat, Republican, or Independent. Do not leave it up to the inadequate sound-bites of network news or your favorite radio host. With the internet and the infinite number of information outlets today, Christians have adequate resources to intensely scrutinize the candidates and their positions. We do not have to rely on mystical impressions or some organization's agenda-driven voter guides to determine how well a candidate's positions align with God's Word.

Finally, register and participate. In this country we have the wonderful privilege of participating in the selection of our next leaders. Don't allow laziness, apathy, or disgust to become flimsy excuses for not doing your part. As we pray and persist in our investigations, God's Spirit will guide us in the selection of our public servants.

In His Service, and Yours,
Pastor Bob

Fall Schedule

October 20 – Calendar Planning

October 22 thru 24 – State Convention in Clovis

November 10 – SAM Thanksgiving Banquet

Dec 1 – Soul-2-Sole

Dec 2 – Youth Christmas Service

Dec 7 – Christmas Camp/Adult 2-3 Christmas Party

Dec 9 – Children's Christmas Program

Dec 14 – Adult 6/7/8 Christmas Parties

Dec 16 – Adult Christmas Program

Dec 21 – Youth: 12 Hours of Christmas

Dec 22 – Adult 4 Christmas Party

Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Service

Dec 31 – Singles and SAM New Year's Parties

Discipleship Training

School is back in "Full Swing" and with that our Fall schedule gears up. Here is what is coming this semester in Discipleship Training:

Beginning SEPTEMBER 9th at 5:00 pm

For Men & Women: BIBLE STUDY METHODS: 12 Ways You Can Unlock God's Word

This study shows the disciple 12 different ways to study the Bible to get the most out of it for their learning.

We will take 12 weeks to work through the material. The text book can be purchased for \$11 (this is \$2 off the bookstore price) but this is optional.

Beginning SEPTEMBER 9th at 5:00 pm and SEPTEMBER 12th at 6:30 pm in ROOM #201

For Women: The NEW Beth Moore Video Series on the book of: James: Mercy Triumphs

The Workbook is \$15.

ESSENTIALS: New Members Class will be offered on Sunday, October 7th & 14th at 4:00 pm.

This class is offered for our new members and anyone who is interested in knowing what we as a church believe and how we put our faith into practice. You will receive a workbook at no cost. It is important to attend BOTH classes to receive credit for this class.

Certified Training in DISASTER RELIEF will be offered during our Fall Semester. Please watch the Sunday bulletin for the scheduled dates. This class will be taught by Ira Shelton, who is the coordinator for the Baptist Disaster Relief in the state of New Mexico. These people help in feeding and clean up at disasters, such as forest fires and flooding, in New Mexico and other states.

PINKSTON NEWS

I am encouraged that God loves us, through the bad and the good. He is with us every moment of each day. We can turn to Him with our smallest concerns and He celebrates with us in all the good times.

2012 will forever be remembered by the Pinkston clan, as it will include many momentous occasions. My grandmother Velma, who lived with us for 12 years, passed away in January. Our youngest daughter Melody turned 18 in February and graduated High School in May. Jennifer and I celebrated 25 years as a happily married couple August 1 and my parents will celebrate 50 years of marriage in November. Our eldest daughter, Joy, was married to Cameron Hocker on Sept. 1. And we celebrate 5 years on staff here at Del Norte Baptist Church. Makes me tired just thinking about it.

MUSIC & WORSHIP MINISTRIES

The music and worship ministries are off to a great start this Fall. As of Sunday, Sept. 9, all three Children's Choirs and Mosiac (Youth) activities are in full swing. The Celebration (Adult) Choir, Celebration Orchestra, Praise Team, and Handbells are all learning new music for the fall and will begin Christmas preparations very soon.

As always, each of the musical groups mentioned about are excited to have people join them as we worship the Lord through music and song. Consider if you, or someone you know, should be participating with us.

For your calendar:

Sunday, Oct. 28; Baby Dedication in AM services
Sunday, Oct. 28; PM Ordination Service for Andy Byers (our student pastor)
Sunday, Nov. 11; Church Fellowship/Potato Bake
Sunday, Dec. 2; Youth Music Program
Sunday, Dec. 9; PM Children's Music Program
Sunday, Dec. 16; PM Adult Music Program
Sunday, Dec. 24; PM Christmas Eve Service

As usual Fall is a busy time of year for the children and families in our church. Not only are they busy buying school supplies, school clothes and learning a new schedule but all of the children's ministries are beginning again.

Thank you church family for helping make the donation of school supplies and backpacks a success. Because of your generosity we were able to deliver 60 filled backpacks to Governor Bent Elementary School. We also delivered 4 boxes of supplies to McKinley Middle School. Sunday, August 19, was the Fall Kickoff for our Children's Ministries. This is the fourth year we have held it at Putt-Putt. What a success! We had 119 children and family members attend. We want our neighborhood to know that we are a church that cares about children and families. Once again we will be assembling and delivering Thanksgiving Baskets. Last year we gave 20 boxes of food to families in need. If you know of a family that could use a Thanksgiving Basket please let us know in the office. Sunday School classes will be receiving lists of items on Sunday, October 28th.

Saturday December 1st will be our Second Annual Sole-2-Soul. We will be including McKinley Middle School students in our festivities this year. Therefore we are estimating that we will be giving away twice the amount of shoes as last year. As you can see this will be a great undertaking and we will need the financial and physical help of our whole church family. If you have any suggestions or would like to volunteer to help with this awesome start to the Christmas Season; please call me at 453-8121, or send an email to Lillian@dnbc.org.

Children's Christmas Camp will be Friday, December 7th. We decided to have it the Friday after Sole-2-Soul so that we can invite all of the children who receive shoes. Christmas Camp is from 6:30pm-9:00pm and is for any child; babies through 6th grade. Each year I receive such a blessing from this camp and it is a great way to begin the Christmas Season. Enthusiastically Serving With You!

Lillian Moon
Children's Pastor

Sole 2 Soul

Last year we brought in almost \$4,000 for Sole-2-Soul and it was a great success.

This year we want to do even more.
Be there December 1st





LIFE TOGETHER

The Relational Experience by Richelle Gilsdorf

As most of you have probably heard, for the third consecutive year the Del Norte Youth Group traveled to Eagle Nest, New Mexico to teach VBS at Moreno Valley Baptist Church. Like every year before, we came home with amazing memories we'll never forget—like worshipping on a small float during the town's 4th of July Parade; watching fireworks over the lake; witnessing the consumption of a triple cheeseburger in 3 minutes, 15 seconds; the invention of new sports such as Eagle Ball and Pew Jumping (don't ask); and perhaps most memorably, the girls having to pack up their luggage in minutes and leap out a window to escape an overflow of sewage creeping its way down the hall and towards our rooms...

But more than any of these incredible (and in most cases, hilarious) experiences, we discovered a broader sense of unity than ever before. On the Sunday before VBS, the pastor, Tom Perry, invited Andy to preach and Mark and Elizabeth Acton, and Michael Hickman to lead worship for the service. In his sermon, Andy mentioned what we call the Life Together, a relationship-based lifestyle committed to God's work and Jesus's message of love, similar to the way the early disciples lived in the book of Acts, following Jesus's resurrection. It's a lifestyle of support, devotion, love, and a healthy dose of patience; it's also the way the youth live on mission trips, and this year, we had a few special additions.

The first official day of VBS, we had one student. Just one single student. Her name was Jessica. Now you might be thinking, "How sad! All that planning and only one student? How can you have VBS with only one student?" Rest assured, we got more students as the week progressed and got to share God's love with them. But the truth is, because of only having Jessica that first day, VBS became something different, and created a pattern that would continue for the rest of the week. You see, we love all the kids we meet, but Jessica had history with us—she was our first profession of faith, having become a Christian while in Kaitlyn Hickman's class the previous year. As you can imagine, Kaitlyn was ecstatic to see Jessica again, and by Jessica's smile upon hearing Kaitlyn was back, you would have thought they'd been friends for years. And they spent every day that week together—from morning until 9 at night, they played and talked. Where Kaitlyn was, Jessica was likely to be, too. Jessica ate with us, came to Red River with us, played games and walked around town with us, watched fireworks and rode on the float with us, and worshipped with us every night. Her brother Justin and his friend Kyle showed up (usually after VBS, ironically enough) and did the same thing—hung out with us all day long, doing whatever we were doing.



You might think it sounds tiring, that we'd get sick of "babysitting" all day long, or having kids follow us around everywhere. But that's the brilliance of Life Together—that's the awesome, beautiful relationship God's given us to share with other believers—this is what it's all about. Sure, Kaitlyn or one of the other students would get tired, but there was always another youth to step in, another friend for Jessica to play with, another guy for Justin and Kyle to chase around. This was ministering at its most epic potential—sharing your life, your example with a child for 12 hours a day, for almost a whole week. What more could we ask for? Sure, it wasn't the ideal version of VBS—sure, we missed Bible stories and skipped over a few planned activities. But you know what? I'll never forget Jessica's conversation with her brother the last day we were there.

The two were sitting in the Bible study cabin, and Jessica started telling Justin all about God's omniscient presence, how he's everywhere, "even when you shower!" She explained the idea of heaven to him, and how praying is just like talking to a friend—you don't need pretty words or thee and thou. And by the end of the lesson, Justin wanted to pray. He wanted to know what it's like to talk to God. So he prayed for us (and I tried not to cry). So that's why you'll always hear us talking about Life Together—because it works, because it's what Jesus intended, because it's the gift He gave us to share with each other and with Him, to live in daily communion with our Savior and Lord, and so that as believers, we will be "one in heart and mind" (Acts 4:32). Yes, it is about sharing the Gospel and bringing people to accept Christ as their Savior, but relationship is the method by which Jesus intended that to happen—it's why He chose twelve completely unqualified men to follow Him around for three years, why He ate meals with society's rejects, and ultimately, why He died—so that we could be in relationship with Him for eternity.



EVER-GROWING EVER-GOING FAMILY

by Richelle Gilsdorf

This year during the Youth Group's Eagle Nest Mission Trip, Andy was asked to preach the sermon at the Moreno Valley Baptist Church for the Sunday morning before VBS officially started. While he largely discussed our idea of The Life Together, he also explored the idea of this everlasting family of believers in which we all belong as followers of Christ. The concept moved me, and I would like to share it.

Andy started this idea of eternal family and global unity in the faith with Ephesians 4. In verses 4-6 (The Message), Paul writes: "You were all called to travel on the same road and in the same direction, so stay together, both outwardly and inwardly. You have one Master, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who rules over all, works through all, and is present in all. Everything you are and think and do is permeated with Oneness."

Everything we are. Everything we do. Permeated with Oneness. How incredible is that? From the missionary in Africa feeding

starving children with food and the Word, to a little girl in America praying beside her bed at night, to a homeless man crying out for help, to a threatened believer in Iraq sneaking to a service in the middle of the night, to me right here, in my office at work, writing this article—we are all united as One in Christ. We are permeated with Oneness—everything we do, everything we are. Christ's death on the cross and His will that every soul on earth know of His love is the cord that holds us all together, that binds us as family forever. It's like having millions of brothers and sisters that you've never met (but one day will), who share your struggles, your purpose, and your hope. How beautiful and awesome is that?

But it gets better.

Perhaps the most astounding part of what Andy preached came from Hebrews 11. In verses 1-2, Paul talks about the how faith in God is the foundation of our existence. He goes on to say that this faith is what distinguished our ancestors, and then lists the stories of faith of people such as Abel,

Enoch, Noah, Abraham, all the way down through Rahab, the prostitute. In verse 32 (The Message) he says, “I could go on and on, but I’ve run out of time. There are so many more...” He describes their feats through God’s power, the pain they endured, and the glory their lives ultimately brought to God.

And then he says something remarkable. In verses 39-40 (The Message), he writes: “Not one of these people, even though their lives of faith were exemplary, got their hands on what was promised. God had a better plan for us: that their faith and our faith would come together to make one completed whole, their lives of faith not complete apart from ours.”

What?

That’s right—the faith of Moses, of David, of Enoch, etc.—were not the whole story. I think we often see the Old Testament as one story, the New Testament as another. But maybe that’s an oversimplified way of looking at things. Andy explained this in his sermon: “Yes, my story, and your story, and Abraham’s story, all need each other, because they are the same story—and it’s not our story, it’s God’s story.”

God’s story—the God who exists outside of time, who created each and every one of us, from Adam to you and me. The God who has loved us all since before the first moment we breathed. Sure, things seem different (and are different) from the times described in the Old Testament—but God

is the same. The God that split the Red Sea through Moses is the same God who hears our prayers each morning; who conquered death for us so that we could be together forever, freed at last; who has a divine will and purpose for all of us; who is still writing the story.

And this story isn’t simply composed of believers from long ago, united by the fact that they come out of the Old Testament or the New—the story is composed of one enormous, beautiful, messed-up-but-redeemed family. We are all descended from Adam—we are all related. As Andy mentioned in his sermon, “To really understand ourselves, we need to know where we came from. Hebrews 11 is that for us as believers—it is our family tree, our history, in really brief form.”

So there you have it: one ever-growing, ever-going family. From the start of man until the day Christ returns, we are members of a family created by God to live and breathe and worship Him together, and to bring other people into this family. We’re just a tiny part of an infinite and beautiful story that God’s been writing since he first gave life to Adam.

So next time you feel all alone in your struggles, remember that you are one with every other believer you know, one with those you don’t know, one with Moses, with Abraham, with Enoch... one with God, forever.

The logo for DNBC LifeTogether features a large, stylized 'LT' monogram in a light gray color, enclosed within a circular border. The letters 'L' and 'T' are interconnected, with the 'L' on the left and the 'T' on the right.

DNBC LifeTogether

You've read a lot about the idea of Life Together, and in fact the publication you are holding bears a name that means the same thing. It is an idea that our students have been getting for a couple of years now, and many of them are beginning to understand it. And with that understanding comes the need for a next step, comes the necessity of something more. It is simply not enough for our students to start to share their lives with each other, it has to go beyond that. In 1 Timothy 4:12, Paul admonishes Timothy not to "let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity." This was important not only for Timothy as the young person to hear, but also one that the older generation needed to understand. We all need each other, as Richelle talked about in the previous article, our faith is not complete apart from each other. So, while we encourage students to share their lives and invite people outside of the church to join us in following Jesus and experiencing Life Together, it is also important that they be sharing their lives with the rest of their church family, and beginning this semester our student ministry is going to be much more intentional and pro-active about doing just that.

First of all, you will notice a change in the regular schedule of student activities. For the past several years Saturday Night Life, or SNL, has been a regular time of worship and fellowship that happened on Saturday nights here at the church at 6:00pm. Beginning this semester, it will still be known as SNL, but it still getting a slight name change, because SNL now stands for Sunday Night Life. One Sunday night a month, at 6:30pm, after all of the regular Sunday night activities have finished up, we are going to gather for worship and fellowship. The student leaders wanted to move this gathering to a time that was easier for the whole church to be a part of. So I encourage you to stick around one Sunday a month and come sing with them, pray with them, hear them share about what God is doing in their lives, what He is teaching them and showing them. And to help prepare you and remind you about SNL, watch for our student praise team to share more on Sunday mornings.

Also, expect more personal invites to Manna. At some point in the fall semester we will be having Parents night at Manna and our students will be taking their parents with them to show them what we do and where we go for Manna. For those of you

unfamiliar with Manna, every Friday our students gather to make sandwiches, and then go downtown and pass them out. It used to be a monthly event, but God lead us to move it to every week, and it has been a huge blessing. We have “regulars” now, people that expect to see us on Fridays, people that tell us we are how they count on getting fed that night. It is literally such a simple activity that even a 3 year old can do it, and yet God has shown us so much through it. We want the rest of our church family to experience that with us, share that part of our lives with all of you.

And finally, we are introducing something new to our students this semester and we want our entire church family to be a part of it. We are going to read through the Bible as a group over the course of the next 2 years, and to aid us in that, we are creating an online forum. It will be similar to facebook, and yet built and created just for us. There will be readings posted for every week, along with a country and local school to pray for. But there will also be space for people to comment and share about the passages we are reading, as well as the ability to post your own topics and open them up for discussion. Our hope is that this will become a space for us as a family to dialogue and share our lives with each other. A place where we can continue to strive toward our church goal of being a united body of believers, a family that experiences Life Together.

The screenshot shows the LifeTogether website interface. At the top, there is a dark red header with the LifeTogether logo on the left and navigation links for 'THIS WEEK', 'READINGS', 'MESSAGES', and 'SIGN IN' on the right. The main content area is white and features the title 'Week of September 9' in a large, gold-colored font. Below the title, there is a paragraph of text: 'So check out the sites, pray for Afghanistan and Abundant Life this week, and share what your favorite passage was from this week and why.' This is followed by a list of readings: 'Gospel Reading: Matthew 1', 'New Testament Reading: Acts 1', 'Wisdom Reading: Psalm 1-2', and 'Old Testament Reading: Genesis 1-4'. There are also links for 'Country to pray for: Afghanistan', 'School to pray for: Abundant Life Christian School', and 'Song of the week: Rediscover You by Starfield'. At the bottom of the content area, there is a 'Comments:' section with the text 'Sign In to leave a comment'.

A look at dnbc-lifetogether.com: our own website that allows us to share our thoughts and ideas while reading through the entire Bible.



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Worship Service Times

Traditional Service - 8:30 am, Sunday

Contemporary Service - 11:00am, Sunday

Spanish Service - 11:00am, Sunday

If you would like to contact us about this publication,
send an email to koinonia@dnbc.org

We are a united body of believers committed to grow
in Christ and reach others for Christ