

# sbc family news

• www.spencerportbiblechurch.org • volume 2 • issue 3 • may 2008 • pastor tom balentine •

## You Never Know ...

People come and go throughout the life of the church – adults, children, couples, singles and even babies. Often we have no idea what impact we may have had in people's lives until many years have passed. And even then, we may never know how our lives have touched another life and made a real difference. This can be especially true when we are talking about the lives of children.

**In 1958**, as an 8-year-old boy, my life was turned upside down. It wasn't just my world that was affected. My brothers' and sisters' and my Mother's lives, also, came crashing down as we faced the terrible reality of the loss of our father and my mother's husband – the love of her life.

**My Dad** had been a career Navy man. He had served during World War II and in the Korean War as a medic. At the time of his death, he was deployed in the Pacific on a goodwill mission to the Pacific Rim countries. Weather did what two wars had not been able to accomplish – it brought about the death of this young man who had so faithfully served his country. During a dreadful storm his ship went down near Taiwan. Before being rescued, he spent many hours in the stormy sea. His ordeal left him with a very bad case of walking pneumonia from which he never recovered.

**Six children** were left to a 33-year-old young woman to raise by herself. So many questions filled our minds. How would we live? Where would we go? We didn't even have money to buy food for our household – would we

starve? I remember even bigger questions whirling through my young mind. Where is my Dad? Is there a heaven? Is he there?

**God had provided** us with a wonderful neighborhood. This was a community built in California with the war veteran in mind — homes that GI's could easily afford. Most of the men who were our neighbors were also veterans. They wanted to help our young family in any way they could. One of the ways they offered was to teach the boys the things that our Dad might have taught us if he had been there – a trade. So, I learned how to paint a house from the professional painter; carpentry and wood working from the carpenter; how to work on cars from the mechanic. Although these men were not believers, God used them to teach me so many different “tent making” skills that have seen me through many years of ministry.

**God also provided** spiritual leadership through our church family. Through the ministry of Boy's Brigade the men of our church adopted me and each of my brothers. Men with no sons of their own became the father figures in our lives. The man who took me as his own was Sonny Free (my wife's father). He took me camping and to Father and Son outings. He took the



(Continued on page 6)

## Christian Service Brigade plans ahead

The Christian Service Brigade at SBC introduced plans for the 2009 Stock-a-rama and Camp-o-rama at a breakfast meeting Saturday, April 26. Yes, that's right — **2009!**

**Each year** these events, held in late May at Camp Hickory Hill, are run by a different participating church. They give boys an opportunity to demonstrate a variety of physical, mental, and spiritual skills in competition with boys from throughout Western New York and beyond (Canada and Pennsylvania). Stock-a-rama is for Stockade boys (in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades), and Camp-o-rama is for Battalion boys (7<sup>th</sup> grade and up).

**Next year**, our church will be running both events, and wants to bring in as many helpers as possible from the church in order to help it run smoothly. The theme

for next year will be “The Wisdom of Solomon”, based on Solomon's life and proverbs. We discussed possible activities (from Bible memory competitions, to puzzle-solving races, to floating logs across the pond and building a “temple”) and resources that the men of the church can supply in order to prepare and run the “Ramas”.

**If you** are interested in helping, whether with ideas or with your presence, see Barry Ricketts or Gary Collins. You are also welcome to come visit the 2008 competitions, May 16-18, to see what it's all about and get excited along with the boys.



# Resource Spotlight: RBC Ministries

RBC Ministries, <www.rbc.org>, formerly known as Radio Bible Class, is a Bible-teaching ministry that was started in 1938 by physician-turned-pastor Dr. M. R. De Haan. Today, headed by the grandson of its founder, Mart De Haan, RBC has nearly 12 different web addresses to cover its range of activities. Perhaps the product you're most familiar with is Our Daily Bread, a devotional booklet that is available here at the church and online. But there is much more to explore at this wide-ranging ministry, from radio and television programs to online Bible courses and music publications.

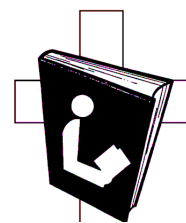
The resource in particular that I am going to highlight is the **Discovery Series study booklets**. <www.discoveryseries.org> There are over 180 of these 32-page booklets, on topics such as theology, the Bible, salvation, marriage and family issues, counseling issues, and apologetics. Each booklet is available online in PDF format as well as in print on a donation basis. When you or someone you know has a question, perhaps these short discussions of various topics will provide just the answer you need.

Here is just a sampling of what's available:

- How Can I Know There is a God?
- Did Christ Really Rise From the Dead?
- Can I Really Trust the Bible?
- Studies in Contrast: Resolving Alleged Contradictions in the Bible
- What About Those Who Have Never Heard?
- How Can I Share My Faith Without an Argument?
- Developing the Art of Gracious Disagreement
- How to Identify a Dangerous Religious Group
- Celebrating the Wonder of the Wilderness
- Dinosaurs and the Bible: Defusing the Creation Controversy

A catalog of these resource booklets is available for download, or by mail in printed form. A copy of the catalog as well as several of the booklets mentioned will be available for browsing in the library.

## LIBRARY



Ginnie Peterson

# Pray for the harvest at VBS!

Jesus said it in Matthew 9:37, and it's still true:

*"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few!"*



Vacation Bible School  
July 14 - 18, 2008

Those who have participated in past Vacation Bible Schools here or elsewhere know how much fun it can be, and also how much work it takes. When we work together, we share in the effort and also in the fruit, rejoicing together. That labor starts with praying for the kids who will come, for the workers who will work with them directly or indirectly, and for their parents who will be influenced by what their children bring home in their hands and in their hearts.

Our next planning meeting for VBS volunteers will be at 6:30 on Monday May 19. Please come and share in the fun of putting this program together, and the joy of seeing results in July.

*"Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest  
to send out laborers into His harvest."*

If you'd like to help in any way, please see Mary Jane Clement or Dave Peterson.



# Report from Flower City Work Camp

Thank you for your prayers and help in making it possible for our youth to participate in Flower City Youth Camp. Those from our youth group included **Levi** and **Sophia Fasoldt**, **Jaime Harris**, **Ilysia Hewett**, **Kayleigh McAuliff**, **Rebecca Schwager**, **Caleb** and **Emmaleigh Thompson**, and **Rachel Walz**.

I know that they, along with our adult volunteers, were blessed by the program. It was such an exciting thing to see the youth serving and evangelizing together with hundreds of other kids from all over the county. The program helped give them a renewed excitement about

reaching the lost for Christ and a renewed commitment to live for Him. That excitement can be catching.

If you get a chance, ask one of the students who participated about what they learned and how the week influenced them. My hope and prayer is that they can take this excitement and translate it into a renewed passion for evangelism in their daily lives and that they can pass this passion on to you.

— Lee

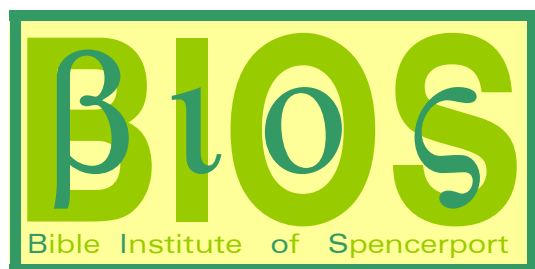


# ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE

## What's coming in Adult Ed

The end of May will bring to a close the third quarter of **Adult Bible Classes (ABC)**. These are the adult classes held every Sunday morning during the same time as the children's Sunday School. The new quarter (June – August) will include book studies of Matthew, I Corinthians – Part 2, and Ephesians; it will also include one topical study (*for women only*) called, "A Steadfast Heart".

**God has blessed** SBC with a number of brethren that are able and willing to labor in the study and sharing of His Word. Pray for each one as they minister to you week after week; you only see a portion of their labor as most of it is done in solitude and out-of-sight, in the quiet place of prayer and study. Handling God's Word is a privilege that demands a labor of love, more than a moment of meditation, submission to the indwelling Teacher. God can use this kind of preparation to really edify and equip the saints.



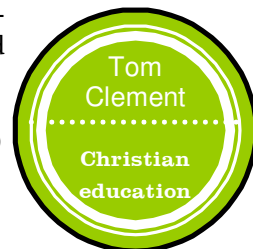
## BIOS finishing its first full year

June will be significant this year because it marks the completion of our first full academic year of the **Bible Institute of Spencerport (BIOS)**. We'll be celebrating sometime this summer with a BIOS evening BBQ.

**We've had a very modest beginning** in terms of how many classes were available, but the results have been encouraging. Many students have mentioned how much they have grown in their understanding of the Bible, how much they have enjoyed the learning process, and how God has been using that new knowledge as they share it with others around them. As a church family, we will be acknowledging each student's successful effort by rewarding him/her with a *Certificate of Completion* on Sunday morning, June 8<sup>th</sup>.

**This year's courses** included *Introduction to Bible Study I & II* and *Theology I & II*. The tentative schedule of courses for next year includes *Old Testament Survey I & II*, *Bibliology*, and *Church History*. Printed brochures and other information concerning BIOS classes for the 08/09 academic year will be published and made available very soon.

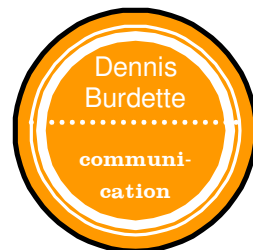
**It's our hope** that many more will catch the vision of formally preparing for service. Sanctifying Christ as Lord in our hearts and always being ready to make a defense of our hope is not just for the "super" Christian, it's for us all. (I Peter 3:15) What better way is there to *set Christ as Lord* in your life and *become ready* to defend your hope?



---

## How to submit an article for SBC Family News

1. **Anyone** who is now receiving a copy of this newsletter is welcome to submit an article for potential publication in it.
2. **Submit** articles to <dennis.w.burdette@gmail.com> or <newsletter@spencerportbiblechurch.org>.
3. Articles should be submitted by the third Sunday of the month, in order to be included in the next month's newsletter. This allows time for any necessary editing or discussion before the publication date. If you will need to submit an article late in order to get timely information, you should discuss your plans with Dennis Burdette for a possible exception. Otherwise, the article might have to be delayed until the next month.
4. **Please understand** that some editing might be necessary for any submitted article. There are several possible reasons for this, including
  - Fitting the article length into available space
  - Correcting grammar or making words flow more smoothly
  - Clarifying your comments
  - Ensuring consistency with SBC directions or beliefs
5. **If** any significant editing does occur, and if there is still time before publication, the edited article will be sent to the originating author for additional comments, discussion, or suggested improvements.
6. **In some cases**, because of space or the type of article, publication in the newsletter might not be possible. The email-based communications link is an alternative for such communications.
7. **While rules** such as these are necessary (and it is hoped that the reasoning for the above rules is evident) all members receiving the newsletter are definitely encouraged to submit articles; your submissions will be greatly appreciated.



# Thinking as Christians in the Real World

## Part II

Last time I introduced this series of articles by looking at some situations in which scriptural truth intersects with knowledge we gain elsewhere, and the kinds of questions these intersections can raise. This time I want to survey the kinds of things I have learned by bringing various school subjects into contact with the Bible. On one hand, scripture can guide and correct our understanding of almost anything; on the other hand, these studies can help us better understand scripture as well.

**History:** When I began to study the Bible, I found I was thankful for my high school history teacher! What I learned there helped me see the Bible as real stories of real people (not just cartoon characters in a simplistic world), because I knew something of the geographical and cultural background for God’s story. I could also fit prophecies into their place in history and see how they were fulfilled, validating their message. At the same time, in scripture we can see some of what God is doing behind the scenes of history, both past and future. When students make these connections, it both enriches what they are learning in school, and fleshes out what we teach in church.

When we study history or archaeology, we sometimes find support for the reliability of scripture, but sometimes the data seems to conflict with what we thought we knew about a Bible story. This can motivate us to look more deeply, and correct misinterpretations of either scripture or the archaeological evidence.

**Science:** Similar issues arise in areas of science (astronomy, geology, biology) that reconstruct the past, such as how the universe began and life developed. These can present challenges, but we can honestly face them, knowing that a true understanding of the world God made will never conflict with a true understanding of the Word God gave. On the other hand, science can also support our faith, by giving evidence for the existence of a creator, or even backing up the truth of specific scriptural statements. We need to be cautious in interpreting these, but should seek out the best evidence that will help scientifically-minded unbelievers begin to trust the Bible.

Other kinds of science give us information about our world that we can use in obeying God, or that help us see God’s glory. Physics enables us to improve travel and communication, and to see how God’s universe operates. Medicine has helped us care for the sick, and revealed the intricate design of our bodies. Biology helps us manage the creation over which God has set us. But we need to use science wisely. Topics like global warming, extinction of species, and “alternative medicine”, for example, raise hard questions both of fact and of values.

**Psychology and social sciences:** These are the “soft” sciences – that is, we don’t have a lot of solid data to go by, so there are many false theories. We need to steer away from godless interpretations of the data. But some psychology is really just carefully-obtained experi-

ence of human nature, which we might use to help others follow God’s precepts. We want to identify what is good, and protect people from what is harmful. On the other hand, simply understanding how people think and feel and interact can help us better understand what is going on in the Bible.

**Philosophy:** Many Christians assume that philosophy is just worthless human wisdom. But the reality is that all of us have some sort of philosophy, often called a “worldview”, by which we interpret the world around us, and this is often affected in subtle (or not-so-subtle) ways by what we read, see, or experience. Just being able to identify the philosophies found in the books we read or the ads that surround us can help us resist lies and replace them with a scriptural philosophy. Moreover, by understanding how our friends think, we can be better prepared to speak in ways that will make sense to them. Knowing how to reason logically can help us think and communicate more clearly.

**Linguistics:** Studying other languages – even if they are not the languages of the Bible – can give us insight into the problems of communication and translation, so that we can better avoid some of the traps people fall into when they take the Bible too “literally” in English, not realizing that it may not be what was meant in the original languages. Many supposed contradictions in the Bible come from this sort of wrong expectation of language.

I think one reason we tend to avoid some of these “secular” topics in the church is that we are uncomfortable with the uncertainty that comes with uninspired information. Life would be easier if we could pay attention only to scripture’s absolutes and ignore the mess of human knowledge, on which there is plenty of room for differences of opinion. Yet we must each apply the minds God gave us to all the information available to us, and do the best we can. If you disagree with me on the dating of the Exodus, or the reality of global warming, or the usefulness of psychology, we can still respect one another.

Each month I will discuss a question like those I’ve raised here, emphasizing how we can bring truths from scripture into the thinking and culture of the modern world, or use ideas we find there to strengthen our faith or our understanding. Next month, we will begin with a general look at apologetics: how we can use reasoning to lead others to faith, and deepen our own.

### INTERSECTIONS



Dave Peterson

# MAY 2008

## SPENCERPORT BIBLE CHURCH CALENDAR








SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																		
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>Apr 2008</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>Jun 2008</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div>		S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p>6:30 PM Men's Basketball</p> <p>7:00 PM Fellowship Comm. Mtg.</p> <p>7:00 PM Larry's BLG</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>7:00 PM Youth Night</p> <p>7:30 PM Read's BLG at Read's</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>9:30 AM Caring Sister Brunch</p> <p>10:00 AM -12:30 PM Stock-a-Rama Practice in gym</p>
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																		
		1	2	3	4	5																																																																																		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12																																																																																		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19																																																																																		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26																																																																																		
27	28	29	30																																																																																					
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7																																																																																		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14																																																																																		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21																																																																																		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28																																																																																		
29	30																																																																																							
<p style="text-align: right;">4</p> <p>9:30 AM Sunday School</p> <p>10:45 AM Morning Service Communion</p> <p>5:45 PM Clubs</p> <p>6:00 PM Men &amp; Women's Bible Studies</p> <p>23rd anniversary of SBC</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p>6:30 PM -8:00 PM Bible Institute</p> <p>Last Bible Intro class</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>7:00 PM -8:30 PM High School Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 PM Wom Min Leadership Mtg.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p>9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study</p> <p>5:30 PM Wom Sewing Class</p> <p>6:30 PM Ladies' Ensemble</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p> <p>6:30 PM Men's Basketball</p> <p>7:00 PM Larry's BLG</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p>7:00 PM Morgigno BLG</p> <p>7:00 PM Youth Night</p> <p>7:30 PM Read's BLG at Andersons</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p>10:00 AM -12:30 PM Stock-a-Rama Practice in gym</p>																																																																																		
<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p>9:30 AM Sunday School</p> <p>10:45 AM Morning Service</p> <p>Mother's Day No Clubs No PM Service</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p>6:30 PM -8:00 PM Bible Institute</p> <p>Last theology class</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p>7:00 PM Elder/Deacon Mtg.</p> <p>7:00 PM HS Girls Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 PM Wom Min Team Mtg.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">14</p> <p>9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study</p> <p>6:30 PM Ladies' Ensemble</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p> <p>6:30 PM Men's Basketball</p> <p>7:00 PM Larry's BLG</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p>Stock-a-Rama &amp; Camp-o-Rama</p>																																																																																		
<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p>9:30 AM Sunday School</p> <p>10:45 AM Morning Service</p> <p>5:45 PM Clubs</p> <p>6:00 PM Men &amp; Women's Bible Studies</p> <p>Pioneer Girls Award Ceremony Boy's Brigade Grand Finale</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>6:30 PM VBS Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>7:00 PM -8:30 PM High School Bible Study</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p>9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study</p> <p>6:30 PM Ladies' Ensemble</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p>6:30 PM Men's Basketball</p> <p>7:00 PM Larry's BLG</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>7:00 PM Morgigno BLG</p> <p>7:00 PM Youth Night end of school year party</p> <p>7:30 PM Read's BLG at Read's</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p>																																																																																		
<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p>9:30 AM Sunday School</p> <p>10:45 AM Morning Service</p> <p>Memorial Day Observed No PM Service</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p>7:00 PM Elder Meeting</p> <p>7:00 PM HS Girls Bible Study</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> <p>9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study</p> <p>6:30 PM Ladies' Ensemble</p> <p>7:00 PM Missions Comm. Mtg.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p> <p>6:30 PM Men's Basketball</p> <p>7:00 PM Larry's BLG</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>7:00 PM Youth Night</p> <p>7:30 PM Read's BLG at Andersons</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">31</p>																																																																																		

*(Continued from page 1)*

time to touch this little boy's heart and life with the gospel message. The men in my neighborhood taught me to be the best mechanic, painter, carpenter, etc. that I could be. But, Sonny Free taught me to be the best man for God that I could possibly be. Because of this man's ministry through the Boy's Brigade of our church, I went on to give my life for full time ministry.

**We never know** what impact we will have in the life of another. We must not let the opportunity to seize the moment slip through our fingers. What may not seem like much to you can make a tremendous difference in someone's life. Get involved. Reach a heart and a life for God's glory.

Elders:

- |                 |   |  |
|-----------------|---|--|
| Tom Balentine   |  | Pastor   |
| Dennis Burdette |  | Communication<br>(supervising editor)            |
| Tom Clement     |  | Adult Christian Education                        |
| Larry DeWolfe   |  | Membership                                       |
| Dave Peterson   |  | Children's Christian Education<br>(style editor) |
| Jim Read        |  | Missions and Evangelism                          |
| Lee Balentine   |  | Youth Pastor                                     |