



Bethel's Ladder



March/April 2010

Volume !! Issue 1

Dear Readers:

Spring is upon us early this year. Hasn't it been wonderful to see all the flowering trees and enjoy sunshine so early?

This issue we have some updated information about Camp John 3:16 in Merida, Mexico; a testimony from Theresa Schaudies, and some other tidbits we hope you will find interesting and entertaining.

Remember, if you have something you'd like included, please email us or let us know by phone or a visit on Sunday.

Thank you.

Sally Cox, Editor and Greg Kuper, Sr.

CAMP JOHN 3:16 MERIDA, MEXICO

On March 20, Pastor Jake, Ed Baines and Jesse McCarty from Bethel, Don Ringman from Delta Baptist and Mark Perry from First Baptist of Everett joined Jake's brothers-in-law, Bernie Dogterom and Tim Kamke for a ten day work trip to the camp. Following is an excerpt from Pat and Lou Alvarez's website about the camp and its work.

[English Classes Begin in Dzidzantun](#)



13 March
Camp John 3:16 has begun in more ways than in construction. One of the uses of the campgrounds will be to provide job training and other types of education. Even without buildings, God has begun

this work! For the last 2 Friday evenings, Pat Alvarez has held English classes in Dzidzantun – about 40 minutes

NE of Merida and 20 minutes further than the campgrounds in Baca.

Pat talked to Gama and Pastor Valentin (pastor of a church in Dzidzantun) about beginning the classes and that she would use Bible verses, prayer, and Bible examples to teach English. They decided to step out in faith and see what God had planned – to see if students would come and want to learn. 15 students came the first week – and 20 students came the second week! Some came on the bus from another pueblo even further out. All 20 students were excited and eager to learn.

This is a testimony to us to be bold – don't be afraid to try – just put your foot forward and He'll guide you – and He loves it when we say "yes" to Him. The blessings we receive are great!

Please keep the English class – students and teacher – in your prayers. Pray for students to come who don't know Jesus as their Savior. We can feel that this area – the Yucatan Peninsula – is on the verge of a great awakening for Christ. It's wonderful to be here to participate in this – and so wonderful for you all to participate *with* us. (We'll post pictures as soon as we remember to take the camera to class!)

[Camp Inauguration!](#)

12 March
Gama wrote on Facebook today, "We inaugurated the camp placing the first wooden pole instead of the first stone."



As Jacob's Ladder provided connection with God, so we pray that this newsletter will be a connection within our congregation and community

[Building a large palapa](#)

10 March

Yesterday, the men began moving the materials onto the property to build the large palapa (a pole shelter with a grass or palm frond roof). It's being built to last for 5 years and will be used as shade/shelter and as a temporary kitchen when the first camps begin. It will also be a place for one or 2 men to hang their hammocks to sleep – as security during the nights to watch over the building materials and equipment. I'll try to post more pictures as it's being built



Pat and Lou Alvarez

JUMPING OFF THE BAD-WAGON

A testimony by Theresa Schaudies



So, a preacher was completing a temperance sermon. With great expression he said, "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river." The congregation nodded their approval. With even greater emphasis he added, "And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river, too." The people clapped and started saying "Amen." And finally he concluded, "And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it to the river and pour it all in." As he sat down, the worship leader stood up quite cautiously and announced "For our closing song, let us sing hymn #365, 'We shall gather at the River.'" Ha ha ha. Sort of. Well, anyway, that's my opening joke.

My name is Theresa and I'm an alcoholic. Here is my story. I call it "Jumping Off the Bad-Wagon" It starts with jumping on it.

I am a child of the sixties. That time of national and cultural upheaval wove itself deeply into the tapestry of my life. Even though my childhood was pretty much a "Leave it to Beaver" sort of life with two loving parents, a middle class home in the suburbs, Sunday School and singing in the church choir, I happily jumped on the "bad-wagon" of drugs, sex and rock & roll that became the defining theme of the times.

At the impressionable age of 16, I went to college 3,000 miles from home. I remember studying the book of Job as a part of the survey course on Western Civilization. God was portrayed as a capricious, uncaring puppeteer making bets with the devil at the expense of the hapless Job. Pink Chablis was consumed in large quantities, pot was smoked and LSD trips into the "inner landscape" were made on a regular basis. My guitar went with me everywhere; I learned the popular songs of war protest, celebrating the new world order of civil rights, women's liberation, personal freedom, and new age philosophy.

I married my high school sweetheart after my second year of college. He and I were on the same path into the world of "if it feels good, do it". Bobby's rejection of religion was emphatic. Quoting Marx he affirmed that "religion is the opiate of the people". Well, Bobby had other demons in his life to contend with, demons that encouraged him to express his despair and frustration with violence and scorn. Our marriage was a casualty of Bobby's personal war with God.

Joining the Navy was my exit strategy. Cynicism and bitterness became deeply rooted in my soul. While I excelled in the Navy (it's not that hard to do...) I also became a functioning alcoholic (also not that hard to do...)

FROG IN A POT

My journey back to God has been gradual, like the proverbial frog in a pot. It began in Italy with an invitation from someone I liked and respected to attend a personal growth retreat put on by the Navy Chaplain Corp. That led me to become a volunteer facilitator for CREDO retreats, an involvement that brought me to the shallow end of the Christian pool where I stayed comfortably luke-warm for the next 20 years. I attended shipboard worship

services and the occasional Bible Study, but that didn't interfere with my partying live-for-today lifestyle.

In the wonderful way that God works, my CREDO friend from Italy and I both ended up retired in Everett, Washington. She was beginning to walk close to God and invited me to attend Bible Study Fellowship with her. I accepted. For me it was mostly an intellectual exercise. New Age philosophy and Universalism were closer to my spiritual leanings than orthodox Christianity. I had decided that if I were going to reject formal religion and the Bible it came in, I would do so from a position of knowledge. Sometime in my second year of BSF the frog pot started getting uncomfortably hot. I had quit smoking and drinking, mostly relying on my own power. I searched for a church. Then I searched for one closer to home.

Sometime in the fall of 2005 I wound up at Bethel Baptist Church and the water came to a boil. I was cooked. I don't know precisely when I became a true Christ follower. Somewhere between the daily time spent in the Word with my BSF homework, and the personal touch of the staff and congregation of a Bible teaching church, I dedicated my life to Jesus.

FROG STEW

Life led by Christ did not get easier after that, but it did get better. Discipleship is challenging, convicting, sometimes lonely, often confusing. At one Soup & Sew Bible Study meeting one of the women asked for God's will to be as clear as a recipe. It rarely is. But I am learning and excited about the adventure of following Christ, not knowing where He will lead me. What I do know is that I was empty and life was getting very scary.

Early last year, on February 11, 2009 to be exact, I went on a Transformational Prayer retreat. It lived up to its name. Walking in the lovely woods at Cedar Springs, I was struggling to make sense of a difficult Old Testament passage. I cried out to God something like "God, you are the author of this book, help me to understand it!" The answer I got was immediate and clear as a recipe. It was, simply: "Trust Me".

In Jesus, God has answered my soul's deep need to be known and loved. It's up to God to work out what to do with this pot of frog stew. It's up to me to trust him.

So an atheist says to the Christian, "Do you really believe that Jonah spent three days in the belly of a whale?"

The Christian replied, "I don't know, but when I get to heaven I'll ask him."

The atheist asked, "But suppose he isn't in heaven?"

The Christian replied, "Then you ask him!"

Who wants to join me on an emissary visit to Jonah? In oh, say, 40 years or so?

Maybe my story struck a familiar chord. Maybe you've been on the "bad-wagon" long enough to know that it isn't taking you anywhere you want to go. If so, I invite you to get off and follow Jesus to the only destination worth the trip. That destination is heaven and here is a simple prayer to help you get started:

"God Almighty, Heavenly Father, I've messed up and I'm truly sorry. In your incredible plan of salvation, you sent your son Jesus to take the punishment I deserve. He stands at the door and knocks. I say "Yes! Come in!" I want to change the way I've been doing life to the way Jesus taught us to do it. You know I'm going to need a lot of help. Lord, in some mysterious way I may never understand, you will send your Holy Spirit to guide me. Everyday. From now on, you will be with me. I call on you by name to take charge of my life. Jesus, I trust you. - Amen"

Theresa Schaudies has been active at Bethel Baptist Church for several years now. Please join us Sunday, April 11 when Theresa will be baptized!

PICTORAL DIRECTORY COMING

Do you know who these people are? Would you like to be able to identify church members and friends by sight? Wouldn't it be nice if we had pictures in the church



directory to make that identification easier?

Plans are in the works for just such a directory. If we can get all of our ducks in a row,

photographs will be taken Easter Sunday and the week following.

Please let Pastor Jake or Sally Cox know if you would like to help with this project.

DID YOU KNOW

Insights from Bethel's History. 1946

As with everyone else in America, Bethel looked forward to 1946 with anticipation and expectation. World War II was finally over. All the terrors and heartaches plus all the sacrifices required by that conflict were behind us as a people and as a church. Under the leadership of new pastor Don Shogren, the church decided at its Feb. 7th business meeting to contract with an architect to draft plans for remodeling and expanding the church facility. At the same time the new parsonage at 2601 Wetmore was being completely remodeled as well.

The church minutes are a little confusing, as the original proposal seems to indicate that a wholly new church building was being contemplated. However all of the subsequent references in the church minutes make clear that expansion and remodel were the intent. 1946 was a much simpler time. An architect was commissioned to draft plans. Those plans were completed by the beginning of April, and submitted to the church membership. They were posted for all to see and examine.

However, at the May 1st business meeting the church rejected the plans and decided to not hire the architect to proceed with the hiring of a contractor. The entire issue was referred to the Trustee Board for further discussion and recommendations to the church. In those days the annual meeting at Bethel was in May.

The statistical report for that meeting listed 285 members including new members Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dexter by letter from Calvary Baptist Church of Everett, Washington, and Mrs. Norman Whittaker (now Cleo Miller) from Bayshore Baptist Church among those joining the church by letter. They also list new member Mrs. Walter (Ellen) Smith by baptism on Easter Sunday April 21, 1946. We have asked Mrs. Elaine Dow to write a remembrance for her mother's life and service to Bethel for this issue of the Ladder.

Rev. Shogren resigned August 1, to accept a call from Moody Bible Institute in Chicago to become a member of that school's extension staff. Nearly half the church council voted at a special meeting to ask the pastor to reconsider, but discussion resolved to honor his sense of God's call in the Moody offer, and the request for him to reconsider was not sent to the church. His resignation was accepted on August 15th.

The by laws gave the forming of a pulpit search committee to the church council, so they formed a committee from each of the boards, the Sunday School Superintendent, and a representative of the youth group. That committee was formed on August 26th. That committee recommended on Sept. 19th to the church council that a call be extended to E.P. Fosmark to become the pastor of the church. (Reporters note: Having personally served on 4 different search committees, my experiences were more along the lines of several months needed to find and interview candidates. This was an incredibly short search.) Reverend Fosmark responded to the call with a series of 5 questions he wished the church to answer before giving his answer to the call. The church council discussed those questions and in the middle of Dec. sent their answers to those questions.

Reading old minutes is fun and very enlightening. It is also at times very enigmatic. The minutes of the church business meeting for December 12, 1946 states, "A motion was made and seconded that we have a white Christmas. Motion carried." Just about the time I am trying to decide exactly how we were going to make Our Heavenly Father grant us a white Christmas, I continued to read. It seems that in 1946 at least a White Christmas meant a special Christmas offering to be taken. Half the offering went to the Service Center. Large numbers of military were still being mustered out, and the centers were still active and in need of funds. The other half of the offering went to the Volunteers of America.

In December 2008, the Washington State governor allowed several different kinds of winter holiday displays to be set up in the capitol building in Olympia. One of the displays was done by an atheist organization which stated among other things that religion is divisive and has caused most of the suffering in the world with no offsetting benefits. But along with the rest of Christ's active body, Bethel has always served the needs of the world.

In the year May 45 to May 46, the Ladies Aid and Missionary Society of our small church did sewing for both the Red Cross and the White Cross societies. They pieced and donated quilts for the needy. A box of clothing was sent to Dr. Margaret Robson in India for the hospital to use for those in need who came to the hospital, in addition to our support of her medical work at that hospital. Our ladies collected a Christmas Box for the children at the Getchel School. Another project was to collect clothing to send to Finland. Never be ashamed of

our congregation's commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the good works we do as a church and individuals because of that gospel

A Tribute to Ellen Krogh Smith - by Elaine Smith Dow

A daughter of Bethel Church

Ellen Krogh Smith was the daughter of Norwegian immigrants and grew up on a farm near Lake Stevens. She attended Sunday School at the Glenwood Grange and it was there that she accepted Christ as her Savior. When she was in her early 20s, she worked in Everett as a legal secretary and began attending Bethel. Her friends, Mary and Marjory Smith, introduced her to their brother, Walter. It wasn't long before the two were married and they joined Bethel in 1946.

Mom attended Bethel Baptist for nearly 70 years. The most noteworthy thing about her - through all those years - was her love for kids. From the time Carolyn and I were preschoolers, she hosted Good News Clubs in our home. She served as a leader in Bethel's Pioneer Girls Club for several years and brought neighborhood kids to Bethel's popular Vacation Bible Schools in the summer. There were nearly 10 years when mom (then in her 50s) did not attend church because she was caring for her elderly mother who could not be left alone. After grandma's death, mom resumed her work with children. When she was in her 60s and 70s, she again hosted a Good News Club in her home. (An entire family who lived across the street from the Smiths became believers as a result of that club.) Mom taught Sunday School classes for quite a few years and at one point, to her family's surprise, served as Sunday School Superintendent when she was nearly 80.

Mother was quiet and preferred to work "behind the scenes". She was a perfectionist, sewing beautiful clothes and cooking perfect meals. Her lemon meringue pies were "famous" and Walt Bartel never let her forget the day that she dropped one of those pies upside down at Bethel's potluck dinner. She loved the social events at Bethel in the 50s and 60s - the community hymn sings, the many picnic/game days at Legion Park, and the innumerable potluck dinners in the "banquet" room. The Bethel people were her extended family and she loved them.

COUNCIL CORNER

During the past few months members, boards, and committees that make up your Church Council have been very hard at work.

The trustees completed – with the help of a licensed electrician – updating the electrical facilities in the Youth Room and Fireside Kitchen. They also repaired the stairway up to the Youth Room.

The Worship Committee tested and has ordered some hearing augmentation devices that will help our hearing impaired members and friends during church.

The Women's Ministries group has cleaned and sorted through the Annex kitchen over the course of two work days.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES

Theresa Schaudies has graduated from the School of Women's Ministries, a training program offered by our Converge Baptist General Conference.

Jesse McCarty completed his BS with honors in Environmental Science and Resource Management with emphasis on Wildlife Conservation from the School of Forest Resources at UW. Way to go, Jesse!

DATES

March 20-30: Merida Mission Trip

March 21-April Steve Mosman in Ethiopia and Arizona
Week before Easter: 5,000 piece mailer goes out to all of our neighbors in 98201

March 28: Palm Sunday

April 4: Easter Sunday

April 11: We Love our Staff Dinner after worship (stay tuned for further information)

May 29: Cruising Colby Car show (men volunteering,) and Women's Ministries Rummage Sale

Sunday July 4: Independence Day Parade begins at 1:30

Saturday July 17: Historic Churches of Everett Tour comes to Bethel (get your Historic Churches calendar at J. Mathison's)

Remember, May is election month for Bethel. If you are interested in joining a board or committee, please let Sally Cox know.