

Recent Conferences . . .

Our first conference of 2008 was with Pastor Michael Vallandingham and the saints at FBC Wewoka, Oklahoma. This was our third conference there. The dates were January 20-23. The topics were The Book of Ruth and the Cana Cycle from John. This church is beginning to grow again. It will be a joy to be back with them next January.

It was good to be back at FBC Paris, Arkansas, January 27-30. Dr. Edgar Pierce is their pastor. I enjoyed the teaching and the fellowshiping. The Book of Romans and Discipleship in the Gospels & Acts were the topics. They too, have invited me back for next January.

There were special blessings awaiting me at the conference at Lee Creek Baptist Church in Van Buren, Arkansas, February 3-6. In 1989, the Lord laid it on my heart for the church I pastored — Concord Baptist Church — to purchase land and provide the people to begin the work that is now Lee Creek Baptist Church. Two of the men who sat under my ministry at Concord were Harold Smith and Sam Fears. Today, Harold is pastor and Sam is Music Director at Lee Creek. This church has experienced some tough times in the past, but is headed in the right direction. How surprised I was to find a brother in the Lord, Lee Cauthron, whom I had not seen since 1972 now attending this church. The Spirit blessed our studies in Romans and in The Prophet Elisha.

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men...

—Colossians 3:23

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Issue 15

February 2008

An Encouraging Word

A newsletter published by
Devoted to the Word Ministries

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For Personal Study

Please read John 1:19-4:54. This section of John's gospel reveals events in the early ministry of Jesus that are not recorded in the other gospels. Events in the wilderness beyond the Jordan River are covered in 1:19-51. Chapters 2-4 are referred to as the Cana Cycle because they begin and end with Jesus ministering in Cana, a small town in Galilee.

Unlike the other gospels, John does not begin with the baptism of Jesus. Rather, he begins forty days later with Jesus returning from his time of testing to where John the Baptist was still baptizing. At this time we are told of happenings during the first week in Jesus' public ministry:

Day 1 (1:19-28) John is baptizing.

Day 2 (1:29-34) John identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God and testifies for Jesus.

Day 3 (1:35-42) John again identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God to two of his own disciples who spend the day with Jesus.

Day 4 (1:43-51) Jesus leaves for Galilee with his first disciple and possibly others.

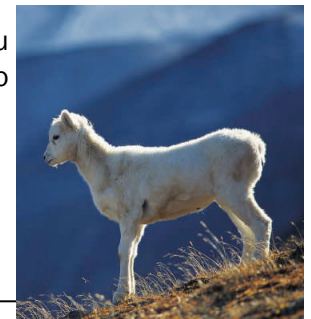
Day 6 (2:1-11) Jesus performs his first sign miracle at Cana in Galilee.

Questions from John 1:19-51.

1. Why did John the Baptist refer to Jesus as "the Lamb of God"?
2. The name "Cephas" is Hebrew. What is its Greek translation?
3. To whom did Jesus first say, "Follow me"?
4. What do we think Nathanael's other name was? You will need a Bible Dictionary for this one.
5. Of what Old Testament story are you reminded in 1:51? How could this relate to 1:47?

Answers will be given in the next newsletter.

Mike



Mission Trip Bible Conferences . . .

During June, July and August, I hope to be involved in several Bible conference in mission trip settings. My target areas include Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas, South Texas and Canada.

I recently spoke with Pastor Jim Ingram of FBC Bastrop, Louisiana. He has invited me to accompany a group from that church to New Brunswick, Canada, where they will participate in multiple ministries. My primary job would be preaching and teaching. My cost will be approximately \$1,000.

I am extremely appreciative of those faithful friends who financially support this ministry. It will take more givers than we currently have in order to afford these mission trip Bible conferences. If the Lord leads you to give, please do so.

If you are a pastor of a church that cannot afford to bring someone in for a Bible conference, please contact me. I will do my best to minister with you and your congregation.

Prayer Requests . . .

- Since I have several weeks still open in February and March, pray that a church or churches will schedule a conference on short notice.
- For a pastor experiencing conflict in his church.
- That I will develop a greater hunger for prayer and for the Word.
- That 15 more churches will schedule conferences in 2008— we are halfway to our goal of thirty conferences.
- That I will be disciplined in my writing endeavors.
- For more missions and struggling churches to utilize this ministry.
- That churches will be strengthened and pastors will be encouraged through this ministry.

2008 Upcoming Conferences . . .

- Mar. 9–12 First Baptist Church
Coal Hill, Arkansas
- Mar. 30–Apr. 2 First Baptist Church
Mansfield, Arkansas
- Apr. 6–9 Oak Grove Baptist Church
Van Buren, Arkansas
- Apr. 12, 13 First Baptist Church
Langdon, North Dakota
- Apr. 20–23 First Baptist Church
Poteau, Oklahoma
- April 27 Northlake Baptist Church
Garland, Texas
- May 5–7 Northlake Baptist Church
Garland, Texas
- May 19 –21 East Central Baptist Association
FBC, Sallisaw, Oklahoma
- July 16–23 New Brunswick, Canada
(Mission Trip with FBC Bastrop, LA)
- July 27–30 North Tenth Street Baptist Church
Blytheville, Arkansas
- Sept. 21–24 Dayton Avenue Baptist Church
Peoria, Illinois
- Sept. 28–Oct. 1 Rome Baptist Church
Chillicothe, Illinois

"Work becomes
worship when done
for the Lord."

- Anonymous

