EXALTING EQUIPPING EVANGELIZING

BROADCASTER

BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

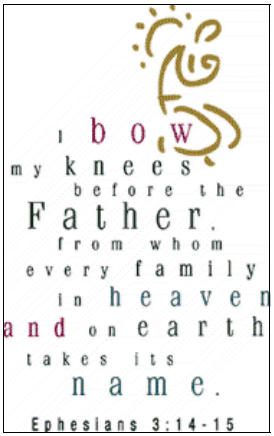
OVER THE COFFEE CUP

No. 886

By Char Wallen

October 2004

I wonder, what would a day be like without God? Can you imagine what a sad day it would be without the fellowship of Jesus? In the morning, to awaken and have no God to talk to, no one to listen to our prayers, and no word of comfort from our Lord? Whether we go to work, school, or stay at home, no Holy Spirit to guide us. Who would walk around my garden with me, and talk with me, and tell me I am His own? To whom would I belong?



Then as I sat down to eat my lunch, there would be no Heavenly Father to thank for His provisions. Perhaps I should just eat; I did prepare it. The telephone rings and my best friend is going to the hospital per ambulance. She needs help, but God is not there today! What could I do for her? I could hold her hand; medical help is there, but is that enough?

A young friend has just lost his job, and he has a family to support. I know he would call on me to pray, but God is not here today. Should I call his employer, get his best friend to intervene, but they are helpless. What should I do?

A terrible storm is approaching, and it will not change course. The Weather Bureau has no words of comfort; they are powerless to abort it! God is not here; on whom should I call?

The day is ending, and I have been "on my own" all day. The darkness enfolds me, and I am all alone! Softly out of the shadows I hear, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Deut. 31:6). God is always there! We choose to fellowship with Him, or go it alone. Thank you, Lord, for being there as I awaken, as I read Your Word and pray, as I walk in my garden and as needs arise that are far beyond my solving! Jesus, I love You!

Did you take time to be with Him today?
Please do!

Bethany Baptist Church
is pleased to host our first

Reformation Weekend Bible Conference
October 29-31

featuring guest speaker, Dr. James White. Please join us for this weekend of biblical instruction.

The conference will begin Friday night at 7 p.m. with sessions on Saturday morning at 9:30 and 10:45 a.m. and will conclude during our regular services on Sunday.

Nursery will be available for all sessions for newborns to two year olds. Children's activities will also be available for all ages during each session.

Conference Topics

The Reformation Weekend Conference will explore the five "solas", which were slogans of the Protestant Reformation—salvation by the **grace of God alone**, through **faith alone**, in **Christ alone**, according to **Scripture alone**, to the **glory of God alone**.

Sola Gratia—Grace Alone

*Sola grat*ia expresses the biblical truth that salvation is completely grounded in the work of God.

Sola Fide—Faith Alone

Sola fide expresses the biblical truth that salvation comes instrumentally to the sinner *through* faith alone.

Solus Christus—Christ Alone

Solus Christus expresses the biblical truth that salvation comes only through faith in Jesus Christ.

Sola Scriptura—Scripture Alone

Sola scriptura expresses the biblical truth that Scripture alone is the final arbiter in determining truth.

Soli Deo Gloria—Glory to God Alone
Soli Deo gloria results naturally from the previous "solas". by God, it is for God's glory and we must glorify Him always.

Ladies Seminar
Saturday, October 16, 2004
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Come join the ladies of Bethany for an exciting morning seminar. Claudia Belsly will be sharing her testimony about God's peace through the trials of life. Claudia has been on staff with Campus Crusade for Christ since 1972 from Hawaii to Peoria. She and her late husband Dick restarted the Campus Crusade ministry at Bradley in 1982. She served as director from 1999-2003 and continues to assist the present director. Claudia is a mother of 2 children (ages 24 and 22).

Claudia's spiritual gifts are evangelism and encouragement. She loves sharing the gospel, training others to share the gospel, and motivating and encouraging believers.

Attend an inspiring morning when you'll laugh, cry, and be encouraged. A catered lunch will follow. Tickets ($7) are available at the welcome center through October 3.

Women's Missionary Fellowship

October 21, 9 a.m.—2 p.m.

All ladies are invited to come and work on some projects for our missionaries and spend time in prayer for them.

Thursday, October 28
For Jennifer Bencher
7 p.m. in the Upper Room
All ladies are invited to come and encourage Jennifer at this exciting time in her life.

Charlene Bateman was honored on September 15 as one of Peoria's 2004 25 Women in Leadership. The award recipients are unsung heroes of our local communities, each dedicating time and effort to make Central Illinois a better place to live and work.

Charlene was honored because of her leadership at PALS preschool, where she supervises a staff of 28 teachers who serve approximately 140 children.

We join in congratulating Charlene for this honor.

Marriage Class

An ABC class on marriage will start October 17 at 11:15 a.m. This class will be taught by Pastor Gary and is open to adults of any age who are married or engaged.

October 31

October is Pastor Appreciation Month!

Take this opportunity to let our pastors know how much we appreciate all they do.

Tom Robinson
Chairman of the Board

of October

1	Romans 15	❑	16	2 Corinthians 12	❑
2	I Corinthians 1	❑	17	Galatians 5	❑
3	I Corinthians 2	❑	18	Galatians 6	❑
4	I Corinthians 3	❑	19	Ephesians 1	❑
5	I Corinthians 6	❑	20	Ephesians 2	❑
6	I Corinthians 7	❑	21	Ephesians 3	❑
7	I Corinthians 8	❑	22	Ephesians 4	❑
8	I Corinthians 9	❑	23	Ephesians 5	❑
9	I Corinthians 13	❑	24	Ephesians 6	❑
10	I Corinthians 15	❑	25	Philippians 1	❑
11	2 Corinthians 1	❑	26	Philippians 2	❑
12	2 Corinthians 4	❑	27	Philippians 3	❑
13	2 Corinthians 5	❑	28	Philippians 4	❑
14	2 Corinthians 8	❑	29	Colossians 1	❑
15	2 Corinthians 9	❑	30	Colossians 2	❑
			31	Colossians 3	❑

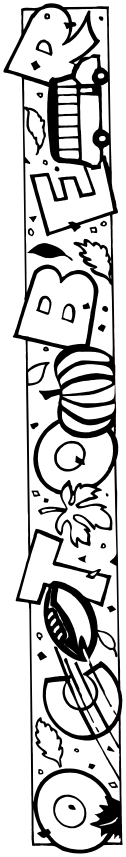
Name_____

Clip and place inside your Bible. Check off each chapter as you read it. Sign and turn in to the office. A prize will be provided for those who read all 365 key chapters during the year.

October 10 at 10:45 A.M.
Jr./Sr. High to minister at Rosewood

October 10 at 7:30 P.M.
Snack night

October 5, 12 & 19
6:30—8:00 p.m.
Youth Sponsor Training
Sr. Hi Room



1 - Carol Clark
- Josh Kellem
- Holly Lane
- Mark Yonke

2 - Carol Barnes
- Willy & Sue Bonnell
- Gabriel Hoyle
- Sam & Bonnie Lynn
- Gerald Traenkenschuh
- Marlea Yonke

3 - Deanna Hutton
- Greg & Karen Joyce
- Carrie Kunski
- Dianne Mathes
- Scott & Deb Schepke

4 - Ed Grimaldi
- Kent Hudson
- Doug & Becky Klaus
- Sara Martin
- Jen Mitchell

5 - Mike Barngrover
- Levi Endress
- Grant Frye
- Adam Lied
- Diane Noar
- Dorothy Slopak

6 - Vernon Ewers
- Andrea Hoerr
- Dean Kim
- Tiffany Thorp
- Megan Thorp
- Terri Meyer
- Jon Uhlenhake

7 - Julia Ekstrom
- Gavin Stoecker
- Kenneth & Teri Lynch
- Aaron Mason

8 - David Berger
- Ian Delinski
- Gene Rebholz

9 - Cameron Delinski
- Carl Lewis
- Mallory Martin
- Bruce & Kathryn Nielson
- Wendy Petterson

10 - Evelyn Runnels
- Victoria Sanderson
- Hazel Sullins
- Lisa Schwarz
- Tom Wriedt

11 - Josie Deutsch
- Chris & Barb Hekel
- Emma Meiss
- Tess Meiss
- Tom & Peggy Robinson
- Doug Williams

12 - Merlin Barnes
- Bob Dornon
- Jairus Lin
- Scott Nelson
- Sarah Schlich
- Walt & Lynn Schaufelberger
- Nate Taylor
- Kyle Uhlenhake

13 - Jessica Canterbury
- Ruth Westbrook
- Penny Smith

14 - Dan & Elke Morris
- Tom Schlich
- Clayton & Kelly Walenta

15 - Austin Batterton
- Audrey Deutsch
- Will Good
- Noel & Nellie Hawkins
- Isaiah Kohlbuss
- Sarah Moon
- Julia Pavkov
- Sandy Pope
- Paul Setlech

16 - Connor Kallina
- Roger & Terry Krikke
- Dan Pavkov
- Joni Rumbold

17 - Ben Davidson
- Deanna Gerdes
- Joel Sutter
- Sharon Van Meter

18 - Barb Boerckel
- Zack & Jessi Esterling
- Ron & Cheryl Hamm
- Mansil Jett
- Andrew Rice

19 - Patrick Alyward
- Anne McNutt
- Betty Moreland

20 - Jim Borop
- Stacy Conlee
- Will Homan III
- Cherie Layne
- Laura Miller

20 - Bruce Nielson
- Blake Warfield

21 - Austin Boysen
- Dan & Jean Byerly
- Jim Elsasser
- Carolyn Grimaldi
- Elda Heiniger
- Scott Mervis
- Dan and Doreen Pavkov
- Robert Robins

22 - Clint Copple
- Hannah Fouts
- William Frazee
- Dean Hoerr

23 - Barb Nielsen
- Emily Robertson
- Mary Thompson

24 - Seth Elsasser
- Becky Frye
- Lindai Lin
- Ed Luan
- Marci Wilton

25 - Whitney Bennett
- Todd Bryant
- Steve Dietz
- Virginia Lewis
- Char Wallen

26 - Mark Barrick
- Billy & Sara Beach
- Ashton Cox
- Roger Haywood
- Jared Holt
- Roger & Janet Lawson
- Greg & Sherri Urban

27 - Jim & Kristy Johnson

28 - Nate Johnson
- Dan & Wendy Madigan
- Marli Meiss
- Bethany Noar
- Jerry Sanderson
- Oliver Sherman

30 - Kevin Ensor
- Darren & Becky Frye
- Betsy Hawkinson
- Logan Hoerr
- Greg Joyce
- Megan Sutton

31 - Melissa Carter
- Vernon Moreland
- Ruth Schwenk

Weiner Roast and Hayride
at the new land
Saturday, October 23
3—6 p.m.

RSVP by Wednesday, Oct. 20 by calling the church office at 692-1755.

Bring lawn chairs and roasting sticks and join us for an opportunity to view the new land and enjoy fine fall family fun! Maps available at the welcome center.

If you would like to assist with this event, call Pastor Lyall.

Primetime in October
Monday, October 18
Meet at church at 9:30.
We will go to Hoerr Nursery and learn about Fall Gardening.
Following the program we will go out for lunch.

Calling Central Illinois Fathers & Sons
Saturday, October 30
The Oaks (East Peoria Convention Center)
Special Guest, Dr. Joe Stowell

The Christian Center is pleased to host The Journey, A Father/Son event that will encourage men in the areas of faith, integrity, responsibility, purity, and leadership. The evening will challenge them to hold high moral values in the midst of a culture that destroys them.

5:00 p.m. Doors open for Adventure Sports & Games
6:00 p.m. Invocation and Cookout Buffet
7—9:00 p.m. Program & Music
9—10 p.m. Games
Cost per person $35
Ages 12—100!
For registration call 685-4218, ext. 103

(continued from pg. 7)

Christians must stand for righteousness and against evil in our culture. The moral conscience of a nation is established by the voice of godly people. And voting is the most powerful cultural means to speak loudly enough to be heard. Believers must vote with moral issues in mind. These issues include abortion, stem cell research, marriage between a man and a woman, pornography, drug use, gambling, compassion for the weakest among us, protection of civil rights for all. This is not a comprehensive list, but Christians must promote righteousness in our culture and fight against evil. We fight against evil first through proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus. But we can and must promote righteousness through many other means as well. Voting is one of them.

5. History reveals the goodness that can come from Christian's voting. In England, the African Slave trade was abolished largely due to one Christian elected official, William Wilberforce. This battle consumed almost forty-six years of Wilberforce's life. Though his cause to abolish slavery was defeated 11 times in Parliamentary votes, he was elected over and over again to Parliament. Finally, his cause prevailed. I wonder what would have happened if people supportive of Wilberforce and his Christian ethics decided not to vote.

Francis Schaeffer said, "True [biblical] spirituality touches all of life, including things of government and law, not just 'religious things'." British theologian, John Stott writes, "God's concerns are all-embracing—not only the 'sacred' but the 'secular,' not only religion but nature, not only His covenant people but all people, not only justification but social justice in every community, not only His gospel but His law. So we must not attempt to narrow down his interests. Moreover, ours must be as broad as His."

Missions Focus Weekend Oct. 1-3

Save your Saturday!

For Church-wide Community Outreach

On October 2nd
As part of
Missions Focus Weekend

How will YOU get involved?

4 Outreach Opportunities:

1. Family and Youth (jr-sr high) Work Project —
Contact Dave Robinson or Joey Holland
2. Acts 6 Adult Outside Work Projects —
Contact Lyall Sutton
3. Shut-In Visitation (Oct. 1 and 2nd) —
Contact Marilynn Perry
4. Evangelism Outreach —
Contact JoAnn Brush or Jason Stoecker

Sunday Events

Coming for Missions

Focus Weekend!

Paul and Karen Jonsson — missionaries to Spain serving with CBInternational. The Jonssons have 5 children: Joshua, Samuel, Hanna, Sara, and Daniel.

How beautiful are YOUR feet??

Men's Breakfast
Saturday, October 2
7:30 a.m.

All men and boys are invited to a Men's Breakfast on October 2 at 7:30 a.m.

Special guest speaker is Paul Jonsson, missionary to Spain.

All participants are encouraged to join one of the outreach teams for ministry in

VOTE!!! I urge you, "Vote!" The importance of fulfilling our duty as American citizens to vote cannot be overstated. In the year 2000, an estimated 33 million evangelicals stayed home on election day. Dr. John C. Green, director of the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics at the University of Akron estimates that half of evangelicals are not even registered to vote. But someone may ask the question, "Why should I vote? It doesn't really make a difference." Let me attempt to convince you. Here are five reasons why Christians should vote.

1. Christians should vote because we can. As one considers world history from the time the early church began to the present, very few Christians were given the right to participate in the choice of their political leaders. This gift is a very rare one. Instead of being in a country where we are persecuted for our faith, we are honored with this opportunity. Even in modern times, many believers throughout the world would weep over this privilege.

2. Christians are to be the best citizens, and responsible citizens vote. We are a people who "render unto Caesar the things that are Caesars". True, our citizenship is in heaven, but that does not relieve us from the earthly responsibilities of good citizenship. Our country is only as healthy and strong as her individual citizens. Good citizens obey the laws. Good citizens honor those who died on behalf of their country. Good citizens pick up trash. Good citizens pay taxes. AND GOOD CITIZENS VOTE!

3. **God establishes the leaders of a nation, and God's people are His instruments in that process.** Romans 13:1 "For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God." God has given us a sacred trust in this nation. In one of Jesus' parables, the man who dug a hole buried his master's money instead of investing it was called a "wicked, lazy servant". (cf. Matthew 25:14-30) Of course, God determines the outcome, but He makes us His instruments. The doctrine of God's sovereignty does not encourage us to withdraw from this world. Rather God's sovereignty motivates us to be engaged in it. God's role is to elevate leaders and to set others down. Our role is to obey Him and be used as He pleases.

(continued on pg. 6)

Our Vision

To ***win*** people to a saving knowledge of Jesus;

To ***build*** them into mature disciples of Christ;

To ***equip*** them for their ministry in the church and their life mission in the world;

To ***plant*** healthy churches;

In order to ***MAGNIFY*** God's name!

Visit our web site at www.bethanycentral.org