

# Would You Believe?

April 2008

## NEWS IN THE PEWS



March was a really special month--beginning with a wonderful Missions Conference and ending with Easter followed by a fifth Sunday dinner, getting together with our shepherd groups. The Lord has surely blessed us abundantly and hopefully we have all grown in our relationship with Him.

Gail and John Rigg, Dick Miller, John Stetler and Larry Roff all attended the Ligonier Conference and as usual, they had a feast of good teaching and a most rewarding time.

Ann Seay and I attended the Ambassadors Weekend sponsored by MTW and were taught by Steve Brown and Paul Kooistra as well as hearing reports from the area coordinators and missionaries. It was a special time of learning and fellowship. On the way to the conference we stopped to see Malcolm and Kathy King.

You "old timers" remember--They were here from 1979 - 82. Malcolm was the choir director as well as the leader of the youth. Kathy's MS has progressed to the point that she can not get around on her own. Malcolm is doing an excellent job of caring for her and they just exude the peace of the Lord. What a blessing it was to visit with them!!! By the way, they are expecting their first grand child this spring.

Speaking of grandchildren, John and Carol Brandt have a new grandson, John William who made his arrival in this world on St. Patrick's Day, March 17<sup>th</sup>.

Richard and Jane Jennings, formerly a youth minister at LOPC and now in Tennessee, are expecting 4 grandchildren this spring.. The first arrived on March 19--a son, Jace Richard, born to Matthew and Karah. The Jennings now have 5

grandchildren--4 boys and 1 girl and they are all in Tennessee.

I seem to be on an old timers theme--Maybe this is to show Lynn and Dianne that although they move away, they can't get away from some of us!!!! It can't possibly be because I AM GETTING OLD!!! At any rate, Peggy Ehlers and her daughters were visiting Peggy's parents in Loxahatchee over spring break. They look wonderful. Rachel, Peggy and Chris the youngest, is graduating from high school this spring--doesn't seem possible, does it? Another fact that is hard to believe--the Cavender triplets will be 4 years old on April 7<sup>th</sup>. By the way, they will be here for a week in June!!!!

Bob and Mary Anderson visited Mary's brother in California and were also in the area to go with Michael when he played at the Crystal Cathedral. Do get Bob to tell you about that!!! Wasn't it a pleasant surprise to have the Ashmanns, missionaries we support in Ecuador worshipping with us on Easter Sunday? Kathy and Richard Eubanks spent Easter at their Georgia home, Bob and Beth Williams visited their son and his family over Easter and Larry and Betty Roff spent a few days with Betty's parents in Jacksonville. Ted and Shirley Stewart enjoyed a visit from their Virginia grandchildren. Bill and Doris Skeen spent some time with friends in Myrtle Beach, SC. Mary Ann Griffin recently visited Michael and family in the D.C. area, Becky and Jim Forester visited their children in Mississippi over spring break and Dennis Clark spent quite a bit of time at fairs presenting the gospel to the children. It is amazing how many responded to the gospel. Do pray for Dennis and his work with children. Maria Osso and her husband are going to their place in Tennessee the first part of April. Also Helen and Charlie McCreight will be visiting North Carolina and Chattanooga in early April.

Eleanor Rose's daughter, Joanne has recently retired from her job in CT and has come to live with Eleanor. We look forward to getting to know

Joanne. If you remember we prayed for her son, Capt. David Klingensmith, in Iraq. He is now returning for his 3<sup>rd</sup> tour of duty in mid-April. This is to be a 7 month tour. So that you know better how to pray for David, let me tell you a little about his job. He is now in San Diego where he is preparing a tank company for deployment to Iraq. He will be the company commander of Alpha Tank Company, 4<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion, The tank company is comprised of 4 platoons--each platoon with 4 tanks and each tank with 4 crew members. So it is 4 platoons x 4 tanks x 4 crew members--a total of 64 Marines actually in tanks. Combined with the maintenance crews and other supportive personnel, he is in charge of over 100 Marines. The focus will be on maintaining and promoting stability in regions that have eradicated the violent elements. Do pray for the Lord's protective guidance for David and his crew and also pray for peace for his mom and grandmother as they trust the Lord to watch over their loved one.

Several of our members have lost loved ones during the month of March. Alga Trammell's son had suffered from cancer and the Lord took him out of this world. Joe Brown went to a funeral for a niece and his brother, Russell is now in Hospice. Don Hair 's brother, David also departed this life and his service was here at LOPC.

And our own Ruth Hawk is now in the presence of the Lord. Her funeral was a time of celebration as well of grief. She will be missed but how happy we are that she is no longer suffering. It was wonderful to see so many of our former members who have moved away. Among them were Karen McGhan and her daughter, Laura, Todd, Marcie and Bethany Wells, Harold and Jill Smith. Phyllis and Bob Hallock, Henny Bulten, Dave and Barb Lorenz, Bonnie and Jim Sturgis and Gay and Jennifer Benfield. Ruth was a good friend to many of us and her life touched many folks--a wonderful testimony.

Wilma Herbert, at 95 never ceases to amaze us at how well she has recovered from hip surgery . Betty Baliram is also recovering from a heart transplant and Leilou Brady is making good progress. We are eagerly looking forward to the time she will be back among us. Do be faithful to pray not only for those who have special needs but also for the spiritual growth of each member of our church family. The Lord has indeed blessed us abundantly so we must also be faithful to praise and thank Him!!!

Recently, a number of us turned out to support Megan Wade, when she appeared in Lake Worth Christian School's performance of the musical "Fiddler on the Roof." If you'd like to see her star as Alice in "Alice in Wonderland" in early May, be sure to let her parents know so they can plenty of tickets! (Special thanks from the Wades to all of you who prayed for Megan during her recent surgery to remove all four wisdom teeth.) Emily Wade is also keeping Mom and Dad hopping, as she participates on a basketball travel team this spring.

*Carolyn Kullmar*

## FROM THE PASTOR



It is one thing to pray for God to provide something we want when we are motivated by personal desire. It is another thing to pray that God would cause us to want what we know we should want, but actually have no hungering inclination about. I think this may describe many of us where our thinking about outreach is concerned. We are caught between the knowledge of the should and the lack of hunger to do. What can we do about this? We can pray for God to give us the hunger for outreach. Are we brave enough to do that, or are we smitten with Jonah's disease? Are we afraid that God will answer our prayer? That is similar to Jonah's fear. He didn't want to preach to Nineveh, because he was afraid they would repent. If they did so, then he knew that God would forgive them, and he didn't want the enemy of Israel converted and spared. Where we are concerned, I don't think we want to intentionally withhold the Gospel and the possibility for conversion, but neither do we want to be the agent for outreach, if such agency would take us out of our comfort zone. This is where we need to hear what God said to the Philippians and to us. "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the

likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing; that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may have cause to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain. But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all. And you too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me.” (Philippians 2)

Let’s pray with humble seriousness about faithfulness in the outreach of Friendship Evangelism. Friendship Evangelism is described and exemplified by the following from John 1. “John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked upon Jesus as He walked, and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God!’ And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. And Jesus turned, and beheld them following, and said to them, ‘What do you seek?’ And they said to Him, ‘Rabbi (which translated means Teacher), where are You staying?’ He said to them, ‘Come, and you will see. They came therefore and saw where He was staying; and they stayed with Him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He found first his own brother Simon, and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (which translated means Christ). He brought him to Jesus.”

Will you pray for such an Andrew type mind set and practice in your own experience as a representative of the Savior?

On another subject, here are two items which recently came to my attention which have strong value. Read them with profit.

“I hope you will all read to the end. Jay Leno puts it into perspective and makes us think about the pathetic negativity. That's right, Jay Leno!! Jay Leno wrote this; it's the Jay Leno we don't often see....

"The other day I was reading Newsweek magazine and came across some poll data I found rather hard to believe. It must be true, given the source, right?

The Newsweek poll alleges that 67 percent of Americans are unhappy with the direction the country is headed, and 69 percent of the country is unhappy with the performance of the President. In essence, 2/3's of the citizenry just ain't happy and want a change.

So being the knuckle dragger I am, I started thinking, "What are we so unhappy about?"

Is it that we have electricity and running water 24 hours a day, 7 days a week?

Is our unhappiness the result of having air conditioning in the summer and heating in the winter?

Could it be that 95.4 percent of these unhappy folks have a job?

Maybe it is the ability to walk into a grocery store at any time, and see more food in moments than Darfur has seen in the last year?

Maybe it is the ability to drive from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean without having to present identification papers as we move through each state?

Or possibly the hundreds of clean and safe motels we would find along the way that can provide temporary shelter?

I guess having thousands of restaurants with varying cuisine from around the world is just not good enough.

Or could it be that when we wreck our car, emergency workers show up and provide services to help all, and even send a helicopter to take you to the hospital.

Perhaps you are one of the 70 percent of Americans who own a home. You may be upset with knowing

that in the unfortunate case of a fire, a group of trained firefighters will appear in moments and use top notch equipment to extinguish the flames thus saving you, your family and your belongings.

Or if, while at home watching one of your many flat screen TVs, a burglar or prowler intrudes, an officer equipped with a gun and a bullet-proof vest will come to defend you and your family against attack or loss.

This all in the backdrop of a neighborhood free of bombs or militias raping and pillaging the residents. Neighborhoods where 90 percent of teenagers own cell phones and computers.

How about the complete religious, social and political freedoms we enjoy that are the envy of everyone in the world?

Maybe that is what has 67 percent of you folks unhappy.

Fact is, we are the largest group of ungrateful, spoiled brats the world has ever seen. No wonder the world loves the U.S. , yet has a great disdain for its citizens . They see us for what we are. The most blessed people in the world who do nothing but complain about what we don't have , and what we hate about the country instead of thanking the good Lord we live here.

I know, I know. What about the President who took us into war and has no plan to get us out? The President who has a measly 31 percent approval rating? Is this the same President who guided the nation in the dark days after 9/11? The President that cut taxes to bring an economy out of recession? Could this be the same guy who has been called every name in the book for succeeding in keeping all the spoiled ungrateful brats safe from terrorist attacks?

The Commander-In Chief of an all-volunteer army that is out there defending you and me? Did you hear how bad the President is on the news or talk show? Did this news affect you so much, make you so unhappy you couldn't take a look around for yourself and see all the good things and be glad?

Think about it...are you upset at the President because he actually caused you personal pain OR is it because the "Media" told you he was failing to kiss your sorry ungrateful behind every day.

Make no mistake about it. The troops in Iraq and Afghanistan have volunteered to serve, and in many cases may have died for your freedom. There is currently no draft in this country. They didn't have to go.

They are able to refuse to go and end up with either a "general" discharge, an "other than honorable" discharge or, worst case scenario, a "dishonorable" discharge after a few days in the brig.

So why then the flat-out discontentment in the minds of 69 percent of Americans? Say what you want, but I blame it on the media. If it bleeds, it leads; and they specialize in bad news. Everybody will watch a car crash with blood and guts. How many will watch kids selling lemonade at the corner? The media knows this and media outlets are for-profit corporations. They offer what sells, and when criticized, try to defend their actions by "justifying" them in one way or another. Just ask why they tried to allow a murderer like O.J. Simpson to write a book about "how he didn't kill his wife, but if he did he would have done it this way" ...Insane!

Stop buying the negativism you are fed everyday by the media. Shut off the TV, burn Newsweek, and use the New York Times for the bottom of your bird cage. Then start being grateful for all we have as a country. There is exponentially more good than bad.

We are among the most blessed people on Earth, and should thank God several times a day, or at least be thankful and appreciative.

With hurricanes, tornados, fires out of control, mud slides, flooding, severe thunderstorms tearing up the country from one end to another, and with the threat of bird flu and terrorist attacks, Are we sure this is a good time to take God out of the Pledge of Allegiance?"

Jay Leno 2007

Beware of man made attempts to improve on the Bible:

Vatican Adds Seven New Deadly Sins  
The Vatican, after 1,500 years, has brought the seven deadly sins up-to-date by adding polluting, genetic engineering, being obscenely rich, drug dealing, abortion, pedophilia and causing social injustice to their list, according to foxnews.com. The Church holds mortal sins to be "grave

violations of the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes." These include murder, contraception, abortion, perjury, adultery and lust. (Taken from The Pastor's Weekly Briefing published by Focus on The Family)

*Lynn Downing*

## MISSIONS

How about that conference? We sure had a great group of presenters. You never know how several presenters come off as a group. The ones we had this year made a super impression, and gave us a lot to think about.



While you are thinking, it is never too late to get your pledge cards in. The committee depends upon them to dole out funds. We cannot promise to support someone guessing what you will do. We have to balance faith in your giving and the enormous needs of our missionaries.

Pray hard, then tell us what you decided. We promise to use it wisely to support those who serve for us. Bob Tanzie tells us he is within \$1,400 a month to support his mission trip. That is a nice way to say \$16,800 a year, in monthly increments for years to come. We don't need to take the whole lump, but anything we can do to participate is well worth it. As is the case for the various missionaries we support. Sadly, we have to turn many away.

Apparently, due to a misunderstanding about the "pledge-year" our mission's income dropped in January and February. Fortunately, a huge December giving covered the short -fall. Please understand the pledge-year (12 months) goes from pledge to pledge, roughly from conference to conference. (Not December 31<sup>st</sup>.) It seems missionaries have a nasty habit of eating and paying bills every month of the year.

It was good to see Rick and Betty Asheman with their children at our Easter service. I can tell you with confidence they worship every Sunday, if not every day, and don't just go to church on Easter. We are happy they choose our service to attend. Sharing their time is difficult with their travel schedule which is mind-blowing for the rest of their stay in the U.S. before returning to Ecuador. Their

home in Quito will look good after all this travel, even to see their many friends and supporters.

*Dick Miller*

## LARRY'S COLUMN

### HAVE YOU HUGGED A SINGER TODAY?

Members of our choir worked very hard to prepare music for this season. There was the cantata at the Maundy Thursday Tenebrae communion service, "The Shadow of the Cross." There was a second cantata for Easter Sunday morning, "Calvary's Love." And the choir also presented the Easter cantata for senior residents at Lakeside Village.

Many have told me how much the music here at LOPC enriched their participation in worship. I hope you will find some choir members and give them a hug personally. They have done an excellent job.

Their work continues now as we learn new music for the summer choir tour in Ukraine. The choir will use many of these new anthems in our worship over the next few months. That will help us know them well before we sing them overseas.

There will be 28 people on the trip, including people from Arizona and South Carolina. We will sing in six different cities in Ukraine from June 14 – 24. A special treat will be the experience of singing for the dedication services of the new church building at the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Belgorod-Dnestrovsky.

You can learn more about this on Sunday evening, April 13 when we will have a benefit concert here at LOPC. With choir, soloists, and instrumentalists, we'll let you sample the music planned for the tour. And that morning we'll distribute copies of the latest MTW quarterly journal, which features the work in Ukraine and the Belgorod-Dnestrovsky church as its cover story.

Your contributions that evening will help with the considerable expenses involved in such an undertaking. We are not using funds from the church mission budget. Each singer has raised his or her own travel money. But there will be other expenses (publicity, programs, funds for Ukrainian staff, etc.). If you are not able to be at the concert

you can send contributions to the church, marking them for Ukraine mission trip.

Larry Roff

## OUTREACH MOMENTS

*(First in a series, from Pascal Amouzou)*

A man has been sentenced to 18 years of prison without possibility of parole, falsely accused by one of his friends who wanted his wife. At the end of his term, he has lost everything he has ever possessed on earth.

He decided to kill his friend who was living now with his wife, even if the price to pay was to be sent back to prison for the rest of his life. Anyway his life was meaningless now.

The very day he was going to carry out his decision, a brother in Christ went to visit him and noticed the knife. He did not hide his intention and let him know what he was going to do. The brother asked him to pray with him. "Don't waste my time" he said and proceeded to leave. "I am not asking you not to do it; I just want to pray with you before you leave. Just repeat after me the prayer I will say".

Our father who is in heaven... As soon as he heard the first verse, he recited the whole prayer and said: "Can I go now?" "I want you to repeat after me". So he did. "And forgive us our trespasses".

"As we forgive those who trespass against us". He stopped repeating "As we forgive those who trespass against us". He was no more saying a word.

"As we forgive those who trespass against us". He broke in tears. He cried for a while, comforted by his brother in Christ. The bitterness was gone, the desire of vengeance has vanished, and forgiveness has taken the place of every other desire in his heart.

What would you have done if it were you? Maybe you don't have a brother in Christ in prison. But there will always be somebody you can reach to at some time in the day, in the week, in the month. All you need is to be ready to seize the occasion as a

soldier of Christ.

## A BOOK REPORT

### *Stop Dating the Church*

By Joshua Harris

How dull would our lives be if we weren't passionate about something?



Hobbies or interests add spice to life. Here at our house

Buddy is a serious cycling enthusiast having racked up tens of thousands of miles on his bicycle. He's almost an expert on bike repair and maintenance.

He dreams of cross-country rides with all the challenges that brings. Caroline has a gift for music, like her brother and sister. Like a true musician, she always hears music in her head and is constantly composing a new song. As for me, I'm a book lover. My interests lean toward American history, Appalachian culture (my heritage) and art. All these interests require devotion, time, energy, or in a word, commitment.

In Joshua Harris' new book, he challenges us to apply the same type of zeal we have for our interests to our local church. In our throw-away, come-and-go culture, that almost sounds foreign. Who, me? Committed to church? The author is serious about this. He says if we don't commit to our local church, we shortchange ourselves, our church and even the world.

In this small book, Harris makes a convincing argument for making Sunday the highlight of our week. He explains (with input from John Piper, John MacArthur and Don Whitney) that we need to make a conscious effort to restore Sunday to a day of spiritual restoration, as God intended. He argues that Sunday should be a day like no other and that we should give ourselves completely to the worship of God. In chapter 6, he asks some pointed questions that will make us wince. Have we ever skipped church because we just didn't feel like it? Have we sat in our pew and only occasionally listened? Are we planning the rest of the afternoon instead of eagerly entering into worship? Do we even remember what we heard after we leave the sanctuary?

### WOULD YOU BELIEVE?

Bill Campbell	Editor and Administrator
Lynn Downing	Senior Pastor
Phil Elder	Maintenance Manager
John Panico	Youth Ministry Intern
Larry Roff	Associate Pastor
Judy Smiley	Administrative Assistant
Peggy Sprankle	Church Secretary

Harris says it all comes down to our level of passion for the Lord. If we're ho-hum in our relationship with Him, that will transfer to our lackluster involvement in church. Fear of commitment, Harris says, has no place in the heart of a Christian man or woman. "We are a generation of consumers, independent and critical. We attend church, but we don't want to settle down and truly invest ourselves. We're not into commitment – we only want to *date* the church."

We've all heard stories of monk-like people who are convinced the pastor just doesn't "get it" when it comes to true spirituality. So, they strike out on the road in some Homer-like quest to "find God". This wanderer is hailed by the media as someone who is far and lofty above the rest of us and is a true believer. Harris disagrees: "Going away is easy. Do you want to know what's harder? Do you want to know what takes more courage and what will make you grow faster than anything else? Join a local church and lay down your selfish desires by considering others more important than yourself. Humble yourself and acknowledge that you need other Christians. Invite them into your life. Stop complaining about what's wrong with the church, and become part of the solution."

We need to ask ourselves if we've been guilty of holding the Lord and others at arm's length because of our own fear of commitment. Harris suggests that we ask God to create in us a passion for Him that would set the world on fire. Spurgeon described the local church as "the dearest place on earth." Do we view LOPC that way? We should enjoy our hobbies and interests as gifts from God. But we should also be asking God to fill us with a white-hot passion for Him and the work here at LOPC.  
*Debbye Tate*

## CHILDREN'S NEWS

We will be continuing to go through the alphabet on Wednesday nights. We are up to the letter M. We play games, have a snack, make a craft, learn catechism answers and Bible Verses for stickers along with learn about a Bible person that starts with that letter. We have lots of fun and would love to have others join us. It starts at 6:30 P.M. Wednesday nights and we meet in the Education Building.

My Wednesday night helpers for April are the following:

April 2 - Ann Seay  
April 9 - Debbye Tate  
April 16 - Joyce Elder  
April 23 - Kathy Livanec  
April 30 - Betty Roff

If you would like to help on a Wednesday night and would like to give these ladies a break, feel free to call me. (Lisa Lennon 433-2540)

Junior Church helpers for April are the following:

April 6 - Caroline Tate  
April 13 - Hazel Brown  
April 20 - Michaela Grimmig  
April 27 - Jennifer Wade

Summer Fun Club will be starting the beginning of June. If you would like to help me with the planning and/or teaching, please let me know. (Lisa Lennon 433-2540).

VBS will be July 7 - July 11th this year in the morning from 8:30 to 12:00 noon. If you would like to be a part of helping and/or planning VBS, please call. (Lisa Lennon 433-2540). I would really like some help with decorating. It is not really my talent. We could start working on the decorations early. Let me know if you would like to help.

*Thank you, Lisa Lennon*

## YOUTH PLUGGED IN

Dear Church Family,



Grace and peace to you all. Thank you for your prayers for our family and your love and support for our youth. With Resurrection Sunday having just passed, we are thrilled with the work that the

Lord is doing with our youth. Here are a few of the highlights:

- ☆ Becky Reubens has joined our youth ministry team and has jumped in with both feet. Becky is an answer to our prayers as we have been asking for God to raise up women with a heart for discipling our youth. Becky also works in a field that may very well open up a service opportunity for our

youth that will be unlike anything they have ever done (Please be in prayer... more details to come.)

- ☆ Great turnout for paintball outing on 3/22/2008 and NO major injuries!!!!!!
- ☆ Looking forward to Switchfoot Concert in April (Tickets still available).
- ☆ Start a series on dating on April 2....PLEASE PRAY!
- ☆ Also, we have found that some of our youth have an aptitude and a passion for filming and theater. We are in the experimental stages of filming a series of skits to go with this series on dating which will be edited and presented on Wednesday nights.
- ☆ Pool party in May????

We are also praying about a summer activity and will be discussing at next leaders meeting. Again, please continue in prayer for our youth as we rapidly bring our second season to a close. Y'all are plugged in....

*Love in Christ,  
John, Tiffany, and Hannah  
Matthew 5:16*

## CELL PHONE VS. BIBLE

I wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone?

What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?

What if we flipped through it several times a day?

What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?

What if we used it to receive messages from the text?

What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?

What if we gave it to kids as gifts?

What if we used it when we traveled?

What if we used it in case of emergency?

This is something to make you go....hmm... where is my Bible?

Oh, and one more thing. Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill. Makes you stop and think, "Where are my priorities?" And no dropped calls!

## STAMPS

Every week some person will see someone else giving me a packet of cancelled stamps and remark that they didn't know we were still collecting stamps. Well, we have never stopped.

Thanks to everyone who faithfully saved their cancelled stamps for us last year. We sent about 13 pounds to the Rev. David Vila at The Spanish Evangelical Literature Fellowship in Grand Rapids, MI. He in turn, with his volunteer staff, sorts them and sells them to stamp dealers. TSELF in turn uses the money received to buy Christian Spanish Bibles and books for pastors and evangelists in Latin America.

We would very much like for all of you to save your cancelled stamps for us. Most of you are cutting correctly. You need not sort them. I do that. It is better to leave 1/4 to 1/2 inch margin around the stamp or stamps so the perforations are not damaged.

The only stamps we cannot use are the pre-cancelled ones.

You may leave them in the office, or place them in the little box on the cabinet in the narthex near the south entrance, or give them to me personally. We appreciate any amount of stamps.

Did you ever think you could re-cycle postage stamps?

*Helen McCreight for WIC*

## TIPS ON BUYING GAS

*The following information was sent to us by Bob Jessee, who received it from a friend. We bought our new steeple from Bob. He sends us interesting articles from time to time, and we thought this one might be useful to our readers.*

I don't know what you guys are paying for gasoline.... but here in California we are also paying higher, up to \$3.50 per gallon. But my line of work is in petroleum for about 31 years now, so here are some tricks to get more of your money's worth for every gallon..

Here at the Kinder Morgan Pipeline where I work in San Jose, CA we deliver about 4 million gallons in a 24-hour period thru the pipeline. One day is diesel the next day is jet fuel, and gasoline, regular and premium grades. We have 34-storage tanks here with a total capacity of 16,800,000 gallons.

Only buy or fill up your car or truck in the early morning when the ground temperature is still cold.

Remember that all service stations have their storage tanks buried below ground. The colder the ground the more dense the gasoline, when it gets warmer gasoline expands, so buying in the afternoon or in the evening....your gallon is not exactly a gallon. In the petroleum business, the specific gravity and the temperature of the gasoline, diesel and jet fuel, ethanol and other petroleum products plays an important role.

A 1-degree rise in temperature is a big deal for this business. But the service stations do not have temperature compensation at the pumps.

When you're filling up do not squeeze the trigger of the nozzle to a fast mode. If you look you will see that the trigger has three (3) stages: low, middle, and high. In slow mode you should be pumping on low speed, thereby minimizing the vapors that are created while you are pumping. All hoses at the pump have a vapor return. If you are pumping on the fast rate, some other liquid that goes to your tank becomes vapor. Those vapors are being sucked up and back into the underground storage tank so you're getting less worth for your money.

One of the most important tips is to fill up when your gas tank is HALF FULL or HALF EMPTY. The reason for this is, the more gas you have in your tank the less air occupying its empty space. Gasoline evaporates faster than you can imagine. Gasoline storage tanks have an internal floating roof. This roof serves as zero clearance between the gas and the atmosphere, so it minimizes the evaporation. Unlike service stations, here where I work, every truck that we load is temperature compensated so that every gallon is actually the exact amount.

Another reminder, if there is a gasoline truck pumping into the storage tanks when you stop to buy gas, DO NOT fill up--most likely the gasoline is being stirred up as the gas is being delivered, and you might pick up some of the dirt that normally settles on the bottom. Hope this will help you get the most value for your money.

**DO SHARE THESE TIPS WITH OTHERS!**

**WHERE TO BUY USA GAS, THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT TO KNOW. READ ON**

Gas rationing in the 80's worked even though we grumbled about it. It might even be good for us!

The Saudis are boycotting American goods. We should return the favor.

An interesting thought is to boycott their GAS.

Every time you fill up the car, you can avoid putting more money into the coffers of Saudi Arabia. Just buy from gas companies that don't import their oil from the Saudis.

Nothing is more frustrating than the feeling that every time I fill-up the tank, I am sending my money to people who are trying to kill me, my family, and my friends.

I thought it might be interesting for you to know which oil companies are the best to buy gas from and which major companies import Middle Eastern oil.

These companies import Middle Eastern oil:

Shell..... 205,742,000 barrels

Chevron/Texaco..... 144,332,000 barrels

Exxon /Mobil..... 130,082,000 barrels

Marathon/Speedway... 117,740,000 barrels

Amoco.....62,231,000 barrels

Citgo gas is from South America, from a Dictator who hates Americans. If you do the math at \$30/barrel, these imports amount to over \$18 BILLION! (oil is now \$90 - \$100 a barrel

Here are some large companies that do not import Middle Eastern oil:

Sunoco.....0 barrels

Conoco.....0 barrels

Sinclair.....0 barrels

B P/Phillips.....0 barrels

Hess.....0 barrels

ARC0.....0 barrels

All of this information is available from the Department of Energy and each is required to state where they get their oil and how much they are importing.

# ADS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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