



Gary Black
Senior Pastor

SonTimes

From G.B. to Thee...



Ephesians 3:20, 21 *"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."*

Our "IMAGINE MORE" campaign is underway with some very healthy and encouraging things happening in our church family. The campaign has caused us all to engage in important conversations to help us understand the needs and the opportunities this campaign will address.

Imagine More Together Through Faith...that's the whole campaign theme. Faith is not for the faint-of-heart. Faith is not just something in one's mind. Faith is not merely an emotional reaction to religious beliefs. Faith is not...believing something you know isn't true.

Faith is founded on the living God, our creator, redeemer, and friend. In our study of Faith Apps, we are learning how faith impacts us in a very personal way every day. Faith is trusting God even when things seem impossible. Faith endures even when people let you down. Faith acts even when our inferiorities paralyze us. Faith takes risks even when we prefer security. Faith obeys even when God's Word doesn't always make sense. Faith repents when sin gets in our lives.

Imagine More Together Through Faith...is more than a slogan. It's the reality of what God is calling our church to do and be for His glory and His kingdom on earth. In the last few weeks we have heard from students who have shared their testimonies of God at work in their lives. Won't you "imagine more" students whose lives are being transformed by God's grace? We have witnessed the baptisms of young adults who are giving their lives to Christ. Won't you "imagine more" young adults who give their lives to Christ? Our campaign team has enthusiastically said, 'we can do this!' Won't you "imagine more together" for the results of this time in our church life? More love, more power, more of Jesus Christ in our lives! The next three months our church family will be drawing closer together

as we pray together, visit together, and commit together to the present and future ministry of CCC.

This campaign can feel uncomfortable. I understand because there are aspects of such a campaign that make me uncomfortable as well. But there are also aspects of the biblical challenge to 'imagine more' that inspire. As we pray together, as we meet in homes to provide information, as we unify around a common goal to eliminate our debt and save for future expansion, may we do it all with a great conviction of faith that "God can truly do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine." This campaign will be conducted in a way to lead us all to individually pray for God's guidance. No one will ask you face to face for money. The "ask" will be done in a way that your decision is between you and the Lord. You are not expected to put your family at risk financially. I've been asked, "what if I can't give anymore than I do right now?" Good question. Here's the answer. We will be asking each person and family to pray about this. Lord, what would you have me do? No one will ever ask you face to face what you decided. This will be between you and the Lord. We will always respect your decision and your action. The church of Jesus Christ is called to love God in a demonstrable manner, to love people genuinely, and serve others across the street and around the world. This 'imagine more' campaign is an effort to take this God-sized mission seriously. You will hear the word sacrifice because many of us are able to find ways we can sacrifice for this mission. Others may already be sacrificing all you can. Praise the Lord! You will hear the word consistent giving. Some already give consistently while others do not. The important thing is that we all seek the Lord's guidance and follow it.

Your campaign team is excited about the timing for what we are trying to do. The idea that we can actually eliminate our debt and expand our ministry facilities at the right time in the future is a great goal. May we all walk forward with faith that God is leading us.

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

FALL SMALL GROUP SEMESTER THE NEW TESTAMENT CHALLENGE

-begins week of Sept. 26-

Our next semester of small groups begins the week of Sunday Sept. 26. Our all church preaching and small group study series will be called, The New Testament Challenge.

The overall preaching theme for 2010 has been The Bible: Our Compass for Life. We began in January (actually Dec.) studying the entire Book of Luke. Any study of the whole Bible should include an in depth study of the Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ.

Then we moved to cover major Old Testament characters using the theme Faith Apps: Accessing God's Power. This has been a study to reconnect us with the time line of the Old Testament and key teaching on how faith in the living God impacted the lives of the ancients.

Now comes our fall study which is an overview of the major themes in the entire New Testament.

SIGN UPS FOR FALL GROUPS BEGIN SUNDAY SEPT. 5

Our goal for small group participation is 100% of our average Sunday Morning adult attendance. Our best sign ups have been in the 70% range so we are hoping for a strong sign up during the month of September. You may continue with the same group or help begin a new group, it's your choice.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS FOR ALL ADULTS LOVE RULES

Wed. Aug. 25 began our all adult Wed. praise, prayer, and preaching nights. All small groups and all adults not in groups are encouraged to try Wed. nights from Aug. 25 thru Sept. 22. Gary will speak four nights on "Love Rules" in our lives. We have a special guest Sept. 1. David E. is the Director of the National Missionary Convention and a leader for RESTORATION REVOLUTION. Dave has been a friend of CCC for many years and we welcome him as he will challenge us to love the unreached peoples of the world for Jesus Christ.



A Note From Julie..

Julie Black

School days, school days – dear old golden rule days,
Reading and writing and 'rithmetic
Taught to the tune of a hickory stick!!!

That's an oldie but goodie, huh! As school is beginning again this semester, I am remembering those days! One of my favorite subjects was math – yes, it's true – blond people can do math! Ha!

I read recently a good article by John Maxwell who applied math concepts to the art of *ENCOURAGEMENT!*

Do The Math

There are really four kinds of people when it come to relationships.

1. Some people **ADD** something to life – we enjoy them. *Many people in this world desire to help others. These people are adders. They make the lives of others more pleasant and enjoyable. Evangelist John Wesley advised people to... do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can. Wesley was an Adder. People who Add value to others almost always do so intentionally. I say that because adding value to others requires a person to give of himself, and that rarely occurs by accident.*
2. Some people **SUBTRACT** something from life – we tolerate them. *In JULIUS CAESAR, Cassius asserts, "A friend should bear his friend's infirmities, but Brutus makes mine greater than they are." That's what subtractors do. They do not bear our burdens, and they make heavier the ones we already have. The sad thing about subtractors is that what they do is usually unintentional. If you don't know how to add to others, then you probably subtract by default.*
3. Some people **MULTIPLY** something in life – we value them. *Anyone who wants to can become an adder. It takes only a desire to lift people up and the intentionality to follow through. But to go to another level in relationships – to become a multiplier – one must be intentional, strategic, and skilled. The greater the talent and resources a person possesses, the greater his potential to become a multiplier. If you can think of people who have played the role of multiplier in your life, stop and take some time to call or write them and let them know what they've meant in your life.*
4. Some people **DIVIDE** something in life - we avoid them. *R.G. LeTourneau, who founded Caterpillar, a manufacturer of large earthmoving equipment, says his company used to make a scraper that was known as Model G. One day a customer asked a salesman what the G stood for. The salesman replied, "The G stands for gossip because like a talebearer, this machine moves a lot of dirt and moves it fast!" Dividers are so damaging because unlike subtractors, their negative actions are usually intentional. They are hurtful people*

who make themselves look or feel better by trying to make some one else do worse than they do. As a result, they damage relationships and create havoc in people's lives.

Encouragement is something that we all need frequently. My favorite passage in the Bible is Philippians 2:1-11. Several verses are given to remind us that one of our tasks as members of the church of Christ is to encourage each other. "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." That's encouragement! With the help of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, let's improve and grow in our "math" skills as **AD-DERS** and **MULTIPLIERS!**

Blessings,

Julie

What does it mean to be a member of a church and specifically Clayton Christian Church? The following is taught in our membership class to help everyone understand the biblical teaching on being part of the body of Christ.

THE CLAYTON MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

"Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized, and being in agreement with Clayton's mission, vision, values, and beliefs, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Clayton Christian Church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

I. I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH

...By acting in love toward other members

...By refusing to gossip

...By following the leaders

"So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and on the growth of our fellowship together." Rom. 15:19 (Ph)

Live in complete harmony with each other — each with the attitude of Christ toward each other." Rom 15:5 (LB)

"Have a sincere love for your fellow believers, love one another earnestly with all your hearts." 1 Peter 1:22 (GN)

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of our mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs..." Eph. 4:29

"Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be no advantage to you." Heb. 13:17

II. I WILL SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY CHURCH

...By praying for its growth

...By inviting the un-churched to attend

...By warmly welcoming those who visit

"To the church...we always thank God for you and pray for you constantly." 1 Thess. 1:2
(cont. on next page...)

THE CLAYTON MEMBERSHIP COVENANT (CONT.)

"Go out into the country...and urge anyone you find to come in, so that My House will be full." Luke 14:23 (LB)

III. I WILL SERVE THE MINISTRY OF MY CHURCH

"So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified." Rom. 15:7 (LB)

- ...By discovering my gifts and talents**
- ...By being equipped to serve by my pastors**
- ...By developing a servant's heart**

"Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you..." 1 Peter 4:10 (Ph)

"God gave...some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up..." Eph. 4:11-12

"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ...who took on the very nature of a servant..." Phil 2:3-4, 7

IV. I WILL SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY OF MY CHURCH

- ...By attending faithfully**
- ...By living a godly life**
- ...By giving regularly**

"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together...but let us encourage one another." Heb. 10:25

"But whatever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the gospel of Christ." Phil. 1:27 (Ph)

"Each one of you, on the first day of each week, should set aside a specific sum of money in proportion to what you have earned and use it for the offering." 1 Cor. 16:2

"A tenth of all you produce is the Lord's, and it is holy." Lev. 27:30



Mission of the Month by Tammy J.

As most of you know, our students recently returned from an awesome week at CIY. While at CIY, our students were challenged to complete particular mission-oriented tasks within the next year. Dakota F. was challenged to organize and gather packages to be sent to those in our community that are serving in the military overseas.

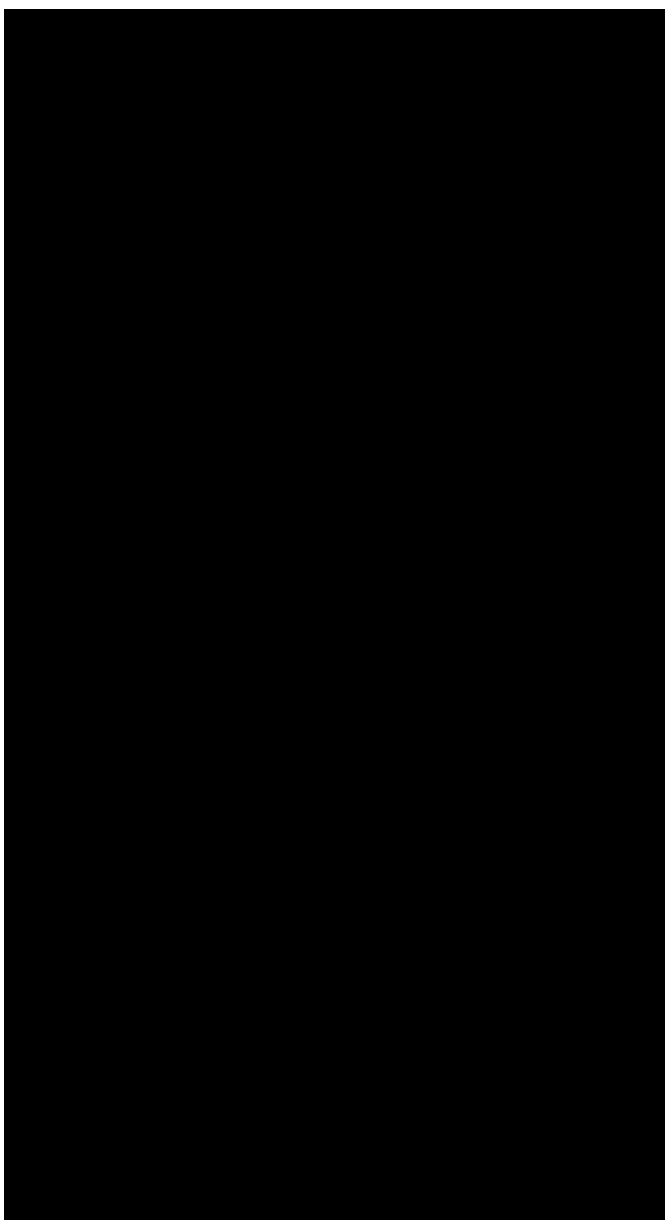
If you have a friend or family member in the military that is currently deployed, will you please contact Dakota F. at 317-539-2172 or Tammy J. at 317-407-0113. Dakota would like to enlist the help of our entire congregation to donate items for the soldier's care packages. His goal is to have all of the packages shipped out by Thanksgiving so that the soldiers will have them by Christmas. More information will follow as to what type of items to donate and when to bring them to church. Please keep our military in your thoughts and prayers.

Notes of Thanks:

Thank you - Your kindness meant so much . Thanks so much for your facilities -Liberty Farmers 4-H Club
I do not cease to give thanks for you - thank you, thank you and once again thank you - Nicholas G.
Thank you for your gift to the TRBC music ministry in remembrance of Karyn Green. Bill McCarty is lucky to have such a fine church family -Milton, Kelly & Sarah H.

June-July 2010 Statistics

	June. '09	June. '10	July '09	July '10
Sunday School	96	91	95	93
Worship	279	258	247	249
Offerings:	June		July	
General Fund	\$28,648.45		\$31,025.23	
Building Fund	\$725.00		\$1,225.00	
Missions	\$190.00		\$250.00	
Designated Giving	\$1,127.99		\$69.00	



Clayton Christian Church
Established 1863



Clayton Christian Church

5110 South State Road 39
Clayton, IN 46118

Phone: 317-539-4512

Fax: 317-539-4007

E-mail: claytoncc@tds.net



Glad you asked that!

This is an article answering questions pertaining to Clayton Christian Church. Questions can be submitted in person to Bill J. or e-mailed to me at "jamifam@hotmail.com"

Question:

"I saw in your bulletin insert that we plan to pay off the mortgage with the stewardship money in only 3 years. How can we do that?"

Well, a couple of variables come into play with this plan, but after working with the bank and running some different scenarios, I was really excited to see what could be done.

First of all let me state where we stand in relationship to our current mortgage. Upon completion of our current building in August 2001, we took out a 20 year mortgage for \$844,000. Presently we have a remaining principle balance of around \$538,000.

We all know that by paying ahead on our principle, we can decrease the total amount to be paid and shorten the life of the loan. A couple of years back we were able to do exactly that for about 14 months, adding only an extra \$1,000 per month to our payment towards the principle. The result of that, I found out when we ran these figures, was to shorten our time to payoff by about 10 months. Wow!

I then asked the bank to run our regular payment schedule, (exactly what we are doing at the present time and adding no extra payments) to see what principle would be remaining at the end of the stewardship campaign. It would be just under \$393,000. Then I asked the bank to run a schedule with CCC adding \$10,000 a month, (\$2,500 extra each week from the stewardship campaign) to see what principle would be remaining at the end of the campaign. **ZERO!!!!!!!!** Not only would the principle be paid off, it would be zero a couple of months before campaign's end! This was exciting news.

Now to be able to do this depends on the amount and timing of incoming funds from the stewardship campaign, but the result is quite rewarding. We would like to see this happen and be able to look to the future with fresh and unburdened eyes to see where God may be leading us. There you have it and.....**Glad you asked that!!!!!!!!**

Clayton Christian Church
Ministry Team Meeting Minutes
July 12, 2010

Attendance: Beth A., Jim A., Tom C., Bill J., Tammy J., Tom K., Jason O., Shannon W. and Beth Y.

Pastor's Leadership Minute: We shared from Psalms 91 – passages showing God's protection in the midst of danger.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the May 10, 2010 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Shannon shared the ministry budgets with the team leaders and the overall church budget vs. actual monies received.

Budget & Finance: Nothing reported at this time.

Building: Jim has scheduled an All Church Work Day for August 21st from 9:00AM – noon. The playground is at the forefront of the outside maintenance to be completed.

Grounds: The parking lot will be re-paved, seal-coated and striped on July 16-17.

CARE: Planning is underway for the church picnic to be held on Sunday, August 29th.

Children's Ministry: We had 60-70 children attend VBS. Need volunteers to help with Power-Up, Wee Worship and First Service Nursery. There will be a swim party at the end of July for elementary aged children.

Communications: The newsletter articles are due August 19th.

Evangelism: Nothing to report at this time.

Adult Ministry: Nothing to report at this time.

Missions: Tom C. requested prayer for the P., as they need to leave Afghanistan. The Riverwood mission trip will be from September 30 – October 3. We are in the process of collecting short DVDs from the missions that we support in order to share with our members.

Music & Creative Arts: Nothing reported at this time.

Student Ministry: Nothing reported at this time.

Host Team: Tom K. said that since Diane C. is moving to Florida, we need someone to be the Coordinator of the Host Table (where coffee and water is served during worship services).

Elders: Bill reviewed the Stewardship Campaign calendar. There will be a church-wide meeting on July 25 to discuss the Stewardship Campaign with our members and answer questions.

No other business was discussed.

The next meeting will be Monday, September 13, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,
Tammy J.