

Variations

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

A Bi-Weekly Message from Vestavia Hills Baptist Church

Kenyan Friends Are Coming!

For many years, through the inspiration and vision of Samson and Mary Mathangani, we have been praying about connecting to the churches and people of Kenya. In 2007 this dream became reality as a team of 16 members traveled to the Central Province of Kenya to help in teaching for the Institute for Quality Christian Leadership.

Our vision in returning was to continue our relationship—not as Americans who have all the answers for Kenya, but as friends and Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ who are partners in the gospel. It seemed that the logical next step was to invite some of our friends to visit with us, to meet our people and have memories of OUR faces to carry home to Kenya.

As a beginning in that effort, we invited five pastors to come, key leaders in the Institute work and in Kenya, to join with us. Already we have had a visit in November from Pastor Euticauls Wambua from the Children at Risk Center in the Nairobi slums. You are helping to support that work through your church budget—funding the salaries of its teachers for a month.

In July, four more of our special friends are coming to visit America for the first time. They are coming to teach, preach, meet us, fellowship among us, and learn about churches in the United States. I want you to meet our friends and know about them.

First, is Benson **Pastor Benson Mwangangi**. Benson Mwangangi has been a pastor for eight years and has served in many leadership roles in the convention. For the past five years, he has been the director of a theological seminary in Nyandarua. He works also as a senior chaplain with the government in the Prisons Department, working among prisoners as a minister.



Our second guest is **Rev. Paul Mbogo**. Pastor Paul is the pastor of the Thunguma Baptist Church in Thunguma village. Through the gift of a member of this church, that church building exists today and our church is prayed for and remembered faithfully by its members every day. Thunguma Baptist Church is the largest of our partner churches in Kenya's Central Province. Pastor Paul is a dedicated, passionate preacher and pastor.

Our next pastor, **Mr. Richard Owiti Kogola**, is of the Luo tribe. But as he would be quick to tell you, his love for Jesus Christ surpasses loyalty to tribe, as it does for all of our friends. This is notable because much of the tribal and regional strife after last year's elections were between these two groups. Kenya needs leaders who can overcome sectarian strife to work for the common good. Richard is a college graduate and worked in the Forest Department as a Civil Servant for six years to work as the Deputy Principal for the Nyeri Baptist High School and also as a geography teacher.



Our final visitor is **Rev. Josphat Thiori**. Josphat became a Christian at age 14, and attended the Nyeri Baptist High school where Richard is a teacher and principal now. While studying at the Nyeri Technical Training Institute to pursue a course in accounting, he received a call to enter fulltime Christian ministry. So in 1992, he joined the International Baptist Theological seminary of Eastern Africa and graduated after four years of study. In 2000 he married his beautiful wife Jerioth and also went to serve the Mutathi-ni Baptist church as Pastor. It was one of the churches where we worked and worship on our trip last summer. In 2003, while continuing to work as a pastor, he joined the newly formed Baptist Aids Response Agency (BARA) to head the training department. He continues to do vital ministry in AIDs prevention both in Kenya and training people in several African nations.

(Continued from page 1)

Our friends will attend the Pastors' School at Samford for one week, as guests of the Global Missions Center at Beeson, who are our partners, then they will be visiting in our church and the city for the next two weeks. One of those weeks plus their domestic travel lodging and a week of lodging and meals are being paid by the Resource Center for Pastoral Excellence at Samford.

They will be with us for two Sundays and Wednesdays, with opportunities to meet with our classes, participate and help us in worship, share their testimonies, visit our city and have opportunities to learn with us.

WHAT WILL THE CHURCH BE DOING? You have funded their travel to the US and home through the UMO. All travel is already purchased and they are getting ready to come. We will have many events while they are here.

WHAT CAN YOU DO NOW?

Pray!
Plan to be present!
Participate!
Invite our guests to be involved with you.
Spend time talking. They are here to meet and learn.
Most of all, be yourselves. Let them know they are among friends.

When they go home, they will take some "faces" back in their hearts. VHBC will no longer be a story they hear from visitors, but names and faces and real people in a real place. For the people there will now know, "we have brothers and sisters in America, our friends, at VHBC"



Welcome New Members

Bruce & Becky Atkinson
2265 Rockcreek Trail
Birmingham, AL 35226

Amy Coker, Layton Coker and Connor Wright
3015-B Firefighter Lane
Birmingham, AL 35209

Tom & Jean Halbrooks
5437 Crossings Lake Cir.
Birmingham, AL 35242

Summer Sermon Series

Claiming Your Baptism: Personal Faith for a Challenging Time.

This series is not so much an argument about the differences in the Christian churches about the rite of baptism as understanding what we mean by being baptized as Christians. These sermons are an exploration of the New Testament meanings of discipleship. It is an invitation to those who have never been baptized to consider it and to understand what we mean by it. It is an invitation to all Christians who have been baptized to revisit the depths of the waters and what they mean for us as those who are called by Jesus' name.

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| July 6 | "Cleansing Power"
I Peter 3:18-22 |
| July 13 | "In the Presence of Many Witnesses"
I Timothy 6:11-16; Mark 8:38. |
| July 20 | "Risen with Christ"
Colossians 3:1-11 |
| August 10 | "Putting Me On"
Galatians 3:26-29 |
| August 17 | "By One Spirit"
I Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 4:4-6 |



Down-Home Summer Night Wednesday Night, July 9 5:00 p.m.

- ◆ Fellowship Supper of hotdogs, hamburgers, chips, apple pie, ice cream, lemonade and iced tea
- ◆ Gospel-singing concert by the Homeland Quartet
- ◆ No cost-Invite your friends!!!!

Cook-out for Our Kenyan Guests Friday—July 25 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Everyone is invited to come and meet our guests from Kenya and show them some real southern hospitality. Members are asked to bring either an appetizer or a dessert.

Remember in Prayer...

Members in the Hospital

Bob Harrelson—Lakeshore, Rm. 226
Polly Knighton—Shelby Ridge, Rm. 243B
*Sarah Little — Lakeshore, Rm. 118B

Members at Home

*Betty Bamberg	Doris McWaters
Lou Bell	Marge Olive
Grace Barnes	Nora Ousley
Virginia Deaton	Elizabeth Quinby
Earl Donegan	Martha Ray
Kathryn Eidson	Michelle Pittman Ronk
Jim & Martha Galyean	Judy Schlegel
Elaine Goodwyn	*Melva Scroggins
Wyatt Guy	Velma Smyth
Leta Holliman	Beverly Vincent
Mary Lou Hughes	JoAnn Wells
Emily Jones	Jody Wilson
Dorothy Lindsay	Richard Wilson
Elizabeth Lindsey	Edith Wood
Sarah Little	Nettie Worrell
Nancy Lochamy	
Sybil McCrory	

Christian Sympathy

Christian Sympathy is expressed to Doris Wilson and family in the death of her husband, Bob Wilson, on June 29th.

Christian Sympathy is expressed to the family of Faye Knowles in her death on June 15, 2008.

Christian Sympathy is expressed to the family of Mildred Kent in her death on June 5, 2008.

Ministry Budget Offering

Budget Needs This Month	\$132,878
Budget Given This Month	\$156,607
Budget Needs This Year	\$797,270
Budget Given This Year	\$679,930

Unified Missions Offering

2008 Goal	\$52,400
Given to Date	\$39,273

Free the Future Capital Fund

Pledges	\$1,739,794
Given to Date	\$500,925

Children's Activities

Kitchen Chaos with Miss Nancy

July 8, 9:00-2:00 pm
Grades 1-6, Activity Room
Registration Required!
RSVP by Thursday, July 3rd

Friday Friends

July 11, Birmingham Zoo, Meet at 10 am
If you arrive late, meet at the Sea Lion Splash Show at 10:30
Don't forget to bring a towel if you plan to play in the sprinklers).

MOES ON MONDAY

July 7 and July 21, 6 pm, Vestavia Moes
Children eat free with the purchase of one adult meal.

Friday Friends

July 18 -Meet in the gym at 10,
eat afterwards at Guthries!

Music Camp

July 21-24, 9-Noon
Entering First - Completed Sixth Grade

Mom's Night Out -

Monday, July 21, 6:30 pm, Details to follow

Arts and Crafts Day

July 29, 9:00-2:00 pm,
Grades 1-6, Activity Room, Registration Required!
RSVP by Monday, July 21

Men's Night Out -

Tuesday, July 29, 6:30 pm, Details to follow



WE NEED YOUR HELP IN WORSHIP CARE

Worship Care is the care of preschoolers during the morning worship service.

Please contact Nancy if you are willing to serve once-a-month or once-every-other month.

This is an important ministry! I hope to hear from you soon. ~Nancy

**Senior Adult Trip to the
Outer Banks of North Carolina
October 5-10**

Gary and Vickie Furr are planning a trip to the Outer Banks of North Carolina with any senior adults that would like to go. For more details please call Martha in the church office or drop by the office and pick up a brochure.

Wednesday moved to Thursday

- We will not have Fellowship Supper on July 23rd.
- Instead come have Fellowship Supper on July 24th
- and listen to our children sing at the conclusion of their Music Camp.

**Tuesday Women's Bible Study...
for Summer
1st Tuesday evening of August**

We will view selected video sessions from Anne Graham Lotz and others.

Dates: August 5th

Time: 6:30

Place: VHBC Student Lounge

**VARIATIONS GOES MONTHLY
FOR JULY**

The Variations will be mailed on a monthly schedule for July. This issue will contain one month's worth of information. Please hold on to it for easy reference of upcoming events.

Secretarial Position Vacancy in the Church Office

We are still interviewing for the position of receptionist and administrative assistant to our Children's Minister and our Student Minister. If you have a recommendation please call Martha or Lynn in the church office at 979-5920 or email martha@vhbc.com.

Quarterly Business Meeting

Wednesday, July 16th

6:00 p.m. —Fellowship Hall

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OUR MINISTRY STAFF

Gary A. Furr, Pastor

K. Dennis Anderson,
Minister of Education/Administration

Nancy E. Akins,
Minister to Preschool/Children

Mike McBrayer, Minister to Students

Terre Johnson, Minister of Music

Beth McGinnis, Organist

C. Otis Brooks, Pastor Emeritus

Church office 979-5920

Fax 979-2206

Email vhbc@vhbc.com

Website www.vhbc.com

Worship Broadcast Live on Sundays
at 10:00 a.m. on WVSU, 91.1 FM

VOLUNTEERS

Week of July 6

Deacons of the Week

*Ann Marie Harvey, Roger Bates

Sound Technology

Mike Wells, Pete LeBerte

Shuttle Team

Don Baker, Clay Hopcroft, Clint Brooks

Counting Team

Clay Hopcroft, Mike Craddock

Flower Committee

Pattie Jones

Library Volunteers

(6) Rachel Fancher (9) Jeanne Harrelson

Worship Care

Babies	Nancy St. John, Amy Hamilton
Creepers	Lisa Churchill, Jennifer Carter
1's	Libby Pittman, Margaret Winkler
2's	David & Colleen Burroughs
3's	Steve & Michelle Thackerson
4's & 5's	Laura Griffo, Jan Deagon
Desk	Janice Fulks

Week of July 13

Deacons of the Week

*Bob Bradley, Ryan Bradley

Sound Technology

Dan McMurray, Mike Wells

Shuttle Team

Bob Bush, Mack Freeman, Mike Craddock

Counting Team

Steve White, Jeanne Harrelson, Allen Fulks

Flower Committee

Amy Hamilton, Marilyn Tinnermon

Library Volunteers

(13) Martha Eskew (16) Lynn Taylor

Worship Care

Babies	Jane Bowick, Sharon Hartzog
Creepers	Ryan & Meredith Hankins
1's	Erin Burton, Kevin Jaquess
2's	Leigh Whatley, Ellen Sheumaker
3's	Todd & Rachel Jordan
4's & 5's	Bob & Mavis Hardy
Desk	Don Baker

Week of July 20

Deacons of the Week

*Sam Brown, Ginny Bugg

Sound Technology

Shuttle Team

Gene Turner, Pete LeBerte, Bob Simpson

Counting Team

Alynn LeBerte, Priss & Jerry Pittman

Flower Committee

Elene Griffith, Sharon Hartzog

Library Volunteers

(20) Betty Hauser (23) Rosemary Bamberg

Worship Care

Babies	Melissa McMurray, Robin Cameron
Creepers	Cris & Lisa Speegle
1's	Rebecca McKinney, Cappy Blackwelder
2's	Mike & Jenny Henry
3's	Matt & Billie Caine
4's & 5's	Ann Marie Harvey, Jason Dearing
Desk	Ed Whatley

Week of July 27

Deacons of the Week

*Paul Byrd, Clark Cameron

Sound Technology

Shuttle Team

Mike Oatts, John Wood, Dean Gober

Counting Team

Taylor Burton

Flower Committee

Melissa McMurray

Library Volunteers

(27) Marilyn Tinnermon (30) Lynn Taylor

Worship Care

Babies	Michael Wilson, Gilda Coker
Creepers	Tim & Crystal Franklin
1's	Jason & Meryll Cooper
2's	Kathy Dent, Marilyn Tinnermon
3's	Liz Philpot, Jen McDougal
4's & 5's	Pete LeBerte, Ron Smith

Opportunities for the Month of July

Tuesday, July 1

6:30 Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, July 2

NO WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

Sunday, July 6

8:45 Bible Study
10:00 Worship Service
5:30 July Smalls (Youth)

Monday, July 7

10:00 We Care
5:00 5 to 9
6:30 Moes on Monday

Tuesday, July 8

9:00 Kitchen Chaos with Miss Nancy (children)

Wednesday, July 9

6:30 Prayer Breakfast
4:30 Fellowship Supper—Library Open
5:30 Kenya Team Meeting
6:00 Homeland Quartet—Gospel Singing
6:00 Youth Group

Thursday, July 10

10:30 10:30 (Youth)

Friday, July 11

10:00 Friday Friends

Saturday, July 12

Children leave for Passport Kids Camp

Sunday, July 13

8:45 Bible Study
10:00 Worship Service
11:00 Second Sunday Coffee
5:00 Deacons Meeting
5:30 July Smalls (Youth)

Wednesday, July 16

6:30 Prayer Breakfast
4:30 Fellowship Supper, Library Open
5:30 Kenya
6:00 Quarterly Business Meeting
6:00 Youth Group

Friday, July 18

10:00 Friday Friends

Sunday, July 20

8:45 Bible Study
10:00 Worship Service
5:30 July Smalls

Monday, July 21

9:00 Music Camp
5:00 5 to 9 (youth)
6:30 Mom's Night Out
6:30 Moes on Monday

Tuesday, July 22

9:00 Music Camp

Wednesday, July 23

6:30 Prayer Breakfast
9:00 Music Camp

NO WEDNESDAY P.M. ACTIVITIES

Thursday, July 24

9:00 Music Camp
4:30 Fellowship Supper
6:00 Children's Musical Program

Friday, July 25

6:00 Church-wide Cookout

Sunday, July 27

Builders for Christ group leaves
8:45 Bible Study
10:00 Worship Service
5:30 July Smalls (Swimming at Womble's)

Tuesday, July 29

9:00 Arts and Crafts Day

Tuesday, July 29 (continued)

6:30 Men's Night Out

Wednesday, July 30

6:30 Prayer Breakfast
4:30 Fellowship Supper, Library open
6:00 Prayer Service
6:00 Youth Group

Fellowship Suppers

July 9

Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Chips, Apple Pie

Volunteers—Sue Edfeldt, JoAnne Delohery, Bob Eskew, Mindy Bodenhamer

July 16

Lasagna, Tossed Salad, French Bread, Ice Cream Sandwiches

Volunteers — Marilyn Tinnermon, Hazel Turner, Bob Eskew, Christina Elliott

July 24

Ham, Potato Salad, Green Beans, Relish Tray, Chocolate Éclairs

Volunteers —Bob Eskew, Mike Oatts

July 30

Fried Chicken, Creamed Potatoes, Green Beans, Pineapple Salad, Brownies

Volunteers -- Martha Eskew, Lynn Giles, Bob Eskew, Christina Elliott

No Activities for the week of June 30—July 4

We are going to have the carpet cleaned around the church the week June 30th—July 4th so we will not have any of our usual weekday activities including prayer breakfast and all the Wednesday night activities on July 2. We will resume with our normal Wednesday schedule on July 9.

Deacons Meeting

Sunday, July 13

5:00 p.m.

Adult Seminar Room