

The Amazing RACE

Topeka Bible Church
Women's Ministry

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Let's Go... "Deeper Still!"

TBC Ladies are going deeper; "Deeper Still" that is! "Deeper Still" is a LifeWay sponsored event that will take place on December 4th and 5th. The event features teachers; Kay Arthur, Priscilla Shirer, and Beth Moore all in one exciting weekend!

This "Deeper Still" event will be held in Oklahoma City, a mere four hours away! "Deeper Still" will help you go deeper into God's Word, as you hear these gifted women teach individual sessions and share their views during a panel discussion. You will also be able to go deeper into prayer with the thousands of other women who will be attending, and deeper into worship with talented worship leader Travis Cottrell. Women of all generations will enjoy this conference.

In need of a Christmas gift for someone? Consider buying them a ticket to this event or consider asking for a ticket for yourself for Christmas! I can't imagine a better gift!



Transportation will be provided in TBC vehicles and the caravan will pull out of the TBC parking lot at 11:30 a.m., on Friday, December 4th. The doors open at 5:30 p.m.,

and the event starts at 7:00 p.m. "Deeper Still" wraps up at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday Dec. 5th; we will return around 10:30.

There are only 48 tickets left. The cost for the conference ticket, and hotel room is as follows: \$110 for a four-person room, \$118 for a three-person room, and \$135 for a two-person room. Money will also be needed for Friday and Saturday night's dinner. Registration will be held at the Welcome Center on October 18th, 25th, November 1st, and November 8th. You can sign up before or after any of the services.

Please contact Val Barkley for any additional information or questions at: valthegal@sbcglobal.net, or 234-2626.

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Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the RACE marked out for us. Hebrews 12:1

Volume 1, Issue 1

Fall 2009

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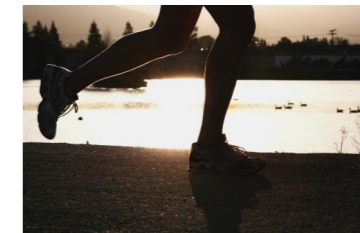
Upcoming Dates to Remember:

- Trunk or Treat
Oct 25
- Espresso
Oct 13, Nov 10
- Decorate for
Christmas
Nov 29
- TBC Lightshow
Dec 11-13
- LOL Christmas
Dec 14
- Deeper Still
Conference
Dec 4-5

Welcome to Our "New" Newsletter!

Some of you might be asking "What happened to "The Branch?" or "Why does the newsletter look so different?" This year you will find that the Women's Ministry newsletter is going to focus more in depth on the year's theme of "The Amazing RACE." We want the newsletter to be an ongoing source of strength and renewal for your race. Each issue will not only provide information on upcoming Women's Ministry events, but will also have articles focusing on ways you can

strengthen your spirit by taking "Pit Stops" and also provide encouraging stories from TBC women who have faced "Yields" or "Roadblocks" during their RACE.



We hope you enjoy this new format and the tips and stories that will be shared.

If you have a story about a time when you found yourself "Yielding" to God's plan instead of taking the path you had intended for yourself, please let us know! We would love to share it with others!

If you have any questions or suggestions for future Amazing RACE issues, please contact Barbara Hughes, Communications Branch Leader at: cscottanbarb@sbcglobal.net or 228-1386.

New Holiday Outreach Program Planned for December

During the holidays we say, "Merry Christmas" to everyone we see but are they REALLY "Merry"? Well, this December 14th things will be Merry and Bright at the Women's Ministry Outreach Event "LOL Christmas".

You do not want to miss this hilarious, fun-filled evening. In November you will be receiving more information about LOL Christmas, and in case you didn't know, LOL stands for Laugh Out Loud, and that is exactly what you and your guests will be

doing! So mark your calendars and start making a list and checking it twice to see who you might bring—be they naughty or nice!

Contact Outreach Branch Leader Jill Barker for more information!

Pit Stop - Do You *Really* Have A Thankful Heart?

As November is rapidly approaching, many of us start taking stock of how much we have been blessed over the past twelve months. But is our heart truly thankful and does it show all year long an attitude of gratitude for these blessings? Below is an excerpt from a blog posting by author Micca Campbell posted at www.proverbs31.org that will help you evaluate your own heart this Thanksgiving season.

"...The natural solution to an unthankful heart is to cultivate an attitude of gratitude.

First, We Must Cultivate a Thankful Heart
Have you ever noticed that

thankful people are thoughtful people? They recall the sacrifices God has made for them throughout the year. They are always grateful for their salvation, the Holy Spirit, and eternal life. Thankful people also never forget the kindness that's been shown to them. As a result, they become more attentive towards the needs of others. Thoughtfulness is the fruit of a thankful heart.

Second, We Must Cultivate a Trusting Heart

People who trust God are contented people. They have learned to say in troubled times, "Lord this is not what I would have chosen or what I had planned, but I look to you in love and trust; knowing that You have my

best interest in mind." Psalm 61:8 states, "Trust in Him at all times, O people. Pour out your heart before Him. God is a refuge for us." God is not only on the job during the holidays, but on all days. "He is our ever-present help in times of trouble." Our Father desires us to trust His heart when ours is breaking or unsatisfied with His provision.

Third, We Must Cultivate a Humble Heart

Humble people are happy people because they rely on God, through prayer, for everything. A humble heart runs to God for daily strength. "O Lord, Thou hast heard the desire of the humble; thou will strengthen their heart.

Thou will incline your ear." We don't capture the ear of God by grumbling and complaining. God is eager to listen to our cries when we humbly depend on Him through prayer. Here is an easy tip for praying with a humble heart. P-praise Him! R-remember and thank God for everything. A-ask God for His provision for others. Y-pray for yourself.

Purchase a journal and begin recording every time God provides for you, answers your prayer, or reveals Himself to you. Then, when you're tempted to complain, read your journal and thank God for all He has done for you..."

Chick Chat Update

"Our hope for this ministry was to provide an opportunity for women of different ages to meet one another and develop friendships in a small group setting."

*-Karah Hight
Connections Branch
Leader*

This past summer the Women's Ministry Connections Branch piloted a new program called "Chick Chat." Our hope for this ministry was to provide an opportunity for women of different ages to meet one another and develop friendships in a small group setting.

Chick Chat groups consisted of 2-3 hosts and 8-10 guests. Women met once a week in the hosts' homes for 6 weeks. They enjoyed dessert and then discussed a topic taken from an email

article they received and read before each meeting. Divorce, expectations, gossip, mothering and developing spiritual friendships were just a few of the topics discussed at Chick Chat.

At the end of the 6 weeks we asked the women to evaluate their Chick Chat experience. "I feel more connected" and "I had the opportunity to meet women I wouldn't have otherwise met" were some of the most common responses. Many women felt like this was just exactly what they had been

needing, and made new friendships as a result of Chick Chat.

We feel that Chick Chat met a felt need of the women of TBC to connect with other women so we are excited to announce that Chick Chat will be back next summer. Look for sign-ups starting in April. Groups will meet in June and July of 2010.

Please contact Karah Hight at 272-2208 if you have any questions.

We look forward to seeing you next summer!

Yielding to God's Plan: Andrea Ellis



This issue's 'Yield' story comes from TBCer Andrea Ellis. She and her husband Josh have just become foster parents for a 21 month old special needs child.

What led you to consider foster parenting? *We began the licensing process to become foster parents about 2 1/2 years ago. I came in contact with a little girl in foster care who really touched my heart. Before I could bring it up to Josh, he suggested that we look into foster parenting. That was when we knew for sure this was not a plan of our own, but the Divine Designer was behind it.*

Had you intended to foster a special needs child? *We never really intended to have a foster child with special needs in our home, even though TARC is our sponsoring agency. Over the past few years we have mostly done respite care or babysitting for other foster families and never had an emergency or permanent placement. I'd never worked with a feeding tube, cerebral palsy, hydrocephalus, seizures...this is all new to me.*

How did your faith allow you take on this challenge and yield yourself to God's plan? *I received a phone call at 8:30am Wednesday, September 16th. They told me there was a 20 month old little boy named Tyson with brain damage and a feeding tube that needed respite and maybe permanent placement. We had him at our home by 1:00 that afternoon!*

This was a huge leap of faith for me to take. I had yielded to God's will with my actions, but my heart wasn't totally in it. My

heart-yielding point came when I realized that my purpose here on Earth is to further God's Kingdom and serve Him. I thought of Matthew 25:35-40 "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.... (v40)The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' When you see it as directly serving Jesus, how could I NOT take Tyson?!?"

What has been the hardest thing about accepting this call? *The hardest part about having Tyson has been humbly acknowledging and confessing my own selfishness. There's no way I can take Piper(3), Oliver (18mos), and Tyson(21mos) to the grocery store on my own, it's not as easy to find a babysitter, there are Dr's appointments, appointments with social workers, TARC..etc. If I dwell on those things, I can turn into a big hairy selfish beast! But when God leads and you choose to follow, you will reap rewards. I can't even tell you all the blessings and affirmation we have received since deciding to follow where God leads. When Tyson came to us he was very underweight, weak, and not very responsive. After being with us only 9 days he had gained 2 lbs, was stronger, and so much more animated than before. It was amazing that God let us immediately SEE how we are helping him.*

Another part that has been hard for me is worrying that I might be cheating my own children. Maybe cheating them out of my attention, time, our living space, etc. Josh helped me to realize that we aren't caring for Tyson at the expense of Piper and Oliver, but that we are setting an example for them of service to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Do you feel like you are putting other parts of your life on hold during this time ?

I don't feel like my life is on hold. Tyson is now a part of my life and I don't know what the future holds for him or for my family. It is interesting how God works though. In June I had a miscarriage and really struggled with how 'my' plan was changing -knowing God had the ultimate plan, but not knowing what that plan may be. I can't help but wonder now, if I hadn't lost the baby, I'd be almost 6 months pregnant. Would I still have decided to care for Tyson? Probably not. There is no doubt in my mind that God has amazing plans for me, my family, and Tyson. I don't know if this will postpone our having more children, I don't know how long we will have Tyson..but sometimes it's a relief that I don't HAVE to know what the future holds, because God does. Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

"I had yielded to God's will with my actions, but my heart wasn't totally in it."

-Andrea Ellis