

the Encourager

FBC *Benton*

Honoring God by sharing Christ
and building believers

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“Are You More Like Jesus? The Bottom Line on Worship”

By Carlos Ichter

It is a known fact that all of us tend to gravitate toward things within our comfort zones. We eat certain kinds of foods, listen to certain kinds of music, spend time with certain kinds of friends... and the list goes on. Since we are “wired” this way, it seems only natural that we would bring the same mindset when we attend church – more specifically our times of corporate worship. I will go out on a limb and state that most of us (myself included) have associated ourselves with churches over the years primarily because it was a place where we felt comfortable. Although there is nothing inherently wrong with wanting to be at ease within our surroundings, there IS something wrong when this, as believers and worshippers, becomes our main objective.

As I travel across our beautiful and diverse state, I often ask folks this question: **“What is the standard by which we can measure whether or not we have truly worshipped?”** The responses I receive are generally very good, and in many ways quite similar. But if I were to state the “bottom line”, or measuring stick of a true worship experience, I would have to use this standard: **“Have I become more like Jesus?” That’s it!** As a result of my private or corporate worship experience, I must ask the question: Have I become more like Jesus?

Now, you are probably saying: “Yeah, I can go along with that...that sounds pretty reasonable.” Before you go any further, let’s take a deeper look at the consequences of becoming more like Jesus. Philippians 2: 5–8 gives us profound insight on the character of Jesus. Verse 7 states that Christ “made himself nothing”. When I read this passage, the word that screams at me is “sacrifice”. Christ gave it all – His wants and desires became unimportant in order to redeem the world. SACRIFICE – we don’t hear this word too often anymore, do we?

We live in a “ME-centered” culture, and this mindset easily creeps into our churches. I often hear statements such as: “I can only worship with this kind of music.” - “The latest technology must be available.” Or “We must have this style of preaching.” And so the vicious cultural cycle continues in our own churches. While we are focused on what WE want, we forget all about what is needed to reach our neighbor, our city,...the world.

I am convinced that the only way that we are going to impact the lostness that surrounds us is when we get serious about sacrificing. The act of sacrifice can begin with our attitudes toward worship in our own churches. This means that when I hear a kind of music that lies outside my comfort zone, instead of being critical, I can see this as an opportunity to sacrifice my personal wants and turn the moment into a true act of worship. The point is – My personal likes and dislikes become unimportant because my ultimate desire is the edification of the Body of Christ, which results in committed Christians who will be salt and light in their world.

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It has been said by many "experts" that the weakness of a blended style of worship is that it makes everyone mad. My take on a blended service is the exact opposite – The **strength** of a blended service is that it gives everyone an opportunity to sacrifice. The apostle Paul says it perfectly in his letter to the Romans when he writes "therefore, I urge you...to present your bodies as living **sacrifices** holy and pleasing to God – **this is your spiritual act of worship**" (Romans 12:1). So my question to all of us is: Have we really worshipped God if we have not sacrificed anything? Have we become more like Jesus?

Carlos Ichter is the Music and Worship Specialist for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. He is married to Shannon and they have three children.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATING SENIORS!



 First Baptist Church of Benton
Mother's Day Out

FBC Mother's Day Out is in need of teachers and substitutes for June 10, June 24, and the first four Thursdays in July.

Mother's Day Out also has a few openings for children for the summer session.

Please call Kim Huggins, MDO Director at 778-2271 or email mothersdayout@fbcbenton.org for more info.

The WOM group is going to put out collection boxes on the Sunday School floors; including in the Crossover area and at the Welcome center desk for the members to drop off items needed for the migrant workers

Hope Migrant Mission Center

- * Travel size (2oz) items: shampoo, conditioner, hand soap, hand lotion, shaving cream, and toothpaste
- * Regular size: hand soap, men' & women's combs and brushes, washcloths, disposable razors, children & adult toothbrushes, emery boards
- * # 2 pencils and 8-count boxes of crayons
- * Baby items: shampoo, powder, lotion or oil
- * Bags: Hand made or purchased 12"x12" or 10"x10" with draw-strings.

FBC Family,

For the past 25 years FBC Benton has invested into the ministry of Pure Energy. Each year God works in big and small ways in the lives of Junior High and Senior High students and the adult sponsors that make up PE. The week-long tour is the culmination of an entire year of hard work and commitment. There is no way that this ministry could continue as it does without the prayer support of the FBC faith family and the financial resources that many of you invest. Year after year many of you sense God's leading to invest into the life of a student who may not have all of the financial resources that it takes to go on tour. If you would like to give scholarship money to help students be a part of this year's Choir Tour please see Becky McGuire or me, and we can share with you firsthand the difference that it will make. If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to call on us or come by and see us! Thanks in advance for your support of Choir Tour 2010!
Clay



Group's
EGYPT
Joseph's Journey
from prison to palace



First Baptist Church of Benton

VBS 2010

June 14-18

Come be a part!

Volunteers are needed!

First Baptist Family

Welcome New Members



By Letter:

Vickie Cornwell
(Alan Cornwell)

*The First Baptist family
expresses prayers for:*

Hospitals:

Faye Dean Roberts
Hannah Pfeiffer

Deepest Sympathies and love to:

Mike Scott and family in the loss of his aunt
Linda Jones and family in the loss of her cousin

A Children's Camp Fundraiser



Look for the Display Table at
Wednesday Night Supper.

Catalogs also available in the church office
or **order online** by going to
www.pamperedchef.biz/kristinrobinson
click "Shop Online" & enter "FBC"

Call Laurie Cox @ the church for more info.

*Dr. and Mrs. J.D. "Sunny" Tucker
request the pleasure of your company
at the marriage of their daughter*

Megan Elyse

to

Dennis Klayton Seyler

*son of Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Seyler
Saturday, the Twenty-Ninth of May*

Two thousand and ten

at Two o'clock in the afternoon

at the residence of

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Nickels

*1491 Highway 26 West
Arkadelphia, Arkansas*

Sunday, May 9, 2010

Senior Adults	181
Median Adults	223
Young Adults	52
Spanish	15
Youth	150
Children	88
Preschool	82
Total Bible Study	791
Avg. Attendance	926



*"In everything I showed you that by working hard in
this manner you must help the weak and remember
the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said,
'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "*

Acts 20:35

Receipts 05.09.10	45,107
Weekly Goal	59,635
Receipts YTD	988,052
YTD Goal	1,133,065
Building Fund YTD	41,528

FBC Benton

211 South Market Street • Benton, Arkansas 72015
501-315-2270
Office hours

Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri 8:00am- 5:00pm

Wednesdays 8:00am- 6:00pm

FBC EMERGENCY NUMBER

(Weekends Only) 501-326-3279

Sunday Worship Services can be heard live on
KEWI Radio 690 @ 10:35am/www.kewi690.com
Sundays-10:30am & 7:00pm Wednesdays 9:00pm

Email: office@fbcbenton.org

Website: www.fbcbenton.org

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211 S. Market Street
Benton, AR 72015

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

This newsletter was delivered to the
Post Office on May 12, 2010
Postmaster: Please do not hold. Dated Material.



Wednesday Night Supper Menus for May...

May 12 Chicken Fried Steak, Cream Potatoes/Gravy,
Green Peas, Roll

May 19 Chicken Sandwich-*breaded chicken breast served with
lettuce & tomato on a bun*, Chips, Pasta Salad

May 26 Turkey, Macaroni & Cheese, Green Beans, Roll

Next Week at First Baptist Church...

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9:00-10:30am Library Open 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service  SENIOR SUNDAY 4:00pm Life Care Classes 4:30pm Pure Energy ROOT 66 <i>Children & Preschoolers</i> <i>Lattes with Laurie</i> 4:45pm GROW U Middle School Night Sunday School 5:00pm Spanish Mission Library Open 6:00pm Worship Service	Weekday Preschool 11:00am MORE @ Tyndal Park 12:00pm Noon Bible Study 6:00pm Joyful Strummers	Weekday Preschool 9:30am Mother's Day Out 10:00am Morning Glories 7:00pm Alzheimer's Support Group	Weekday Preschool 4:00pm the Weekend Silent Auction 4:15pm Handchimes 4:45pm - Supper 5:00pm Library Open 5:30pm M&M Preschool and Children's Missions Middle School SPRING FLING @ Tyndal Park 5:45pm Ladies Bible Study 6:00pm Bible Study with Pastor Rick Adult SS Leaders Meeting 6:15pm M&M Music 7:00pm IMPACT Jr/Sr High Spring Picnic 7:15pm Orchestra Worship Choir	Weekday Preschool 9:30am Mother's Day Out 12:00pm Noon Bible Study	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">PERU Mission Trip</div> 	
MAY 16	MAY 17	MAY 18	MAY 19	MAY 20	MAY 21	MAY 22