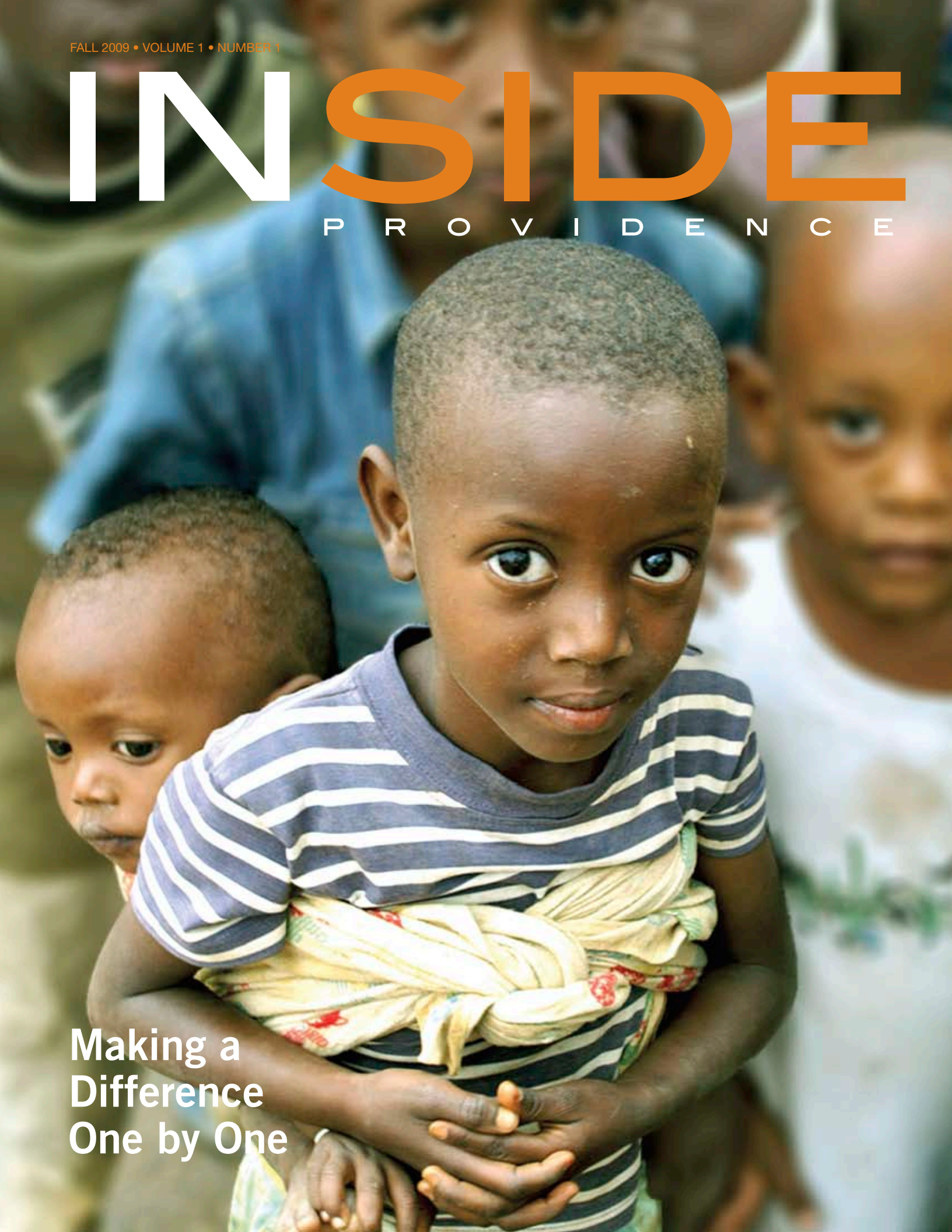


FALL 2009 • VOLUME 1 • NUMBER 1

# INSIDE

P R O V I D E N C E

Making a  
Difference  
One by One





# embracing change

*Having always thought of myself as one who enjoys and embraces change, for some reason I cannot seem to get used to the idea of year-round school. In fact, growing up in tobacco farm country, it took me a while to get used to school starting before Labor Day since many of my classmates had to work on their family farms until then. As far as I am concerned, school will never start officially until September rolls around. So just as I was getting used to late August back-to-school days, here comes year-round school!*

*Perhaps that explains why I like the fall so much.* More than the fresh start of a new calendar year in January, I relate new beginnings to the start of the school year...new schedules, new notebooks, new people to meet—all stand out as very positive memories for me. Each year as fall rolls around at Providence, I start getting excited again. The change of pace of the summer season with its conventions, vacations, camps, conferences and other alternatives to the routine gives way to a new ministry year.

## so what is new this fall?

**one** You hold in your hand our new magazine—or perhaps you are reading our new online version of the magazine—newly designed to give more room for accounts of what God is doing in the lives of people at Providence. Instead of a monthly publication, the magazine is now quarterly and expanded in length. The intervening months will be served by an electronic newsletter intended to keep everyone current on news and ministry reports.

**two** Another new and exciting prospect for the fall is the organizing and initiating of all that must be done to plant a new church in Raleigh within the next six to nine months. A planning team has been at work for the past several months assessing the best location, leadership team, ministry focus and all the other details that go into giving a new work a fresh, promising start. As those pieces fall into place, it will be a joy to share this information with the entire Providence family. All of us can then watch the hand of the Lord at work as we join together in prayer for the church plant, and we believe that many will sense God's calling to participate. We are praying for at least 200 folks from the Providence family to join together to make this dream come true.

**three** Now that August has passed, another new emphasis has been introduced. In the early years of Providence, each Christmas we received a special offering to support missions through the International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). This offering is called the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, named after an early SBC missionary to China of that name. Unlike other denominational donations that are distributed among a wide range of budget priorities, this offering goes entirely to the IMB. So we are reintroducing this offering as our way of saying how much we value the effective funding and sending work of the IMB. Many of our own members have been appointed and fully supported through this agency for years, many are currently awaiting appointment, and many more will do so in the years to come. Therefore, at a time when our nation is experiencing economic hardships, we want to make sure there is no decline in taking the Gospel to the ends of the earth!

**four** For the first time in many years, Providence is now debt-free. Your generosity and sacrificial giving over the past three or four years in particular have made it possible to pay off all remaining debt on the Delta Lake Center, the purchase of the Days Inn and Alpine Ski properties, and the completion of the two-story children's building. Monies that were once allocated in our budget to retire debt are now being redirected to much-needed upgrades and repairs. These repairs have been postponed in previous years as we anticipated the construction of a new worship center. Now that we have postponed the new worship center and as we save toward the goal of that project, we find that we can take care of some of these necessities. Other monies will be placed in a building fund to start gathering the resources needed for the new worship center. A new line also appears in the budget to provide for the costs involved in planting the new church. None of these would be possible if we still were paying off a debt. Praise the Lord for His provision!

**five** Each week starting this fall, there will be small groups gathering across the city as believers invite unbelievers into their homes for dinner, a Gospel-focused video and then a discussion time afterward. Providing an informal context for talking with unbelievers about Christ, answering questions, and showing His love is a fantastic way to introduce people to the Lord Jesus. You will hear more as this evangelistic effort gains momentum but you need to know it will be happening all around you—and involving many of you! Through this method of engaging people to consider the claims of Christ and the powerful message of the Gospel, people all over the world are coming to know the Savior. We cannot wait to see what the Lord will do as we take this step of faith to reach more and more with the beauty of the Gospel message that has so radically changed our lives.

So much more will be taking off this fall that I can hardly wait for it to get here. As much as I looked forward to the announcement that school was out for the summer when I was younger, I also loved it when the time came to start fresh when fall arrived. I still feel that way—especially with all that I see the Lord has planned for us this year!

What will you be doing to get off to a great start? I suggest that you sit down personally and then as a family and pray about what the Lord would have you do. Where will you plug in? Where can you serve? What will you give? Who will you pray for to receive Christ? Who will you invite to come worship or to study the Scriptures or hear the Gospel with you?

What a great opportunity to order our steps in a new direction! I pray that you will join hundreds—perhaps even thousands—in making the choice to let this year be different...better...more wonderful than any before! **“He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus”** (Philippians 1:6). Why not let that good work grow in extraordinary ways this year?

## ELDER UPDATE

The elders meet monthly to seek God's vision for Providence and plan for the future. To keep the Providence family informed about the church's plans and progress, a report from each elder's meeting will be included in every edition of *Inside Providence*.

### April

- Reviewed, discussed and approved 2009-10 budget.
- Approved motions to use the Alpine Ski fund, Alpine Ski rental, and Joash's Chest for needed capital improvements and renovation projects.
- Kevin Sweat discussed Children's Ministry highlights including growing attendance, AWANA and Super Summer Adventure.

### May

- Approved two by-law changes regarding Primary Ministry Areas and Ordination Council.
- Approved budget proposals for the Fusion Conference and the Manly Event scheduled for October 8 (\$0 budget impact).
- Approved formation of a Shepherding Council to assist with church discipline issues.

### June

- Shared stories with each other of how they [the elders] have shared the Gospel with family, friends, strangers, etc.
- Reviewed and approved some personnel budget changes.
- Approved membership transfers and assigned follow-up calls for all local transfers (this is a regular monthly activity).

## FINANCIALS

End of FY 2008-09

	'08-'09 Budget*	Actual YTD	Over+ (Under)
Total Income	7,246,378	6,621,653	(624,725)
Total Expenses	7,246,378	6,315,219*	(931,159)
Net Results**			
General & Building Funds	0	306,434	306,434

\*Based on projected contributions, an expense goal of \$6,706,378 was established in November 2008 for the remainder of the fiscal year.

\*\*Preliminary, unaudited results at time of printing.

## PASTORAL STAFF

David Horner	Pastor/Teacher
Blake Hickman	Middle School Ministries
Bob Stancil	Pastoral Care
Brian Frost	Singles Ministries
Chip Bugnar	College Ministries
Dave Owen	Evangelism/College
Eric Hamsho	Music/Worship
George Tissiere	Missions
Joel Leath	Community Ministries
Joel McDaniel	Adult Ministries
John Erwin	Administration/Communication
Kevin Sweat	Children's Ministry
Leon Tucker	Education Ministries
Matt Morgan	Elementary Children
Mike Williams	Ministry Development
Ricky Mill	Shepherding Ministries
Steve Wright	Student Ministries

## ELDERS

Bob Austin	341-0083
Gordon Bolin	783-4716
Dallas Brown	851-7141
Earle Finley	844-3605
Ed Gainer	848-0134
Dick Harris	876-2284
Tony McNeill	781-3609
David New, <i>Chairman</i>	427-7477
Richard Newton	790-9241
Brian Schmidt	845-3439
Mark Stowers	529-4574



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Providence Baptist Church prints 2,000 copies of  
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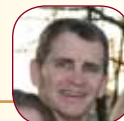
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Cover Photo: Abby Tracy, a missionary serving in Uganda, submitted this photo and titled it "To Each Other." With a loss of personal space and personal comfort, Africans have refined a need for each that is often absent in much of our Western cultures. Abby's story of her life in Uganda begins on page 2.

# Contentment in Discomfort

*An Entry from Abby Tracy's Journal*

“My neck was twisted and at a painful angle on the rocky dirt floor as I tried to squeeze into the small space I had between the wall and the tiny body lying beside me. Water was dripping on my face, neck and legs from the blistering rain outside. Bed bugs kept crawling on me and biting me under the small piece of the one blanket that the 20 young boys in this one tiny room shared, but [I] wanted to make sure [each one] got a part of the blanket. [We were] in a room far smaller than my bathroom back home in the United States—a tangle of legs, arms and heads. Yes, I would have to say it was the most uncomfortable night in my life, but I wouldn't have traded it for anything.”

“Wrapped under my arm and completely tangled up with the rest of me soundly slept Fupi, a precious little street boy of perhaps eight years. I love Fupi so much that sometimes it takes my breath away... I was fighting everything in me not to pick up that precious little baby, carry him in my arms and never return.

I will never forget going to pick up Fupi to take him home with me and off of the streets. When I arrived to pick him up we could not find Fupi anywhere. Later we learned that he had stolen someone's shoes (he had no shoes of his own because the shoes I had given him were stolen off of his feet) and had run away, presumably to walk the very long distance back to Kampala. It was as if my heart had been split in two. I have never prayed longer or harder for

something in my entire life; I could not lose that precious little baby. God answered my prayers and brought him back to me that Sunday when I found Fupi in Sunday School (a Sunday School service for street children at our church). I put my arms around him, told him I loved him so much and had been looking everywhere for him and still wanted to take him home. He lit up in a beautiful smile and clung to my side the entire time. He was not going to go anywhere except home with me. If I had never found Fupi again, never known what happened to him, I don't know how my heart would have ever mended.”

“I was blessed to experience last night what those boys experience every night—although they considered themselves very lucky because they had a roof, and a room, and a door that locked. They were safe and dry and much warmer than if they had been outside. At 5 a.m., they got up and out of the room to begin work—collecting scrap (bits of metal, glass and other items they try to sell) before the sea of hostile people pushed them aside and made their work too difficult. This was a different world but for me, it was not new. I felt so at home and in love with each and every one of these kids that I have gotten to know so well.”





Making a Difference

# ONE BY ONE

by Jen Tousey

Most American students follow the familiar path of graduating from high school and then attending college. Some will go into missions after college, many will begin working, and others will get married and start a family. And then there are a rare few who sense God's calling in their lives so strongly that they can't wait to get started. Abby Tracy is one such person.

At the age of 22, Abby is living and working in the slums of Kampala, the largest city and capital of Uganda, to minister to the forgotten. (A recent entry from Abby's journal is included on page 2). While it is almost unthinkable for parents in the United States to abandon their children to the streets, it is all too common in Uganda. Abby is taking light into some of the darkest places of this country, where children are dumped like garbage on the streets, beaten and hungry, left to fend for themselves from the weather and the wild dogs that roam about looking for food themselves.

Abby went on her first short-term mission trip to Honduras when she was only 12 years old, and she then went on other trips to Malawi and Ethiopia every summer through high school. "Right after high school, before going to a university, I told God that I didn't want to waste a day of my life pursuing a major in college that I wasn't going to use," Abby shared. "I wanted to know my calling right away, and I would

seek Him for it every single day until He told me what it was. About two and a half weeks later, it was quite clear. God was calling me to be a full-time missionary in Africa. I was so happy but a little confused. I knew nothing about the culture or needs of the people. I had just been on one short-term trip to Africa (although I had been to many other places) when I was 13, but I didn't know anything!"



GOD CARES  
FOR THE  
FATHERLESS



## Making a Difference One by One

(continued)

After completing a study abroad program that took her to Rwanda and Uganda, she stayed in Uganda to volunteer with and then work for an organization in Kampala called African Hearts. With God's leading, she then began to minister specifically to the children who were living on the streets. "The biggest tragedy of street children is not that they are hungry and living on the streets, it is that they lose hope. Abandoned yet still abused they feel as if no one, not even God, loves them," Abby explained. She returned to the United States to raise support by selling simple necklaces

made by the street boys at African Hearts: "Within a year, we had raised enough money to purchase a plot of land in Uganda and build a house—all through the sale of those little necklaces!"

"We began feeding the kids bread and water," said Abby. "They were always so thirsty; we just could never bring enough water for them. We also began giving them medicine, and soon after that renting a couple of rooms in the slums for them to sleep in. We mentored them, brought them to a 'street kid Bible study' at a church on Sundays, and had our own Bible studies

and praise and worship three days a week before eating meals. It was amazing to see how the love of God completely transformed the kids' lives. They became so trusting, caring, generous and loving. Those kids are truly some of the most talented, giving and exceptional kids that I know.

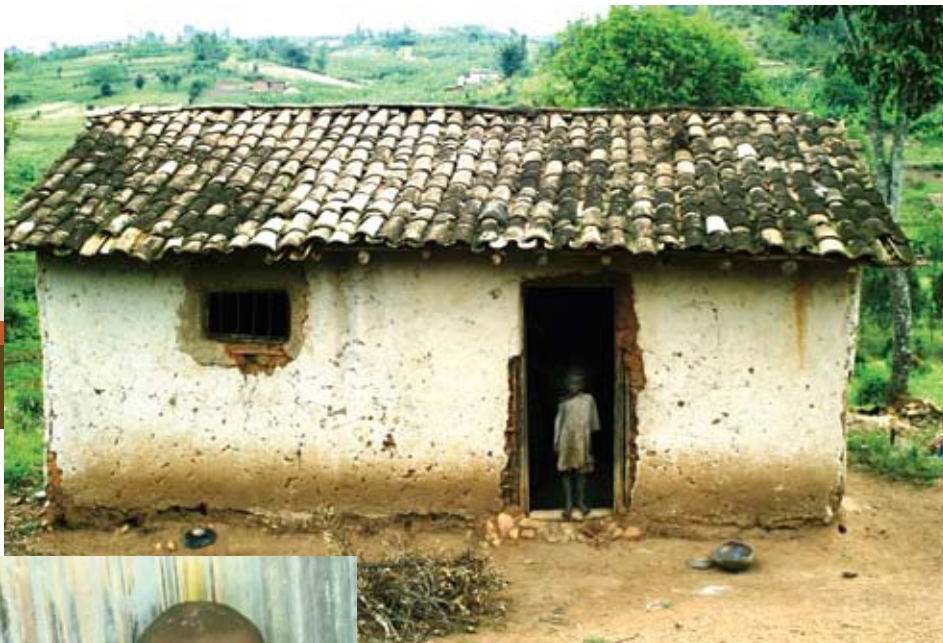
"We have been able to take 13 kids off of the street... and into our new home. Our home is a family home, not an orphanage, where they have reclaimed their childhood and are beginning to discover all that God has for their lives. Now that they do not have to focus all of their energy on survival, they are finally able to grow and develop into the young men that God called them to be! They are so amazing!"

The home is in the village of Ssenge (about 45 minutes outside of Kampala) where Abby lives and brings children in to learn how to take care of themselves off the streets. The children have a place to study, to eat, learn about God, do chores and of course have time to play.

Abby lives in Uganda on a full-time basis in the house with the boys and other social workers. She spends her days on the streets with other children who are unable to live in the home. She and her team also partner with local churches to offer programs for the kids and to communicate with the government about the plight of the street kids. They also work to relocate the children back to their families when possible.



This past winter, Abby returned to the United States and visited with the students at Providence. After hearing Abby speak, 40 to 50 students rolled up their sleeves to do missions in some way, right then. "Our students were blown away that kids were sleeping on trash and being abused, that they didn't have parents or food. They wanted to get at least one kid off the street [immediately]," said Steve Wright, associate pastor of Student Ministries. Bradley McClure, an 11th grader, held an ultimate Frisbee tournament to raise money for Abby while she was here, and the event raised enough money to get three kids off the street for one year.



and that He has created them as some of the most incredible young men and women in the world. I am confident that if we are to come together and take these children off of the streets, that we will raise a generation of world-changers passionate about Christ!"



Joel Smith, the director of Providence's High School Ministries, also shared that students are keeping up with Abby via her e-mail and her blog so they can know how to best pray for her and the kids. "After meeting Abby and hearing her passion for the street children of Uganda, God awakened their hearts to the great need for the Gospel to be taken to the ends of the earth and reminded [them] of God's command on our lives to help the poor and suffering," said Joel.

Abby is now a part of the Student Ministries family, and the students plan on continuing to support her and her ministry. Steve Wright and George Tissiere, associate pastor of Missions, are also exploring how best to serve, support and encourage Abby in the future.

And in case you were wondering, Abby did go on to college where she earned a degree in multi-cultural social work. She earned her degree while spending a large amount of time in Africa, which is just further confirmation of her obedience to God's call on her life. And as of now, Abby plans to stay in Uganda indefinitely.

"Street children are children who suffer so much and feel completely abandoned by everyone," shared Abby near the end of this interview. "I want people to remember that these kids are so precious in God's sight and that He will never forsake them

You can follow along with Abby and her kids at <http://africa-love.livejournal.com>. If you are a student who is interested in knowing how to help, please contact Joel Smith (326-3000 or [joels@pray.org](mailto:joels@pray.org)).





by Caitlin Clinard

# THE LAUNCHING PAD FOR THE GOSPEL

“Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.”

(Hebrews 13:2)

## Journey to Heaven

Did you know that the launching pad for the Gospel is at your fingertips? At Providence, this launching pad means different things to different people: goodwill, kindness, selflessness, humility, generosity, family, prayer, the reception and entertainment of strangers, the nourishment of both the physically and spiritually hungry, the placement of other's needs before one's own, and any display of compassion as Christ demonstrated. Put simply, this launching pad is the act of helping individuals feel at home on their journey to heaven.

*What is this launching pad for the Gospel? Hospitality.*

The Bible always refers to hospitality in the context of fervent love, so at its most basic level hospitality is the act of caring for and showing love toward others. When placed beside the great commandment of the Gospel—to love your neighbor as yourself—it is easy to see why one is the launching pad for the other.

### We Are... Providence

At Providence, hospitality efforts are a key part of the Evangelism Ministry. And those efforts start with you.

Nick Roark, director of the Evangelism and Hospitality Ministries, explains further: “For some visitors, we might be the only person, the only Christian, all week who reaches out to them with love and care. And that's an amazing opportunity that should never be passed up.”

Every week, dozens of first-time guests visit Providence, and many of these visitors do not know Christ.

Nick challenges us to remember how we felt the first time we walked into Providence; we were probably a bit overwhelmed! This recollection can help us realize that simple acts like greeting newcomers and showing them that you care go a very long way. But we never want to neglect our established family in Christ – we need encouragement too.

### Putting Words into Action

So you see, the smallest acts of hospitality can make all the difference in someone's life. Unfortunately, all too often, hospitality is misunderstood as hosting a gathering at one's house or performing works. But let us

not forget the story of Martha and Mary in the Bible. Who was more hospitable—Martha with all of her preparations or Mary as she sat with Jesus (Luke 10:38–42)? Hospitality also transcends location. Yes, it can happen in your home, but it can also take place at church, in the parking lot, and at work among other places. It is important to realize that you do not have to be extremely sociable to demonstrate hospitality. We can all smile, right?

Take the “pass-it-forward effect” for example. Hospitality is contagious. One smile from you can encourage someone else to hold the door open for another, who then remembers that act and lets a couple of cars ahead in the parking lot. Before you know it, your smile has made several more people feel loved.

At Providence, there are several hospitality services in which you can become involved including parking, greeting, ushering, working the welcome and kiosk desk, and taking advantage of opportunities that your LIFE class presents. However, you do not have to serve on a hospitality committee to demonstrate hospitality. Again, a smile can make all the difference.

### Taking Hospitality One Step Further

To make sure you are serving out of genuineness instead of obligation, it is important to cultivate a heart of hospitality by meditating on the way God has demonstrated His kindness toward you.

What is hospitality? Hospitality is something we must actively seek and pursue. “Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality,” instructs Romans 12:13. It is our mighty Savior, Jesus Christ, demonstrating the ultimate act of service while on this earth by washing His disciples' feet. However, our acts of hospitality can only be as successful as the recipients' willingness to receive it.

For example, if non-believers walked through our doors and we tried to wash their feet, they would be appalled. However, if believers were bestowed that same kind of hospitality, they would fall to their knees in awe and wonder of the act. Therefore, we must pray that those who enter our doors will come with willing hearts and open minds to what the Lord will reveal to them through His body of Christ.

## The Question Remains...

So, as we come full circle, the question remains but has shifted a bit. Now that we know the launching pad for the Gospel is at our fingertips, what will we do with it?

Let us pray that the Lord will guard us all from complacency. We should not pass the responsibility of hospitality onto others but instead allow God to move us into action to demonstrate it. We have the greatest news in the world to share with a lost and

hurting world. And if we have a launching pad from which to share that news, we would not only be foolish but also poor stewards not to use it.

Do you remember the thrill of the moment you realized that all your past sins were forgiven...wiped clean? Next time we are presented with an opportunity to demonstrate hospitality, may we be convicted to share that thrill with others, starting with the most effortless act of hospitality.



## Hospitality in Action

Take the experience of Andrew Sparrow, a 26-year-old who accepted Christ in January 2009 and walked through Providence's doors a month later—a new believer in need of support.

In just a few months, Andrew has plugged into Providence in such a mighty way that you would think he has been around for years. He is involved in a LIFE class, has served in several ministering capacities, made an entirely new group of friends through Providence's family of believers, and has even been to the mission field of Romania. And simple acts of hospitality were at the heart of his life-changing experience.

A bit of history first...many times, in our stubbornness to refuse to live a life worthy of the Gospel, the Lord will break us completely to get our attention. This is exactly what He did with Andrew Sparrow, who had wandered so far from the Lord's

path that his very life depended on a transformation and grace that could only be found through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Having struggled many times with failed attempts to free himself from the bondage of his lifestyle, Andrew entered Providence a desperate and broken man. "I felt like I had no other options," he shared. "The first two months after I quit my old lifestyle were pretty lonely."

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*"A person's true nature and sincerity will always reveal itself over time," explained Andrew. "But if you've received Jesus Christ's grace and are filled with His love, then that grace will give you skills to demonstrate hospitality to others."*

---

One of the steps necessary to move forward was to cut all ties with those from his past. That day when Andrew entered Providence, a friend was his most dire need. And this is exactly what the Lord provided through Jeremy Brantham.

You see, Jeremy invited him to dinner the first time he visited a LIFE class and that one act of kindness gave Andrew the strength and encouragement he needed to come back the following week. "When you're starting over socially, it's overwhelming," said Andrew. "I made several people aware that I was starting over, and they went out of their way to help me do so."

Looking back, Andrew says the intentionality and encouragement of the Singles Ministry and Jay Veverka's class in particular have made all the difference between success in leaving his past behind or falling back into old patterns. He also says that since he has become involved at Providence, the genuineness has not faded but grown over time: "I feel like I have known many of these newer friends for years as opposed to months, and they have made things so much easier. They have been much more help to me than I think they realize. I know I wouldn't be where I am today without their encouragement."

Nick Roark had a similar "reaching-out" experience eight years ago. The first time he came to Providence, Dave Owen, associate pastor of the College and Evangelism Ministries, greeted him and invited him to the College Ministry class. That one act of hospitality made a strong impression on Nick, and God has been working in his life ever since, eventually placing him in charge of Providence's hospitality efforts.

If you want to know more about how you can serve in Providence's Hospitality Ministry, contact Nick (326-3000 or [nick@pray.org](mailto:nick@pray.org)).



Photo courtesy of Bill Petrie

Jeremy Brantham and Andrew Sparrow



## Kenya

- In June, a Providence team ministered to 250 missionaries and their children at a conference held in Nairobi, Kenya.
- The team provided a Vacation Bible School and a musical for 70+ children and teens ages 6–19.
- After the conference, the team enjoyed worshipping “in the bush,” and a special meal was provided for them by the Maasi people.

*Photos courtesy of Meg Gaito*



# Did You Know



## Caswell Singles Retreat

- About 250 singles spent Memorial Day Weekend together at the beach worshipping the Lord Jesus and meeting new friends.

*Photos courtesy of Gregory Edward Johnson*



## Caswell Marriage Retreat

- Couples of all ages and stages of life enjoyed a relaxing weekend at the beach learning from each other and featured pastors.
- Two couples said that they were going to make the retreat an annual tradition.

*Photos courtesy of Nancy Corson*

## Outdoor Baptism

- On July 19, LIFE classes, families and friends met together for an outdoor baptism and enjoyed times of worship and fellowship.
- Thirty-one people were baptized in the waters of Jordan Lake.

*Photos courtesy of Ginny Hendrix*



## Whole Woman Day

- More than 1,300 women participated in the first biennial Whole Woman Day.
- Thirty women recommitted their lives to Christ during this two-day conference.
- Praise and worship was led by former Providence members Scott and Alisa Shaw.

*Photo courtesy of NC Baptist State Convention*



## Super Summer Adventure

- About 350 kids jumped aboard the Boomerang Express and enjoyed a fantastic week "traveling" around Australia and studying God's Word.
- Four children committed their lives to Christ during this week.
- The kids were treated to a snack each day too. More than 2,800 cookies were served at Super Summer Adventure!

*Photos courtesy of Bill Petrie*

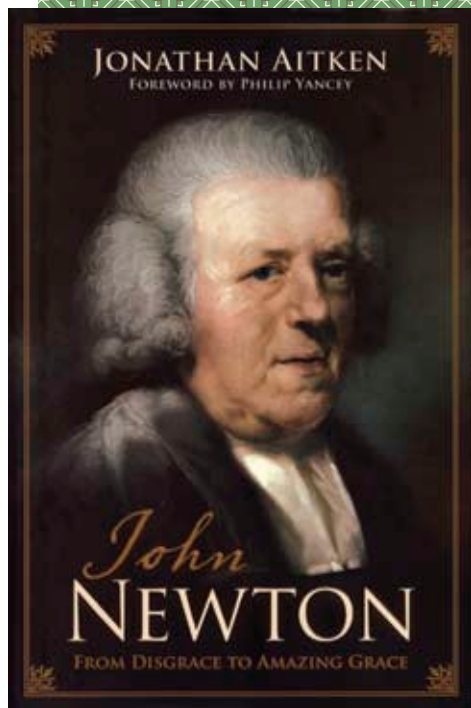


## Romania

- In June, a Providence team partnered with college students from Emmanuel University (which is located in Oradea, Romania) to minister in surrounding villages in various ways such as Vacation Bible School.
- This was the third year of a five-year commitment to work with this university.

*Photos courtesy of Zack Braddy*





# Understanding Amazing Grace

by Blake Hickman

*I love to read conversion stories* — stories of those who were dead in Christ and then brought to life in Him. My eyes swell with joyous tears as I read of how the blinding light of the glory of Christ can pierce the eternal darkness of a person's soul. What a joy it is to read of individuals rescued from the just wrath of a holy God by the atoning sacrifice of His own Son.

Another love of mine is reading historical books, especially books about eras forgotten by many. These stories are from times when heroes were recognized for their heroic acts even amidst dangerous trials and persecution. They often reveal that times have not changed as much as we think they have

As a father of four adventurous, dangerous and delightful young boys, I also enjoy stories filled with adventure, danger and delight. There should be mystery and intrigue as well as passion and justice. I want to stretch my imagination and be on the edge of my seat while reading. I want a story to inspire me so that I can inspire my boys to live courageously.

A well-written book with one or two of these traits is hard to find. *John Newton: From Disgrace to Amazing Grace* by Jonathan Aitken has them all. Newton was a man who through many perils truly understood the grace of Christ. Aitken tells a story from a forgotten time full of adventure and describes how a dear saint and blessing to the Church was rescued from his sin and brought to life in Christ.

Born in 1725, Newton's childhood was filled with the tragedy of enduring long absences of a father difficult to love and at the age of six the death of his mom. As a young man, Newton lived his life as a depraved blasphemer of God sailing the high seas. He was miraculously converted and immediately began his faithful tenure as a minister of the Gospel. Newton went from being a slave ship captain unsure of what he was doing to becoming a well-known advisor to young William Wilberforce who took a stand against the slave trade in England (see side bar). In his later years, Newton wrote a tract supporting Wilberforce's campaign, *Thoughts Upon the African Slave Trade*.

Author Jonathan Aitken's own life is an incredible conversion story as well as one filled with excitement. As a British writer and former member of Parliament, his life could be seen as a British version of the life of Chuck Colson. Aitken is a sinner saved by God's glorious grace and that makes him, in my opinion, very capable of writing this biography.

Aitken was commissioned by publishers to write this biography so that the evangelical world could become better acquainted with John Newton, this humble giant of the faith. This work provides an incredible opportunity for readers to understand better the life and influence of Newton as more than just a hymn writer whose songs we still sing today.

John Newton is most remembered by the evangelical world as the author of the hymn *Amazing Grace*. A couple of years ago, a movie and a book were released entitled *Amazing Grace* in which author Eric Metaxas describes the life of William Wilberforce, a Parliament member for Hull, a philanthropist and a leader of the movement to abolish the slave trade. This movie brought new attention to the life of John Newton since he had a profound impact on the life and political efforts of the young Wilberforce. Newton actually encouraged Wilberforce to remain in parliament and "serve God where he was," rather than enter the ministry. As a result of Newton's advice, Wilberforce spent the next 20 years successfully working for the abolition of the slave trade in the British Empire.

Providence's library has copies available of the book *John Newton: From Disgrace to Amazing Grace* and the movie *Amazing Grace* on DVD.

Located in room 233, the library is open on Sundays from 9–9:30 a.m., 10:30–11 a.m., and 7–7:30 p.m.

Stop by the library this Sunday and learn more about John Newton.



Known to some as Sunday school, LIFE classes are Providence's small-group Bible studies. These studies are designed to teach God's truths, equip people to live authentic Christian lives and provide community and accountability.

## Sunday Morning 8:00 a.m.

### The Book of Romans

**ARCHIE BOST – ROOM 638**

The Apostle Paul eagerly proves the Gospel's power to save and sanctify both Jews and Gentiles. Paul, like a wise lawyer, calls the Gospel to the witness stand and examines it from every angle. The result of that examination is the book of Romans, a theological masterpiece.

### Encouragement for Life

**JON ROBERSON – ROOM 642**

In John 13:34–35, Christ teaches His disciples that by their love for one another, all people will see and understand that they are His disciples. Our class seeks to remind each other that we are not alone when we face difficult times and trials. God will never allow us to face a trial that we cannot bear or send us into one for which He has not already prepared us.

## 9:30 a.m.

### Proverbs: Walking With the Wise

**DAVID NELSON/JOEL McDANIEL – AMPHITHEATER**

Being people who are characterized as wise can seem like a tall order. Not so. Proverbs was written so that men and women who love God can know specifically how to live life on His terms. Join us as we walk with the wise.

### Life's Challenges

**RICKY MILL – ROOM 202**

Learn the biblical perspective on some of life's biggest challenges: temptation, depression, anger and more.

### The Book of Ephesians

**BILL HUGHES – ROOM 207**

Paul's letter refers to the Church as a body, a temple, a bride and a soldier. All of these illustrate unity of purpose and show how each individual member is an important part of the Church that must work together with all of the other parts. Come study with us and learn how this relates to you. This class is suggested for ages 55+, but adults of all ages are welcome.

### HomeBuilders

**DAVID HENRY – ROOM 208**

This class consists of married couples of all ages and stages. For the fall, we will study and discuss the book of Galatians.

### The Book of Daniel

**KYLE BROWN – ROOM 213**

Join us as we continue an in-depth study of the book of Daniel. Besides an interesting discussion, our class time includes socializing and praying for one another.

### Joy Class – Special Ministries

**KATIE HONEYCUTT – ROOM 222**

This class is designed for adults 18+ with special learning needs. No matter your age, it is important to study the Bible. We will have fun together as we sing, play games and grow closer to Jesus.

### Missions on Our Mind

**JON MEADER – ROOM 437**

We will simultaneously examine the books of Matthew, Mark and Luke to gain a richer understanding of the earthly life of Christ and His teachings. This class is discussion-oriented with an emphasis on application. There are many opportunities to cultivate meaningful relationships in this diverse group of believers as we learn, pray and walk together. In addition, we invite guest missionaries to speak to the class periodically.

*Therefore go and make  
disciples of all nations...  
teaching them to obey  
everything I have  
commanded you.*

MATTHEW 28:19–20A

### Taking Root at Providence: New or Prospective Member Class

**BOB STANCIL – ROOM 442**

Why does the church exist? What are the primary goals of Providence Baptist Church? What are your spiritual gifts? How can you plug into the life and ministry of Providence? You will find the answer to these questions and many more by attending this class. Registration closes after the first three weeks of each quarter.

### The Parables

**JEFF BLAU/LACY SUMMERS – ROOM 443**

We will study the parables, what they mean and their practical application to our lives. There is a time of fellowship at the beginning and a time of prayer at the end of each session.

### The Minor Prophets

**MIKE BAKER – ROOM 453**

As we study the Minor Prophets, we will see that their messages of truth, promise, humility and justice are still relevant today.

### Blueprint 2:42 – For Young(ish) Married Couples

**KEVIN HARVEY – ROOM 457**

This class is made up of couples at various stages in their lives and marriages. We seek to follow the blueprint that the first Christians in Acts modeled for us in how to serve each other and the community: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer" (Acts 2:42). In the fall, we will study a variety of topics meant to instigate healthy discussion. Suggested for married couples ages 25–35.

### Creation – Women's Bible Study

**CARLETTA HENSLEY – ROOM 603**

Study the Bible with a warm group of caring women from all ages and stages of life. This fall, Mel Blinson will be our guest teacher, and we will focus on creation. We are called to give an account for what we believe. This course will strengthen our faith while equipping us to defend it.

### Joshua: Entering the Promised Land

**BOB AUSTIN – ROOM 607**

Join us for a discussion of the nation Israel entering into the Promised Land. We will learn how to be strong and courageous and to rejoice in God's faithfulness to His promises.

### The Book of Moses: The Pentateuch

**MATT FULLER – ROOM 610**

This class is studying the book of Leviticus and the Torah using a schedule that was used during the time of Jesus. Discover with us that the "Book of Moses" is one book, and as Jesus said in Luke 24:27, it concerns Himself.

## Overview of the Minor Prophets

**GORDON GOEKING – ROOM 611**

The last 12 books in the Old Testament are not called the Minor Prophets because of lesser importance, but only because of their shorter length than the Major Prophets. We will look into the relevant messages of these 12 men, the special meaning of their names, the time and place in which they lived, and the style in which they spoke. Join us in this discussion-oriented class as we share and pray with one another in the journey to become more like Jesus.

## Para los Hispanos

**KEN GUYNN – ROOM 620**

Conociendo a Jesús a través del evangelio de Juan. Juntos investigaremos la vida y enseñanzas de Jesús a través de las páginas del evangelio escrito por el discípulo amado. Vengan a compartir con nosotros. Todo en español.

## The Book of Revelation: It's Time We Got Excited!

**ANDY WEAVER – ROOM 621**

We will take an in-depth look at the book of Revelation, studying the great truths Christ has revealed to us concerning the end times. We will examine events past, present and future and gain a certainty and peace about the provisions we can look to with excitement instead of dread and fear.

## The Book of Revelation

**STEVE MUNSHOWER – ROOM 631**

Come and see what the Bible really says about the second coming of Jesus and the new kingdom He has prepared for believers.

## Stewardship – Married Adults (Early 20s to Early 30s)

**BRIAN SCHMIDT – ROOM 637**

Join us as we embark on a study of stewardship, not just of treasure, but including stewardship of time, talent and truth. God desires that we surrender each of these areas to the fabric of His design so that we truly experience the joy of obedience to Him. We'll discover how these stewardship elements apply to the journey of becoming "one flesh" in our marriages.

## International Bible Class

**PAUL HOFFMAN – ROOM 642**

This class offers the opportunity for people from all around the world to encourage one another and study the Bible together. During an eight-year cycle, we will study the entire Bible. This fall, we will discuss the book of Psalms.

## Book of Colossians

**RICKY STEVENS – ROOM 645**

Chris will lead us through an in-depth study of the book of Colossians. Andy Owens will follow the Colossians study with a 12-week overview of the Minor Prophets.

## Singles (40s+)

**BURT WICHEK – ROOM 649**

We will study current events from a biblical perspective.

## Prophecy in the Old Testament

**SHAWN MADDEN – ROOM 659**

This class will begin an overview of Old Testament prophecy with an insight to the comings of the Messiah.

**11:00 a.m.**

## The Book of Hebrews – College-Age Generation

**DAVE OWEN – DELTA LAKE CENTER**

Join the College Ministry as we navigate our way through the book of Hebrews. The writer fails to identify himself or the group to whom he is writing. There is no opening prayer for grace or peace. There is no declaration of thanksgiving or blessing. Instead Hebrews begins with a majestic sentence celebrating the dignity of the Son of God through whom God has spoken His final word: that in and of itself is enough to ponder the glories of this book and to love our great High Priest Jesus evermore.

## 2 Peter: Mature, Discerning and Prepared: Marks of One Skillful at Living

**LEON TUCKER – AMPHITHEATER**

Handling life in our present world requires a skill set that many feel they are lacking. When voices are calling from every direction seeking our compliance, it would be nice to have clear guidance as to the way that is most effective for living. Come discover with us some instruction from God that is precise, strategic and thorough regarding the sharpening of life skills.

## Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University

**TODD HOFER – ROOM 202**

Can you imagine what your life would be like if you were completely debt-free? This class will show you how to get there no matter where you are right now. By the end of the class, the average family pays off more than \$5,000 in debt and saves almost \$3,000. Most importantly, you'll learn how to handle the money God entrusts you with His way and what it means to have true financial peace.

## Family Worship Class

**MARK STOWERS – ROOM 215**

This family-integrated class will emphasize the importance of family worship and Bible study. Join us for an ongoing study of the Westminster Shorter Catechism. Families are encouraged to attend together, and children of all ages are welcome. We regularly have children from newborns to teenagers in the class.

## Singles (Late 20s to Mid 30s)

**GREG BURDA – ROOM 611**

Join us for an engaging doctrinal study of the Holy Spirit. We'll study the personhood, work and role of the Holy Spirit in our lives that will deepen our relationship with Him.

## Singles (Mid–Late 20s)

**JAY VEVERKA – ROOM 621**

The Bible is one book even though it was written over a 1,500-year span by more than 40 different authors who lived in different places and at different times. Though diverse in its writing styles, we find unity in its message. Join us as we gain a better view of God's big picture.

## Creation & Evolution: Level One

**BILL HUDSON – ROOM 622**

What was creation? When did it happen? We will find God's answers, not ours, to these questions and others. This course uses DVDs and discussion to point to answers found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Bible.

## Singles (Early–Late 30s)

**BRIAN FROST – ROOM 631**

The Apostle John stated that each portion of his Gospel was specifically selected and carefully placed to lead us to a life-giving and soul-satisfying belief in Jesus Christ. Join us in this interactive study of the Gospel of John.

## Singles (Early–Mid 20s)

**MIKE WILLIAMS – ROOM 637**

Join us as we follow the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus, with the Gospel according to Mark as our guide.

## Before You Say "I Do"

**TED & JUDY DENGLER – ROOM 638**

This biblically-based class is for couples considering engagement, engaged couples and newly married couples. Attending this class is one way to meet the counseling requirement for couples considering a wedding at Providence. Registration is required. Contact Nancy Corson (326-3000, ext. 232 or nancy@pray.org).

## Raising Godly Children

**JEFF CALLERY – ROOM 645**

Join us as we learn methods of biblical parenting with the goal of raising children who have a strong foundation in Christ. Recommended for families with young children.

## Love and Respect Couples Bible Study

**JOHN ERWIN – ROOM 649**

Love and respect are two essential keys for any marriage. She most desires love; he desperately needs respect. Sound familiar? Join us as we examine and discuss her need for love and his need for respect and the vicious cycle that takes place when neither need is met. This class will be largely discussion-based with an emphasis on practical application. Suggested for married couples in their 30s.

# Student ministries

## PASTOR PROFILES

Each quarter we want to introduce you to the pastors of Providence and give you a little more insight into their ministry and personal lives. In this issue, we feature the leaders of our Student Ministries, two of which are from the poultry capital of the world. You never know what we will find out for you when we dig into the lives of our pastors.



### Steve Wright

Associate Pastor of Student Ministries

Wife – Tina

Children – Sara, William, Tyler

Blog – <http://www.lastingdivergence.com>

Hometown: Gainesville, Georgia

**Salvation experience:** I came to Christ in the 10th grade after the death of my grandmother. She loved the Gospel, and she so desired that everyone in her family would know Christ.

**Why did you go into ministry?** As a freshman in college I was taught by the guy discipling me that only two things would last for eternity: God's Word and the souls of men and women. God began to use this in my life to not set my affections on the things of this world.

**Favorite thing to do with your family:** If you were to come to my house on Monday evenings, you would witness the Wrights' gathering for family worship. We read God's Word, laugh together, share praises and struggles and then we pray together. God has been very gracious to allow me this blessing to lead my family in this way.

**Currently reading:** Titus. I like to read one book of the Bible as many as 100 times. I also have the Bible on CD and listen to the book as I drive.

**Something most people don't know:** Unless you know me really well you wouldn't know that I am an antiquarian.

**Favorite sport:** College football

**What do you like to do outside of work?** I work out almost every day with William or Tyler.

**Favorite food:** Fried chicken, mashed potatoes, corn on the cob, green beans, cornbread or biscuits and a glass of sweet tea in a Mason jar. Banana pudding for dessert.



### Blake Hickman

Assistant Pastor of Middle School

Wife – Amber

Children – Asher, Caleb, Nate, Judah

Hometown: Birmingham, Alabama

**Salvation experience:** In third grade I started going to a Christian school. We had Bible class every day. Within the first month of school, my teacher, Mrs. Scott, presented the Gospel on a flannel board through the showing of different colored hearts: black for sin, red for Christ's blood, etc. I realized that day that I was a sinner needing God's grace offered freely through Christ and repented of my sins and received the gift of salvation.

**Why did you go into ministry?** Really good question. I felt "called" when I was 12 years old. The idea of proclaiming the Gospel that Christ died to save sinners just like me for my vocation was just an overwhelmingly humble and exciting thought. I honestly don't think I ever even considered doing anything else with my life.

**Favorite thing to do with your family:** With Amber, going out together without the boys. With the boys, wrestling. With all of us together, just spending time together at the house.

**Currently reading:** *The Glory of Christ* by John Owen; *Shepherding a Child's Heart* by Tedd Tripp; *Big Truths for Young Hearts* by Bruce Ware

**Something most people don't know:** I was a three-time state winner in Bible drills in the state of Alabama when I was in elementary school.

**Favorite sport:** College football, specifically my beloved Alabama Crimson Tide

**What do you like to do outside of work?** Read and spend time with Amber and the boys.

**Favorite food:** Grilled chicken or pork chops.



### Joel Smith

Director of High School Ministries

Wife – Gwen; Child – Riley Kate

Hometown: Gainesville, Georgia

**Salvation experience:** My dad shared the Gospel with me after I questioned him about hell after a sermon he preached. I was convicted of my sin and understood my need for a Savior. That day, on my dad and mom's bed, God saved me.

**Why did you go into ministry?** In high school, God placed in me a passion to lead people to know Christ and make Him known.

**Favorite thing to do with your family:** Travel

**Currently reading:** *Equal Yet Different* by Alexander Strauch and *1776* by David McCullough

**Something most people don't know:** I like crossword puzzles.

**Favorite sport:** Watching football, Playing baseball

**What do you like to do outside of work?** Spend time with my girls, work out, read, play golf and work on our house.

**Favorite food:** Ribs





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# A view from the inside

## STUDENT MINISTRIES PROFILE

God's Word teaches us the important role of one generation passing their faith along to the next generation. This has become a more challenging endeavor for parents and churches of our day.



Some major studies reveal that the majority of youth leave the church after they graduate from high school. This is a staggering fact. Teens who were on fire for the Lord in their youth group are turning away from the church. The same teens who prayed at dinner, read the Bible before bedtime, went on mission trips, and attended youth camp and Bible studies are struggling with their walk with Christ as they enter into adulthood.

This is why Steve Wright, Blake Hickman and Joel Smith do what they do. The Student Ministries purpose statement says it all: "To spread the fame of God by raising up a godly generation through the cooperative efforts of family, friends and the family of faith—the power of three."

**Family.** No matter what family situation the student comes from, Steve, Blake and Joel seek to include family in every part of ministry—from family worship and Bible study to prayer time for Impact summer camp. Student Ministries doesn't want to dominate a student's teenage years, but to come alongside the family as their teenager matures.

**Friendships.** Whether they participate in a Connections class (Sunday morning Bible study) or Wednesday night Refinery, students are encouraged to be a part of a small group. These groups provide accountability to each other and their families.

**Faith.** Connections, Refinery, Refuge, fall Metamorphosis, summer Impact. . . these activities help build the faith of students. Each opportunity has a missions focus to help students learn the importance of spreading the Gospel locally and around the world.

## IMPACT 2009

- Reverend Finny Mathews presented the campers with the challenge of missions. This was his first-ever youth camp.
- More than 33 campers committed their lives to Christ for the first time.



For more information about Providence Student Ministries, check out the website ([www.pray.org/students](http://www.pray.org/students)) or contact Steve Wright ([steve@pray.org](mailto:steve@pray.org)), Blake Hickman ([blake@pray.org](mailto:blake@pray.org)) or Joel Smith ([joels@pray.org](mailto:joels@pray.org)).