



June 19, 2008

My Perspective

Some boast in chariots and some in horses, but we will boast in the name of the LORD, our God. Psalm 20:7

This is not the first, but the second time our church family has been rocked by an unexpected spiritual attack. You may not remember it, but we have been here before and as before, the Northeast Houston family will rise to the challenge.

It was August, 2002. We were only a couple of weeks from the very first worship service of this new church called Northeast Houston Baptist Church. Huge conflict broke out at our mother church—the one providing us with the money we needed to be a viable church. The conflict overflowed into our church. We had hardly launched our church when rumors whirled around the community that NEHBC would not survive. Not a few people were forecasting our demise.

We had only been meeting in the elementary school for a few Sundays when I went to the pulpit one Sunday morning and read a statement addressing the situation, not unlike the recent statement I read to our church on Wednesday night, June 11, 2008. I still have the statement I read that Sunday. It was an entire page.

We made a commitment that Sunday. We would keep preaching, teaching, and living out the Word of God, and we would trust the sovereignty of God to handle the distractions.

Five successive years of feast have caused many of us to forget that famine.

This past Sunday, we made the same commitment in the midst of the second major disaster in the life of our church, and the results are going to be the same--we are not only going to survive, we are going to thrive.

Why? Because of Psalm 20:7. Our trust is not in human power, but in the Lord. What are we going to do in the midst of this storm? We are going to do what we did in the fall of 2002. We are going to keep preaching, teaching, and living out the Word of God, and we are going to trust the sovereignty of God to handle the distractions.

My mind and body are very tired from the shock, sadness, anger, and confusion. But my soul is at

tremendous peace.

I can't wait for Sunday . . . it is going to be a great day in the Lord.

Arkansas Mission Trip Update

Today I am traveling back from visiting our teenagers who are on mission in Camden, Arkansas. They are spending the week working for First Baptist Church of Camden, and I must say they are representing the Lord and NEHBC so well. We have every reason to be proud of them.

It is still my vision to expand the missions ministry for our teenagers. The vision? For as many teens as possible to attend our domestic trip each year and for every high schooler to participate in at least one international mission trip before they graduate from high school.

It is so crucial that our teenagers catch missions fever prior to finishing high school. The end result will be adults that spend the rest of their lives giving and going to mission endeavors and discipling their children to do the same.

The next step towards the vision is to add the annual international mission trip. We are going to take a team of teens to Estonia next year. Planning with Tom and Jennifer Thompson, our missionaries in Estonia, has already begun.

More to come . . .

Sunday Evening Worship Service

This is a reminder that this coming Sunday night we launch our Sunday evening service. By way of reminder, here is the new evening schedule:

- 5:30pm Free coffee service in the lobby. Come early and spend a few minutes visiting with your church family.
- 6pm Evening worship services
- 6pm SWAT: worship service for teenagers
- 6pm Kids on Mission: choir and discipleship in missions and evangelism

At 7pm we will let out, which is plenty early enough for you and another family to go get coffee, dessert, or dinner together.

Summer Dayz Camp

A bunch of children are having a blast learning the Bible on Thursdays at NEHBC. Games, music, Bible lessons, and adults that love the Lord are, by the grace of God, working together to influence children for Jesus Christ. If you have children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or know children of friends, invite them to Summer Dayz Camp. There is more information [here](#).

Welcome Jill Blest to Our Church Staff

Jill is replacing April Rhines as our Director of Childhood Ministries (DCM).

Jill has been involved at NEHBC for several years now and has served in a variety of different areas in our children's ministry. She understands the vision of our church and how our system works. Jill has the skill set necessary to perform with excellence in her new role, and I believe Jill will do an outstanding job in this position.

The DCM is responsible for the development and implementation of a comprehensive ministry for preschoolers and children to be discipled with the Word of God. The DCM performs this function primarily by leading the directors of our six ministry areas:

- Rotation Model
- Sunday morning preschool ministry
- Sunday and Wednesday evening preschool ministry
- AWANA
- Kids on Mission
- Early Childhood Center

Pray for Jill as she transitions to this new position. I believe she is ready for such a time as this.

Preschool Rotation Model

Speaking of ministry to the little ones, this coming Sunday, key leaders in our Sunday morning preschool ministry will be visiting Grace Pointe Church in San Antonio to observe the rotation model for preschoolers.

April Rhines, our former DCM has been hired back by Grace Pointe Church, from where we got her, as the director of their preschool rotation model. She will be teaching the model to our leaders.

You are familiar with our rotation model for children (K-5th grade), and now we are ready to add the rotation model for preschoolers. This new ministry will be for kids age 18 months to four years. We will launch the preschool rotation model at NEHBC on promotion Sunday in September.

Terri Osbrink, the director of our Sunday morning preschool ministry, and her team presented me with this new ministry plan for our preschoolers. I believe it will enable us to be more effective in discipling preschoolers, and I can't wait for launch day.