



**September 20th, 2007**

### **On a Personal Note . . .**

Thank you for praying for Nicole's pregnancy. We felt your prayers throughout the pregnancy and during the delivery of Cassidy last Friday. We had the blessing of having the same doctor deliver all three of our children at the same hospital. He loves the Lord and is the kind of husband, father, and churchman that reflects well on the Lord Jesus. I was again impressed by his frank, open discussions of the things of God while nurses were coming and going from the room. He is the kind of man who understands that being a believer is not only a personal issue between a person and the Lord Jesus, but it is also a public issue as we are called to live out our faith wherever the Lord plants us—in the case of Nicole's doctor, that means the hospital. Once again, he helped make our delivery experience as good as it could have been.

Another of our prayers was answered. When our second child, Campbell, was born, Lori, the pastor's wife at FBC Humble, was the delivery nurse. She did such a great job walking Nicole through the delivery day process medically and spiritually. At the time, we felt like the Lord had put her in our room to bless us. So, this time we prayed she would be the delivery nurse again, and the Lord chose to say, yes. It was amazing how it played out. All three of Nicole's deliveries have gone the same way. Hours of lying comfortably in the hospital bed watching TV until Nicole says, "It's time", and 15 minutes later we are holding the baby. Last Friday, we checked into the hospital at 6am and were actually assigned a different nurse who was quite nice and capable, but not Lori. The hours passed by, and there was no action. Eventually, our assigned nurse went to take care of some other issues elsewhere in the hospital. Guess what happened while she was away? Nicole said, "It's time", and in the door walked Lori. I just smiled to the Lord and quietly thanked Him for answering our prayer. During the 15 minutes of madness, I heard Lori quoting Scripture in Nicole's ear and encouraging Nicole so much. What a blessing. If you've never met the pastor at FBC Humble, Bruce, and his wife, Lori, let me just tell you that they are two of the finest people you will ever meet. They love the Lord, His church, and they are soul winners. Both of them are an encouragement to Nicole and me. I pray regularly for the Lord to bless the Frank's and FBC Humble.

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### **A word about The Word**

This past Sunday I preached 1 Corinthians 12:28 on the topic of spiritual gifts in general and the gift of apostleship in particular. My prayer is that as we explore the spiritual gifts, that the Holy Spirit would impress upon you your spiritual giftedness and that you would be compelled to use it at NEHBC "for the

common good” (1 Cor. 12:7). Over the next couple of weeks, we will continue to explore the 21 spiritual gifts listed in the New Testament. I want to encourage you to come to worship on Sunday so that you don’t miss this important study (1 Cor. 12:1).

Sermons are available on cd for purchase at the sermon booth in the church lobby. You can also find my sermons in MP3 format on our church website [here](#) or via podcast at [www.itunes.com](http://www.itunes.com). Simply search for “Nathan Lino” in the search box of the iTunes store.

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## 5-Year Anniversary Celebration

This past Sunday we had a fantastic time celebrating five great years as a church family. We collected \$14,239.25 to purchase Bibles for Muslims in the Persian world which means we purchased 2,847 Bibles. Wow. Seventeen of the people who signed up to be baptized experienced New Testament baptism outdoors at NEHBC following our 3<sup>rd</sup> service. Then we all enjoyed a great time of food and fellowship as a church family. One of my favorite parts was watching slender Lindsey Wilson beat teenaged boys and grown men in the watermelon eating contest. Way to go Lindsey.

Thank you so much to all those who worked Friday, Saturday, and Sunday preparing the food, setting up, and executing all of the logistics. Your cheerful and sacrificial service was a blessing to our church family. I am thankful for the leadership and service of our Men’s Ministry. It is great to see men working hard at Kingdom endeavors. Thank you for your faithful service.

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## Run Your Lap Well

I was seated on an airplane next to a man named Juan. He was on his way to Asheville, NC, to oversee a project at one of his employer’s new business acquisitions. As always, when I got on the plane and realized there was a seat next to mine, I prayed for an opportunity to witness to the person who would sit in the seat. When Juan sat down, he put on his iPod and started listening to some music. Disappointed, I put on my iPod and started listening to some music. There we were sharing an armrest, and yet we may as well have been miles apart as we listened to our respective play lists. After a while, the flight attendant eased down the aisle with the drink cart. When she got to our row, Juan and I took out our earphones, and I hoped this would be the opportunity to strike up a conversation with him. After receiving his drink, Juan put his ear pieces back in and hit “play” on his iPod. But guess what? His iPod would not play. He started mashing the buttons, but to no avail. It was malfunctioning. So I took that as my opportunity to try to share with him. I couldn’t think of a way to segue into the Gospel, and so I just took the frank approach. I said, “Juan, I have to be honest with you; there is something I know that if the tables were turned and you knew it and I didn’t, I’d sure hope you would share it with me.” Well, that got his attention, and he asked me what it was and so I said, “I want to tell you about the only Door there is into Heaven”, and I just launched into the Gospel presentation. When I finished, I asked him if he had any questions and he had quite a few. Turns out Juan is unchurched, but certainly curious about the things of God. I answered his questions as best I could and then asked him if he wanted to make Jesus the one and only God of his life. Based on our conversation, I thought there was a very good chance he would pray to receive Christ, but sadly Juan did not. At the end of our conversation, I told Juan I wanted to be his spiritual advisor, and he agreed. He punched my cell phone number into his cell phone and saved it as “spiritual advisor”. I had a good chuckle over that one. I told him that if he is ever in need of counsel to give me a call. Please pray Juan will call me one day.

I’m reminded that statistics show that on average, it takes a lost person seven encounters with the

Gospel before they pray to receive Christ. As I sometimes remind you, think of it as a relay with the lost person as the baton. The Lord crosses your path with a lost person and you sense the Holy Spirit compelling you to witness to the lost person. That is the Holy Spirit handing you the baton and asking you to run your lap of the seven-lap relay. You don't know if you are the first, fourth, or sixth lap, but once in a while the Lord gives you the honor to run the anchor leg, and you get to help the person pray to receive Christ. Though Juan did not pray to receive Christ, I was not offended. I know I was faithful to run my lap. I don't know how many people have witnessed to Juan before, but I know the Holy Spirit will intersect his path with believers in the coming days. I pray those believers are faithful to run their lap. With regard to Juan, I pray that sometime soon someone will have the honor of running the anchor leg. Next time you are with a total stranger and you sense the Holy Spirit prompting you to share your faith, take courage and run your lap. It is ALWAYS more exhilarating to get to run in the relay race instead of sitting in the stands watching other people run.

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## Youth Parent Conference

At NEHBC, we are committed to discipleship. We want people to grow in their understanding of the Bible, their trust in the Bible, and their love for the Lord Jesus. We try to disciple people in large group settings, small group settings, and one-on-one. Examples of large group discipleship would be our four weekly worship services and the marriage conference we had this past spring. Examples of small group discipleship would be our Sunday morning Bible Study classes and our Sunday evening CLU classes. Examples of one-on-one discipleship would be appointments through our Center for Biblical Counseling and when we match a more mature believer with a newer believer for regularly scheduled discipling.

This coming Saturday, parents of teenagers have an opportunity to receive discipleship in a small group setting. NEHBC is offering a 4-hour seminar on parenting teens. Our guest speaker is Neil McClendon, Senior Pastor of Grand Parkway Baptist Church in Sugar Land, and a nationally recognized speaker at conferences for raising and reaching teenagers.

The cost is \$10/parent which covers the lunch and materials that will be provided. The last segment of the seminar will be an opportunity for you to do Q&A with Neil.

As parents, we spend so much time learning about finances, how to better perform our occupations, how to be more successful at our hobbies, and so much more. Yet, the most valuable possession the Lord has entrusted to us is our children. If you are a parent of a teen or a "soon to be teen", I want to strongly encourage you to set aside these four hours to advance your understanding or refresh your memory about the biblical model for raising teens. *This seminar is open to the public and so if you have friends, neighbors, or colleagues that are parents of teens, you are welcome to invite them to register as well.*

I want to strongly encourage you and your friends to register for this seminar. You can do so by calling Wes Orton at 832.474.1357 or at [worton@nehbc.com](mailto:worton@nehbc.com).

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## New Hire Probationary Periods

When we hire new personnel, they are put on a 90-day probationary period at the end of which they or I can decide it isn't working out, and we can have an early parting of the ways. The beginning of this month was the end of April Rhines' probationary period. I can tell you, it is a joy having April on staff. She loves the Lord, she loves kids, and she loves the local church. She believes the Bible, and she has a heart for lost people. The more I get to know her, the more I find her to be a person of integrity. I have a

lot of respect for people in ministry that work within their personality and giftedness and don't try to be somebody they are not. There is so much pressure in ministry to act like or look like those that I consider to be "fad people", the people in ministry who become high profile for a time and lots of people try to look like them and act like them. One of the things I respect about April is that she is content with who the Lord made her to be, and she lives out her call within her personality and giftedness. When one first meets her, they discover April is quiet, observant, and forthright. As you get to know her, one discovers a great sense of humor, a contagious laugh, but most of all passion. April is passionate about reaching children for Jesus Christ.

Those who work in the preschool and children's areas have seen some changes since April took the reins. She has built on the ministry that came before her and really beefed up the administrative side: communication, training, planning, organization, and recruiting. I have been very pleased with April's performance thus far, and I remain convinced that for such a time as this, she is to be the trail boss on the cattle drive called Childhood Ministries.