

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR ZION!

Each Sunday	9:30 am 10:40 am	Sunday School Worship Service
Each Wednesday	7:00 pm	Family Ministries

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January 1		Church Office Closed
January 3—10		Prayer and Fasting
January 6	6:15 pm	Family Jam
January 12	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Deacons Meeting Leadership Team Meeting
January 16	7:00 am	Men's Breakfast
January 17	Noon	Annual Council Meeting
January 19	9:00 am	Sewing Circle at Katy Zook's house

Please remember to contact the Church Office by the 20th of each month about any dates or articles that you would like included in the next newsletter. It is appreciated.



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# Zion

Living the Legacy

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## January 2010 Newsletter

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### Happy New Year!

As we get closer to the beginning of a new year, it is a great time to think again about what is most important.

One of the foundations of our faith is prayer. During the first week of January, we will be participating with the whole Brethren in Christ Church with prayer and fasting, January 3 through 10.

The theme is "Changed". What a great way to start off the year as we seek the Lord through prayer and process ways we want to change and grow in our walk with the Lord.

So, take some time to think about how you want to participate in this special week and how you would like to fast.

Over the next year, we will be focusing on our next steps and journeying with the Lord to a deeper and more intimate relationship with him. We are excited to begin another year and see what the Lord has in store for us individually and as a body of believers.

**"Changed"**

From Pastor Bob:

Words are so powerful. Think about it...by what comes out of our mouths (which is a reflection of what is stored within our hearts) we can speak life into another, or we can deflate and wound each other. Just like that, and often times without putting much thought into what we say we speak to others, the words we say have lasting effect.

As James stated so plainly and truthfully in Scripture the tongue is the most difficult of weapons to control. Recently I was reading in Luke 6 when I came across a verse that really jumped out at me. Luke is discussing the call of Jesus upon his followers to love their enemies, to always be aware that the way we treat those who we don't get along with or who don't like us, speaks volumes about the love of Christ in us. Here is the verse that really grabbed my attention that day: "But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, and just as your Father is merciful."

At first I was thinking about lending to anyone in the physical object sense; lending money or my car or some other "thing." But what I had never thought of concerning lending, is how I lend my view of life and ultimately my view of them. If I see them as an enemy, as a problem, as an inconvenience, as less significant than myself I will never be able to speak the love and grace of Jesus into their lives. And unfortunately, at least for me, this is a much more natural way to live. But, if I lend to them through the heart and eyes of Jesus Christ, I can speak life, grace, peace and truth into their life, regardless of what they speak into my life.

What a radical difference! I know that I have been given grace beyond what I can even put in writing. This grace has come from Christ first, but I have received grace full and free from a number of people in my life. I have been blessed to have those important people around me, that even when I was less than honorable and pleasant, they have spoken to me in ways that showed they believed I was more than just a sum of my actions, that there was indeed a person Christ loves and desires to redeem in every way. When I have been on the receiving end of such life giving mercy, it is my greatest hope that I can live with that kind of grace and mercy toward others, no matter how "difficult" they may appear.

Because in the end, whether we like it or not, the way we treat and love others speaks volumes about the transformation that we are really allowing Christ to do on our hearts. And in the end, transformation is what Christ desires to do

# Kids' Zone

**In our newsletters this last year, I introduced you to many of the people who serve in Children's Ministries here at Zion. I will come back to doing more of that in a few months, but first I wanted to take the opportunity to explain a little more about the overarching aspects of Children's Ministries here at Zion.**

**It has been a year since we first began a leadership team for Children's Ministries and started evaluating the many different aspects of the children's programming. One of the key roles that the team has fulfilled during the course of this year is defining the purpose of Children's Ministries. We decided that here at Zion, we want our driving purpose to be:**

**To make Christ real to every child, and to see every child live fully for Christ:**

- ~Reaching the next generation one at a time**
- ~Helping them experience the love of Christ**
- ~Growing kids in knowledge, character, and conduct**

**Then, we began evaluating each aspect of the children's program from preschool through fifth grade in order to see how it fits with those purposes. Sunday mornings during Sunday School and Children's Church, we purposely focus more on knowledge & conduct—knowing the Bible & understanding how that applies to our daily lives. On Wednesday evenings, we focus more on character & conduct—understanding the virtues that God wants us to live by as our basic life principles.**

**During the course of the next few months, I would like to spend some time sharing a little bit about what our children are learning and doing during their times together. Hopefully, that will give you a better idea of what they are experiencing and how to pray for them and their leaders!**

**~Heather Beaty**

# Get to know the Rex Family

**Rex and I met while attending church at the Talmage United Methodist Church. Although our grandparents were good friends and only lived a mile from each other, we didn't meet until we were in high school. After dating for 2 years, we were married on Dec. 6, 1997. We just celebrated our 12th anniversary.**

**We have been blessed with 3 boys. Keegan Alan was born March 18, 2004. He started kindergarten this year at Blue Ridge and enjoys it most days. (He would rather be farming)!! His hobbies include farming, trucking, playing with his brothers and spending time with his grandparents and cousins.**

**Kolby Lane arrived on April 18, 2006. He is the "life of the party". Although he is small, he is mighty! He has the loudest voice I've ever heard! Kolby attends preschool 2 days a week at the Sunshine House Christian Preschool. He enjoys it and it's great to see him learning new things.**

**Karson Lowell came into lives on October 28, 2008. We thought we were done having children after the second one arrived, but decided to try one more time for a girl. The Lord had other plans for us and blessed us with another boy! Karson has brought great joy and laughter to our family. Although he will not stay in the nursery, be assured that he doesn't dislike you. He's just very attached to mommy and daddy right now.**

**Rex continues to work for Heigele Trucking. He also does farm work, which keeps him very busy. In his spare time, he enjoys playing with the boys and watching sporting events.**

**As for myself, I stay at home with the boys. I wouldn't trade it for anything, even though I have my moments! I enjoy attending MOPS and getting together with family and friends. Don't know what I'd do without them!!**

**We are been very blessed by being a part of the Zion church body. We enjoy all it has to offer and look forward to our small group meetings, in which we can learn and grow in our relationship with others and Christ.**

**~Rex and Lori Craig**

with each of us. To make us like himself and redeem who we are and allow us to be the light of the world. What an opportunity.

"God, help me to be a blessing. Allow me to see others through the grace-filled eyes of Jesus Christ. To see the potential and not the reality of what you can accomplish. And that is there is only one person on earth in whom someone might see grace and mercy, let it be seen in me."

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## Notes from the office

- Winter has come! If you wonder whether we are canceling services or other activities that may be scheduled, check out the website at [www.zionbic.org](http://www.zionbic.org) and click on weather cancellations on our homepage.
- Annual Council and potluck meal is Sunday, January 17. If you were asked to write a report, please have them into the office by Sunday, January 3rd at the latest.
- The Midwest Regional Conference is March 19 and 20 in New Mexico. If you would like to be a delegate, please contact the church office.
- A big thank you to Twila Engle. People have noticed all the wonderful work you have done around the church to decorate for Christmas. Thank you for serving us in this way, and in many other ways!
- A big thank you to all those who helped clear the snow from the parking lot and sidewalks from the last snow: Steve Hoover, Michael Ade, Glenn Book, Bob Beaty and probably others!

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## Zion Supported Missionaries

**Next month, we will begin highlighting our supported missionaries so you can get to know them a little better. The Leadership team decided to support the Navajo Mission, BIC missionaries in New Mexico and Mike and Lori Cassel in Mexico.**

# What's the Buzz?

by Bishop Perry



Since my three daughters travel around in church circles quite a bit, recently I asked them to describe the kind of churches they like to attend. Their responses reflect what a pastor friend of mine recently referred to as the buzz of a church—an intangible enthusiasm that energizes and motivates those who encounter it. Here are a few observations from some of our younger generation on what makes up the buzz of a local congregation.

The worship needs to be **ENERGETIC**

Sophie (12) my youngest daughter, says she likes attending a church where the worship “is like a room full of elephants and giraffes that are having a party and are having a good time dancing together.” In contrast, a church that doesn’t connect with her is like “a room full of sheep just standing around.”

The people need to be **JOYFUL**

A church Sophie said she wants to attend is one that invites you in with lively, joyful people (“they don’t have to be young, just lively”). Her description is of a group of people who love gathering together for worship, and love the other people that gather there as well. Personally, I find that worship is too often a tired and melancholy experience. It’s remarkable to me that people who serve a risen Savior and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ can seem so introverted and joyless on Sunday mornings.

The atmosphere needs to be **REAL**

In an interesting analogy, Sophie said she likes a church that is “more like a paper bag, and less like a plastic bag.” I take this fascinating word picture to mean that a paper bag is less processed, more natural, and more authentic. The younger generation is less interested in a worship experience that is well-packaged and more in one that is organic and creative in nature and connects with the real needs, joys and passions of people’s lives.

The sermon needs to be **CULTURALLY-CONNECTED**

Maddy (my eldest at 18) mentioned that at a recent chapel at college, the speaker took a Bible story and translated it, in my daughter’s words, “into Maddy language.” My experience is that too often those preaching the Word don’t take the time to interpret Scripture of the Maddys’ in their audience. For me, if my sermon doesn’t connect with 16-year-olds as well as 60-year-olds, then I haven’t done my job as an expositor and communicator of God’s Word.

The music needs to be **NON-TRADITIONAL**

All three of my daughters gave me similar variations on the theme of music. Katianna (16) said “traditional church music” doesn’t cut it for her; Sophie described her preference for music that’s on her iPod, or music she would want to put on her iPod. Maddy used the ‘c’-word (contemporary) to describe the style of hymnody that draws her in. All expressed their preference for an upbeat style of music as being a high priority for engaging them in worship.

What’s the solution?

Churches need to create different worship venues for different ages and preferences. As much as we desire a singular worship experience that would create a buzz for all ages, my observation is that people steeped in traditional worship will most often not be satisfied with a contemporary experience. And new people and younger generations will almost always prefer a different style of worship than traditional folk.

It’s time for us to get creative, and stop imagining that uniformity in worship will lead to one big happy unified church family. When the pursuit of congregational unity gets in the way of creating an environment where lives are being engaged and changed, we have a problem. Sure, we can try keeping things the way they’ve always been, but as soon as our kids are old enough to decide for themselves where they will go to church—if they go to church at all—invariably they will find their way to a church with a buzz that will keep them coming back for more.