



## Member Spotlight: The Nelson Family

Darryl and Ashley Nelson each grew up as the oldest child in their families. Of their marriage to each other, Darryl comments, "Two strong-headed oldest children together – the Lord does have a sense of humor!" Ashley is the oldest of four; all of her siblings and her parents live nearby. Darryl is also the oldest of four. His parents live in Fort Worth, kept from returning to their native Minnesota by the charms of seven grandchildren in this area.

Born and raised in the Dallas area, Ashley has always considered it home. Raised in a Christian home, she came to know the Lord at a young age. She attended First Baptist Academy for 11 years, but then graduated from Trinity Christian Academy. At the University of North Texas, she earned a BA in History; her years there included a year abroad at the University of Leeds in England.

Darryl was born in St. Paul, MN. Eventually, his fa-

ther's job brought the family to Fort Worth. Darryl also attended the University of North Texas and earned a BS in Biology with a minor in Chemistry. Although he grew up a "nominal Christian", Darryl says he came to the Lord in college. Strangely enough, the science major met his future wife in an English Literature class at UNT. Both went abroad for a year in England (Darryl at the University of Surrey) and realized they could never live without each other. And so they married.

The family now includes Anna (7), in first grade at Shepard Elementary in Plano, and Joshua (5) and Benjamin (2 ½) who go to First Kids Preschool at First Baptist in Richardson. Ashley describes herself as "mostly a stay at home mom", but she also teaches preschool at First Kids Preschool; Darryl is a Software Engineer with Raytheon-

Garland. Darryl also enjoys reading, military history, geopolitics and current events, and wrestling with the kids. Ashley says she "lives vicariously through HGTV" when not taking care of 3 busy kids or teaching.

### How is God working today?

God is working in our lives as a family and as individuals. The grace upon grace that He gives us is so abundant and for that we are thankful. We have been given three wonderful children and a family that we love deeply. The Lord has blessed us beyond measure and continues to do so. We were led to RPC after looking and looking for a church that truly worshipped the Lord in a Biblical, God-centered way. We are so excited to be a part of this body and look forward to getting to know others as we learn more about our Savior and grow to be more like Him.



*Joshua, Ashley, Anna, Benjamin & Darryl Nelson*

## Pray for the Persecuted Church

### **NORTH KOREA**

#### **Christians Arrested, Whereabouts Unknown -**

#### **V O M   S o u r c e s**

In September, the National Security Service of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) announced the arrest of several "foreign spies" and "native citizens working for a foreign intelligence service." VOM sources say those arrested are

Christians and not spies. VOM sources have identified the following nine Christians who have disappeared and are believed to have been arrested by government authorities: Mr. Chul Huh (34), Mr. Chun-Il Jang (39), Mr. Myung-Chul Kim (36), Ms. Young-Su Jin (32), Mr. Nam-Suk Kang (48), Mr. San-Ho Kang (36), Mr. Suk-Chun Suh (29), Ms. Mi-Hae Park (30) and Ms. Young-Yae Lee (37). The whereabouts of these individuals is unknown. It is possi-

ble they have already been tried and executed. Pray the loved ones of those arrested will find peace in the fact that God works all things for the good of those who love Him and who have been called according to His purpose. Pray that North Korea's leaders will come to repentance and faith in Christ.

**Romans 8:28, Psalm 91**  
*(continued on page 3)*

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## “CHRISTMAS ANNOUNCEMENTS”



**Bryant McGee,  
Senior Pastor**

**“Holiday Blessings,  
Holiday Greetings,  
Season Greetings,  
Happy Holidays.”**

Well, it’s that time of year! The cards will soon be filling our mailboxes and the electronic ones have even already started filling my inbox. As I sat down to pen this article, an email came to my inbox wishing me “Happy Holidays.” I am already anticipating getting similar cards wishing me “Holiday Blessings,” “Holiday Greetings,” “Season Greetings,” and a lot more “Happy Holidays.” While I know each one of these “greetings” is genuine in that they all announce the sender’s desire for me to experience joy at this time of year, the fullness of the joy I receive is in the announcement of the Savior’s birth.

While the world seeks to be politically correct and announce joy in various ways, the only real joy comes in the announcement of the birth of Jesus Christ and that is what

makes it a “Merry Christmas.”

The word “Christmas” is a contraction of two words “Christ’s mass” and is the worship of Christ by the people of God.

With that in mind, I wanted to share with you how we will be celebrating the Advent season here at Redeemer the next few weeks.

Throughout the weeks of Advent, we will be looking at various texts of “announcing” as we rejoice in the greatest gift of all given to us. Here is the breakdown of the series:

Sunday, Dec 2 -  
Luke 1:26-38 “The Announcement to Mary”

Sunday, Dec 9 –  
Matthew 1:18-25 “The Announcement to Joseph”

Sunday, Dec 16 –  
Luke 2:8-20 “The Announcement to the Shepherds”

Sunday, Dec 23 –  
Matthew 2:1-12 “The Announcement to the Magi”

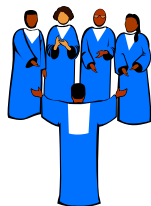
Monday, Dec 24  
(Candlelight Service at 5:00pm) – “The Announcement to Us”

Each week through the Advent season we will look at these different “announcements” and then at our Candlelight service on Christmas Eve we will read all of these texts again during an evening of lessons and carols.

Our Advent celebration will conclude with the announcement to us of the true joy that is ours in Jesus Christ alone.

Let me ask you to prepare your hearts and minds now as we enter the Advent season and reflect on each of these “announcements” that leads us to the celebration of a very Merry Christmas indeed.

To Us a Child IS Born!  
Bryant



**Choir and Music  
News**

### To those unaccustomed by the sounds of silence from the loft:

Musical prognosticators are abuzz at the absolute dearth of vocally inclined evangelical thinkers that have migrated to McKinney this fall. “Normally, there are a bevy of strong-voiced robe-wearers already in town by now,” says choir forecaster Octovo Score, head of the Texas Harmony League. 2006 saw an average flock attendance of

nearly 20 at the Redeemer watering hole alone. However, 2007 has shown a marked change in flock behavior such that the convolution of four part harmony has been pert-nigh impossible. This in turn has lead to more hymn singing than normal, oftentimes tunes that no one knows. If this travesty has been raised to your keen awareness, please bring your

chords to the choir loft immediately after service and join the few poor that have already migrated there. A full loft sounds so wonderful, it would be a shame to have built one and not use it as an alter for our sound offerings!

Regards,  
Ed Cox, Choir Director

## Pray for the Persecuted Church continued from page 1

### EGYPT

#### More Christians Jailed - Compass Direct News

Three Christian activists with the Toronto-based Middle East Christian Association have been jailed in Egypt. According to a Compass Direct News report, Wagih Yaob and Victor George were taken from their homes in the early hours of November 10, while lawyer Mamdouh Azmy was arrested at his law office later that afternoon. The police reportedly treated Yaob badly and confiscated both Yaob and George's personal belongings, including a laptop. After being interrogated at a state prosecutor's office in New Cairo, Yaob and George were given 15-day detentions and were accused of defaming Islam and destroying the reputation of Egypt. They are being held

at Cairo's Tora prison. Later, Azmy was transferred to a Cairo prison. Pray for the release of these believers. Pray the Holy Spirit will encourage them and their families during this difficult time. Ask that their testimony will draw nonbelievers into fellowship with Christ.

#### 2 Timothy 1:7, Psalm 23

### INDIA

#### Christians Beaten by Militants - VOM Sources

On November 4, six Christians, including Pastor Vishnu Barad and his wife, were beaten by Hindu militants in the Thane district of Maharashtra. The believers were reportedly targeted for attending prayer meetings in the area. Pastor Barad was detained when he went to the local police station to

register a complaint against the militants. On November 10, a group of approximately 50 Hindu militants attacked Pastor P.C. Nayak of the Believers Church in the city of Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh. According to the Evangelical Fellowship of India, local villagers called Pastor Nayak to a meeting regarding the construction of a church building. When he arrived at the construction site the militants beat him. He was hospitalized with internal injuries. Pray that Pastor Barad will be released. Pray for healing for those injured in these attacks. Pray Christians in India will maintain the attitude of Christ and respond to their persecutors with love and grace.

#### Isaiah 26:3, Joshua 1:9



*Pray for strength and boldness for our brothers and sisters, who suffer for their faith.*

## Redeemer Day School

Redeemer Day School is beginning a series of "very first's". We celebrated our very first Fall Festival, our very first Thanksgiving Feast and this month we will have our very first Happy Birthday Jesus celebration.

Our very first Fall Festival was at the end of October and it was a wonderful success. We had games for the children of pumpkin decorating, water balloons, and fishing. Also, we had a huge

pumpkin patch from which each child could pick their very own pumpkin.

As we approached November, the teachers and students prepared for our very first RDS Thanksgiving feast. We learned special songs, had finger puppet plays and a delicious selection of food items brought by parents/students for us to feast upon.

Now as we are heading into December, we getting ready to celebrate our very

first "Happy Birthday Jesus".

All the RDS teachers and I want to give a big thanks to the parents and volunteers who helped us with the Fall Festival and Thanksgiving Feast. We couldn't have done it without your help! Both were such a huge success and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Shelli Phillips



Shelli Phillips,  
Redeemer Day  
School Director

## Family Worship *Ephesians 6:4-5*



Rolf Meintjes,  
Associate Pastor

*"..indicative  
which grounds  
the imperative."*

Here, Scripture brings out another important consideration; namely the role of the father in leading the home in a spiritual manner. However, before we delve into the specifics of this text, let's consider for a moment the broader context in order to understand the passage clearly. The whole book of Ephesians has a classic Pauline structure to it; namely *indicative which grounds the imperative*. In other words, Paul begins the book in chapters 1-3 by clearly defining and explaining the gospel (indicative). He then moves, in chapters 4-6, to instructions on how Christians then ought to conduct themselves (imperative). Having clearly explained this gospel, Paul, in chapter 6, turns his attention to the family, and most pointedly to a father's role within the home. In verse 4 alone, Paul uses these words to address them, "Fathers, Bring them up, Discipline, and Instruction."

When Paul addresses Fathers, he uses a word that most broadly depicts "Biblical manhood. Mature masculinity,

says Dr. Ernie Baker, "is a sense of benevolent responsibility to lead, provide for, and protect the family." This servant leader, protector and provider is the "Father" that Paul seeks to address in this text. Paul extends his admonition by instructing these servant leaders to "bring them up". What Paul means here is clear,

Another aspect of the text is Paul's encouragement to discipline. Now, this is an area where a lot of ink has been spilled, but let us not get too bogged down here. While the Scriptures are clear that discipline certainly has a corrective and potentially physical aspect to it, Paul's word choice here alludes to the notion of preventative medicine. In other words, this is disciplining our children in how to live out their faith, as opposed to disciplining them for sinful behavior. One is reactive, the other is proactive. Paul's emphasis here is on a proactive approach to disciplining our children in regard to the truths of the faith.

Finally, Paul mentions that fathers are to give their

children instruction. Here is the most pointed application toward family worship. By using this language, Paul emphasizes a relational context in which admonition and counsel takes place. There is theological training that takes place in a practical way. In our day and age, there are very few settings or opportunities where this can truly take place. It is incumbent upon fathers, to therefore, ensure that this does indeed occur in the home. It is commanded of us by God's Word. The question then becomes, how, when and where can I accomplish this? While this instruction needs to take place throughout all of life, the context for instruction is regularly and easily addressed through family worship. Again, this is not a fool proof argument for family worship, it certainly commends this historic practice to Christian households, even in the third millennium. If fathers are truly going to live up to this command, family worship is a helpful tool that helps bring up our children in faithful Biblical discipline and instruction.

## Youth News

The youth enjoyed a wonderful time together on the High School Fall Retreat in November. It was a great time spent learning more about our identity in Christ and simply getting to know one another better.

The team with most of our kids on it came in last

place during ultimate chaos, and somehow we managed to turn a 1 mile hike into a 5 mile hike when we got lost on our way to canoeing. Thankfully Rebekah Lovelace did not go into labor and we managed to have a great time the rest of the weekend. All of our youth scaled the 35 ft.

rock climbing wall, all of our youth played hard on the football field, and all of our youth were in awe of their pastor's catch phrase skills.

In December we have a Christmas party planned and are seeking ways to serve our community in a Christ-like manner.



**Learning about  
a Christian  
World View!**

## Christ's Sympathy to Weary Pilgrims\* by Octavius Winslow 1808-1878

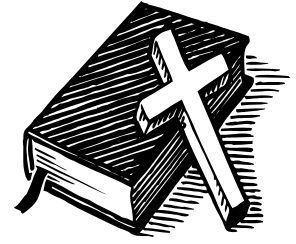
The most significant and appalling demonstration of God's holiness that the universe ever beheld, infinitely distancing and transcending every other, is the sufferings and death of His only and beloved Son! The cross of Calvary exhibits God's hatred and punishment of sin in a way and to an extent which the annihilation of millions of worlds, swept from the face of the universe by the broom of His wrath, could never have done! *"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree."*

Behold the most awful display of God's hatred of sin! Finding the sins of the Church upon Christ as its Surety, Substitute and Savior, *the wrath of God was poured out upon Him without measure!* God finding the sins of His people laid upon His Son,

emptied upon His holy soul all the vials of His wrath due to their transgressions! Go, my soul, to Calvary and learn how holy God is and what a monstrous thing sin is, and how imperiously, solemnly and holily bound Jehovah is to punish it, either in the person of the sinner or in the person of a Surety. Never was the Son of God dearer to the Father than at the very moment that *the sword of divine justice, flaming and flashing, pierced to its hilt His holy heart!*

But it was the wrath of God, not against His beloved Son, but against the sins which met on Him when presenting Himself on the Cross as the substitutionary sacrifice and offering for His Church—He gave Himself for us. What a new conception must

angels have formed of the exceeding sinfulness of sin, when they beheld **the flaming sword of justice quenched in the holy, loving bosom of Jesus!** And in what a dazzling light does this face place the marvelous love of God to sinners! Man's sin and God's love; the indescribable enormity of the one, and the immeasurable greatness of the other; are exhibited in the cross of Christ as nowhere else. Oh, to learn experimentally these two great facts—sin's infinite hatefulness, and love's infinite holiness! The love of God in giving His Son to die; the love of Christ in dying; the essential turpitude and unmitigated enormity of sin, which demanded a sacrifice so Divine, so holy and so precious!



### The Flaming Sword of Justice Quenched in the Holy, Loving Bosom of Jesus.

*1 Peter 2:3-4*

***"Do not let your adornment be merely outward, arranging the hair, wearing gold or putting on fine apparel, rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God."***

## Women In the Church

Well Ladies, we had a good sign up for the Women's Spring Retreat, but there is still room if you would like to participate. Please contact Rowena Yates or me and we will be glad to add you to the group!

At the last WIC Board meeting, we decided to postpone our Tea until January and make it a special time of fellowship without all the activities that are going

on during the month of December. So watch for the E-vite and mark your calendars for Saturday, January 12 and plan on joining us for a fun time of fellowship and eating of wonderful desserts!

Prayer...do you pray for other Believers...do you pray for the church...do you sometimes wonder for whom to pray or for what to pray? Well, we have a the answer...THE PRAYER CHAIN.

Kelley Burgess is the chair, Connie Caldwell is her helper and there are about 28 of us on the chain. We mostly use email to communicate the prayer needs, but if there is a really urgent need then we use the phone. So if you would like to be a part of a very important ministry, then give Kelley or Connie a call and join the prayer chain for the Redeemer family.

Linda Clark, WIC President

## From the Church Office

Greetings from the church office! Are you looking for a way to serve in the body at Redeemer? Do you feel like you have gifts that you are not using, but you're not sure where to use them? Let me assure you that there are many ministries at Redeemer that can use your gifts and need your service. In the next few weeks, I will be completing a list of service opportunities identified by ministry heads at

Redeemer. It is our hope that the members of our body can utilize their gifts that God has given them to build up the body and glorify his name. We will highlight some of these needs on the general bulletin board as they come along beginning in January.

Now if you are in need of a name tag, please make your request on the black Attendance pad. We are trying to get the name tags to you as quickly as

possible, but please allow us two weeks to complete this task. If, after two weeks you have not received your name tag, please let me know at

[amyvender@hotmail.com](mailto:amyvender@hotmail.com),

as your request might have gotten lost. Many thanks to Wendy Meintjes who has graciously been creating the name tags for us!

Amy Vender



Amy Vender  
Administrative Assistant

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**Taking the gospel to McKinney and the world.**

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**Redeemer Elders & Deacons**

**Church Staff:**

**Bryant McGee:** *Senior Pastor*  
**Rolf Meintjes:** *Assoc. Pastor*  
**Amy Vender:** *Admin. Assistant*  
**Christine Yang:** *Music*  
**Shelli Phillips:** *RDS Director*

**Ruling Elders & their main  
Responsibilities:**

**Bill Caldwell:** *Operations*  
**Ross Earley:** *Outreach*  
**Ed Kaylor:** *Clerk & Nurture*  
**Tim Yates:** *Education*

**Deacons:**

**Curtis Blagburn,** Chairman  
**Anthony Broadfoot**  
**Bob Burgess**  
**Gary Loney,** Clerk  
**Mike Lovelace**  
**Jared Page**  
**Will Wende**