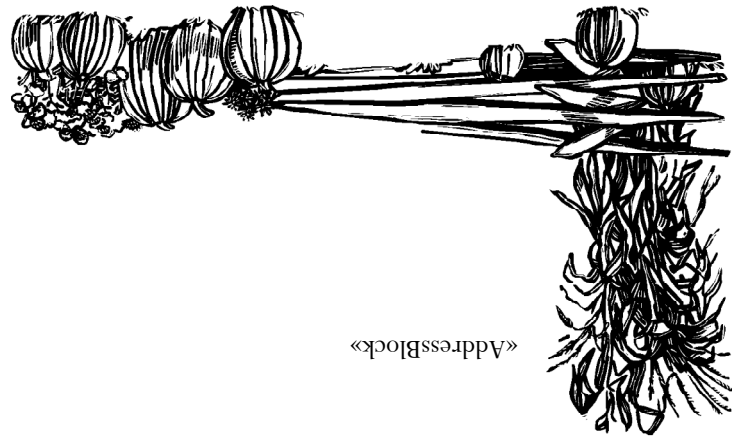


“If you really believe the Christian gospel—God behind us, His cause committed to us, His power available for us—then proclaim it, live it, implement it, for humanity’s hope depends upon it. It is indeed, a faith for tough times.”



«AddressBlock»

Wise First Church of God
 P.O. BOX 980
 702 EAST MAIN STREET
 WISE, VA 24293
 Phone ☐ Fax: 276-328-8791
 Parsonage: 276-328-5749
 Pastor’s Cell: 276-275-1171
 Office Hours: Monday 10:00 a.m. - Friday



**MEN’S FELLOWSHIP
 BREAKFAST**
**SATURDAY, OCT. 11TH 8:30
 A.M.**
**CONFERENCE ROOM OF
 FOOD CITY IN WISE.**

OCTOBER~ PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH~

- 1 Ministry & Programming Council Meeting
- 5 Communion, AM
- 7 W.C.G. Meeting
- 8 Corn Maze Trip / Finance Council Meeting
- 11 Men’s Fellowship Breakfast
- 12 Pastor Appreciation Day
- 14 Discipleship Training
- 15 Christian Ed. Council Meeting
- 19 Singspiration, PM
- 21 Discipleship Training
- 26 Birthday / Anniversary Dinner
- 28 Easter Production Committee Meeting
- 28 Discipleship Training
- 29 Halloween Party & Trick-a-Trunk
- 31 Annual Reports Due

November:

- 2 Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 4 W.C.G. Meeting
- 4 Election Day
- 5-9TH REVIVAL WITH RICHARD BRADLEY
- 5 Ministry & Programming Council Meeting
- 8 Men’s Fellowship Breakfast
- 9 Potluck Carry-In Dinner & ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING. NO PM SERVICE

Wise First Church of God

Sunday:
Sunday School
 10:00 a.m. **Morning Worship Ser-**
vice 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship Service.
 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday:
Youth Meeting
 6:30 p.m. **Adventure Club Choir**
Practice 6:30 p.m.

Wise First Church of God

INFO



October 2008
 Volume 30 Issue 10

**KIM’S CRAZY
 CORN MAZE**



Adventure Club

October 8th, 2008
Meet at the church at 5:15.
We will leave at 5:30, and return between 8:00-8:15.

\$6.00 for adults.
\$4.00 ages 14 and under.
3 yrs and under are free.

The church will provide S’mores around the campfire. Bring extra money if you wish to buy something at the concession stand.



Words from the Path.

By Pastor Ben Murphy

Below is a letter of thanksgiving from Jarred written to us from Jerusalem in August.

Dear Church,

I know that many of you may not recognize the name Jarred Soles. Jarred has attended church here for the past two years. He was a basketball player from UVA Wise and is now playing in a professional basketball league in Israel. Jarred has chosen to use this profession to serve as an evangelistic ministry. The sound of a professional basketball league sound very glamorous. But the monetary reward in such a small, international league is not so appealing. The salary that Jarred makes does not even pay his expenses, so he relies on his family and others to help support him and his ministry. Wise First Church of God is some of the others! Our Finance Council has elected to send monetary support to Jarred. I know that God has blessed our church for the support that we unselfishly give to support Jarred and many other such causes.

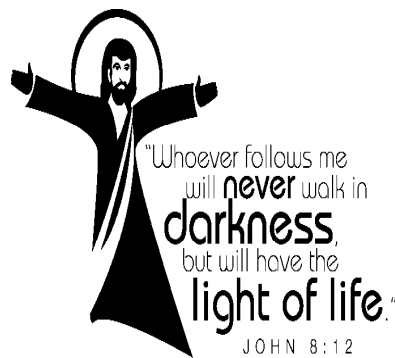
Thank you so much for your support. My mom told me she received a check from you a while back. It definitely is coming in handy over here. Here is another update on how everything is going.

I know that school is about to start back and part of me wishes I was only a couple days from starting another year at UVA Wise. But I am enjoying it here and can't wait to come back for a visit and share everything with you all. Until then take care and if you get a chance write me back sometime and let me know how things are going.

Many new and exciting things have happened since I wrote my last response so even though it has only been a couple weeks, I felt like now would be a good time to update everyone about my time here in the Holy Land. These last 2 weeks have been probably the most active 2 weeks of

my life and also probably 2 of the best weeks of my life! A group of Americans from Athletes In Action came here for our last tournament and during the day I would go with them and see all the biblical sights. It was amazing! Our tour director didn't just point somewhere and say "this is where this happened...bla bla bla". He told us the story as we were looking at where it took place. He also taught like a Jewish rabbi back in Jesus' day would have taught, since Jesus himself was a rabbi. I have never learned so much in such a short amount of time. Some of the highlights for me were seeing where Jesus was tried, convicted, crucified, buried, and raised from the dead. Of course we don't know the exact spot but we do know it was the general area and we were able to walk around and just really try and get a feeling for what it was like. Also, we had a lesson taught in the garden where Jesus prayed the night before His crucifixion. We also went to a church that was

Cont'd on page 3



NEWSLETTER

Articles or information to be published in next months newsletter are due by the third Sunday of the month. Please call or email if your address/phone number has changed, or to add/remove someone from our mailing list.

TO ALL SINGERS & MUSICIANS

If you are on the monthly music schedule to sing in either the a.m. or p.m. service and find you cannot do so, it is your responsibility to find a replacement. In addition, would you please notify the church office of such a change. Our thanks to each of you who serve.

The Ministries & Program Council

WHEN THERE IS A DEATH IN THE FAMILY

If there is a death in your immediate family, (Parent, Sibling, Spouse, Child) or in the family of a church member, please notify any member (See Below) of the benevolence committee so the church may send flowers and for food preparation when applicable.

The Benevolence Committee
Mona Orr— Chair
Phyllis Belcher
Sue Ellen Fleming
Diania Murphy
Charlotte Rice

Sunday School News

This year's Sunday School Promotion Sunday was August 31 in the 11 a.m. service. The Christian Education Council had chosen this time and venue for two purposes: (1) to make the entire congregation more aware of what is offered in the Sunday School program and (2) to allow the children to go directly to their new class on Sunday, September 7, the first Sunday in the new Sunday School year.

Assistant Superintendent Jane Large first recognized the teachers and thanked them for their continued dedication and service. I would also like to recognize them here, for without their willingness to fill these positions, we wouldn't have a Sunday School program at all. Nursery: Alice Livesay; Preschool/Kindergarten: Charlotte Rice; Grades 1-3: Bob and Sandy Spera;

Grades 4-6: Kim Mullins; Youth I: Jane Hayes; Youth II: Rod Mullins; Adult I: Pastor Murphy; Adult II: Larry Carr and Carl Snodgrass; Adult III: Diania Murphy and Rita Broyles; Adult IV: Chris Basham and Wendy Bennetts. We sincerely appreciate each of these individuals who have answered the call to be a part of this valuable ministry.

The following young people were promoted: from Nursery to Preschool—Will Hayes, Owen Hayes, and Cameron Myers; from Kindergarten to Grades 1-3 --- Olivia Basham, Claira Bennetts, Shelbie Fannon, and Jillian Hall; from Grades 4-6 to Youth I---Carissa Bennetts. Each student was presented with a certificate indicating the advancement.

The Christian Ed Council voted to continue

by Betty Carter

the attendance incentive started last year. Each Sunday that a person is in attendance his/her name will be entered into a drawing which will be held on the last Sunday in the month. For the month of August Larry Carr was the lucky winner.

The Council also decided to add another incentive for Sunday School attendance for the new year. Those persons who have perfect attendance for an entire quarter will receive some form of special recognition at the end of that quarter.

We have a wonderful Sunday School program here at Wise First Church of God and encourage those who are not currently attending on a regular basis to resolve to make it an integral part of their Sunday morning worship.

HALLOWEEN PARTY AND TRICK-A-TRUNK

Wed. October 29th
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.



*Everyone, please decorate the trunk of your vehicle and provide treats for the children.



Don't forget to wear your costume!

Sunday School Attendance Drawing

Congratulations to Larry Carr,
the winner for the month of August!



WORDS cont'd from pg. 1

built over the exact spot where they think Jesus was born. Also, one of my favorite days was when we focused on the story of David. We saw where he killed Goliath and also we saw the caves where he hid from Saul for many years. And like I said, it wasn't just looking and saying "Wow, that's cool" it was constant learning. Our teacher was so good, and I really feel like I understand the Bible so much better now. Of course an experience like this is not necessary for a Christian, but I feel like if possible every Christian should try and come here. It just brings all these stories I have heard for years to life, right in front of my eyes!

Like I said though, the Americans only came in for our tournament so they left yesterday. There are still a couple Americans in the league now but I was definitely sad to see those guys go. I like every single one of them and I felt almost at home around all those guys because they were so similar to me (young, Christian, and basketball players). Some of them might be asked to return and do something similar to what I am doing now (play basketball and try and minister at the same time). We actually did a lot of ministering at this tournament. The tournament was set up by Athletes In Action and each team was given 2 Americans to add to their rosters. All these Americans were Christians though, since Athletes In Action is a sports missionary program. At halftime of the games, a player would grab the microphone and share his testimony with the entire crowd! Everyone went once, and I spoke shortly about how salvation produces hope. After I shared my testimony a young girl came up to me and told me she had lost hope and wanted to know if there is anything I could do for her or say to her. We spoke all throughout the next game about having faith and not quitting. I tried my best to encourage her and let her know that the Lord doesn't ever place a burden on you that you can't

handle. I told her that as bad as times seem right now, the Lord is going to use these circumstances to make her into a great woman some day. There are tons of more stories like that from these past 2 weeks. It would take forever to write them all out. Each player was able to make an impact on someone I am sure of that. Whether it was one of their teammates or one of the fans, I know people were impacted these last couple weeks. It's so special how God gives us talents and opportunities and if we use them right we can make a big difference!

Oh and just in case you were wondering...my team won the tournament! My team, Bethlehem Orthodoxy had NEVER won a tournament EVER! It was so cool to be a part of Bethlehem's 1st championship! They were dancing in the streets and everything; it was such a special night! What made the championship even more impressive though was the fact that most teams got 2 Americans but my team only got one since I was already there. The American we got though broke his nose on the 2nd day so it's amazing we were able to win with just 1 American player. Some teams were given 2 Americans that already had an American so they had 3 Americans to our 1, and we still managed to win! It was such a fun tournament. I played very good and even scored 55 points 1 game! I honestly can't explain it, I just kept shooting 3 pointers and they kept going in! The person for Athletes In Action that is in charge of placing players overseas was at this tournament too, so it's good that he got to see me play so well. He was impressed and said that when my contract is up here in December that he will start looking for opportunities for me to play in better leagues and make a lot more money than I'm making now. But nothing is guaranteed though, so I'm just going to try my best and enjoy myself from now until December and then see what the Lord has in store next for me.

We have another tournament starting on Saturday and it will last until the end of August. Also, my parents are coming to visit the last week in August and the 1st week in September. I can't wait to show them all the stuff I have seen so far! After they leave, I will start working on the after school camp I want to do for the kids here in Bethlehem. The games we play are always packed with kids and I know I could have such a good influence on them. The tricky thing here is that there is so much religious tension that we have to find a way to do a Christian camp and not get the non-Christians all fired up about it. Hopefully the other missionaries I work with here will have some insight on all that. So thanks to everyone who has been praying for me and supporting me. I definitely feel a lot better writing this letter than I did the last 1. The Lord has blessed me so much and I'm so thankful for this experience. Hope to hear back from some of ya'll. Let me know how things are back in the good 'ol US. I'm actually about to go watch us play Greece in basketball. Oh I hope we win the gold this year! I actually have a lot better respect for what LeBron and them are going through now, because the International rules are so different! I saw D. Wade getting mad at a call the other day and I thought it was so funny because I knew exactly how he felt haha! Anyways though, ya'll keep me in your prayers and feel free to share any prayer request ya'll might have with me. Talk to you again soon.

Jarred

ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE BY OCT. 31ST.