

mikado

NEWS FROM MIKADO BAPTIST CHURCH

January February March 2011

NEW BEGINNINGS

INTRODUCING MIKADO'S NEW LOOK

Declare. Disciple. Do. Just what does that mean? Is it just another catchy marketing scheme so that we can have something to remember? The answer might surprise you. We have chosen words that clearly describe who we are in an effort to help everyone easily remember. The

reality is that these three little words are the very essence of who we are at Mikado. It's our hope that this phrase will be in the front of our minds and that it will be the catalyst for all that we do.

Everything that we "do" boils down to these three words: declare, disciple, do. The progression works like this: as a body of believers, we need to *declare* the truth of the Gospel, *disciple* (mentor) others for the sake of the Gospel, and become active in *doing* service for the Lord because of the Gospel.

Jesus made his marching orders abundantly clear to a group of eleven men in Matthew 28 when he said in simple, direct terms—go, baptize, and teach. His

followers took that simple philosophy and turned their world upside down for the sake of the Gospel. I guarantee you, not one of them would trade the joy and satisfaction they received by being obedient for anything this world has to offer.

That is the goal for our church: that we'll find joy in doing what God has asked us to do. As we begin the year, my prayer is that we will follow the example of Christ's disciples. It just doesn't get any better than faithfully obeying God! ■

Our new purpose statement:

declare
disciple
do



Rusty Smith, Pastor

Welcome to the first issue of our church newsletter, a tri-monthly publication that replaces our monthly letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at info@mikadobc.com

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LifeLevels

YOU'RE AN ESSENTIAL PIECE!



Curved, squared, multi-faceted. Complex, simple, dimensional. Small, medium, large. Pieces of a puzzle—they come in different shapes and sizes, but every piece is important. In addition, each piece was designed to fit in a specific place, while complimenting the pieces that border it. Here's the application: LifeLevels was designed with you in mind!

In fact, LifeLevels is bringing in the New Year with the slogan: *Get Connected*. Strategically connecting both present and future members with a small group Bible study class is more than a goal, it is the passion that drives

Mikado's LifeLevels ministry! From children to teens, singles to couples, mens to ladies classes, LifeLevels literally has something for everyone.

On Vision Sunday, the winter campaign was launched! Over the last three Sundays in January, LifeLevels will experience a refreshing winter blast as we seek to invigorate this dynamic ministry.

Our campaign is on **January 16th, 23rd and 30th**. The campaign will involve all of the adult classes (student and college ministries not included). The membership card that is included in this mailing can be used to "sign up" for your class of choice. Be sure to save your puzzle piece until February 6th, when

LIFELEVELS :: You're an essential piece

you'll have an opportunity to decide for sure which class you'd like to attend this year.

From a new class (led by Bill & Daurice Grant) for Mikado's 50 & older crowd, to the new option of taking a School of Bible class (led by Todd Robinson) on Sunday mornings, LifeLevels is expanding in an effort to serve you more effectively! This thriving Bible study ministry is persistently striving to connect members and guests with a class that provides the perfect fit for you! ■



Edlee Mixon, Administration

Family Resources

LIFELEVEL DVD'S AVAILABLE:

Interested in growing your relationships? These family resources are available for you to check out of the church resource room. Contact us today at info@mikadobc.com to express interest.

- "Making Children Mind Without Losing Your Mind"
- "Have a New Kid by Friday"
- "Value-Packed Parenting"
- "Making the Most of Marriage... Building a Relationship to Last a Lifetime"
- "Raising Kids Who Turn Out Right"



GET CONNECTED! LifeLevels Winter Campaign

To get the most out of our LifeLevels Winter Campaign, follow these tips:

SHOP AROUND

Visit the classes of your choice over a period of three weeks. This gives you ample opportunity to see what is available for your Life Level.

TURN IN YOUR PUZZLE PIECE

Once you have decided on the class that you would like to attend, simply turn in your provided puzzle piece to the teacher on "LifeLevels Sunday," February 6th.

MAKE A COMMITMENT

By joining a LifeLevel class, you are committing to faithfully study the Bible and be accountable to your fellow students. We ask that you faithfully attend and be actively involved in your class through the rest of 2011.

GET INVOLVED

Seek opportunities to serve your fellow students or teacher. Be a blessing, and you'll receive a blessing. Get ready to make new friendships and enjoy a deeper walk with the Lord in 2011!

The importance of

Discipleship

“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.” —Philippians 1:6

Every Christian is a disciple. Whether you realize it or not, you are to be actively involved in the ministry of discipleship. What’s involved in discipleship? First and foremost it is faithfully following Christ in obedience. In order to obey Him, we have to know what He expects, and His expectations are clearly outlined in His Word. Growing in obedience also involves becoming a more effective witness for Christ.

Without discipleship we end up just living for ourselves. We miss out on opportunities, learning experiences, and growth. Ultimately, we are exchanging an eternity of rewards for a limited time of pleasure.

Christian discipleship begins when you make an active choice to get to know Jesus better. By God’s grace, your discipleship journey can begin today!

- You can study His Word daily and spend time alone with Him in prayer.
- You can seek out the companionship of other Christians who are growing with Christ.

- You can participate in ministry and meet the needs of other believers.
- You can share what you’re learning about Christ with others.

But there is more to it than just *being* a disciple. We are also to be *making* disciples. That is, we are to be actively teaching and training others who are younger in the faith. Whether they realize it or not, what believers receive through teaching, mentoring and follow up is foundational to their spiritual growth.

When a church forsakes discipleship its people lack growth and outreach. Many will give up on Christianity while others will become confused, calloused, or complacent. Even worse, they can be swept away by false doctrines and cults due to their weak foundations and lack of understanding of the basics of Christianity. ■



Bob Benbrooks,
Discipleship Ministries

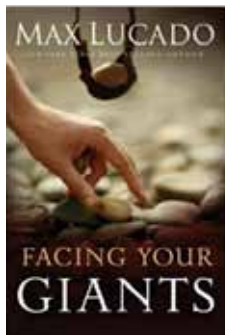
At Mikado there are numerous ministry opportunities to both disciple and to be disciplined:

- Start with our “Daily In the Word” One-on-One Discipleship on Wednesdays at 6:45 pm
- Expand your Bible knowledge beginning in January 2011 by earning a 3-year Bible Institute Certificate at the Mikado School of Bible, Thursdays at 7:00 pm & Sundays during the LifeLevels hour
- Ladies can participate in the Ladies Bible Study on Tuesdays at 10:00 am (check the church calendar for specific dates)
- Disciple others in our Reformers Unanimous addiction recovery program which meets Fridays at 7:00 pm

SWORD

Upcoming Events

- 1.5 SWORD Resumes (MSM/HSM)
- 1.9 Nursing Home Ministry
- 1.9 DR/MX Meeting
- 1.12 Guest Speaker: Bro. John Lord
- 1.15 Dodgeball Tournament (MSM/HSM)
- 1.23 SWORD Award Ceremony
- 1.30 Parent/Teen FACT
- 2.5 DR/MX Training Session
- 2.6 Nursing Home Ministry
- 2.6 Mission Team Parent Meeting
- 2.13 9th/10th Grade FACT
- 2.19 SWORD Family Night Activity
- 3.6 Nursing Home Ministry
- 3.11 Youth Rally with ABC (MSM/HSM)
- 3.13 DR Meeting
- 3.20 MX Meeting
- 3.27 MSM FACT



New Sunday School Series: January 23 MSM/HSM studying - "Facing Your Giants"



www.mikadosword.com

What is SWORD?



Often I am asked what SWORD is and I typically reply with these questions: Who is packed with young people going to summer camp, traveling around the world on a mission trip or going just up the road ice skating and bowling? What is filled with outreach opportunities to the nursing home, door-to-door soul-winning, and 3-on-3 basketball tournaments? Where will you find all you can eat pizza, delicious brownie sundaes and plenty to choose from at the Hydrate Cafe? When can you find teenagers worshipping the Lord through singing, serving, and seeking? The who, when, where and what is SWORD. We are the Student Ministry of Mikado Baptist Church where teens can get together and be challenged to build their lives on time-tested principles that always guarantee success. Our student ministry has the privilege to minister to 120+ teens in the 6th–12th grades. We are privileged to have 18 adults who work weekly with the students in various facets of ministry. Our “why we do what we do” is wrapped up in the name of our ministry:

- S – Service Opportunities**
- W – Worship the Lord**
- O – Organized Activities**
- R – Reaching the Lost**
- D – Discipleship**

Our passion is to meet specific developmental needs in each student and lead them on a journey to know their God in an even stronger way. This is done through our small groups Sunday school program, our Wednesday night worship services, and a variety of activities that help the teens socially and spiritually. The goal of SWORD is to help guide students to a new level in their spiritual walk with God, and it’s all about relationships! ■



Peter Grant, Student Ministries



CHANCE

The wrong ingredient for child-raising

SOME THINGS YOU JUST DON'T WANT TO LEAVE UP TO CHANCE.

People like the thrill of chance. Watching TV reveals dozens of game shows that air with contestants guessing for opportunities to win thousands of dollars. We eagerly watch our reality shows, hoping our character stays on another week. People all over the country will go buy Lottery tickets today for the *chance* to win millions of dollars, and you've probably had someone recently ask you to fill out a survey for a chance to win something.

Perhaps that is what we like about a new year—it brings with it *chance*. We know that a new year could hold opportunities for exciting moments or discouraging trials; but, like a lottery, we are hoping for the best possible outcome.

Today, too many families are raising their kids by chance. They hope that “by chance” their children will blossom into godly

young men and ladies. The Bible, however, gives us a completely different intention. Solomon tells us to “train *up* a child in the way he should go” (Prov. 22:6, emphasis added). The Bible makes it clear that the direction we are to raise our children is up. Interestingly, nothing stands up unless it is balanced. We as parents have to intentionally give our children responsibilities, restrictions, and guidance that balances them so that they will grow “up.” What will you do this year to make your child grow (spiritually, mentally, academically, morally, and physically)? Here are five ideas to help you begin to train your child this new year:

1. CREATE CONSISTENCY

Create a schedule for your child. It doesn't matter if your child is one or nineteen, they need consistency. Scheduling teaches them self-control and discipline. It also allows your child to begin to develop time-management. Consider whether your children should play, or get their homework

done, when they first arrive home from school. What time will they have for chores and how much time are they allowed for video games and play time? What time is bed time? How long do they have to get ready? These are all things that should have set times.

2. CONVERSE OFTEN

Intentionally provide time for dialogue. A big tool in helping your child grow mentally is challenging him to share his opinion. You want your children to express themselves and confide in you. Conversing with your child helps them feel greatly valued, loved, and respected. By asking them to share their thoughts on everyday issues and decisions, you are encouraging them to think, communicate, and mature. Your child's ideas may be really silly, but by giving them the opportunity to feel like they are a part of the decision, you are giving them ownership of something. Ask them lots of questions and don't settle for one-

word answers. Let your kids know that you care about what they think by asking questions and listening to their answers.

3. REWARD READING

When I was younger, I went through a "hate-to-read" season. My aunt came up with a creative idea. One summer she bought 20 books for me to read. Each book had a dollar amount in the front of it. The amount varied, based on how hard the book was to finish. If I completed the book, I would get the assigned amount of money. If I read all of them, I could walk away with about eighty dollars. I read like crazy that summer! More importantly, it put in my heart a love to read. As an adult, I try reading at least a book a month. Why? Not because I receive money (although that would be awesome!), but because I gain something else: wisdom. The truth is when most of us graduate from school we cease to learn. It's been said, "I will be the same 20 years from now, save the books I read and

the company I spend time with." Teach your children the importance of reading early, and you will have children that continue to grow and learn. This will make great spouses, parents, and employees out of your children. Get them reading—more than their school books—this year.

4. SCHEDULE TIME

"What doesn't get scheduled, doesn't get done." It is not good enough to say you are going to spend more time with your children. Sit down and plan specific time individually with your spouse and each child. Some parents have been led to believe that as their children get older, they need you less. The truth is they need you more. However, if while they are young you fail to spend time with them, as they get older, they will become less interested in hoping you will be there. They will find someone else who will. Plan on spending time with your children now!

5. EXERCISE DAILY

Recent articles state that over 9

Revival

with Ron DeGarde

JANUARY 16-19



million children in America are obese. It is important that children are active. Most children don't have a choice on what they can eat, so it is important to teach your children good eating habits and good exercise habits. In a world filled with video games and media, it is becoming more and more difficult to convince children to play sports. Why would they go outside and learn to shoot a basketball if they can slam dunk the ball on PlayStation?

The Bible calls our bodies *temples*. We need to take care of the bodies God has given us. In addition, there are a lot of lessons and principles that children learn by playing sports, such as teamwork, humility, tenacity, commitment, and an understanding that life is not always fair. Keep your children active. When people

lose self control over their physical body, it is my observation that they lose discipline in many other areas of their life. Help them now.

Often times we look at parenting like the bumper lanes at the bowling alley. We think that as long as we are on either side of our child's choices, and we make sure that they don't end up in the gutter than we are doing pretty good. We stand there, and as they get too close to an extreme we push them back to the middle, hoping that because of that bumper, they

will turn into great adults. The truth is we need to be more than that. We cannot be referees, we have to be coaches. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Let me challenge you to do more this year. Have intentions for everything you do with your children. ■



KidzTrek Konnect

what's happening in our children's ministry

January 28 & March 25 — Date Night

Moms and Dads can enjoy a night out, while we watch the kids.

February 4 — Nursery Appreciation Banquet

All nursery workers and their spouses will join us for a wonderful meal and time of fellowship and training.

March 28 — KidzTrek Highlight Night

The Kidz are taking over the church service, with a KidzChoir, KidzPreaching, KidzUshers, and KidzOffering. You will not want to miss this exciting service!



Derrick Williams,
Children's Ministry

Bible Reading Plan

Read through the Bible in one year



CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

January

1 Gen. 1-3
2 Gen. 4-7
3 Gen. 8-11
4 Job 1-5
5 Job 6-9
6 Job 10-13
7 Job 14-16
8 Job 17-20
9 Job 21-23
10 Job 24-28
11 Job 29-31
12 Job 32-34
13 Job 35-37
14 Job 38-39
15 Job 40-42
16 Gen. 12-15
17 Gen. 16-18
18 Gen. 19-21
19 Gen. 22-24
20 Gen. 25-26
21 Gen. 27-29
22 Gen. 30-31
23 Gen. 32-34
24 Gen. 35-37
25 Gen. 38-40
26 Gen. 41-42
27 Gen. 43-45
28 Gen. 46-47
29 Gen. 48-50
30 Exod. 1-3
31 Exod. 4-6

February

1 Exod. 7-9
2 Exod. 10-12
3 Exod. 13-15
4 Exod. 16-18
5 Exod. 19-21
6 Exod. 22-24
7 Exod. 25-27
8 Exod. 28-29
9 Exod. 30-32
10 Exod. 33-35
11 Exod. 36-38
12 Exod. 39-40
13 Lev. 1-4
14 Lev. 5-7
15 Lev. 8-10
16 Lev. 11-13
17 Lev. 14-15
18 Lev. 16-18
19 Lev. 19-21
20 Lev. 22-23
21 Lev. 24-25
22 Lev. 26-27
23 Num. 1-2
24 Num. 3-4
25 Num. 5-6
26 Num. 7
27 Num. 8-10
28 Num. 11-13

March

1 Num. 14-15,
Ps. 90
2 Num. 16-17
3 Num. 18-20
4 Num. 21-22
5 Num. 23-25
6 Num. 26-27
7 Num. 28-30
8 Num. 31-32
9 Num. 33-34
10 Num. 35-36
11 Deut. 1-2
12 Deut. 3-4
13 Deut. 5-7
14 Deut. 8-10
15 Deut. 11-13
16 Deut. 14-16
17 Deut. 17-20
18 Deut. 21-23
19 Deut. 24-27
20 Deut. 28-29
21 Deut. 30-31
22 Deut. 32-34
Ps. 91
23 Josh. 1-4
24 Josh. 5-8
25 Josh. 9-11
26 Josh. 12-15
27 Josh. 16-18
28 Josh. 19-21
29 Josh. 22-24
30 Judg. 1-2
31 Judg. 3-5

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UPCOMING EVENTS at Mikado

JANUARY

- 6 School of Bible resumes
- 9 Vision Sunday
- 10 GYP (Senior Luncheon)
- 12 Oasis resumes
- 15 MSM & HSM activity
- 16-19 Revival—Ron DeGarde
- 23 Sanctity of Life Sunday
Discover Mikado Lunch
- 26 Financial Peace Begins
- 28 Date Night
- 30 BJU Drama Team (PM)

FEBRUARY

- 4 Nursery Banquet
- 6 Concert with Mac Lynch
LifeLevels Teacher Mtg.
- 12 Churchwide Outreach
- 13 I Love My Church Sunday
- 14 GYP (Senior Luncheon)
- 19 SWORD Family Night
- 22 Ladies Ministry Fellowship
- 26 Father/Daughter Banquet
- 27 Discover Mikado Lunch
Lord's Table Service

MARCH

- 13 DST Begins
- 14 GYP (Senior Luncheon)
- 20 Servant Sunday
- 25 Date Night
- 27 Discover Mikado Lunch
KidzTrek Highlight Night

A New Beginning

THE VALUE OF STARTING OVER

Recently while playing a piano duet with my daughter, Joy, I stopped and asked, "Can we start over?" I wasn't doing very well—missing a few notes here and there—so I wanted to try again. I thought if I could just start over I could do a better job.

There's something exciting and invigorating about getting a fresh start. For me, a new year offers an opportunity for a new beginning.

I've often heard it said that "it doesn't take a new year to begin our lives anew; God grants us new beginnings each day the whole year through." After looking back at 2010, do you anticipate the New Year because you get a new beginning in areas of your life that need improvement? Is there a bad habit you need to break? An attitude that needs to be changed? A relationship that needs to be restored? Does your relationship with God and your family need a new beginning?

I am reminded of several Scriptures that God gives us to encourage "new beginnings."

In Lamentations 3:22-23 we read that the "Lord's compassion fail not. They are new every morning." Second Corinthians 4:16 states, "Though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day." God actually remembers that we are but dust. After all, that's what He used to create us. Though He knows we may be physically weary, spiritually empty, and emotionally tired, His compassion and mercy are available to renew our spirits each and every day.

Joy and I started the piano song over again, and I'm glad we did. I made a few less mistakes, and the song sounded much better. Let's make this new year a time of new beginnings, and expect great things from God. ■



Lisa Smith,
Pastor's Wife

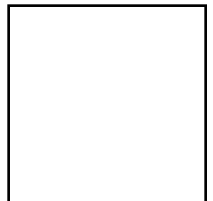
February 13

S U N D A Y

MY Church I

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