



Prosperity Proclamation

Prosperity Presbyterian Church

P C A

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"Lost" not Found

If you are not connected with today's pop-culture via certain television shows, this article may lose a few of you. My apologies up front (mom). Born at the tail-end of the baby-boomer generation in 1964, I grew up with and sometimes on the ever-expanding pop-culture medium of television. Like most of my friends in grade-school and beyond we raced home after sports practice to catch the daily episode of Gilligan's Island, M.A.S.H, and Scooby-Doo before homework and dinner (because of course we couldn't TIVO back then and watch them later). Of course these were the original episodes and not the cable re-runs that my 6-year-old watches with me before dinner nowadays (when they ARE TIVOed).

Who but the Lord can know how the medium of television and its characters, story lines and morality have shaped our values and thinking in America over the last 40 years since I first started watching. Some argue that art, even pop-art, simply reflects a society's values while others say that it drives it. I believe that an argument can be made for both positions. The Lord teaches us in His revelation to "be transformed by the renewing of our mind" (Romans 12:2) and "to take every thought captive and make it obedient to Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5). This implies that pop-culture in all its forms is worldly, that Kool-Aid must be evaluated before being drunk. We try and screen out old food picked up under the table from our toddler's diets, as well as National Geographic programs that tell them they evolved from apes and will return to mud one day. Hopefully, most Christian parents have learned that pop-culture, including my childhood pal television, is a powerful tool, like a car, that can be helpful in sharpening our minds and even refreshing our souls through creativity.

So, it is without excuse that I reflect upon my impressions of the last episode of "Lost," the 7-year drama about a group of people (as many as 14) who experience life on a tropical island after their commercial airline crashes on route from Australia to LA. I am aware that some of you, maybe many of you, have never watched even one episode of this show, but you just might glean something from the next paragraph or two, so don't turn the page just yet. Like the drama M.A.S.H or E.R. (which I never watched) or the soap "As the World Turns" or the comedy "Seinfeld," visual fiction on television can powerfully draw us in. Just as Shakespeare's plays did 500 years ago for the popular culture of England or the Greek plays did for their culture 2300 years ago, dramatic art allows us to see ourselves, our lives, our families and our culture as in a mirror

and to laugh, fear, rejoice, and cry with the characters. This form of art has also allowed us to vicariously "live" at times through the people on stage or on screen. Those of us who paid to see "Braveheart" or "Gladiator" in the theatres multiple times (mostly men), watched and imagined ourselves as valiant Scotsmen fighting English tyranny or betrayed Roman warriors fighting in the coliseum before thousands of our countrymen to right the emperor's injustice. But dramas like "Lost" and the movie "The Matrix" reach another level of engagement for the audience altogether, and are appropriately rewarded with accolades and global awareness for it. More than good relational drama, character development, interesting plot, and action, all of which these two had, these shows/films engaged our minds philosophically. By creating the "world" of the island, "Lost" offered viewers a chance to think about the bigger questions of human "existence," "purpose," "morality" and even divine presence. This is great news and bad news for the worldwide watching public. That a prime-time television show actually tackled these questions, making them discussable topics around the water cooler at work every week is fabulous. However, the conclusions which the writers ultimately came to are disappointing, not surprising given the dominance of religious pluralism in America today, but disappointing. Like all post-modern artists, the writers of "Lost" created a theology which borrows from multiple religions, reinforcing the popular value of "tolerance" and "diversity." Having gathered the original nine characters back together at the very end of the last episode, the writers had Christian Shepherd (dead for the last five seasons) escorting his son Jack into a church to meet the other characters with a stain-glass window behind them where a symbol from every major religion was etched (like the "Coexist" bumper sticker you see on cars). When asked by Jack if "this is the end," Christian the Shepherd replies "not the end, we're just moving on" as he opens the doors to the back of the church and walks into a hallway of pure light.

So, once again in popular culture, all religious "roads lead to the top of the mountain" where God is, not just Jesus (you narrow minded Christians!). Still, the creation of an Edenic island with a life source at the center, or a place of purgatory from which you can't escape, where angelic-like Jacob and his evil, smoke-monster brother battle for eternity made us think and wonder how much like God's reality this really might be. Of course the bad theology notwithstanding, I wept like a baby with my wife, Ruth, as Jack laid down to die on the

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island at the very end, just as I had when Hawkeye left M.A.S.H in a helicopter back in the 1970's, realizing that these characters over the last 7 years of episodes had taken root in my heart and become friends that I looked forward to seeing each week. Great art does that, even in a fallen world, reflecting something of the image of God that resonates with our souls. You may not find Christ in "Lost," but you can sure use this drama to help reach the Lost for Christ.

Pastor Berry



Mérida Mission Trip

Currently Pastor Berry, Lyn Peebles, and Stormi Johnson are scheduled to go on the short term mission trip to Mérida, Mexico on July 17 - July 24, 2010. However, there are enough funds for another person. If you feel called to go please contact Pastor Stubbs as soon as possible.

Thank you to everyone who made donations and helped with the attic and bake sale on May 22, a total of \$650 was raised at the sale for the mission trip.

Please continue to pray for us, and the Mexican people as we prepare to travel, we appreciate your support and prayers.

Stormi Johnson

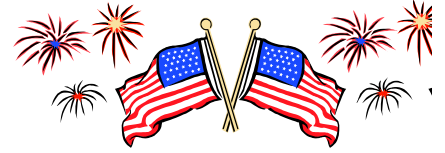
Second Harvest Food Bank

We are asking all of our congregation to help our Charlotte neighbors who are less fortunate by bringing can foods and non-perishable items to church on Communion Sunday. On Sunday mornings we will place these foods on a table in the front of the sanctuary.

We will continue this throughout the year. When we prepare our hearts for Communion Sunday, please also remember all our Lord has provided for us and help those less fortunate by giving to the Second Harvest Food Bank in this manner.

Cheryl Carrington

Harrisburg July 4th Parade



Our Vacation Bible Camp will have a **float in the Harrisburg Parade** on Saturday, July 3. The parade begins at 9:00 AM. **If you can help with the float or participate in the parade, please let Jenna Aiken know.** Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the parade and the celebration.

Charlotte Symphony Orchestra

The Christian Life Committee would like to invite everyone to a relaxing evening event "*Under the Stars*" listening to the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra followed by an exciting fireworks display.

The place is Village Park in Kannapolis and the festivities start at 7PM on Friday, July 2.

Bring your lawn chair or blanket and we will meet at the church at 6PM to caravan to the park.

You are welcome to bring a picnic supper and/or drinks - or there are reasonably priced concessions available at the park (hamburgers, hotdogs, drinks, ice cream, etc).

Be aware that parking is a couple of blocks away - so whatever you bring you will have to carry. There is no cost except for concessions. So please plan to join us as we celebrate our Nation's birth as well as enjoy the fellowship of one another.

Gypsy Keith

Wednesday Dinner and Prayer Time

We begin at 6:30 PM with dinner, followed by singing and prayer. Children will have special activities.

Upcoming Wednesday Dinner Dates:
July 21, August 18

WIC Monthly Meeting

Thursday, July 1, 7:00 PM
Prosperity Church Dining Hall

We welcome all ladies to join us!

Missionaries of the Month

Joe and Ann Lyle

Christ College in Taipei, Taiwan

Spring Semester is almost Over!!!

It seemed like a long year and at the same time a very short one.

As I am writing this, Joe is grading the last of the papers for his research class. To end the semester, each of these students wrote a Personal Worldview Paper. Many of the students are saying they are Christians, but not all the answers line up with the normal view of what a Christian believes. This is understandable since most of our students come from a background that combines Buddhism and ancestor worship. A senior that we talked with yesterday, said she was a Christian, yet she believes her Grandfather (that has died) is looking out for the family to give them good luck. What do we do? We can point to Scripture that shows the work of Christ and trust that the Holy Spirit will continue to teach her the truth.

What's Next?

We are now pulling the grades together and tying up loose ends.

Jamie Stuart, our intern for several weeks, leaves and our three summer interns arrive. They will be with us for three weeks to help students and teachers with summer school, which will begin soon.

We will be visiting family in the US July 23 – August 18.

Christ's College News

1. We ended the school year with about 300 students. About 80 of these graduated so we need 80+ new students just to keep it at the same level. So far, only 20+ have been accepted for next fall. Our next entrance exams will be in August. There are more colleges in Taiwan than ever before and they are all facing challenges in enrollment. **Please, pray for more students.** As much as we like the low numbers, it is hurting us financially.
2. Because finances are low, the college is having to let several people go. We are more than a college; we are like family so this has been very hard for everyone. Some of these people have been here for many years. **Please, pray for those leaving and the adjustments (emotional and work load) that will need to be made.**
3. It will probably be next year before we reach acceptance with the Ministry of Education. We went through a long legal process that has held up our bid for accreditation. Presently it seems that we have come out of the legal struggle and are able to move forward.

Prayer requests:

1. **Wisdom and energy** to prepare for our summer interns and summer school.
2. **Wisdom** as Ann works to communicate to the students that need to be in summer school. One class will only be offered in summer school and not during the regular school year. Pray that I can get in touch with all these students.
3. **Wisdom** for Joe as he helps to direct summer school and teaches one course during the last week.

Praise for:

1. **Jamie Stuart** - She has been so easy to work with and get with the students and helping us.
2. Praise for the **summer team of 3 people** that will be with us for 3 weeks of summer school. One will be teaching a course for us and the other two helping in the classroom and touching student's lives.

For all your prayers and love, we thank you,

In Christ, *Ann and Joe*

The Lyles serve with Mission to the World and have been in Taiwan since 1991. They serve at Christ's College outside Taipei. The goal of the college is to provide a quality education, as well as evangelize and disciple students. Joe and Ann live on campus and work with other faculty and staff to teach, encourage and challenge the students for Christ. During the summer, they coordinate and host a summer team that works with the students in summer school and a VBS program with a local church. Joe and Ann have three adult children (Sarah, John and Janna) and several grandchildren in Colorado and California.



Words from the WIC

Everyone is looking forward to a great summer! We pray that God will bless us all with a good time of refreshment, whether traveling or at home.

The focus of the July WIC meeting will be the 2010 Women in the Church Love Gift, which is the MNA (Missions to North America) Special Needs Ministries. The WIC website states the following: "Jesus Christ beautifully models for us how to relate to people with special needs: with dignity, grace, truth, genuine hospitality, mercy, justice and faithfulness. When we learn to see people with disabilities through Jesus' eyes, we end up seeing all people – including ourselves – more accurately as a result." The mission theme is "equipping and encouraging PCA churches to make the Gospel accessible to all, in word and deed."

Contributions to the Love Gift will enable the provision of the following to PCA churches:

1. Gospel and Disability Educational Gift Packs – practical resources for developing special needs ministries built on sound biblical principles. They will be distributed to 500 PCA churches.
2. Trainer development – equipping trainers who will work 1-1 with PCA congregations to develop self-sustaining local disability ministries.
3. Luke 14 Matching Grants – made available to PCA churches that are starting new initiatives to serve individuals and families touched by disability in their local congregations or communities.

More information about the Love Gift will be available at the July meeting. Contributions toward this ministry are welcomed from any church member or friend!

WIC meetings are open to any woman, any age, who attends Prosperity Church. We welcome everyone to join us! We will meet **Thursday, July 1 at 7 PM** in the church fellowship hall. Please join us for refreshments at 7:00, followed by a study of Cain and Abel, based on the study book *Before Abraham* by John MacArthur. Hope to see you there!

Marilyn Drennen, WIC President



VBC 2010 Saddle Ridge Ranch

Roundin' Up Questions, Drivin' Home Answers!

August 1-6, 6:00-8:30 PM

Children 3 years through 5th grade



Saddle up for Vacation Bible Camp 2010 where kids will be ridin' the range and roundin' up questions like: "What is God's plan for me?" and "How can I be like Jesus?" At the end of the day, they'll discover that God's Word has all the answers.

Children will learn James 1:5, the week's theme verse:
Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives to all generously and without criticizing, and it will be given to him.

There will be plenty of singing, crafts, and snacks as we teach children to ask God when they need answers.

If you would like to help in VBC, please see Jenna Aiken so we can get materials passed out and everything in place before everyone starts their summer vacations.

If you would like to register your children or any visitors there are registration forms available in the narthex, or call the church office at 704-875-1182. Online registration is also available at www.prosperityvbs.com.

**We hope you'll brand your summer with
Saddle Ridge Ranch VBC!**



In the Pre-School Corner

We ended our 2009-2010 school year with a wonderful Graduation program! All the children in the school participated and the graduation class was presented with their Graduation certificates as well as their Bibles donated by the Women In the Church. The families had a nice time of fellowship after the program and enjoyed punch and cupcakes!

My "Expressions of thanks" during the program went a little long, but we could not have finished out this year without the support from many people...

Marilyn Drennen-thank you for being with us at the program to present the Bibles

Mark Gregory-thank you for doing the sound at our program, unclogging toilets, fixing the computer, taking pictures, changing light bulbs, etc...

Earl Dove and Nathan Heston-who over the course of this past school year have been our Deacon reps on the preschool board and I know just loved to see my name in their inbox when checking their e-mail!!

Pastor Berry-for building a relationship with not only the preschool children, but their families as well, having Chapel with the children weekly, praying with the preschool staff weekly and postponing your vacation a day so that you were able to attend our Graduation program!

Chris Barth-thank you for your service as the Teacher rep on our preschool board. We have appreciated your input and honesty serving for the past couple of years!

Kerry Carrington-thank you for our paychecks-I t's just that simple!!!

Cheryl Carrington-thank you for being our WIC rep on the preschool board and being a tremendous support to the school! Cheryl helped with fall registration as well as substituted as director, teacher and aide throughout the year!

Dot Snyder-you don't know what you've got until it's gone! Dot was very much missed while she was out earlier this year for a few weeks! Thank you for your consistent support to the teachers and for your support through the transition of directors!

Kris Guidry, Pati O'Connor, Carol Toukmaji and Chris Barth-our teachers who not only teach, but pray for the children and their families! We send the children off to their next school year well prepared academically, but mainly with the knowledge of God's Word.

Isabelle Dontsop and Carol Kline, our aides-thank you for your support to not only the teachers, but to me as well!!

Cathee Griffin and Kathy Heston-the aides especially thank you for covering for them the last weeks of schools so that they could vacation with family!

Stormi, Logan, Kelsey and Steve-our youth helpers at the graduation program! They helped with set up and break down of the dining hall, handed out programs, assisted with tech support, sat with the students and signed kids up for VBS! Thank you!

Sandy Smith-who continues to weekly play piano during Chapel for the students!

Nicole Weeks, Kate Forehand, Ana Farrera-Hernandez and Heather Staskel-the parent advisory board met about once a month to throw ideas around, brainstorm and discuss how we at Prosperity PreSchool can make things better! Thank you for your time and input ladies!

All of the PreSchool parents-for support, prayer, donations and of course for entrusting your children to us! We will miss the families that are moving on, but will pray that we will see you at future Prosperity events like: VBS, EBS, movie nights, etc!

The congregation at Prosperity-I especially appreciate the support and prayer that I have received as director and ask that you continue to pray for this school and the outreach and service that the school offers our community!

I hope I did not forget anyone!!!

Future Dates to remember: Thursday, July 22nd 10:30-1:00, PreSchool play date @ the church
 Tuesday, August 17th 10:30-1:00, PreSchool play date @ the church
 Thursday, September 2nd 6:30pm-7:30pm, Open House
 Tuesday, September 7th First Day of School

We have filled our enrollments for the fall, however, if you would like to be on the waiting list or would like information, please contact Carrie McDonald at cmcdonald@prosperitypreschool.com.

We pray that all of you have a restful summer!

Carrie McDonald, Pre-school Director

July Usher Schedule

4	
Justin Crist	Terry Nance
Larry Keith	Joe Strube
11	
Jim Anderson	Earl Dove
Keith Comer	George Livengood
18	
Jim Anderson	Shane Cook
A. C. Barbee	Earl Dove
25	
Ryan Byas	George Livengood
Scott Johnson	Eric Miller

Sunday Morning Worship Service Greeters

July

4 Joe and Sarah Strube
11 Ryan and Autumn Byas
18 Eric and Mary Beth Miller
25 Dennis and Marilyn Drennen

August

1 Jim and Brenda Anderson
8 Justin and Kate Crist
15 Kerry and Cheryl Carrington
22 Larry and Gypsy Keith
29 Terry and Karen Nance

Our Giving to the Lord May 2010 Treasurer's Report

May Received	\$ 13,416.41
May Disbursed	\$ 16,199.05
Deficit	\$ 2,782.64
Year To Date Received	\$ 56,324.87
Year To Date Disbursed	\$ 96,429.23
Deficit	\$ 40,104.36
Balance in Building Fund	\$ 24,064.56*
Balance in Cemetery Fund	\$ 11,182.25

*\$8,351.34 paid for New Air and Heat Unit, plus repairs and gravel approved by the Church.

Earl Dove

Nursery Schedules

9:15 Sunday School

10:30 Morning Worship Service

July 4	Lyn Peebles, Polly Dove	Megan Gregory, Eric and Mary Beth Miller
July 11	Cheryl Carrington, Gypsy Keith	Carrie McDonald, Joan Gregory, Cheryl Carrington
July 18	Carrie McDonald, Megan Gregory	Karen Nance, Ruth and Micah Stubbs
July 25	Cheryl Carrington, Gypsy Keith	Marilyn Drennen, Isabelle and Steve Dontsop
Aug. 1	Eric and Mary Beth Miller	Joy and Jami Finney, Cheryl Carrington
Aug. 8	Jami Finney, Megan Gregory	Brenda Anderson, Stormi and Logan Johnson
Aug. 15	Scott and Allison Johnson	Marilyn Drennen, Roman and Ami Norrod
Aug. 22	Polly Dove, Lyn Peebles	Karen Nance, Ruth and Micah Stubbs
Aug. 29	Karen Nance, Cheryl Carrington	Gypsy Keith, Carrie McDonald, Lyn Peebles

July Birthdays

Samuel Johnson	5
Asael Dontsop	10
Jansen Crist	20
Stormi Johnson	21
Amber Dove	22
Joan Love	24
Ron Perry	24
Larry Keith	28
Jim Anderson	30

Thank you for volunteering to minister in the nursery. If you are unable to keep your posted schedule please remember to find a replacement. If you trade your scheduled time please let the church office know by Wednesday so the bulletin can be updated. (704-875-1182) Please arrive 10 minutes prior to your assigned nursery time so families will have time to drop off their children and be in church on time.

Newsletter Articles!

Thursday, July 15 is the cut off for August Newsletter Articles.

Email: email@prosperitychurch.org

Please keep Dot updated on schedules, phone numbers and address changes.

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed or is incorrect, please call the church office 704-875-1182.

New Members

Justin and Katelyn Crist
were welcomed into the
membership
of
Prosperity Presbyterian Church
Sunday, June 6, 2010.

July Anniversaries

Terry and Karen Nance	7
Frank and Jenna Aiken	14
Joe and Sarah Strube	15
Roman and Ami Norrod	17
Lawrence and Martha Fink	18
Scott and Joy Finney	23
Nathan and Sara Carrington	26
Mark and Megan Gregory	27

Prosperity Church July 2010 Calendar

- 1 WIC Monthly Meeting in the Dining Hall (Thur.) 7:00 PM
- 2 Charlotte Symphony Orchestra Concert and Fireworks in the Village Park in Kannapolis (Fri.) 6:00 PM
- 4 Communion (Sun.)
- 17 Mérida Mission Trip
- 21 Wednesday Dinner Fellowship and Prayer Time 6:30 PM
- 24 Special Citizen Luncheon in the Dining Hall (Sat.) 11:30 AM

Youth Calendar

July

- 10 - Slip and Slide Day
- 26-31 - Sr. High Camp

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Summer Quarter June 6 – August 29

9:15 AM

CLASS	TEACHER	LOCATION
Daniel Lives of Integrity Words of Prophecy	Joy Finney	Alma Wallace Room #1
History of Christianity First 500 Years	Pastor Berry	Fellowship Center Dining Room
Infant Nursery 3 – 4 years K – 2 nd Grade 3 rd – 5 th Grade Junior – Senior High	Combined Teachers Carrie McDonald Brenda Anderson Larry Keith Mark Gregory	Room #8 Room #12 Room #3 Library Room #45



**July 4th
Happy Birthday
America!**

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