Why Jesus Died

John Piper wrote a book about a dozen years ago titled *Fifty Reasons Why Jesus Came to Die*. This book shows the purposes (not the causes) for Jesus’ death on the cross at Calvary. Let me mention just a few reasons why Jesus died.

*First, Jesus died to absorb the wrath of God.* All people born in this world are under the wrath of God. He is rightly displeased and wrathful against his creatures who have rebelled against him, whether they have done so consciously or unconsciously. Non-Christians think that God’s attitude toward them is that of love. However, they are greatly mistaken. All people are under the wrath of God, as Paul wrote in Romans 1:18a, “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men.” Jesus died, then, to absorb the wrath of God in our place.

*Second, Jesus died to show the wealth of God’s love and grace for sinners.* Piper says that he has heard it said, “God didn’t die for frogs. So he was responding to our value as humans.” He responds by saying that this turns grace toward its head. We are worse off than frogs. They have not sinned. They have not rebelled against God. God did not have to die for frogs. They are not bad enough. We are. Our debt is so great that only a divine sacrifice could pay it. Romans 5:7–8 says, “For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
And third, Jesus died to cancel the legal demands of the law against us. We think that our good deeds will outweigh our bad deeds. But our good deeds are as “filthy rags” in God’s sight. No, our only hope of salvation is not that our good deeds will outweigh our bad deeds but rather that our bad deeds should be cancelled. And that is exactly what Jesus accomplished by his death. Colossians 2:13–14 says, “And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.”

There are at least forty-seven more reasons why Jesus died. Let us thank God for the death of Jesus to save sinners such as ourselves.
In March we were busy working behind the scenes getting ready for our Sister-to-Sister event held on March 30. Watch for the report in the May issue of the Trumpet. In the meantime, stay tuned.
Men’s Bible Study Rays Spring Training Game

On March 25, 2019, the Men’s Bible Study decided to do its own event with the men from the bible study group. We all decided to attend a spring training game between the Tampa Bay Rays and the Detroit Tigers.

We first attended our normal routine of going to breakfast after the bible study at the local Steak ‘n Shake restaurant. Breakfast was good as we had ten people attend that day. After the breakfast, we all headed to the Spring Training Game between the Tampa Bay Rays and the Detroit Tigers in Lakeland, Florida.

There was a special occasion that day as our own Bible Study leader, Jeff Beams, was celebrating his birthday. Those present for the game were Alisa Carrier and Todd Carrier who wanted to sit in the outfield berm only to get sun burned. It was too sunny this day for the berm and the rest of our group did not want to get sunburned so we had tickets under the cover where it was shady. Those who sat in the stadium were Jeff Beams, Brian Carrier, Pastor Freddy Fritz, Ken Pothoven, Rod Proctor, and John and Lesley Schmidt.
The temperature underneath the cover was very comfortable with a high temperature of 80 degrees. The game was scheduled to start at approximately 1:00 p.m. and actually started at 1:05 p.m. The game started out poorly for the Rays as a crucial error was made in the first inning allowing four runs to score. The Rays battled back as they put four runs on the board. In the fifth inning they tied up the game only to see Detroit take the lead back in the bottom of the fifth, 5-4. Tampa Bay would then add three runs in the sixth to take over the lead only to see Detroit come back with one run in the seventh and two runs in the bottom of the ninth to win by a run.

We were hoping to see a win, but we did see a very exciting game as the two teams battled all day with plenty of offense in the game. It was a lot of fun for everyone including our birthday fan, Dr. Jeff Beams, who enjoyed his day at the ball park and enjoyed his fellowship with the Men’s Bible Study.

Attending a spring training game was suggested by Pastor Freddy Fritz and we were all glad that we did so. Unfortunately, he joins Brian Carrier as a leader in picking a losing game for the men of the church. We know it’s hard to pick a winning game, Freddy; Brian told you how easy it is to pick a losing one.

We maintain a strong group in the Men’s Bible Study and enjoyed the time together. The Men’s Bible Study would like to thank all the people who came out to the ball game on Saturday. We continue to provide fun and fellowship events for the Men’s Ministry. If you are unable to pay for an event please do not hesitate to contact Brian Carrier as the Men’s ministry has money for these events if you need us to cover them. The budget in the Men’s Ministry is for those that would like to come out and enjoy fun and fellowship with the men of the church. We do not want anyone who would like to participate be denied because of finances.
Please come to our Men’s Bible Study every Saturday morning at 7:45 p.m. led by our own Dr. Jeff Beams. We will be starting a new book, *The Message of Creation* by Jack B. Scott Volume Two on April 6, 2019.

Thank you again for the support of the Men’s Ministry and Men’s Bible Study.
Men’s Bowling Night

On February 28th, 2019, the Men’s Ministry had their first bowling night at University Lanes in Tampa. It was an event that had a slow start finding participants but we had six bowlers present and one spectator. We were scheduled to bowl for two hours and we planned on playing three games that day. Those present for the event were Brian Carrier, Pastor Freddy Fritz, Waldo Kemp, Peter Rotolo, Ben Palmer (Peter’s friend) and our Missionary, Don Vander Ploeg.

We were scheduled to start at approximately 7:00 p.m. but we actually started the first game at 7:20 p.m. We were not sure how to split the six men so what was decided was the International Team which consisted of Pastor Freddy Fritz, Waldo Kemp and Don Vander Ploeg, who all were born outside the United States, vs the United States Team which consisted of Brian Carrier, Ben Palmer and Peter Rotolo, who were all born within the United States. In addition to bowling, we enjoyed pizza and drinks which were provided for all to enjoy.

It was a lot of fun and both teams were very evenly matched. The first game was a close one and the two teams were still trying to get comfortable with the lanes. The first game was won by the United States Team who prevailed but only a margin of fourteen pins separated the teams.
Men’s Ministry
By Brian S. Carrier

The teams bowled much better in game two with a lot of spares and an abundance of strikes. It was a fight all the way until the tenth frame which came down to the last two bowlers, one from each team. In the end the United States Team prevailed again, but this time it was only by a margin of six pins. The scores in the picture show how close it was. This was the highest scoring game for both teams and it came right down to the last bowlers to decide the winner.

In game three, the United States Team took an early lead and looked like they would have a sweep for the night. This unfortunately was not the case as the International Team mounted their comeback. The steady bowling of Don Vander Ploeg and Freddy Fritz, along with the anchor man Waldo Kemp, provided a lot of spares and strikes in the game to take game three. The margin of victory was fourteen pins. The entire difference between all three games was only six pins. This was a good time for the men in a great battle for supremacy in bowling.

The best part of the bowling was to be able to have fun and fellowship at University Lanes where everyone could enjoy a night out. Alan Polaski also provided a cheering session for both teams as the teams battled through the night. Alan also enjoyed himself as he provided moral support for all of the bowlers while watching a great battle at University Lanes in Tampa.

The Men’s Ministry would like to thank all of the people who participated in the Men’s Bowling Night and we hope that the number of participants will grow as we try to have three teams for the bowling night next year.

We would like to thank the men who attended the first bowling night and look forward to more events coming soon.

If you are unable to pay for an event please do not hesitate to contact Brian Carrier as the Men’s ministry has money for these events if you need us to cover the cost. We do not want anyone who would like to participate to miss out because of finances. The budget in the Men’s Ministry is for those who would like to come out and enjoy fun and fellowship with the other men of the church.
Happy Happenings

“And be [God] put all things under his [Jesus’] feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all” (Ephesians 1:22-23).

Presbytery Meeting: On February 9, TBPC fed 58 members of our local presbytery. Betty, Debbie, Karen, and LeeAnn served a light breakfast and a full lunch to our guests. Thanks, ladies!

Simple Soup Supper for Sunday Seconds: A record-setting 27 members of our TBPC family joined us for SSS4SS on February 10. Thank you to Debbie, Marianne, Randi, Suzanne, Marsha, and Chris for supplying us with a delightful meal.

March 10’s SSS4SS fed 26 on the spot and several more with leftovers. (FYI, we do that every month.) Thanks to Mia, LeeAnn, Marianne, Betty, and Marsha for a delicious dinner.

Please plan on joining us at 5:00 p.m. on April 14 for the next installment of SSS4SS. Please RSVP on the pew cards with the number of adults and children, who will be eating (kid-friendly options can be made available) by April 7.

If you feel led to contribute soup, bread, or dessert to the festivities, please contact Lesley Schmidt. She may be reached at 904-687-7710 or jrsllks92@yahoo.com.

Easter Breakfast: TBPC’s annual covered-dish Easter Breakfast will be served at 9:30 a.m. on April 21 in the courtyard. Please arrive with your contribution by 9:15 a.m. so that we may start the buffet on time and be ready for the 10:45 a.m. worship service. Please RSVP on the board in the narthex, or contact Lesley.

Help (always) Wanted: The Band of Merry Bakers (BOMB) and the Café Crew would be happy to consider all applicants to the positions of baker, barista, and bottle-washer. No previous experience needed! On-the-job training provided! Overtime pay (in donuts) available!

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many” (1 Corinthians 12:12-14).
ESL

English as a Second Language Ministry

“Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt” (Deuteronomy 10:19).

Six years ago, Heather Tomasello started the ESL Ministry in her home to help neighbors learn English, to navigate shopping, and other basic activities. Her sister, Shawn Nobles, joined her in the ESL Ministry. They approached TBPC so as to be able to reach more people. Holly Hawkes was the coordinator before moving to Tallahassee. ESL is currently run by a committee which includes Karen Cross, Barbara Hess, Gertrude Hunter, Lenny Chew, and Suzanne Swenson. Currently there are 14 students within the three levels of instruction.

**ESL Level 1** is the introductory level focusing on life skills, standards and test preparation. The core is a structured dialog where students practice in pairs and then use it as a framework to create conversations. The content includes learning basic information for completing a form, forms of identification, addressing an envelope, locations and subject pronouns and present continuous tense, to name a few of the subject lessons. Students practice conversations during class, break time, and on their own.

**ESL Level 2** offers an integrated standards-based and grammar-based approach to language learning. The goal is to build students language proficiency so they can use English to meet their varied needs. This is done through guided conversation, reading and discussing civics topics that connect students to their community and working on tasks that increase their critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Correct grammar and increased vocabulary are also an integral part of Level 2.

**ESL Level 3** teaches different aspects of the present perfect tense and present perfect continuous tense of verbs. It also covers gerunds, infinitives, two-word verbs and connectors but we never have gotten to those chapters in my previous 2 years in level 3.
It is so rewarding to work with the students, as they are eager to learn and make new friends. We do, however, need your prayers. Please prayerfully consider joining our team. It really is a joy to work with these students.

We ask for your prayers for:

- An Administrative Coordinator. This is a non-teaching position. The Coordinator’s duties include: sending flyers to groups of non-English speaking organizations within a 15-mile radius to increase the number of students; processing new student paperwork; preparing notices for worship bulletins; mailing reminders; and, ordering books.
- More teachers, substitutes, and bible study support.
- A solution for student books. All of the current edition books have been used and we are unable to order more. A new edition needs to be ordered which does not match the returning student copies. Students have already paid $40 for their current book and there would be another charge for the new book.

ESL is held on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The first half of the sessions focus on the grammar lesson and are followed by a bible study.

Please do not hesitate to contact anyone on the ESL Committee if you are able to join us.

Thank you for your consideration of the ESL ministry.

Blessings,

Suzanne Swenson
VBS 2019 NEEDS YOU!

Proposed dates: week of
6/10 - 6/14 *or week of 6/17 - 6/21

Every year we have had amazing support from our members thank-you for impacting the leaders of tomorrow.

VBS 2019 needs continued support in the following areas!

Volunteers are needed!!!

All call for:

New members, Emptynesters, Retirees, older youth, college students home on vacation, friends or family members who may have interest in serving, all are encouraged to participate. Please call or text Christy @ 813-484-9771. Email: christy_almonte@yahoo.com

Needed volunteer list based on last year's program:

(1) Lead VBS Coordinator (coordinator needed for the event)
    (1) VBS Coordinator Assistant
    Bible Teachers
    MC for assembly
    Guides (many guides needed)
    Guide assistants
    Music Leader
    Sound Board operator
    Snack attendant
    Activities assistant (outdoors)
    Activities craft (indoors)
    nursery Attendants
    Craft leader & assistant

Please keep in mind all interested parties must contact the Children's Ministry Director (Christy) 813-484-9771 prior to 4/1/2019.

Let's come together with all our God-given gifts and talents!
Let's pray, plan, and execute!
Join us the first Friday of every month at Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church for a meal, prayer, family focused devotional activities, and fun! Open to all church members and attendees! Families with children are highly encouraged to attend. Great opportunities for volunteers are available for games, crafts, and food setup.

**Dates: April 5, May 3**

**What to expect...**

- **6:30 - 7:00 p.m.:** Meal time and opening prayer
- **7:10 - 7:45 p.m.:** Family devotional Activity
- **7:45 - 8:25 p.m.:** Fellowship and board games
- **8:30 p.m.:** Closing

Please RSVP so we can prepare appropriately.

If you are interested in helping please contact:

*Christy Almonte 813-484-9771.*
Happening in April

Friday, April 5, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Friday Family Fun Night
See page 13 for details.

Sunday, April 14, 5:00 p.m. Simple Soup Supper for Sunday Seconds
Join us for soup, bread, and dessert prior to the evening worship service. Please RSVP in advance by sending an email to Lesley Schmidt at jrsllks92@yahoo.com, or completing a pew card, by April 7. Please let us know the number of adults and children in your party. Kid-friendly options can be made available.

Sunday, April 14, 6:00 p.m. Evening Worship Service
Please plan to attend. We would love to see you there. Childcare is provided.

Thursday, April 18, 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Communion Service
Childcare is provided.

Friday, April 19, 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Tenebrae Service
In this service of Tenebrae, meaning “shadows” or “darkness,” we aim to experience the loss of light at the death of Christ. Childcare is available.

Sunday, April 21, 9:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast
TBPC’s annual covered-dish Easter Breakfast will be served in the courtyard. Please arrive with your contribution by 9:15 a.m. so that we may start the buffet on time and be ready for the 10:45 a.m. worship service. Please RSVP on the board in the narthex, or contact Lesley Schmidt at jrsllks92@yahoo.com.
April Birthdays

Mia Jeffries          April 01
Florence MacLeod     April 04
Ginny Becker          April 06
Waldo Kemp            April 10
Janice Thompson       April 11
Maddison Jeffries     April 15
Christine Probes     April 16
Robert Almonte        April 17
Jack McNulty          April 17
Richard Thompson      April 18
Gabriel McNulty       April 20
Sage Campbell         April 26
Caleb Massie          April 30

April Anniversaries

Richard & Janice Thompson April 04, 1971  48 Years
Todd & Melissa Bayley     April 14, 1990  29 Years
Richard & Lois Gainer    April 16, 1949  70 Years
Jason & Coleen Knecht    April 18, 1998  21 Years
James & Cathy Turpen     April 22, 2004  15 Years