

The Canaan Connection



February 2011

Canaan Bible Chapel—30 Hemlock Rd—Lake Ariel, PA 18436 570-937-4848 www.canaanbiblechapel.org

WHAT IS LOVE?

If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about another's injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

These three things will last forever: Faith, Hope and Love—and the greatest of these is Love.¹

¹ I Corinthians 13: 1-7, 13

1. The New Living Translation was used here for presentation purposes. Canaan Bible Chapel recognizes and uses The King James Version as authority in all of its teachings.

FROM THE STUDY

BY PASTOR DAVE CRISPELL



Ah, Valentines Day! It is the time of year that we think of hearts, Cupids and love. In fact, I remember in my public school's lower grades the awkwardness of everybody in the class signing a valentines card to the other members of the class. There were only a few selections to choose from so it was always a point of humor (or embarrassment) as I realized I was sending a card to another boy in the class with a message that just didn't seem appropriate.

Anyway, after becoming a Christian I found it a lot easier to write or say some very loving and appropriate words to my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. In fact, Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." (John 13:35)

It blesses my soul as your pastor when I hear and see this kind of love (Greek: agape-God's love) being expressed among ourselves here at CBC. OH, may others observe that we, indeed, do love one another— and thus be the evidence of our love for our Lord Jesus Christ.

CELEBRATIONS!



BABY GIRLS!!

EMILY FAITH

Born December 27, 2010
To Matt & Sarah Madden
Proud grandparents are
Tim & Laura Madden and
Larry & Holly Highhouse



Emily Faith



MCKAYLA JOY

Born January 24, 2011
To Dan and Danielle Adolfsen
Baby joins big brother Joshua Daniel
Proud grandparents are
Carolyn Adolfsen and Gary & Denise Sprague

WATCH FOR THESE!

February 12

SWEETHEART BANQUET
6PM in the Gym

February 25

MEN's MISSION TRIP
To the BAHAMAS



April 16

SEMINAR ON WILLS
With Nick Barna

SPOTLIGHT ON... SUNDAY SCHOOL – The Primary Department

Our Primary Sunday School Department is headed by Scott and Jeannette Ferris. Jeannette has been teaching this same age group for 23 years. Scott, her husband, joined the group three years ago. Primary classes are made up of first, second and third graders. There are between 15 and 20 primary aged children at Canaan Bible Chapel, and 8 to 12 children attend regularly. Students learn the responsibilities of being a Christian such as communion, baptism, tithing and teaching. They also learn how to serve Jesus and how to help others.



Scott and Jeannette Ferris

Typically, the group begins each Sunday with a 10-15 minute chat before class. This allows time for anyone who might be a little late to come in without being noticeable. “Children are very honest and they get upset and embarrassed if they are late and have to walk into a classroom, even at these young ages. We try to make it so no one stands out for being late, because it really is not their fault.” says Jeannette.

During this opening time Jeannette tries to steer the conversation toward what the lesson for that week is about. One example would be if you had an important job to do you would want specialized people to help you. So you would choose professionals. Jesus chose his disciples because He knew they could do the job. This has many different applications, including the fact that Jesus still chooses special Christians to be used for God.

While Jeannette is interacting with the students, Scott takes the attendance and takes care of the lesson papers. Some lessons are done in class and sometimes Jeannette has children do them during the week to be brought back for a prize.

“I also give prizes randomly for bringing their Bible.” Jeanette adds. “We supply Bibles of different colors for them so I know they at least have one. I wouldn’t think of ever going to church on Sunday without my Bible. We try to instill this in the kids.”

One thing that is obvious is the love Jeannette and Scott have for their students. “This class is unique. We get to watch the kids come in as shy first-graders who cannot read and are not sure if they want to talk. By the third grade we have watched them learn to read, develop and become little ambassadors for Christ. Then we have to let them go to the next class. I have a hard time watching them go after 3 years. I love each and every one of them!” exclaims Jeanette.



Knowing how to relate to younger children is key. Jeannette sometimes resorts to a little “goofing” around with them to make them pay attention. “We sometimes act things out. I can be a kid with them and make the Bible real every chance I get,” says Jeannette. “Sometimes I worry Scott. He is never sure where I am going with some of the things I do.”



One would think that doing the same lesson material for so many years would be boring, but Jeannette enjoys the lessons, which run for 3 years and then repeat. “Even when they are repeated,” says Jeanette, “I learn things and see things I missed before. It is also humbling. When you teach the kids and tell them to pray and read their Bible you better be doing it as well because they will ask you what you read!”

Children also, out of innocence, are so honest and will tell you what their parents say and do. Jeannette and Scott have learned to let some things just go past them. For example, when a student misses a Sunday, Jeannette and Scott follow up to be sure things are okay with the child. If the student is sick, or needed a ride, or whatever the reason, Jeannette and Scott like to know so they can offer assistance, but also let the child

know they will pray for them. “If they don’t come to Sunday School and you ask where they were they think nothing of saying ‘Mom wanted to sleep in so we couldn’t come....or Dad said we are staying home today.’ I don’t think parents realize how serious some of our children take Sunday School attendance. I have one boy and his cousin in class who have cousins that are not permitted to come to Sunday School. They tell me how they made a fort and play Sunday School so these other cousins can hear about Jesus. I wanted to cry. They love God and take God’s word so seriously and to heart.”

Jeanette adds, “I love teaching. I would miss it terribly. Scott and I enjoy their stories and their smiles.”