

# Mar

Ministry Update

A look at upcoming events and VBC Family news!

# SOON



**VILLAGE**  
**BIBLE CHURCH**

Aurora • Sugar Grove • Indian Creek

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Village Bible Church

HYMN SING

**Friday, March 25, 7:00pm:** Sing and celebrate the joy of the Lord! Join together to sing your favorite hymns and share testimonies that will inspire and bind together feelings of fellowship with our Lord Jesus and fellow believers. Nursery up to age two will be provided. Please bring a dessert to share! Sign up in the friendship registry for childcare.



heart VOICE CHOIR  
style music sing  
PRAISE glorify honor  
hymn YOU worship  
CHOIR

*Voices needed for the upcoming Easter cantata.*

This year's production will be *The Risen Christ* written by hymn writers Keith and Kristyn Getty and songwriter Stuart Townend. You may know the Gettys & Townend from their hymns "In Christ Alone" and "The Power of the Cross". The cantata includes video footage from the movie, *The Gospel of Matthew*, along with narration adapted from Scripture.

We will be *performing the cantata during each of the Easter Sunday services on April 24th*. If you would like to be a part, but singing is not your forte, there is also a need for 4 narrators/readers. Sign up in the friendship registry and include the number of children for the nursery.

Rehearsals are held upstairs in the youth room from 4-5pm

Sunday, March: 6, 20

April: TBA

## soldier care package

Chaplain Robert Rand from the Indian Creek Campus of VBC in Action in Iraq



# Soldier Care Packages

Thanks For Helping Us Make a Difference on the Front Line!



### *Providing for Daily Needs*

#### THE STRATEGY

Together we prepared and sent just over 500 care packages to soldiers in Iraq. A chaplain from our Indian Creek campus who is stationed there coordinated our efforts and was able to distribute these boxes not only to his troops but he also trucked them to troops in an area of Iraq where it is very difficult to receive mail or packages.

#### THE PACKAGES

The care packages included personal care items, a Bible, some snacks and other fun items along with notes from people here who are praying for them. The men and women who received the packages have written us back with many thanks.

## soldier care package

### *Providing the Word of God*

#### **THE SPIRITUAL IMPACT -**

#### **GOD IS ALWAYS AT WORK IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF HIS WORD**

Andy from PA.... "I was not walking with God and now I have read so far two chapters in John's Gospel from a letter of a boy who said he was praying for me and to read John because that is what he is reading before he goes to bed... so that's what I am doing. Thank you Village Bible Church!"

#### **A SAMPLING OF THE FEEDBACK - WE HAVE RECEIVED MANY LETTERS OF THANKS**

Ken from TN... "I received a care package in the mail today and was prompted to think of others. There were some Iraqi villagers who had nothing, so I gave it to them even though I am down to my last tube of toothpaste."  
Ryan from WVA... "Thanks for your kindness. I have not eaten a Little Debbie Strawberry Shortcake in years!"

Margret from CT... "I received your military kit today from Chaplain Rand's office.. I am serving near Iran where limited supplies have come in. Thanks so much for taking notice of our need."



Care packages in the Sugar Grove campus foyer, just before they were shipped.



*Fellowship is a word that is used a lot in church.* While we are acquainted with what fellowship is, the question we struggle to answer is, what does biblical fellowship accomplish? Here at Village our discipleship model devotes two components where fellowship is central. *Experiencing Community and Extending Care* are Steps

2 and 3 in our discipleship model and focus in on the element of fellowship that is needed for true believers to grow. In what ways does fellowship bring about this corporate growth?

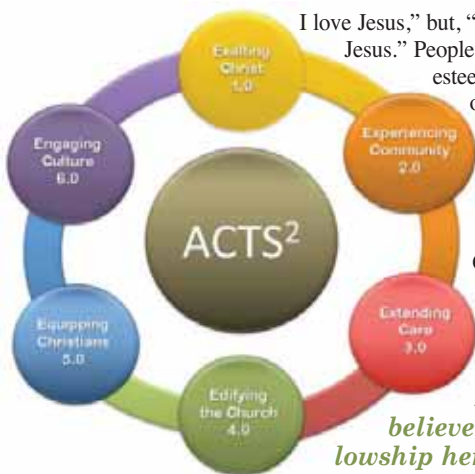
# Biblical Fellowship

*Fellowship increases our knowledge.* The better you know Jesus, the more you will love Him, and *your fellowship with other Christians helps you know Him better.* You might be able to perceive a great deal of truth about the glories of Christ, or about what pleases and displeases Him, from studying God's Word on your own, but no one should think of himself as independent in the learning process. Other Christians will perceive more than you can on your own—things you never noticed in the Bible or thought of in your meditation on Scripture. When another believer shares something wonderful about Jesus, or something to avoid because it grieves Him, your own heart is blessed by the additional knowledge. But this would have been lost to you (at least for the time being) were it not for the fellowship you shared in knowing and loving Him together. This is God's design. *He never intended for believers to know or love Christ in isolation from other believers* (see Col. 3:16).

*Fellowship increases our love.* Love for Christ is the mark of every true believer (see 1 Cor. 16:22). You simply cannot know Him without loving Him. Furthermore, fellowship that is centered on Christ *increases everyone's love for Him.* No longer do you merely say in your heart, "I think Jesus is wonderful," you now say, "We all think He is wonderful." Not only do you think of Him with warm affection and praise, your closest friends think and speak about Him in these ways. Not only do you trust and depend upon Him to provide for your needs and walk with you through every trial, you all depend upon Him, and together you gain an even greater appreciation for His faithfulness. Not only do you find Him worthy of the sacrifices that the Christian life calls for, your brothers and sisters in Christ make those same sacrifices. *You all encourage each other to love Christ in these ways, and in loving Him together, everyone comes to love Him more.*

*Fellowship increases our obedience.* Jesus said, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments" (John 14:15). But if love for Christ *motivates* an individual commitment to holiness, shared love for Christ becomes the *bond* that *unites* groups of Christians *in a shared commitment to holiness.* It is no longer merely, "I resist the temptation to sin because





I love Jesus," but, "I resist the temptation to sin because we love Jesus." People are careful to avoid offending someone they esteem highly, but they are more careful to avoid offending that person if all of their best friends esteem him highly as well. Fellowship with other Christians allows you to see and feel something about your sin that a lone Christian cannot.

Christians become Christians one by one as the Spirit opens blind eyes and grants saving faith, but fellowship with other believers is the fertile soil in which every individual believer is meant to grow strong and bear fruit.

*Allow yourself to join with other believers by joining in committed fellowship here at VBC so that you can know, love, and obey Jesus together.*


*Some may ask, where do I engage in this type of fellowship? Use times of greeting in the service to reach out to others. Join an A.B.F. or a Small Group with the mind set of impacting others with real fellowship.*

## *your divine design*

New Equipping U class starting in March! *Join us for Your Divine Design.* Do you know how God has uniquely wired you? Every believer was created to play a strategic role in the body of Christ with the gifts God has given him. But many of today's Christians face one difficult question - how do I discover my *spiritual gifts* and then use them effectively in my church? In this series, you will unpack key passages from Romans, Ephesians, and 1 Corinthians to understand the role of spiritual gifts while pinpointing your own. With Biblical insight and practical steps, you'll learn how to discover, develop, and deploy your spiritual gifts for greater ministry and significant impact. *Class is Sundays from 5:45pm-7:15pm* and will meet in the conference room.

If you're interested in learning more about how God has wired you for ministry and unsure how to find your right fit in ministry, you can start taking a PLACE inventory now! Go to [villagebible.org/place](http://villagebible.org/place) and learn more. It's a great time to start and then join up with the class in March to learn more about how God gifts His people for ministry!

*starting March 13th*



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**Billy Perkins**



**Kenny Luck**

**The Annual  
Iron Sharpens Iron  
Men's Conference**

**Saturday, March 19th**  
in Rockford.

It's a great opportunity to be challenged along with hundreds of other men to fully engage in the roles that GOD HAS CALLED US TO. It's a great conference for men of all ages; whether you're moving from boyhood to manhood, driving full-throttle in your career, or you've retired... this conference is for you.

**Bill Perkins** is President and Founder of Million Mighty Men. He previously served as a senior pastor for over twenty years. Bill is the author of numerous books such as *Six Battles Every Man Must Win*, *When Good Men are Tempted* and his newest release – *Six Rules Every Man Must Break*.

**Kenny Luck** is the Men's Pastor at Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, California. He is also the Founder and President of Every Man Ministries, which helps churches worldwide develop and grow healthy men's communities.

**2011**  
NATIONAL MEN'S  
**EQUIPPING**  
CONFERENCES



The cost is \$50 including lunch.  
For more info please email  
[men@villagebible.org](mailto:men@villagebible.org).

*Women's Spring Retreat ~  
Faithful, Abundant and True!*

**April 29 - May 1, 2011** Hampton Inn & Suites in St. Charles

Ladies, grab your Bibles and pack your bags! We're headed on a trek toward friendship, freedom and fullness found in Christ! This year's topic: ***Faithful, Abundant, and True*** (a DVD series of messages from the conference *Deeper Still* by Kay Arthur, Beth Moore and Priscilla Shirer) is sure to challenge you to be faithful in difficult circumstances, to trust in God's ability and to discern truth from error.

The retreat will kick off on Friday night, April 29 and wrap up on Sunday morning, May 1.

Additional information and registration forms are available at the Welcome Center. Registration and money are due by Sunday, March 27, 2011. For questions, please see Patty Calhoun or email [pattycalhoun@comcast.net](mailto:pattycalhoun@comcast.net).

*Supper Club*

Please join us for the next supper club on **Thursday, March 10th at 6:30 p.m.** The supper club will be hosted by Deb Weihrauch at 406 Winterberry Dr. in Yorkville. The theme is a dish or dessert with green in it. Hope to see you there.

Please RSVP to [supper@villagebible.org](mailto:supper@villagebible.org) and let us know what yummy dish you will bring to get ready for spring in March with friends and fellowship.

**MOPS**  
Mothers of Preschoolers

**Friday, March 4 & 18, 9-11am  
at our Sugar Grove Campus**

monthly meeting dates:  
Apr 8, 29; May 6

# dare2share

[dare2share.org/untour](http://dare2share.org/untour)  
*Are you ready to be un.leashed, un.cool, and un.afraid?*



**Dare2Share is an electric, eye-opening experience that students will not forget or regret!**

**When:** Friday, April 1, 2011 at 3 p.m. until Saturday, April 2, 2011 at 11 p.m.

**Cost:** \$75 which includes conference, transportation, and lodging.

**Where:** **Sears Centre** 5333 Prairie Stone Parkway, Hoffman Estates, IL 60192  
Phone: (847) 649-2222; web: [www.searscentre.com](http://www.searscentre.com)

*Invite friends to this powerful evangelism conference loved by thousands of students across the country!*

# refuge 'n aliens

*We meet weekly. Refuge is Sr. High. Aliens is Jr. High.*



**Aurora Campus Sundays | 6-8:30pm | Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27.**  
(1401 W Galena Blvd., Aurora, Illinois, 60506 - On the Northwest corner of Randall and Galena.)

**Indian Creek Campus Mondays | 7:30-9pm | Mar. 7, 14, 21, 28.**  
(209 N Nokomis St., Shabbona, Illinois, 60550)

**Sugar Grove Campus Wednesdays | 6:30-9pm | Mar. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30.**  
(847 N State Rt. 47, Sugar Grove, Illinois, 60554 - On the Northeast corner of Rt. 47 and Bliss Rd.)

# the loft

*Come enjoy a great time with other students!*

**At SG Campus: Sr. High | 7-10pm | Sat., Mar. 12, 26**

**Near IC Campus: Jr. and Sr. High | 11am-3pm | Sun., Mar. 27**

(David Wood hosts the IC Campus Loft event at his home in Shabbona.)

Come enjoy a free time with friends, video games, relaxation, snacks, open gym (SG Campus), and unforgettable fun.

# SUMMER TRIPS

*Sign up now for these life-changing trips!*

## Lake Ann Summer Camp



Sign up for Lake Ann Camp. It will be your "Best Week of the Summer!" Village Bible Church is going week # 2 from June 19-25.

## Jr. High Aurora Mission Trip



Fill out an application for our July 5-9 Jr. High Aurora Mission Trip.

## Detroit Mission Trip



This trip is from July 23-30 in Detroit. Is God calling you to go serve Him in a desperate place like Detroit? Sign up today!

For more info or permission slips, visit [villagebible.org/students](http://villagebible.org/students)

**Forever Young** is a gathering of people 50 and older who are striving to have fun together while serving the Lord with their lives. Single or married – all are invited. (And if you're not 50 but are married to someone who is – then you're in!)



**Sunday, March 13 @ 5:00pm**

Hymn sing in Wheaton. Meet at VBC Sugar Grove campus at 5:00pm to carpool. We will go to Colonial Café in Aurora after the sing.

**THE GRACE CARD** is a compelling story that shows everything can change in an instant... and take a lifetime to unravel. The movie's powerful message reminds us that each day, we have the opportunity to rebuild relationships and heal deep wounds by extending and receiving God's grace.



Find a theater showing The Grace Card: [www.thegracecardmovie.com](http://www.thegracecardmovie.com). Download a Bible study that compliments The Grace Card that you can use on your own or with your family: [www.villagebible.org/thegracecard](http://www.villagebible.org/thegracecard)

## **Wheaton Gospel Choir Concert: April 16th at 7:30 Coray Auditorium**



The Wheaton College Gospel Choir performs a concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 16th. The concert will be held in Coray Auditorium, located in the Todd M. Beamer Student Center at 421 N. Chase Street in Wheaton. Tickets are available only at the door and cost \$7 for general audience. Discounts are available for students, seniors, and groups of ten or more. For more information, call 630.752.5251.

## gardening team



If you enjoy seeing God's creation grow, could we encourage you to consider investing some of the time you might otherwise spend in your backyard here in your church's yard? Just think—hundreds of people will enjoy the blessing of your efforts each and every week.

### Specific Needs:

**Flower Maintenance Team:** weeding, watering & mulching

**Tree Maintenance Team:** watering & pruning

**Yard Maintenance Team:** mowing & trimming

Join a team and help out as you are able—even if you can only help every other week—or even every three weeks, we'll appreciate it!!

We need <sup>at least</sup> 25 people.

**Available? Let us know: 630-466-7198 or [serve@villagebible.org](mailto:serve@villagebible.org)**

# Jessie van schepen



**Jessie Van Schepen serves with Crossworld Ministries in Youghal** (pronounced you'all), Ireland. She was diagnosed with breast cancer in spring of 2010. She writes: *As I began my journey with cancer back in the spring, the first verse given to me has proven to be a great encouragement to me. It is from Zephaniah 3:17 and says, "The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing." After having a lumpectomy and then a mastectomy, I am now toward the end of my chemotherapy treatments with only 2 more to go. It has not been an easy journey, but the Lord is my constant companion as I travel along.*

The Lord has greatly blessed the work in Youghal. Some of the highlights of 2010 are:

1. The commissioning service of the first missionary sent out by the Youghal Baptist Church (along with the Middleton Evangelical Church).
2. The formal constituting as the Youghal Baptist Church.
3. The first baptismal service, making history in Youghal.

Please continue to keep Jessie in your thoughts and prayers.



CrossWorld

**Help serve alongside Feed My Starving Children**, a Christian organization committed to feeding God's starving children hungry in body and spirit. The approach is simple: children and adults hand-pack meals formulated specially for starving children, and the meals are shipped to nearly 70 countries around the world. We have the opportunity to help feed people around the world on **Tuesday, March 8th from 6:30-8:30pm.**

Please RSVP to [megan.kirkland@villagebible.org](mailto:megan.kirkland@villagebible.org). Children are welcome, but must be in at least 3rd grade to participate. Please wear closed-toed shoes.

**We'll meet at Feed my Starving Children's Packing Location 555 Exchange Ct, Aurora at 6:15pm.**



God has blessed our Children's Ministry with many wonderful workers, without whom we wouldn't be able to provide the many opportunities our children have to grow in their faith. Throughout the year we are going to highlight different volunteers, allowing them to share what role they play in our ministry, but more importantly, to share how God has blessed them through their service to our children.

### **Rochelle Scott:**

How many years have you been working in children's ministry?

I have been working in children's ministry for the past 2 years teaching children's worship and serving as an Awana leader.

How has God blessed you through your service in children's ministry?

God has blessed me by seeing the children's faces light up when they see you in church and when they enjoy the story that you are sharing with them. It is also a blessing to listen to them repeat things they have learned about God and his love for them and to hear them repeat truths from God's word. Teaching has also encouraged me to be more consistent at home with my own children and sharing God's word.



highlight on volunteers





# LIBRARY

## NEW BOOKS

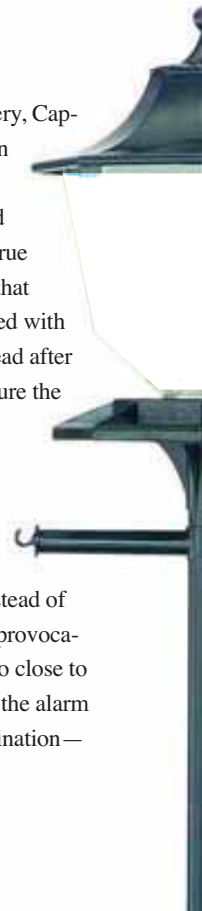
There is a collection of books in the library that is unlike any other. The covers are simple and may not catch your attention, but the content of these books will capture your heart. These books are the LAMPLIGHTER BOOKS. Written years ago, these treasures still have the capabilities to prompt the reader to laugh, cry, and be mesmerized by the characters and engaging plots, full of mystery, drama and adventure. Above all, the stories are soaked with pictures of the character of our loving God and scriptures to store within the heart. Following are a few books from the collection. Check the library page blog to find more details about these books.



***The Lost Clue*** In this intriguing mystery, Captain Fortesque finds himself torn between two loyalties. Having been educated in the finest schools of England, he enjoyed acceptance in high society, but kept his true upbringing a secret. Then the day came that changed the course of his life. It all started with the mysterious note that could only be read after his father's death. Will he be able to endure the dramatic challenges he will now face?



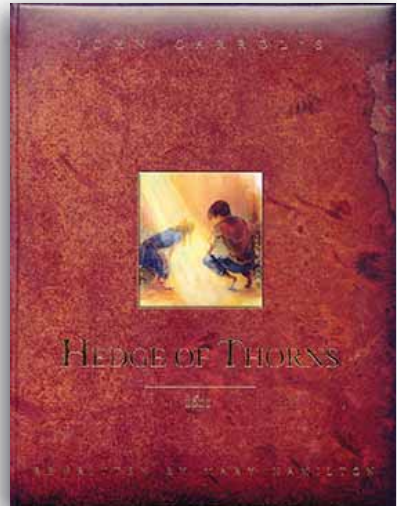
***Tomorrow*** "I was ever searching for some shortcut to the temple of Fame, instead of following the beaten road." Candid and provocative, this powerful story inches a little too close to home. Revealing and relevant, it sounds the alarm to all of us prone to the habit of procrastination—before it's too late!



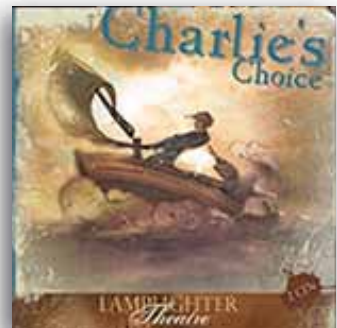
# LIBRARY

## NEW BOOKS

***Hedge of Thorns*** Curious to know what is on the other side of the hedge? Inside the pages of this rare and aged book . . . John is determined to find out what is on the other side. And that which is forbidden makes his quest all the more irresistible! Desperate to break through the hedge, he devises a plan that unknowingly places his little sister in perilous danger. In a moment of passion and disregard for his parents' warnings, John does the unthinkable and learns the hard lesson that there are grave consequences to crossing the boundaries that God has set for him. This unforgettable lesson leaves an indelible mark on his life and will leave the same upon those who hear this story!



***Charlie's Choice*** (Audio Cd) Hold on to your seat because you are about to take a journey with Charlie, a boy of adventure and risk. Dissatisfied with his lot in life, Charlie dreams of a better future, where money can cure all ills. He dreams of living in luxury and ease, and is determined to make his dreams come true!



Recognizing the state of our current economy, we set our 2011 budget \$70,000 (7%) below our 2010 budget. While this required several ministry initiatives to be postponed, this budget aligns with actual contributions in 2010.

It would appear that the economy is beginning to catch up with us as contributions through February were \$30,830 below 2011 budget. While our near zero-spending freeze has minimized our deficit, our actual cash flow deficit is still much too high at \$14,805. March and April will be a time of both *careful observation* to contribution trends and difficult strategic planning of what we will do if contributions do not rebound.

Please be with us as we *prayerfully seek* both the Lord's provision and His guidance during these days. We are incredibly encouraged by the work He is doing in the lives of His people and simply want to be the best stewards of the resources, people and abilities He gives us.

**Financial Stewardship:  
January 1 – February 28, 2011, SG Campus**

Tithes and Offerings Received	\$ 121,303
Tithes and Offerings Budgeted	\$ 152,133
Variance	\$ (30,830)
Expenses cut through near-zero spending freeze	\$ 16,025
Actual Deficit	\$ (14,805)

For those who are regular attendees of Village Bible Church and call it your home, we encourage you to practice Biblical stewardship by giving a portion back to God of the financial resources He has entrusted to you as an act of obedience and worship. We ask you to join us in giving generously and sacrificially as we continue to advance the mission by investing in the ministry of Village Bible Church. Not only are we committed to effecting change in the Fox Valley, but also through strategic ministry partnerships that are changing the world.

There are four boxes located at the back of the sanctuary for your giving. You can also give online at [www.villagebible.org/giving](http://www.villagebible.org/giving)

## calendar

Tuesday, Mar 8: Feed My Starving Children (Aurora)

Sunday, Mar 13: Forever Young Hymn Sing (Wheaton)

Saturday, Mar 19: Men's Conference- Iron Sharpens Iron (Rockford)

Friday, Mar 25: VBC Hymn Sing (Sugar Grove)

### Upcoming Events:

Fri-Sat, Apr 1-2: Dare 2 Share Student Conference (Hoffman Estates)

Fri-Sun, Apr 29-May 1: Ladies Spring Retreat (St. Charles)

June 4-10: Family Camp- Silver Birch Ranch (Wisconsin)

June 19-25: Lake Ann Summer Camp for students entering 4th grade thru HS

### Missions Trips:

Liberia: June 9-20

China: June 24-July 4

Uganda: June 29-July 13, August 6-20

Alaska: July 1-12

Aurora: July 5-9

Detroit: July 23-30

### Weekly Events:

Wednesdays, 6:30-9:00: Youth Group (Sugar Grove)

Friday, Mar 4 & 18, 9-11am: MOPS (Sugar Grove)

Saturday, Mar 12 & 26, 9:30am – 11:00am Men's Basketball (Sugar Grove)

Saturday, Mar 12 & 26, 7-10: Student Ministry - Sr-High Students: The LOFT (SG)

Sundays, 5-7:15: Generations (Meal, Equipping-U and Awana) (Sugar Grove)

Sundays, 3 pm: Adult Volleyball (Sugar Grove)

M,T,W,Th,F,S,S: Small Groups

**Upcoming Membership Class:** Mar 13, 12:45, @ Sugar Grove, room 101

**Upcoming Baptism Class:** mar 13, 4:00pm, @ Sugar Grove, room 100

Please RSVP: [rsvp@villagebible.org](mailto:rsvp@villagebible.org)

**Choir Rehearsals:** Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> upstairs in the youth room from 4-5pm

one-time events

recurring events

student ministries

# ELIJAH

A MAN LIKE US

NEW SMALL GROUP AND SERMON SERIES  
BEGIN THE WEEK OF JANUARY 30.



The prophet Elijah was rough around the edges, a complex mountain man whose faith was remarkable and yet compromised by his own seasons of fear and discouragement. But more than anything else, he was a hero who, in God's name, "humbled the posture of a nation's idol worship, brought fire from water drenched wood, called for rain from heaven and recognition of Jehovah from pagan lips."

In *Elijah: A Man like Us*, our study will bring the relatable elements of Elijah's life into the twenty-first century, exploring an exceptional life that will inspire modern believers to seize the day for God.

You can sign up for the new small groups in the Friendship Registry today.