

Back To School

I know you have a few more weeks before it is back to school. Some of you don't want to think about it and others are ready to go back. Whether you are excited or not, here it comes -- so you better get prepared. I would like to throw a couple of things out to you so that you can be thinking about them as you plan and decide on your upcoming school year. I would like to encourage all of the students to come to our 30-Hour Famine/Big Give on Aug. 12-13. This would be a great way to kick off the school year with some time to pray and talk to God about the upcoming school year and to start off grateful for God's blessing on your life. The sign up deadline is Aug. 7 and you can register by sending an email to: emmahenry3@yahoo.com. We will have a celebration meal at the end of the famine at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday. We would like to invite your family to join us for this night. Please register how many of your family will be attending when you sign up.

I would like to ask for your support on August 19 as I try to become the Faster Pastor in the Hays area at RPM Speedway. I will be representing our church in the annual Faster Pastor race. The report is now that we will be racing school buses this year so it should be a wild ride!!! I would love to have you come cheer me on. Races start at 7:30 p.m.

On Aug. 20 we will have a Back-to-School Bash for all students and families. Supper will be served at 6:00 p.m. with a meeting to follow. We would like to get all of the paperwork for the year filled out on this night so please bring your insurance cards so we can get all of the permission forms filled out.

I would also like to encourage you to be thinking about youth group for this year. We will have the same schedule that we have had for the past couple of years. We will have our 6th grade CIA (Christians in Action) from 3:30 to 5:00 with a study hall for the 7th & 8th graders during that same time frame. At 5:15 we will have supper for all 6th through 8th grade students. Parents are invited and welcome to join us for supper, we just ask that you let us know ahead of time so that we can plan for food accordingly. At 6:00 we will start with 7th & 8th grade CIA and it will go until 7:40 p.m. Our Lifeguard (H.S.) group will start at 7:20 p.m with a combined worship time with the middle school students.

I would also like to encourage you to consider how you are going to make faith a part of the family life for this coming school year. Our faith is one of those things that all parents would probably say is very important for us to pass on to our kids, but do we really have a plan to do this? There are some things that research has found are essential to passing the faith on to our kids. One of the essential ingredients is having a regular dialogue with their parents on faith and life issues. A second ingredient in passing on a vibrant faith to our kids is having regular reading of the Bible and devotions in the home. The third ingredient is praying together as a family. Is there a time where you can pray with and for your family? The fourth ingredient is young people experiencing a service-oriented event with a parent as an action of faith. Is there a way that your family will serve the church or community together? As you plan for this school year I would encourage you to plan for how you will pass the faith on to your kids as well. If you need help in coming up with a plan or need resources to help you in the planning or implementation of the plan please feel free to talk to me at any time.

I look forward to working together with you and your students this year.

Jeff