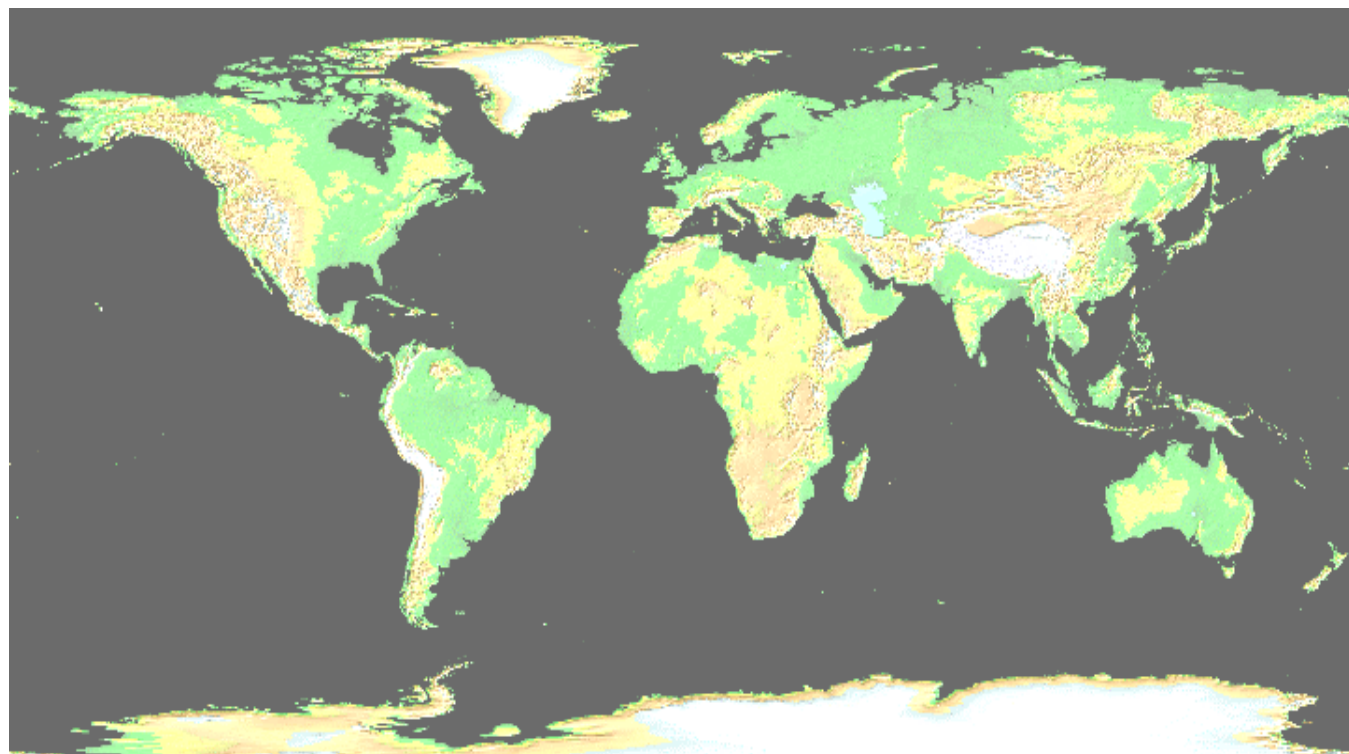


**2009 “From Cayman to the World”  
Missions and Evangelism Conference  
February 4-7, 2009**

**First Baptist Church of Grand Cayman**



**Conference Speakers:**



**J. Mack Stiles**, former regional director of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and author of *Speaking of Jesus: How to Tell Your Friends the Best News They Will Ever Hear* and *Mack and Leanne’s Guide to Short-Term Missions*.

**Will and Deb**, serving in Southeast Asia.

**Paul & Martha Buford**, serving in Honduras.

**Evelio & Jennifer Mejia**, serving in Costa Rica.

Music by the First Baptist Church sanctuary choir.

**Conference Schedule:**

**Wednesday, 4 February (7pm):**  
Paul & Martha Buford on ministry in Honduras.

Mack Stiles, Speaker

**Thursday, 5 February (7pm):**  
Evelio and Jennifer Mejia on ministry in Costa Rica.

Mack Stiles, Speaker

**Friday, 6 February (7pm):**  
Will and Deb on serving in Southeast Asia.

Mack Stiles, Speaker

**Saturday, 7 February (10am-3pm)**  
Speaking of Jesus evangelism workshop for beginners and pros.

# Body Life

“Sharing the Glory and Grace of Jesus Christ”

December 2008

## WHEN WE MEET

**Sunday Schedule**

9:15am – Sunday School  
10:30am – Morning Service  
6:00pm – Evening Prayer Service

**Tuesday Schedule**

6:30pm – Youth Bible Study

**Wednesday Schedule**

6:15pm – Midweek Bible Study  
6:15pm – Children’s Choir Program  
6:15pm – ‘Tweens’ Bible Study (11-13)  
7:30pm – Volleyball Fellowship

**Thursday Schedule**

7:00pm – Choir Practice

**Friday Schedule**

7:00pm – Youth Group

**Saturday Schedule**

5:00pm – Volleyball Fellowship

**Sunday Morning Service is broadcast live on Heaven 97.7 FM at 10:30am.**

**Visit our website at [www.fbc.org.ky](http://www.fbc.org.ky) for more news, sermons, and other resources.**

Also, did you know that Pastor Thabiti has a blog?

You can read his ramblings at <http://purechurch.blogspot.com/>.

Drop by. Leave a comment.

## A Joyful Christmas After Tragedy

The Gospel of Luke includes that remarkable scene where the angels declare “Joy to the world.” And we sing of that joy every year when we sing the carol by the same name.

Though the birth of Christ marks the coming of joy into the world, many of our loved ones and neighbors will have a difficult Christmas season this year. Family and friends in the Brac will celebrate Christmas while continuing to recover from Hurricane Paloma. They will have to fight for a “normal” Christmas. Many others around us will find it difficult to celebrate without a loved one this season. For some, the holidays are a poignant reminder of loss. Still others will bear pains and struggles that come from joblessness, uncertainty, and heaviness of heart.



How can we encourage and help those who may be at risk of missing the joy of Christmas? Four brief suggestions:

*We can pray for them.* The Lord can reach people in sadness and despair when all of our efforts seem fruitless. When we are unable to say the right things to family and friends fighting for joy, we are still able to speak with God on their behalf.

And He will hear our intercessions. So let's pray for people having a difficult Christmas this year.

*We can focus on Jesus and the gospel.* The reason Christians have joy is because God has done something to purchase joy for us. He sent His Son into the world to save us from our sin (Matt. 1:21) and to destroy the work of the devil (Heb. 2:14). Jesus has come to reverse all that went wrong in the Fall—sin, natural disasters, hurricanes, death, depression and so on. The source of our lasting joy is the finished work of Jesus Christ on our behalf. Pointing this out and offering it to others may help those who are suffering to find joy in the midst of pain.

*We can include those who are alone in our Christmas celebrations.* Holidays are a time for giving and sharing. It's especially a time for Christians to "be hospitable" (Rom. 12:13), by remembering those among us who are away from their families. Opening our families and homes spreads Christmas and gospel joy. By simply welcoming someone to our dinner table or visiting them with our families, we may turn mourning to rejoicing and laughter.

*We can focus on giving rather than receiving.* It's more blessed to give than to receive. Indeed, this is how God the Father treated us at the first Christmas—He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes on Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. In some measure, we may imitate the Father's giving of His own Son to us by giving joyfully to meet the needs of people around us. The needs are plentiful. We can see them everywhere with just a little looking. Christmas is a great time for us to prayerfully meet the needs of others. And it's a great time for Christian parents to teach their children to give to those in need of God's grace, mercy and joy rather than seek their own happiness with material things.

These are just a couple of suggestions. There are many more things that can be done. However we choose to celebrate the Lord's birth, let's not forget those among us who may have a hard time finding or experiencing joy this Christmas. Let's work prayerfully to spread the joy and love of Christ to all. ■

## DATES TO NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR

January 11	P. M. Service - Lord's Supper Members Meeting
January 18-23	Keswick Convention – Agape Church 7:30 p.m.  Elmslie Memorial Church - Lunch Meetings 12 noon (Jan 19-23)
February 4-8	FBC Missions Conference
February 22	A. M. Service – Lord's Supper Pot Luck Fellowship
March 15	P. M. Service - Lord's Supper Members Meeting
April 10	Good Friday Service 10:30 a.m.
April 26	Pot Luck Fellowship
May 24	P. M. Service - Lord's Supper Members Meeting
June 21	A. M. Service – Lord's Supper Pot Luck Fellowship
July 12	P. M. Service - Lord's Supper Members Meeting
August 30	A. M. Service – Lord's Supper Pot Luck Fellowship
September 13	P. M. Service - Lord's Supper Members Meeting
October 18	A. M. Service – Lord's Supper
November 15	P. M. Service - Lord's Supper Members Meeting
November 29	Pot Luck Fellowship
December 20	A. M. Service – Lord's Supper

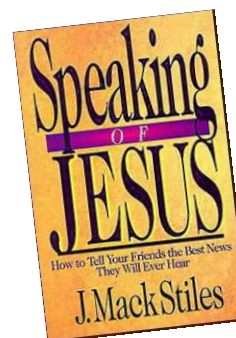
### Turning the Curve (Cont'd from p. 6)

This is not a guilt trip or boasting. As a pastor, the Bible calls me to be an example to the sheep (1 Tim. 4:12). So, how about you? Will you turn this giving curve in your walk with Christ? Will you trust the Lord and make Him a priority by starting to give the first ten percent of your income to His work? If you've been giving ten percent, will you raise it beyond that point with joy? Why not 12 percent or 15 percent or more if the Lord has prospered you that way? As they say, "You can't beat God giving!"

I am very excited about where the Lord has us as a church and about the various curves we're about to turn. 2009 will be filled with the Lord's power and grace! Let's commit the year to evangelism and giving, expecting the Lord to work in both. And we will explode all over Cayman and the world in the cause of Christ!



### A Couple of Good Books on Evangelism and Giving



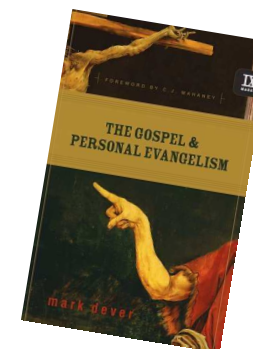
*Speaking of Jesus: How to Tell Your Friends the Best News They Will Ever Hear*  
By J. Mack Stiles.

Mack Stiles will be our missions and evangelism speaker this year. He is easily one of the most joyful and contagious evangelists I've ever met. And this book is an excellent resource for making evangelism doable.

---Pastor T.

### *The Gospel and Personal Evangelism* By Mark Dever

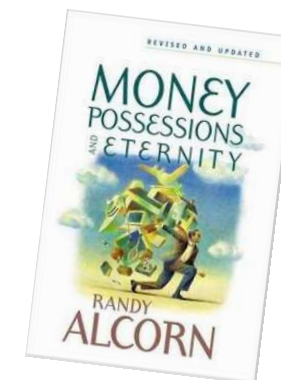
"Mark Dever does an amazing job of using Scripture to clarify our role in spreading God's message and helping us over some of the barriers of fear and circumstances. My favorite concept from this book is the liberating



fact that we are God's servants and the sowers of the seeds! He will do the harvesting and the transforming of hearts. God is so loving and has graciously freed us from the responsibility of seeking results. Read this book and turn to God's Word...speak of His name and be blessed!"

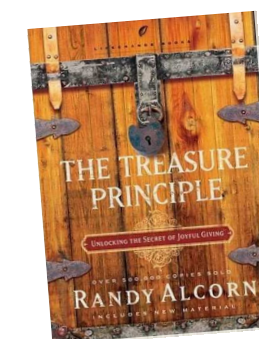
---Mandi Ponce

### *Money, Possessions, and Eternity* By Randy Alcorn



This book helped forge a bond between my faith and my everyday use of money. It drove home the fact that God owns everything and that I am a steward of His good gifts. It's given me greater faith to give sacrificially and to trust Him to provide for all my needs. It's also challenged me to look more thoughtfully at my giving, saving and spending habits to see where I've trusted in myself more than God. It is a great read for those of us who like the idea of home budgeting, but have difficulty seeing eternal benefit from doing it.

---Kristie Anyabwile



### *The Treasure Principle* By Randy Alcorn

I found the book helped me to focus where my heart is and refocus on how I manage the resources God has entrusted to me. It

challenged me to reassess my attitudes towards giving. Am I laying up treasures in heaven, or am I laying up treasures on earth? As treasure principle key #2 indicates, "My heart always goes to where I put God's money". Do I look forward to eternity and being with Christ? Or is my heart still set on things of this earth?

---Garnet Harrison, Elder

## Turning the Curve (*cont'd from p. 3*)

Himself simply through the relationships we already have. Consider this: if each of our 300 members knows about 50 non-Christian family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers, we have access to 15,000 non-Christian residents in Cayman! That's about 25% of the country's total population! Even if we cut that in half, there are still 7,500 people in our network of family, friends, neighbors and coworkers who need to know Jesus.

With that kind of reach, we can take Cayman for Christ! So, I'd like to challenge us all to fill FBC every Sunday with our family and friends. The church comfortably seats about 700 people. Average attendance is about half that. We have this beautiful facility—nearly paid for—why not fill it? If we each brought one friend with us each Sunday, we could fill the church every Sunday with 300-400 people we care about and want to hear the gospel, which we are blessed to have preached every Sunday. Evangelism couldn't be easier!

Will you accept this challenge? Let's start with the Christmas season and the upcoming concerts. Let's fill the place with family and friends. But let's take it into January and the remainder of 2009 as well. Let's commit to bringing to church at least one unbelieving family or friend every Sunday for all of 2009. I hope you will make a list of 25-50 family, friends, coworkers and neighbors who need to know the love of Jesus. And I pray the Lord will make us all persistent and tireless in the effort to bring the gospel to them. "Faith comes by hearing, hearing by the word of God."

2. *Giving.* Giving is worship. Each act of giving proclaims that Jesus is our treasure and all that we are belongs to Him. With the troubles in the economy, it's difficult to talk about giving, times are hard and uncertain for many. But we're Christians. Jesus is our treasure in good times and bad. Will we stop worshipping our savior because the economy has up and down? Of course not. This is when we state our love and trust in Him loudest! So, to turn the curve in 2009 we need to change how we give to the work of the Lord. Many people here have told me of how FBC steps up to give when there is a special project or special need in the church. And I have seen that with the Treasures for Heaven Campaign as the debt has dropped by almost one million dollars!

We will explode in our ministry to Cayman and the world if we commit to two things with our giving.

*Finish what we started by eliminating the last \$200,000 of debt. (2 Cor. 9:1-5)*

We've started something great in Treasures for Heaven. It's a campaign to not just retire the debt, but to free up hundreds of thousands of dollars for the work of the ministry. And by God's grace, He that began a good work in us will complete it until the Day of Christ Jesus (Phil. 1:6).

*Increase our regular giving to the work of the ministry.*

Here's where the lasting change in our stewardship and financial situation will take place. If Cayman is statistically like the U.S., then less than three percent of Christians give ten percent of their income to the ministry! And a significant percentage of professing Christians give nothing to the Lord's work. That's really staggering. It means that a lot of professing Christians are indeed robbing God (Mal. 3:6-12) and missing out on His promise to bless those who do give (2 Cor 9:6-11). It also means there is a tremendous amount of unused resources available to the Lord's mission but squandered away on other things. FBC scrapes by each month, which means many good gospel opportunities are missed and many needs go unmet. We praise God for his provision, but we probably wouldn't be in this consistent jam if everyone gave biblically.

I pray this is true of you. Everyone should give at least 10% of their gross income to the spread of the gospel and the care of God's people. If you make \$200 per week, that's just \$20 per week. If you earn \$3,000 per month, that's just \$300 per month. And some members, like myself, should give more than ten percent. Kristie and I give about 12% of our income to the church, along with some support we send our parents each month. We've found that we can meet family needs and the church family needs at the same time.

But we're trying to raise the percentage of our giving to at least 14-15 percent of our income, and to contribute all of our extra income from writing and speaking to the church. By the Lord's kindness and the generosity of FBC, our needs are well met. So we want to be as aggressive in our support of the church as possible. We believe in what the Lord is doing and will continue to do here. We believe in the Lord who supplies our needs and promises that we shall not lack any need (Matt. 6:33). We want to show our trust in Him by giving as aggressively and as joyfully as we can.

## Pastor's Perspective

By Pastor Thabiti

### Turning the Calendar, Turning the Curve

When I was a child, it seemed like Christmas would never arrive. The year seemed to grind along at a snail's pace. As Lewis put it in *The Chronicles of Narnia*, it seemed to be "always winter but never Christmas."

Now the older I get the more amazed I am at how fast time flies! It's already Christmas and another year is almost over. Already it's time to turn the calendar from 2008 to 2009.

But this year, with the turning of the calendar, we come that much closer to "turning the curve" as a church family. What do I mean?

Well, there are so many things the Lord has done among us this year to prepare us for yet more of His grace and blessing in the years to come. We sit poised to explode all over the world for the work of His kingdom. Some blessings to give thanks for:

*New believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.* This past year the Lord has been busy saving people! Think back on some of the moving testimonies and baptisms we heard this year. The Lord has saved people from different backgrounds and experiences. Think of the former atheists, the school teachers, the lawyers and accountants, the housewives and parents the Lord has brought to himself and to the FBC family. And with each one, he extends the reach of His gospel into a new network of family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. Each is a trophy of His grace and now an ambassador for Christ in spreading the gospel to others! In addition to these new believers, over 40 new members have joined with us over the last year or so. We are becoming a great force for the Lord as we give ourselves to Him and one another.

*The Lord has been deepening our love for one another.* We've been growing tighter as a church family. By God's grace, we've been reaching out to restore many members who have fallen out of fellowship with the church family and in some cases with the Lord. That's love in work clothes. We've

worked on making our commitment to each other deep and meaningful. As we thought about our life of fellowship together, we've experienced more of the "every member concern" for one another God intends for us to have (1 Cor. 12:25). We're turning the fellowship curve and the love that awaits us is awesome!

*The Lord has strengthened our leaders and staff.* This year He gifted (Eph. 4:11-16) to the church Shane Foster and Garnet Harrison as elders. They join the team with William McTaggart, Duncan Nicol, Dave Jorge, and myself. And on the staff level, the Lord showed His kindness in sending Brother Bentley Robinson to serve with us. These men multiply the ministry of FBC, bringing gifts, energy and love for all the FBC family and for spreading the grace and glory of Jesus Christ. The work of the ministry at FBC does not depend on one man. As we grow together, the ministry is not only shared but increasingly maximized as God strengthens the leadership of the church.

*The Lord has lowered our debt.* The Father, through working generosity in our hearts, making us committed to the church and His word, has almost eliminated the burden of debt that has been hanging over our necks for the longest time. We are positioned for the first time in a decade to be debt-free, and to turn a significant curve by investing more in taking the Cayman Islands for the Lord and reaching the world in missions! We've already seen fruit from this in the new ministries of Stephen Ryan and Bentley Robinson. And we can in faith confidently expect the Lord to continue blessing our efforts to put all we have into the work of the ministry and proclamation of the gospel.

### Two things to focus on and pray about in 2009:

1. *Evangelism.* We can take the Cayman Islands for Christ! That's not a wild boast or pie-in-the-sky; the Lord can win this entire island nation to

(*Cont'd on p. 6*)

## Our Partnership in the Gospel

Every church is called to spread the gospel at home, and to partner with gospel-believing churches abroad for the same. The Lord has quietly been extending the reach of FBC all over the world. In S. Africa, pastors are using Pastor Thabiti's sermon on "race" and unity in the church to re-think race relations in a country torn apart by racial division. Missionaries in N. Ireland have been encouraged and built up through our teaching ministry. Over 5,000 pastors and seminarians from around the world were encouraged and equipped at a conference for pastors called Together for the Gospel. In Antigua and Barbuda, we partnered with the East Caribbean Baptist Mission in a week of evangelistic services attended by nearly 1,000 people.

At home, every Sunday night the Filipino radio ministry reaches the Filipino community in Cayman with the Good News. This time of year, the FBC choir reaches the Cayman community by television, those in prison, and neighbors and family in the Brac through special concerts. Even the children's choir got in on the action this year with a performance at the Book Festival at Dart Park. This is a very, very partial list of ways we join together to send the Good News to people at home and all over the globe. 2009 promises to be a great year in the Lord as well!



The following are some events and opportunities for spreading the message of our Risen Lord. Let's share in the gospel (Phil 1:4-6) by praying for and attending as many as possible.

### Jan. 16-18 Racial Harmony Weekend (Bethlehem Baptist Church, Minneapolis, MN)

Every year Bethlehem Baptist Church celebrates racial harmony week during the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birth. Pastor John Piper focuses Bethlehem on the gospel, the work of God among the nations, the supremacy of Jesus Christ, and racial harmony. This year, Pastor T. has been invited to: (1) a luncheon meeting with Minnesota-area pastors to discuss his book, *The Decline of African-American Theology*; (2) lead a church-wide mini-conference on his book, *What Is a Healthy Church Member?*; and (3) preach at two Sunday services at Bethlehem during the weekend celebration. The luncheon is aimed at helping pastors think about theological reform in their churches, while the workshop focuses on helping Christians participate in their churches in a healthy way. January in Minnesota is freezing! But the fellowship will be very warm! All are welcomed! For more information, visit [www.hopeingod.org](http://www.hopeingod.org).

### Feb. 4-8 FBC Missions and Evangelism Conference (Grand Cayman)

Before Will and Deb left for the mission field, they organized a missions conference. Will and Deb are back for a rest, and so are Paul and Martha Buford. Add Jennifer and Evelio Mejia, and what do you have? A great opportunity to love on our dear brethren and also to focus on our missions efforts as a church. Mark your calendars for Feb. 4-8 and the next FBC Missions and Evangelism Conference. Each night (Wed-Fri) will feature an update from one of our supported missionaries. And we'll have the great pleasure of having Mack Stiles, author of *Speaking of Jesus* and *Mack and Leanne's Guide to Short Term Missions*, encourage us from the word. On Saturday, Mack will also be with us for a workshop on evangelism. I don't know of a more contagious and effective evangelist than Mack Stiles. It's sure to be a great time of fellowship and word! All are welcome. Invite your Christian friends from other churches.

### Feb. 21-24 Global Ministry Conference Briarwood Presbyterian Church, (Birmingham, Alabama)

Briarwood Presbyterian is one of the largest Presbyterian churches in the southern United States. Briarwood maintains a strong focus on missions around the world. This year Pastor T. will serve as keynote speaker for their annual conference. While there, Pastor T. will also speak at the annual Global Christianity luncheon at Beeson Divinity School and visit with leaders at Briarwood Christian School. This will also be an opportunity for Stephen Ryan to deepen our relationships with other missions-minded churches and mission organizations. He'll also have opportunity to visit Beeson as he continues to pray about the possibility of attending seminary. For more information visit [www.briarwood.org](http://www.briarwood.org).

### Feb. 27-Mar 7 Christian—Muslim Dialogue (Southeast Asia)

For two of the last three years, Pastor Thabiti has traveled to the heart of the Muslim world to participate in Christian—Muslim dialogues. In 2007, Kyle McLean traveled with Pastor T where the dialogue focused on the question, "Who Is Jesus Christ?" These are very rare and strategic opportunities. As far as we know, these have been the only public forums in that region where the Christian faith has been freely and publicly shared. And with his background in Islam, Pastor T is uniquely suited for these events. While in Southeast Asia Pastor T will participate in the public dialogue, lead a leadership and evangelism retreat for Christian college students, and preach at United Christian Church of Dubai, where his good friend John Folmar serves as pastor. This year, Stephen Ryan will join him. Please pray for great fruit from these efforts where such opposition to the gospel exists.

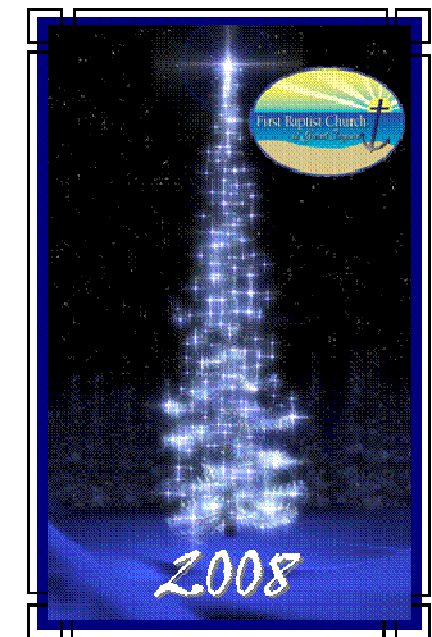
### Mar. 19-21 Ligonier Ministries National Conference (Orlando, FL)

This will be one of the best conferences of the year! Most of my preaching heroes will be there—R.C. Sproul, Sinclair Ferguson, Alistair Begg, D.A. Carson, Derek Thomas, Ligon Duncan and more! The theme—the holiness of God—will surely bless the soul of everyone who attends. Pastor T will give a keynote address called, "Cosmic Treason: Sin and

the Holiness of God." This is a conference you'll want to put on your calendar and attend if at all possible. It would be great to take a group from FBC, especially given that the conference is so close in Orlando. For more information on the conference and a ton of excellent spiritual resources visit [www.ligonier.org](http://www.ligonier.org).

In all of these efforts, we are partnering as a church with other churches to:

1. spread the glory of Jesus Christ in the gospel;
2. Strengthen our relationships with God's people around the world;
3. Encourage the saints and equip both current and future leaders of ministry; and
4. Spiritually grow ourselves from the ministry of others to us.



*Festival of Christmas Praise*

- Sanctuary Choir and Soloists
- FBC Trumpet Ensemble
- Televised by CPTN

*Sat. & Sun. Dec. 13 & 14—7PM*  
*First Baptist Church*