

FBF Newsletter

Faith Bible
Fellowship

From Pastor Chris:

Taking Every Thought Captive

I took the family to see the new 3D spectacular Avatar this week. It was the most visually amazing presentations of animism I've ever seen.

Animism sees ultimate reality as spiritual, and the physical world as "animated" by spirits or gods. Everything in the physical realm from people to animals to trees to rain to thunder to everything else have borrowed their spiritual essence from a great unity of spirit. In Avatar, its name is Eyra.

And she's a good old gal, too. She helped the beautiful (in a Klingon sort of way) Neyteri identify the avatar Jake Sully as a kind of savior, and she even was kind enough to envelope the life force of the dying Dr. Grace Augustine (how subtle!), which Sigourney Weaver found exhilarating. Hmm. I've been suspicious of that sort of thing ever since that old Twilight Zone when we found out that the alien book "To Serve Man" was actually a cookbook.

Of course, the film conveys a strong environmentalist message, but

the philosophical underpinning is not that a personal God created the earth and set man in it as its steward. That would be a Christian argument for taking care of the earth. In Avatar, God is gone, and his name (and that of his son) only good for expletives. Animists worship and serve the creation rather than the Creator. In so doing, they "exchange the truth about God for a lie" (Romans 1:25).

Storytelling is a powerful conveyor of philosophy. Jesus knew it. So do filmmakers. Stories well told make the underlying philosophies more persuasive. But when the truth is not in it, an artfully told story is nothing more than seduction.

And it has been happening for a long time. The first seducing story that I know of was told by a serpent who wove a fiction about a God who counted his deity a thing to be grasped, and lied to his creatures to keep them from attaining what he wanted only for himself. "You will not surely die," said the serpent, "for God knows that when you eat of it



your eyes will be opened and you will be like God" (Genesis 3:4-5).

There is a Christian story, too, although a true one. It begins in a garden. It ends in a city. And in between is a great drama—a battle between good and evil in which everybody takes a side, whether they know it or not.

I don't think Avatar's filmmaker likes our story very much. In fact, with all the potshots he took at me not only of a religious nature, but also political and moral, I got the idea that he was after me personally. He would have got me, too, if I hadn't ducked a spear that went just over my right shoulder.

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Notes of Interest:

- *New directory to be published soon. Forms available at FBF to update your information.*
- *Statements of 2009 donations to FBF to be mailed this month.*
- *Men's ministry breakfast, January 9.*

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Thank You for Serving

Thank you, everyone who served at and through Faith Bible Fellowship during the Christmas season.

Friends and members of FBF generously provided Christmas gifts for children of incarcerated parents through



Angel Tree families loved the idea of having a family photo sent to the mom or dad in prison.

Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree ministry. For the first time ever, all of our Angel Tree families came to our Christmas banquet, where FBF volunteers helped the children get their gifts and shared the gospel with their families.

Thanks to all our Angel Tree volunteers, those who helped provide and prepare food for our banquet, and to Jack Furnari and Mike Benjamin for providing terrific Christmas dinner music.

Other volunteers stuffed Christmas gift bags or distributed them to homes in the church neighborhood. Pray that the Christmas Edition ESV New Testaments will be used by the Lord in bringing his truth to bear in the lives

of people who live near our church.

We also sponsored a "Christmas Singing" at NHC Healthcare in Oak Ridge. Thanks to all who came and played or sang, and chatted with the residents afterward.

And FBF people staffed a Salvation Army Kettle Campaign outpost (Kroger, Oak Ridge) with very enthusiastic bell ringers for two days. Thank you, all. We're looking forward to hearing a report of the results of all that ringing, singing, and Merry Christmasing.

All in all, it was probably the most outwardly focused Christmas season we've ever had at FBF. Thank you all so much for your service to the cause of Christ in the lives of people.

Learning the Bible at FBF

Two new opportunities to better learn the Bible begin this month at Faith Bible Fellowship.

The first is a study of the book of Romans in Chip Hawley's and Jeff Douglas' adult Sunday School class. Romans is unique in the New Testament in that it is a systematic summation of the doctrine of salvation.

It was Romans that caught the eye of the libertine Augustine, turning him into a saint. It was Romans that captured Martin Luther, and saved him

Romans is unique in the New Testament in that it is a systematic summation of the doctrine of salvation.

from trying to merit God's favor through his monkery. John Wesley was saved while listening to a reading of Luther's Preface to Romans. And Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones preached a series of

sermons on Romans from 1955 until 1968, and the church grew!

Chip and Jeff are planning on presenting Romans over only 13 Sundays, starting in January.

Also in January, we will offer another small group that will begin with a study of the short New Testament book, 2 Thessalonians. The study is scheduled for Thursday nights beginning January 14. If you are interested in hosting the group in your home, let Pastor Chris know.

Malovics Coming to Oak Ridge in March

Hrvoje and Petra Malovic, our missionaries in Croatia, will be visiting for a few days in late March. They will be bringing their children Mia, Dora, and one we have not met yet, Emili.

Hrvoje will be our guest speaker at one of

our worship services, probably on Mar. 21.

FBF is in the second year of a five-year ministry partnership with Hrvoje and Petra. He writes, "God is bringing new people to his kingdom in this country." We're looking forward to hearing more.



January 2010

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday School 9:30a • Worship 10:45a Nursery: Karen Hawley Greeter: Alyssa Bryson Children's Church: Lisa Walls • Searchlights /Lifeboat Youth Groups, 6p 	4	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHC Healthcare Welcome Ministry, 10a 	6	7	8	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men's Ministry Breakfast, 8a at FBF
10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday School 9:30a • Worship 10:45a Nursery: Carol VanCleeef Greeter: Julia Walls Children's Church: Linda Douglas • Searchlights /Lifeboat Youth Groups, 6p 	11	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHC Healthcare Welcome Ministry, 10a 	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elders Prayer Meeting, 7p 	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circle Group Bible Study on 2 Thessalonians, site TBA 	15	16
17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday School 9:30a • Worship 10:45a Nursery: Nancy Mills Greeter: Bernice Seith Children's Church: Sandy Abelquist • Searchlights /Lifeboat Youth Groups, 6p 	18	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHC Healthcare Welcome Ministry, 10a 	20	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circle Group Bible Study on 2 Thessalonians, site TBA 	22	23
24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday School 9:30a • Worship 10:45a Nursery: Sandy Richards Greeter: Sandy Abelquist Children's Church: Shannon Tracey • Searchlights /Lifeboat Youth Groups, 6p 	25	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHC Healthcare Welcome Ministry, 10a 	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elders Business Meeting, 7p 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circle Group Bible Study on 2 Thessalonians, site TBA 	29	30
31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday School 9:30a • Worship 10:45a Nursery: Karen Hawley Greeter: Sharon Lantz No Children's Church • Searchlights /Lifeboat Youth Groups, 6p 						

Faith Bible Fellowship

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We're on the web!
faithbibleoakridge.com

*Helping people find
and follow Christ*



The purpose of Faith Bible Fellowship is to glorify God by developing disciples of Jesus Christ from spiritual birth to spiritual maturity.

We define a maturing disciple as one who

- *is worshipping God both privately and with other believers*
- *is growing in the knowledge of the Scriptures and applying it in daily life*
- *is sharing his or her life and resources with fellow believers*
- *and is sharing Christ with those who do not know him.*

Sign up Now for Women of Joy Conference

Sign up this month to attend the Women of Joy Conference April 9-11 at the new Sevierville Events Center.

A contingent of women from FBF had a great time at last year's Women of Joy conference, and this year's lineup of speakers and artists may be even better. Charles Billingsley of Thomas Road Baptist Church will lead the worship in all four weekend sessions. Friday evening's speaker will be Lori Salerno. Anita Renfroie will speak on Saturday morning, followed by Bible teacher Kay Arthur. Saturday night will feature a special concert by Michael W. Smith and Steven Curtis Chapman. And the speaker Sunday morning will be the best-selling Christian fiction author Karen Kingsbury.

The cost of the event and lodging for eight women from Faith Bible Fellowship will be only \$79, since Doris

Meyers is graciously offering lodging in her Pigeon Forge condominium at no charge at all.

As of this printing, there are five slots

available, which will be filled on a first-come first-served basis. You can secure your spot now and pay any time before February 6.

If you would like to take advantage of the opportunity to attend this year's Women of Joy Conference, there is a sign up list at the back of the sanctuary at FBF. Contact Nancy Mills for more details.



Kay Arthur, Karen Kingsbury, Lori Salerno, Charles Billingsley, Anita Renfroie, Steven Curtis Chapman, and Michael W. Smith will all be at the Women of Joy Conference April 9-11.