

Blacknall Missions Update

The Community Outreach Committee at Blacknall has been thinking about how we could develop a deeper relationship with one or two of the seventeen local ministries we financially support. For the past ten months we have been working through a process of discernment based on Blacknall's Missional Commitments. The result of that process has been a decision to pursue a deeper relationship with two local ministries: the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) and Reality Ministries.

In the months of June and July we will be introducing our partnership with these two ministries to the congregation. In worship we will be praying for and blessing those who work with these organizations. We will be hearing testimonies from some of our members who have been involved with IHN and Reality and we will be trying to answer some of the questions you may have about the shape and nature of our partnership. If you have more questions about these partnerships, please contact David Dunderdale, Brian or Amanda Diekman.

International Ministry Opportunities

Annually Duke University incorporates more than 500 new international students and scholars into its academic community. Most come from non-Christian backgrounds. Recently several avenues of service in Jesus' name have been opened to Blacknall through the efforts of those named below. These opportunities include:

Airport pickup

Arriving can be quite an ordeal, especially if they travel alone. During each of the past two Augusts Blacknall members helped welcome about forty international freshmen. Volunteers met students at the airport, transported them to campus and helped them check into their rooms. Volunteers also donated supplies for welcome bags, fans (many of Duke's freshmen dorms do not have air conditioning) and, later, exam care packets. We are looking forward to assisting another group of travelers this fall. And this year we are invited to host a welcome picnic for about half of all the international freshmen!

If you are interested in volunteering or have a fan to donate, please contact Natalie Eagleburger, natnre@gmail.com, 919.451.7237.

China Partners

This past spring Blacknall members were matched with 23 Chinese students who were part of an executive development program at the Duke Center for International Development. The goals of the partnership were to demonstrate hospitality to our Chinese friends, engage in cultural exchange, provide an opportunity for the students to become familiar with American customs, and enable the students to improve their conversational skills. After a comprehensive orientation, the partners attended a welcome reception where they met and were matched with their students. During the semester, partners hosted students in their homes and met with them for a variety of events. Both partners and students gathered for a farewell picnic that boasted good food, fun and friendship. We invite you to become part of future partnerships as we seek to serve in Jesus' name.

For additional description or to express your interest contact Kim Dunderdale, dunderdalek@gmail.com.

Language Partners

The University is always seeking additional volunteers to meet 2-4 times/monthly with an interested student during the academic year for language exchange and practice. You can improve your foreign language skill while serving a student or spouse's desire to improve his/her English ability. Volunteers are matched according to language interest and gender. Contact Scott, scott.hawkins@duke.edu, about this or other ministry opportunities among internationals.

Monthly Schedule

Sunday

8:30 & 11:00AM Worship
9:30-11:15 Library Open
9:45 AM Sunday School
5:00 PM International Missions (1st Sun- even months)
6:00 PM Prayers for Youth
6:30 PM Communion & Prayers (3rd Sun)
Prayers for Missionaries (1st Sun)

Monday

7:00 AM Outreach Comm. (2nd Mon)
7:00 PM Community Outreach Comm. (1st Mon)
5:00 PM Finance Comm. (3rd Mon)
7:30 PM Diaconate (1st & 3rd Mon) Session (2nd & 4th Mon) Family Life Comm. (1st Mon)

Monday (continued)

8:00 PM Building & Property (1st Mon)
Congregational Care (1st Mon)
Hospitality Comm. (1st Mon)

Tuesday

7:30 PM Worship Comm. (1st Tues)
Personnel Comm. (3rd Tues)

Wednesday

6:45 AM Men's Bible Study
10:30 AM LC's (Seniors Ministry)
7:30 PM Choir
Cornerstone - Youth Bible Study

Thursday

8:00 AM Prayers for Renewal
9:15 AM Women's Bible Study
7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous (Community Room)

Saturday

7:00 PM Narcotics Anonymous (Community Room)

Email: churchoffice@blacknall.org
Web Site: www.blacknall.org

Church Staff

Allan Poole- Pastor
David Dunderdale- Pastor
Dave Stuntz- Music Ministry
Amy Rowell- Children's Ministry - Elementary
Beth Solie- Children's Ministry - Preschool
Caroline Inazu- Middle School Youth Ministry
Brad Turnage- Director Youth Ministries (starts June 15)
Margaret Frothingham- Congregational Care
Diane Beacham- Finance
Dare Nicholson- Assoc Office Admin
Jan Smart- Assoc Office Admin.
Terry Simpson- Facilities Manager

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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June
2009

Blacknall Memorial Presbyterian Church



Dear Blacknall family,

Four.

If my memory serves, that is the correct number.

Four. In 1985, when I arrived at Blacknall now twenty-four years ago, that is how many high school aged men and women we had among us. I don't remember how many middle school aged youth we had, but not many more than that.

Here's another number. 100. That's just about our current population of youth, sixth through twelfth grades.

Things have changed. And more are coming. Our current population of fifth grade and unders is around 160.

Stunned? I am. And grateful. And challenged. I hope you are too.

The demographics alone make me grateful that Brad and Jamie Turnage are about to join us at Blacknall. Brad will serve as our first full time Director of Youth Ministries, working directly with our older youth and volunteers and providing oversight and support for Caroline Inazu and the middle school team. We are looking forward to June 15, when Brad arrives.

But it's about more than numbers and demographics. It's about formation and discipleship, ministering to and with our younger members. All of us feel the challenges of following Christ in our world, where at best Christian faith seems like a curious private opinion that "is fine for you, but not for me." Those in middle school and high school, however, bear a special burden that accompanies the challenges of adolescence, and of learning, relating and thinking in more complicated and complex ways. And all this in an environment that is bound to put a young person, who is thinking at all about God, in something of a crisis.

Of course, that's where Jesus specializes, meeting us in our moments of deepest need. As a church we face a challenge to walk alongside our younger members in ways that allow them to see him at work, there in the midst of the confusion, the questions and - sometimes - the chaos of life in the "wonder years."

Yeah, what happened to "wonder"?

Let's welcome Brad (and Jamie!) to our fellowship with a renewed pledge to see youth ministry not as the province of "the youth guy" but as something crucial that belongs to all of us. The numbers don't lie. To us much has been given; of us much is expected. We give God our best thanks as we embrace the particular ministry he gives us. Whether it is coming alongside Brad, or serving those even younger, we simply cannot prove faithless to the gift of these younger disciples in our midst.

Who introduced you to Christ?

Allan

Blacknall Family Announcements

Children's Ministry

Parents and Volunteers of Blacknall Children's Ministries – In the weeks ahead, you will have an opportunity to share your thoughts about Blacknall Children's Ministries, in any of the following ways:

- Participate in an open-forum discussion group in the Blacknall Fellowship Hall (child care provided for children birth to 5th grade)
 - Tuesday, May 26 – 7:00–8:00 p.m.
 - Sunday, June 7 – 6:30–7:30 p.m.
 - Sunday, June 14 – 9:45–10:45 a.m.
 - Saturday, June 20 – 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
- Complete an online survey by June 30
http://uncodum.qualtrics.com/SE?SID=SV_41S6aW80vtWuwWU&SVID=Prod
- Provide one-on-one feedback in a phone or person-to-person interview prior to June 30
 To schedule an interview, contact one of the team members below (your choice) and arrange a time to talk. Interviews should take no more than 30 minutes.

Melissa Hartemink, mhartemink@yahoo.com (919) 416-8458
 Lauren Holahan, lauren.holahan@gmail.com (919) 819-6522
 Carrie Pothoven, dpothoven@nc.rr.com (919) 383-9887
 Amy Rowell, arowell@blacknall.org (919) 286-5586, ext. 233
 Beth Solie, bsolie@blacknallpres.org (919) 286-5586
 Jen Stutz, jenas_us@yahoo.com (919) 803-7654
 Elizabeth Witherspoon, elizabeth@ewitherspoon.com (919) 382-0797

Confirmation Class members making their public confessions of faith

Gabriel Baucam	Jake Pennigar
Tyler Eckstein	Dylan Peterson
Samuel Feaver	Brandon Regnerus
Elizabeth Ferguson	Christopher Rice
Grace French	Kellie Schaefer
Libby Florence	Sarah Solie
Alex Gould	David Storelli
Lindsay Grigg	Abby Turner
Amanda Kim	Zoe Whisenhunt

Will vanDeventer



TableTalk

TableTalk will return in Fall 2009! Blacknall's Wednesday evening dinner, fellowship, and learning program for all ages will run from September 23 to November 18. We will again have dinner from 5:30-6:30 and a wide array of classes from 6:30-7:25.

Women interested in an evening Bible Study during TableTalk, please contact Margaret Frothingham, mfrothingham@blacknall.org, as soon as possible. Mark your calendars - and watch for more information soon about the exciting classes we are planning! For more information, please contact David Dunderdale, ddunderdale@blacknall.org, or Karl Umble, 490.5174, karl.umble@gmail.com.

Blacknall Family Announcements

Congratulations to our 2009 high school graduates

Alan Bohn	Owen McDonough
David Eyster	Michael Neve
Andrew Florence	Paige Pennigar
Jack Frush	Kenny Phelps-McKeown
Shelby Gardner	Sam Poole
James Heine	Ben Rice
David Hey	Zach Smith
Philip Hoover	Melanie Stolp



Summer is fast approaching and though school may be almost out, it may be the perfect time to pick up a book. After all, now you can read whatever you want. Maybe you've been meaning to dive into a book on prayer, learn how to communicate better with your kids, or just get lost in a whodunit while sitting by the pool. Or maybe you want an audio book for those long road trips — for you or for the kids. The Blacknall Library is the perfect place to start your hunt for summer reading.

Summer is also a great time to get your kids hooked on reading too, whether you're sharing a bedtime story with little ones or encouraging your early readers with just the right level of chapter books. And even teens can find books just their style.

Kids will discover an extra treat in the library this summer. Starting **June 7**, every time they check out a book, CD or DVD, they'll be entered into a weekly drawing for a special prize. The more they read, the better their chances! Bring them in to explore the great reading adventure waiting for them in the Library.

Welcome new members!

The Session examined and welcomed the following new members into our fellowship: Scott Crane, James Ford, Warren & Becky Gould, Zack & Quincie Phillips, Will Revere, Cullen & Mandy Rodgers-Gates, David & Sarah Shultz, Pitt Tomlinson, and Sameer & Whitney Yadav. Let's join in giving thanks for these folks and for the gifts they bring to our life as the people of God at Blacknall.

Monthly men's breakfast

The men of Blacknall and the men of St. John's Missionary Baptist Church have decided together to pursue going deeper in our relationship. We are currently in the planning stages of a shared Men's Retreat in the Fall of 2010.

In addition, we will be meeting together for breakfast on one Saturday morning each month. We will have a time of fellowship, study, and prayer from 8 to 10am. Watch the Sunday bulletin for an announcement about our next breakfast.

If you want more information or would like to help with fixing breakfast please contact Hank Humphrey, humphrey@rti.org, or Mark Paulson, MPaulson@aeroglide.com. All men are welcome!

Blacknall Family Announcements

The gifts of God from the people of God...

	YTD Budget	\$462,903	
2009 weekly Budget	\$22,043	YTD Income	\$392,974
Tithes & Offerings 5/24	\$20,837	YTD Expenses	\$458,341
Covenant Campaign Total Borrowed		\$1,100,000	
Covenant Campaign Loan Balance 5/24		\$81,449	

Dolma – God's possibilities in the midst of troubles

by Frauke Schaefer

I met Dolma when I worked as a medical doctor in Western Nepal. I used to visit Tibetan refugees in the local camps and tried to build connections between the very few Tibetan believers. Dolma lived with her husband and only daughter in a town in Southern Nepal. They had started a Nepali church there and Dolma ministered to a number of people in need around town.

Dolma was born in the Himalayas in Southern Tibet. When she was eight, Chinese troops invaded Tibet and Dolma and her mother left everything to head South across the mountains to Nepal. Her father stayed on - is he still alive? In Nepal they found shelter in a Tibetan refugee camp.

Living conditions were harsh and Dolma's mother passed away, leaving her young child alone. Dolma contracted tuberculosis of her hip and needed surgery. A mission hospital offered treatment. When nobody visited the young woman missionaries came, loved her in Christ's name, and told her about the love of Jesus. She eventually found new hope, and started trusting again. The Light started to shine into her troubled young life.

Seeking love she married a Nepali man who would ultimately become a believer after the couple lost their son. In the midst of their grief they saw The Light most clearly and committed their lives to Him. Their hearts were so full that their testimony drew others and a church was planted.

Tuning their ears into God's voice they perceived a call to minister to the lonely and lost children of the Tibetan peoples in Nepal. Following their calling they moved to the town where Dolma had lived previously in one of the refugee camps and started a children's home first with needy children from the camps. They named it "Trust Home". Ten, thirty, fifty, now eighty children were allowed to take the place of the one they had lost and they started to love them as father and mother in Christ's name and tell them about the love of Jesus. The Light shines on in the darkness and children have publically confessed their faith and commitment to the One they found truly can be trusted.

For celebrations at Trust Home parents and relatives of the children, camp and tribal leaders flock there for fun, food, and presentations by the children. Many of those who have never heard about the Light hear on those occasions. Let's pray and believe with Dolma and Arjun that the children will serve the needs of their people and become Light bearers for those who still live in darkness.

It all started with some Christians faithfully loving a refugee...
 (For pictures of Trust Home and some of its children or to support go to <http://www.allowthechildren.org/aid/TrustHome.asp>)