

Mackinac Island Bible Church

2009 Season
Edition



"A Church in the Word for All People"

Do You Hear What I Hear?

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Did you know?

There is a 20 mph speed limit for bikes and snowmobiles on Mackinac Island?

Service Schedule:

**Sundays
9:30am**

Mission Point Theater

**Wednesdays
8:00pm**

Mission Point Resort
Conference Center

Please enjoy the 2009 "Good Report." Our prayer is that God is at the very center of your existence and being. Are you pressing into the Presence of God? It's the best thing you can do today!

Do you hear voices? I know I'm not crazy, but I hear them. I do! That sounds a bit strange, but let me explain.

We hear the voice of our minds, the voice of our conscience, the voice of our parents, the voice of our desires, the voice of our peers, the voice of our leaders, the voice of the media, the government, our circumstances and the voice of our past. Maybe you can think of a few more.

Our hearing is cluttered with voices and sometime we don't realize all the things that we are listening to! We have all heard that in order to change something in our lives, we first must acknowledge that it exists. Just like in an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting most of us could start by saying this, "Hello, my name is (fill in the blank), I'm a voice-a-holic." That's right, we have to acknowledge this fact—we hear voices!

Words can even cause God's people to stagger, faint, hide and cower in fear. What

voices are you listening to? Do you let your past, dictate your future? Do you let trends put you in fear? Do you let the voice of your feelings keep you from acting on God's promises?

We are in a panic right now and it will get worse before it gets better for some. If we continue to listen to some of the voices that we hear, we will be in trouble!

As believers in Jesus Christ we are to be led by the voice of our Shepherd, Jesus Christ. Listen to what He tells us:

"Every one that is of the truth hears My voice." (John 18:37)

"I am the good shepherd and know My sheep and My sheep know Me." (John 10:14)

"But you do not believe because you are not My sheep. My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me." (John 10:26-27)

These are just a few of the words of Scripture in terms of what we should hear. We are to know the voice of our Savior and we are to be led by the Holy Spirit of God—not by our flesh or by our peers or by our sinful thoughts or by even our circumstances.

Our circumstances are not to govern what we believe or cling to. The Word of the



Lord is the voice we cling to. Whether it is His *Logos Word* (written word) or His *Rhema Word* (a word given to us from God's Spirit) - that is what we should listen. God's Word is true and it is a sure foundation. Listen to this,

"The Law of the law is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. By them is your servant warned in keeping them there is great reward." (Psalm 19:7-11)

Say these words out loud for your ears to hear: "I am not moved by what I see. I am not moved by what I feel. I am moved by what I believe. I believe God!" -Pastor

What's Going On Here?

The Mackinac Island Bible Church is in existence to proclaim the Word of God in the earth. God has placed us on Mackinac Island to share God's Word with everyone we can. Though we call ourselves a church, we really operate more like a mission station. Many thanks to those of you that pray for us regularly and sow into this harvest field. We do appreciate you so very much.

Mackinac Island Bible Church



crossroads

Ever since the formation of the ministry of the Mackinac Island Bible Church, we have realized that this place is a place of crossroads. A crossroad is where two roads converge—an intersection of different directions. We are at that place for those that travel our roads.

Last year, the first lady of this ministry, Lori Straight came to me and said, "We need to call our summer worker ministry, "Crossroads." Immediately I thought and responded, "Yes!" You see, I had that name in my head already but had not spoken or published it. Isn't that the way the Holy Spirit works?

The significance of this name is really where our vision is at MIBC. Summer workers, visitors and even some residents are at the crossroads of their lives. Right where the roads converge is where we are. MIBC is at a strategic place to bring the Gospel in Word and action.

So many are at a crossroad in their careers, in their family, in their finances or in their relationships. We are here to be Jesus to those that come our way. We always encourage our people and summer workers to bring other workers along to our services, fellowships, outreaches and studies because we believe

that the Lord will meet them at their crossroad.

This is also a crossroad of testing for some Christians. Many Believers come here with good intentions, but leave in shame by travelling down the wrong road—a road of sin and destruction.

Remember what the Lord said in Matthew 7:13: **"...and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life and only a few find it."**

We are here to guide and direct the lost and wandering at their crossroad. But we as Believers know one thing for sure, all roads must meet at the Cross!

IT TAKES A THIEF

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life..."

In the last year, Mackinac Island has seen quite its share of tragedies. For such a small island with few year-round residents, it really is mind-blowing to think about. Only one person, Helga Doud, seemed to live her life out to a very ripe old age—102!

One young man who worked on the island during the summers from St. Ignace was shot and killed by a local island worker during a party in St. Ignace. This man was under 20 years of age and his shooter will be in jail for a long time (only 28 years old).

Another man got lost on his snowmobile crossing the "Ice Bridge" and was found in the morning, frozen, just steps away from the U.S. Coast Guard station. He was 38.

One family man died at age 50. Complications from cancer due to life-long alcoholism. Another man died of Liver failure who had two young children and a short life of regrets. One family lost their 18 month-old son in a quick and confusing set of health issues.

Still another recent loss was that of a young married man that crashed into a sign and rolled his snowmobile over, breaking his neck. One wife, one small son and one step-son left behind

In most of these cases, alcohol was a part of these sad stories. These are not the first and

only lives cut short here in the last few years, yet these are all too common occurrences.

The Word of God tells us in John 10:10,

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full (abundantly)."

People will say things like, "God took them" or "God was done with them here" or "It was God's will." That is not what the Word says. It is God's will to give life—a full life. In our ways of trying to figure things out and cope, we actually don't accept the truth. It is the thief (the Devil, Satan, the Dragon, etc.) that is the destroyer of life. Temptations, lifestyle choices and simply living in this world bring death and destruction and many lives are cut short.

Some of you reading this have gone through horrendous things and have lost those you love - some at a young age. We cannot always answer the "Why?" question, but we can know where death, trouble and destruction comes from.

Can we really attribute the tragic deaths of people to our loving Father? Sin and death entered this world in the Garden of Eden when Adam gave over the title deed of the earth to Satan. Since then, mankind has been dodging death ever since! This is why we preach Jesus! This is why we all should show the way to the Father. God is the giver of life, not the author of death. Jesus has come that we might have LIFE and LIFE MORE ABUNDANTLY!



Seeing Is Believing!

God is doing amazing and wonderful things all over the world. He is drawing men, women and children to Himself in miraculous ways. Whether you choose to believe in the providence of God working in supernatural ways or not, we'll still tell the story we heard on Mackinac Island one warm, summer night.

From a conference table at a well-known hotel here, we listened intently while the middle-aged African man told of the miraculous conversion of his father, a poor, blind and illiterate, goat herder.

One night as he slept, he had a vision that he would be visited by two men who would tell him about a man named Jesus. Not even knowing who Jesus was and not used to such clear dreams, he woke and did his normal chores of taking care of the goats. As you might guess, two men approached him and told him about the God-Man, Jesus Christ. It brought him to his knees, he repented of his sins and received Jesus as Lord and Savior!

The story does not end there. The next day he was drawn to something stuck in

the ground as he watched his flock. It was a book - you guessed it, a Bible! This was a miracle in and of itself because this was a remote area and a very unlikely place to find such treasure. Hold on though, because what happens next is also amazing.

This man could not read and was mostly blind. That was no problem for the one who gives sight to the blind and makes the lame walk! God opened his eyes as if to shine light upon His Word and he was able to read the Word of God. But, he not only could see, but he had never read before in his life. In an instant, he could see and he knew how to read too!

The miracles of this story are not over yet. Until the day this man's death, he was unable to read any else but the Word of God. This miracle light from heaven was given to him to read the living Word and that only!

His son, whom we were listening intently to came to Jesus through these miraculous events in his father's life. Now, he stood before us as the Southern Africa

representative for Campus Crusade for Christ, Intl' who was here on Mackinac Island to raise funds for the "Jesus Film" project. By the way, several thousands of dollars were raised in just minutes.

Why do we share this? For a few reasons. First, whether you believe this story or not, God is still a miracle-working God! He is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that we could think or even imagine! Secondly, we still have to do the work of the ministry in our lives. We are still told to "go and make disciples." It would be easy for us to ask the Lord to do all the work and bring people to Jesus. Like those angels, we are to tell others who Jesus is.

As much as this story excites us (it should and we need to pray for more miracles), this proves again how much God wants men to know Him and serve Him with their lives.

May the Lord use you every day for His Kingdom work!

...to the uttermost parts of the earth

As most of you know MIBC also supports missions around the world. Last year MIBC helped people locally through benevolence and we almost tripled our missions giving goals!

Elder Roy Bessell travelled to Mexico in 2009 for the second time and served at a YWAM base as project worker and supervisor. He blessed the work in Guadalajara with his skills in construction and also ministered in local outreaches and churches. What a blessing he was to them.

In May, Pastor Ken, along with twelve college students and missionary candidates will travel to Bulgaria and Macedonia. Evangelism in three major cities as well as serving in orphanages and with the local churches. Less than 2% of the population in these countries are Believers. This is an open door for us to reach people that have never heard the Gospel before!

GOOD REPORTS

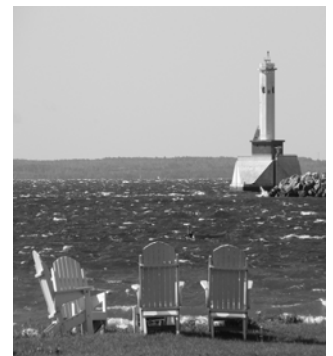
We invite you to let us know if you have been blessed by the ministries of the Mackinac Island Bible Church. Your letters really do help us and encourage us to keep going. Here are comments from people touched by this ministry:

"Thank you again for all you are doing for His Kingdom. You are always in our prayers and we often think about one or our favorite places on earth and the mission field at your doorstep..."

"My husband and I enjoyed worshipping with your congregation this summer on the island. We are thrilled to learn of your evangelism efforts, especially among the summer employees..."

"Our family visited your church while we were staying on Mackinac Island for the Labor Day weekend. It was a blessing to come to be a part of your service... We will be back!"

Looking for anointed ministry in your church? Allow Pastor Ken Straight to come and minister the Word to your congregation, Youth Ministry, Men's, Women's or Missions departments. Many have been touched, charged and equipped all over the world through the teaching and insight. Don't let cost be an issue either—we want to be a blessing. Contact the MIBC Office at: 906.847.0217



MACKINAC ISLAND BIBLE CHURCH

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Upcoming Guests and Events

SPECIAL GUESTS

- **Kingdom Force—July 1-4** This is a group from Elim Bible Institute in Lima, NY. Their high energy ministry will help our young people press towards the mark of being committed followers of Jesus Christ through Music, Drama, Evangelism and Service Projects. God is raising up young people like these to work in the harvest fields for His glory. Join us during our Midweek service with Kingdom Force. Your teenagers will be revived and so will you!
- **Wheel Power Christian Cyclists—July 17-19** World record holder Judy Bowman will bring her sold out bicyclers to Mackinac Island for a few days of evangelism and ministry. While here these cross-country cyclists will share the Gospel of Jesus all over Mackinac Island. There days will end on Sunday as Judy shares her experiences in winning the lost and travelling the world for the sake of the cross. This will be a great event for the whole family!
- **Pastor Duane Vanderklok—July 22** Pastor Duane is the pastor and overseer of one of the Midwest's most vibrant and dynamic ministries—Resurrection Life Churches International. Along with shepherding a church of over 7,000 people, Pastor Duane oversees over 60 churches within RLCI as well as being a sought-after speaker all over the world. "Walking By Faith" is their TV ministry heard on stations across the country. Res Life Church has also produced wonderful worship and leaders such as, Michael Gunger, Israel Houghton, Curt Cofield and Ken Reynolds. Pastor Duane will be with us during our Wednesday Midweek Service so come and get up close and personal with a great man!

SPECIAL EVENTS

- **The Big Ticket Festival — June 18-20 in Gaylord, Michigan** Join thousands of people for a three-day concert experience! Over 60 musical guests including many well-known Christian artists and bands. We want to help support good, clean family events in Northern Michigan. We need a revival here in Michigan! Please see www.thebigticketfestival.com for details.
- **Various Island Evangelistic Outreaches — All Summer Long!** MIBC will do several island outreaches this summer to reach people for Jesus. We will also network with some para-church organizations to make an impact here including: INTER-VARSITY FELLOWSHIP and others. We will also conduct personal street evangelism at various times—planned and otherwise on the streets and parks of Mackinac Island. Our PUPPETS OF PRAISE team will present the Gospel at a variety of locations on Mackinac Island and also on the mainland. Our Crossroads Summer Ministry will work and evangelize the lost through fellowships and Bible Studies all summer long.
- **Summer Worship and Concerts — All Summer Long!** Well-known worship leaders and bands will converge on Mackinac Island at various times to bring the life and joy of Jesus Christ all summer long. Music from worship leaders: Matt McCoy, Andy Stefanic, Ken Whittum, Perry LaHaie, Randy & Marli Brown and Michael Seiler will be here to help us enter into the throne room of God. The heart of MIBC to bring great worship to visitors and attendees as the Lord directs our steps!

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