

# WESTSIDE

## *story*

### Church Events

- **August 3** TinCaps Game
- **August 7** JOY Fellowship
- **August 12** Mission's Service;  
AM | PM
- **August 18** Women's GROW  
Ministry: Freezer Meal Packing
- **August 19** Ice cream Nite
- **August 25** AWANA Kick-Off  
Party
- **September 2** No Evening  
Service
- **September 9** The Ultimate  
Griller
- **September 12** AWANA Begins!
- **September 13-15** Church  
Directory Pictures
- **September 18** JOY Fellowship  
Trip
- **September 22** Mission Trip  
BBQ Fundraiser
- **October 6** Unity 66 Fish Fry

### 'What's Unique About the Bible Is We Don't Just Read It, It Reads Us': DC Pastor Explains God's Voice

Written by: Billy Hallowell, Pureflix

What does it mean to speak to God — and to hear Him communicate back? This is a question that continues to be discussed and debated in religious and secular circles alike, especially in an era in which atheists and skeptics are increasingly vocal about their view that "listening to God" is problematic or, at the least, nonsensical.

Mark Batterson, pastor of National Community Church in Washington, D.C., and author of "Whisper: How to Hear the Voice of God," recently explained this dynamic during an appearance on PureFlix.com's "Pure Talk," revealing how he believes God communicates with humans.

"There is a God who speaks and the truth is He's speaking all the time ... but I think God most often speaks in a whisper," Batterson said. "1 Kings 19 calls it 'that still, small voice' and I have a theory. My theory is this: Yes, God has an outside voice — He can make it thunder. But He usually speaks in a whisper."

The preacher said that God wants people to be close to Him and to "hear His heart as well as His voice" — and that God is big enough to speak to each and every person. The ways in which the Lord speaks might vary, with Batterson arguing that "each one of us can hear Him uniquely."

"He has revealed himself through the pages of scripture," Batterson said. "He also speaks through desires, and doors, and dreams, and people, and promptings — and through pain."

Critics question how this process of speaking with God works, and believers, too, often have many questions about how it plays out. Batterson said that

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*Reaching and Teaching Our World for Christ*



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continued

learning to hear God's voice is like "learning a language." It's a process that takes effort, devotion — and time.

"It's going to take time to really discern that voice that speaks through desire, the voice that opens and closes doors, the voice that speaks through dreams," he said. "If we don't listen to everything that the spirit of God has to say, eventually we won't hear anything."

Batterson's point was that it's essential to listen to everything the Lord says, including the "convicting voice" that seeks to correct people's hearts and minds. He added that it is in people's pain, too, that God sometimes speaks.

"Sometimes, it's in our pain that we discover a God who comforts, a God who gets us through those difficult times," Batterson said. "When you open your Bible, God opens his mouth. What's unique about the Bible is we don't just read it, it reads us."

The preacher emphasized the importance of opening the Bible regularly as an effort to better understand how to communicate with God. "Duck Dynasty" star Missy Robertson agreed, explaining the importance of routinely reading scripture.

"The more time we spend in the Word, we understand our God even more and how He works," she said.

## **Awana is BACK! Register NOW!**

"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me... your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish."

### What is Awana?

Matthew 18:5, 14b

Awana is a non-profit children's ministry that focuses on providing Bible-based evangelism and discipleship solutions for children. Awana is a positive and energetic program for children to memorize scripture and learn how to apply it to their lives, to gain a better understanding of God's Word, and to discover a deep love for Jesus while building relationships with others.

### Awana at West

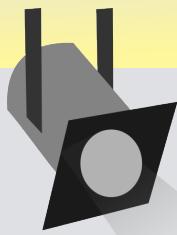
West Missionary implemented their first Awana program four years ago in 2014. This past year West discipled to 112 children from Adams and Wells County with the help of approximately 50 volunteers. The Awana program is available to any child from the age of 2 - 5th grade free of charge. After registering, each child receives a shirt and a bag fitting to the Club they are age appropriately placed.

Awana will be starting up again on September 12 and registration is now open. West encourages you to pick up a yard sign (as shown) for your lawn, to invite a child to attend Awana, or to volunteer your talents. West welcomes you to Awana! Start your journey now, <http://www.westmissionarychurch.com/awana/>.



Awana Yard Sign

**"With an unwavering commitment to the gospel, Awana is being used to reach over 4 million kids every week in 120 countries, giving children and youth from every background an opportunity to know, love and serve Jesus for a lifetime."** [-awana.org](http://awana.org)



# get to know *The Schwartzs*

Brad and Becky Schwartz met soon after graduation in 2002 and married four years later on August 5, 2006 at Becky's home church, Bethlehem Lutheran, in Ossian.



Currently residing in Geneva, Brad and Becky are raising three children. Kannen, who turns 7 in the month of August is now a first grader. Karson, who turned 4 in April, loves preschool at First Mennonite. Shortly following Karson is Emersyn, their little surprise baby, turned 3 in June. Brad works for the United States Post Office as a rural route carrier and Becky at First Bank of Berne as the EFT/eBanking Specialist.

As a family, the Schwartzs love being outdoors! Their favorite place to spend time together is at Becky's family lake home in Michigan on the summer weekends. During the winter months, they turn into a wrestling family. Brad helps coach SAW (South Adams Wrestling), Kannen loves being on the mat, Karson can't wait to get there, and Em and Becky love cheering in the stands.

After many years of struggling to find a church to call home, they are so thankful for the invite from Brad's brother, Ben, to attend West Missionary. Becky reflects, "It has been such an easy fit for us and we thank you all for being so welcoming!"

The Schwartz family focuses on God's command to trust in Him. Becky concludes, "We firmly believe that God has a plan and a purpose for everything in our lives! We may not always understand the why's or the how's, but as long as we continue to trust Him, He will always provide, protect, and care for us! Relax and let God be God!"



## Family Matters: Back to School with Purpose

[www.focusonthefamily.org](http://www.focusonthefamily.org)

Moving from a summer schedule to a school-year routine is a time of transition for families. To help children make this change, parents can meet with their children's teachers, take a tour of the school, set earlier bedtimes the week before and practice the morning routine days before school starts. In addition, here are four ways I've helped my child ease into the new school-year schedule:

### Picture calendar

My son and I create a picture calendar that helps him visually understand when he will go to school and when he will stay home. A different picture is pasted on home days than on school days. The vagueness of going to school sometimes is replaced by a concrete way to understand his schedule.

### Mini-missions

As my child goes off to school, I send him with a "mission." For example, I might ask him to tell a friend one kind thing today ("You are my friend." "Thank you for playing with me at recess.") or invite someone who doesn't have many friends to sit with him at lunch. These mini-missions help teach my child to focus on and encourage others.

### Prayer

By teaching my frightened child to pray, "God, I will choose to trust You even when I am feeling afraid," I'm helping him develop a life skill that he can apply to other difficult times.

### Goodbye ritual

When I drop my son off at school, I want to give him a focused perspective about who God calls him to be. So I have taught him that integrity means doing what is right, even when no one is watching. I ask, "How will you return to me?" when I drop him off. He responds, "With integrity, Mom!" Our goodbye ritual is the same every day. By emphasizing this character quality each day, I'm helping my son connect who he is at school with who he is at home.

# Sundays

Sunday School: 9:00am

Morning Service: 10:00 am

Nursery and Children's Services Available (am)

Unity 66 Youth Group: 6:30pm

Evening Service: 7:00 pm

# Wednesdays

AWANA: 6:30pm

Unity 66 Fellowship: 6:30pm

Bible Study: 7:00pm

Nursery Available

# FLASHBACK



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West Missionary Church