

The Herald

MAY THE LORD
DIRECT YOUR HEARTS

TO THE

love OF *God*

AND TO THE

steadfastness
OF *Christ.*

2 THESSALONIANS 3:5

From the Pastor's Desk

Join the Surprise

Last month I wrote about noting the “God Moments” in our lives. The moments we are Surprised by God’s presence, activity or just reminder He is with us. Just this morning I was praying with a group of men and a God Moment happened. A smile took over my face, of course no one noticed because they were all praying. But still the smile owned my experience. The God Moment was as I listened to the various men praying I was aware of the many, many lives this group of men were touching for the kingdom of God. We all viewed ourselves as very ordinary individuals but we were also aware of being used by an extra-ordinary God to influence and impact others with his grace. That is worth smiling about.



Other “Surprised by God Moments” included being awe struck by his beauty in creation on several occasions, experiencing calmness in disorganized circumstances I could not control, and being blessed by God’s blessing of others. I hope you found numerous moments of being surprised by God through your month.

Let’s take this just a little further. Could you see yourself joining with God in being part of the surprise? Many of the God Moments are just God’s gift to us to remind us He is near. But many also involved other human beings. And some of those were intentional, where the individual was seeking to be part of God’s act of surprising us with his blessing. Could we go into our day telling God we want to be part of surprising someone with his presence, grace and care? Then we look for opportunities. Perhaps we become the hand of Jesus in touching someone needing a touch, or helping another see God in their hard circumstance, or celebrating a precious moment as a God gift. Many of you are already doing this just as part of your nature in letting Jesus shine through. Press on! Enjoy the Surprise and Be the Surprise.

Pastor Dennis

Greetings from MARS

The last three weeks of January we had a guest speaker Brian Johnson, from South Dakota Apologetics, talking with the youth and those from the church body about topics including Evolution, Age of the Earth and Dinosaurs. It was a great time of learning about actual science and scientific findings that are not taught in schools or anywhere really. Brian was able to show scientific evidence for a young earth belief. He also taught about “Collagen Decay Rates” and how it proves that dinosaurs were living thousands of years ago and not millions as the world proudly proclaims. What impresses me about Brian is he never put his view or belief on those in the audience. Many of the youth were eager with questions for Brian about what he was teaching asking him “So dinosaurs are not millions of years old” or “the earth is actually around 6,000yrs old vs. the 4.5 billion taught in school?” Brian would turn it back on them and say “what do you think?” He was there to show and explain science but was clear he wanted the audience to use their own mind to examine the evidence and make a decision on what they believe.

At one point of the last night an older gentleman yelled out from the audience “where were all these answers when I was 13yrs old? Why didn’t anyone tell me?” I understood this question. I get upset too when I discover new truths and ask “why is this not being talked about?” The truth is we have unlimited access to unlimited resources of information in the palm of our hand. We can research and discover all these things on our own if only we decided to. Imagine the amount of time we would have to seek out the many truths in this world if we didn’t spend the majority of our time updating our Facebook profile or watching the cute cat videos on YouTube. We all claim the same thing “we don’t have any time, we are too busy.” I am guilty of this myself (not the cat videos), but the truth is if we actually wrote down on paper where we spend our time, friends, family, TV, internet, smart phone, work, etc. we would be surprised to see how much of this precious life we are wasting. Do it, I dare you.

What is the reality of this? A large majority of people who claim to be a Christian have little to no foundation for their belief in the Creator God. They do not take the time to examine the evidence that Jesus is who He said He is and how reliable and accurate the Bible really is. 1 Peter 3:15 says “but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you;” if we can’t do that we run the risk of becoming as those described in 2 Timothy 4:3,4 “For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.” I am tired of the world having better answers for their lives than we Christians have for the truth. Please join me in the fight for truth and let’s have a defense for the Gospel.

For more information on Brian Johnson and SD Apologetics, please visit sdapologetics.com

These are a few of my favorites from 2019 devotionals:

From “Through The Year With J I Packer”:

Phil. 4:8 – Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things -

“Can we really choose what we are going to think about? The idea of regularly choosing themes for our thoughts seems strange, but Paul has no doubts that it is possible. He actually commands it. Controlling and directing one's thoughts is a habit, and the more one practices it, the better one becomes at it. Motivation, of course, helps, and Christians have a deep-rooted urge, instinctive to them as regenerate persons, to center their thoughts on God's grace and glory at all times. It has always been common for Christians to let their thoughts be drawn up to God and to meditate – that is, talk to themselves and to God, silently or aloud, concerning God's nature, works, and ways, in a manner that prompts praise and adoration and brings endless delight to the heart. Paul's instruction in what to think about simply gives focus and direction to this regenerate instinct, so as to ensure that our meditation will profit us as much as possible.”

Reflect: I can choose to focus my thoughts on God's good gifts.

Romans 15:13 – May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit

“What, in particular, are the true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, gracious, excellent, and praiseworthy things on which we are to center our thoughts? (see Phil. 4:8)? They are the doings of God and the fruit of those doings in human lives. They include the fourfold awareness that

1. God loves me, infinitely and eternally;
2. everything comes to from God, at least with His permission and always under his protection, to further my eternal good
3. my saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus, which will eternally increase, is something supremely worth having; and
4. the gospel message of salvation that I seek to pass on to others is something supremely worth giving.

These thoughts will always prime the pump of joy in our hearts and thus produce a steady flow of joy, peace and delight. Try it and see!

Reflect: When I focus on God's work in my life, I experience joy and peace.

Continued on page 5

And bits of 'The Bewildering Call of God' in Oswald Chamber's "My Utmost For His Highest"

Luke 18: 31, 34 - "...and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished'...but they understood none of these things..."

"God called Jesus Christ to what seemed absolute disaster. And Jesus Christ called His disciples to see Him put to death, leading every one of them to the place where their hearts were broken. His life was an absolute failure from every standpoint except God's. But what seemed to be failure from man's standpoint was a triumph from God's standpoint, because God's purpose is never the same as man's purpose.

...The call of God is like the call of the sea – no one hears it except the person who has the nature of the sea in him.

...If we are in fellowship and oneness with God and recognize that He is taking us into His purposes, then we will no longer strive to find out what His purposes are. As we grow in the Christian life, it becomes simpler to us, because we are less inclined to say, "I wonder why God allowed this or that?" And we begin to see that the compelling purpose of God lies behind everything in life, and that God is divinely shaping us into oneness with that purpose. A Christian is someone who trusts in the knowledge and the wisdom of God, not in his own abilities. If we have a purpose of our own, it destroys the simplicity and the calm, relaxed pace, which should be characteristic of the children of God."

written at the bottom of the page: The Beautiful Life – Ron W.

February Librarians: Georgie Neff & Millie Holle

Focus on Missions– Keystone Project

The entire focus of Keystone Project is to provide training directed toward the accomplishment of the Great Commission.

KP does this by training and coaching leaders to launch movements of multiplying disciples in the nations, especially among people groups who have little or no access to the gospel. The demand for the training has grown very quickly with thousands of leaders applying to attend. This is challenging financially and with staffing. A typical training program includes 100 - 130 people for a 30 day commitment. To help with these challenges, a new initiative called Keystone Project Partners has been implemented with a website that allows one to give just \$10 per month, which is the price of a single meal or a monthly subscription to something like Netflix.



The Keystone Project

The March-April 2019 training had a thousand people apply from 44 countries, but KP was only able to accept 80 students from 12 countries. The first ever Ivory Coast month long training was completed in 2019 with French translation. This was one of the most impactful trainings ever held. KP has commissioned a team of missionaries to the West African Nation of Cote d' Ivoire which arrived in November to stay within the country for five months. They are committed to supporting the new disciples in reaching every unreached people group of West Africa.

2019 brought in the addition of Spanish translators to our trainings.

KP's **Project Summer Internship** is about equipping young people between 18-25 years of age with experience in making disciples and provides summer employment. In 2019, KP had 7 interns. Three young Native American men of the Lakota tribe, three siblings from Minnesota and one from Arizona.

Total Disciples trained in 2019 was 317!

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Focus on Missions—Keystone Project

Training Session dates for 2020:

INTERNATIONAL LEADERS TRAINING

JANUARY 20 – FEBRUARY 14

*Launching Movements of
Multiplying Disciples in Every
Nation*

US/CANADA TRAINING

FEBRUARY 24 – MARCH 6

*Reaching Unreached Nations
Among Us*

INTERNATIONAL LEADERS TRAINING

MARCH 23 – APRIL 17,

Launching Movements of Multiplying Disciples in Every Nation

US/CANADA TRAINING, MAY 11-15

Reaching Unreached Nations Among Us

INTERNATIONAL LEADERS TRAINING

OCTOBER 5-30



Visit www.keystoneproject.org for info!



From My Files: Echoes of God's Glory

Roseanne Hilton

THE MAN WHOSE EYES WERE OPENED WORSHIPPED JESUS

"Who sinned," Jesus' disciples asked Him, "this man or his parents, causing him to be born blind?" **

Jesus replied, "You're asking the wrong question. You're looking for someone to blame. This man was born blind so the work and power of God could be seen in him. All of us must carry out the task assigned us by the One who sent Me."

Would it change our attitudes toward our hardships if we acted as if the work and power of God could be seen in us? Would this turn us into 24/7 worshippers?

Before Jesus healed the man, He declared, "I am the Light of the world. [By Me, sight comes to this man and to all who are spiritually blind.]"

The religious leaders began to harass the man who could now see, because they had already been looking for ways to trap Jesus. They had decided that anyone who said that Jesus was the Messiah would be kicked out of the syn-

agogue, that is, expelled from Jewish society. "Give credit to God!" they exclaimed to the man. "We know that this Man is an imposter." The formerly blind man replied, "I don't know about that, but I know one thing for sure—I was blind; I now see."

The more the religious leaders disputed with him, the more the man began to think the opposite of what they were saying. He challenged them, "That someone opened the eyes of a man born blind has never been heard of. If this Man didn't come from God, He wouldn't be able to do anything."

Jesus found the man whose eyes had been opened after the leaders had insulted him and expelled him. Jesus asked, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" The man said, "Point Him out to me, Sir, so that I can believe." Jesus said, "You're looking right at Him, don't you recognize My voice?"

"Master, I believe," he said as he worshipped Jesus.

The darkness is on its way out and the True Light is blazing, Jesus, Light of the world, we join this man in worshipping You.

**The blind man's story is from John chapter 9.



UNIFIED—By BJ Reese

“Satan does not fear a LARGE church. He fears a STRONG church.”

When my husband died, in 1999, I felt the mighty arms of the Lord wrap themselves around my legs to hold them straight and strong. At the same time, I felt an emphatic, urgent message imprint itself upon my spirit . . .

“NO! You’re going to STAND here, and you’re going to TAKE this, because YOUR kids are going to NEED it!”

I understood, almost instantly. My kids would need to SEE me withstand this devastating blow to our family.

I am reminded of that story this week, as I reflect on all the difficult things being endured by members of our church family lately. Cancer. Mysterious illnesses. Surgeries. Infections. Multiple deaths in a short time frame. As I thought about it all, I became keenly aware of the enemy’s unwelcomed presence.

He’s not *in* our midst, but he **wants** to be. He sees what we’re going through and it has him drooling with eager anticipation. He stands in the street, watching . . . listening . . . *waiting*. Waiting for just ONE of us to fall – to buckle under the weight of so much pain and disappointment and sorrow.

If we believe the quote at the top of this article, then we must hold tightly to one vital truth. Our love for God, our faith in His love for us, our reliance on the guidance of the Holy Spirit . . . these things are our protection against the current attack. God is fighting this battle for us. He’s GOT this! Satan is hoping that, for one sad, grief-stricken moment, we will forget that Truth.

God has built a strong, unified body of believers in The Little White Church. That unity is our cloak – our shield – against the war raging around us. Hold on tight, my friends. Stand firm. Allow yourselves to FEEL the arms of the Almighty embrace you and hold you up against this attack.

Satan can stand in the street, and scream and stomp, for all he’s worth. But . . . so long as we remain unified in our faith; so long as we stand firm, he cannot reach us.

To God’s Glory . . . BJ Reese

Announcements & Upcoming Events

LADIES' AFTERNOON TEA

Sunday, February 23
3.00pm - 5.00pm
Alex Johnson Ballroom

Tickets: \$15 Call 605-341-4477

A Fundraiser for the Black Hills Pregnancy Center



You are invited to Alpha – a series of interactive sessions freely exploring the basics of the Christian Faith. NO pressure, NO follow up, NO charge. Starts February 3rd at 6:30 pm. RSVP to Pastor Ben.

The 2020 Mission trip to Molanosa, Saskatchewan is scheduled to leave on Friday May 22nd returning on Saturday May 30th. For more information contact Doug Hamm.



Do you shop Amazon.com?? Now you can support the LWC when you do! Amazon Smile will donate .5% of your purchase to the LWC. Go to: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7112412> to sign up today!

***Visit www.thelittlewhitechurch.net
to get updates and information
& Check us out on Facebook!!***

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Online Giving Now Available!

Go to www.thelittlewhitechurch.net and find the “Donate” button to get started! It’s easy and secure to use!

Women's Ministries—Upcoming Events

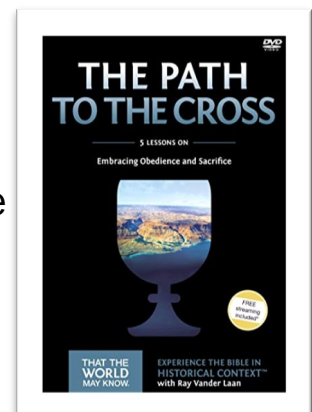


*Something is Brewing!
Keep on the lookout for
information about a
monthly Women's
Gathering!*

NEW Women's Bible Study— The Path to the Cross by Ray Vander Laan

In this study, God's story continues with the intense devotion of His people. Discover how their passionate faith prepares the way for Jesus and His ultimate act of obedience and sacrifice at the cross. Then, be challenged in your life to live as they did—by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Join us Wednesdays from March 4—April 1 from 10 am—Noon in the Library. Sign up on the sheet by the bulletin board!



Beth Moore is coming to Rapid City!! WE WILL BE ORDERING TICKETS SOON!!

Living Proof Live will be here June 26-27 at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center. If we get a group of 10+ tickets will be \$65/person—\$20 savings. So in order for the WM team to start planning...please sign up on the sign up sheet by

February Volunteers

Ushers: Alan Case, Keith Hayes, Larry Heddles, Jack Jewett, Mike Verchio, Dominic Cognato

Sound System: Joey Fowler, Steph Larsen, Aly Isakson, Eli Isakson, Ben Larsen, Carson Brown, Mary Jo Anderson, Mike Blount

Nursery Attendants:

2-2: Stephanie Larsen & Tanya Siebert

2-9: Carol Wiederhold & Brenda Conaway

2-16: 8 am John & Mary Stam

2-23: Tom & Cindy Dusing

Children's Church:

2-2: Carol Walker & Sara

2-9: Jackie Isakson & Julia

2-16: Deb Marshall & Nate

2-23: Jacque Pennel & Kody

Librarians: Georgie Neff & Millie Holle

Social Hour: (Treats)

2-2: Gini Pennel & Friends

2-9: *Volunteers Needed*

2-16: Sherry Liddell

2-23: *Volunteers Needed*

Cornerstone Rescue Mission: 2-1: Missions Committee

Food Pantry Volunteers: Lighthouse Assembly/Lions Club



Couples of the Bible—Word Search



Words to Find:

Abraham - Keturah

Ahab - Jezebel

Adam - Eve

Joseph - Asenath

Joseph - Mary

Isaac - Rebekah

Moses - Zipporah

Esau - Judith

Boaz - Ruth

Newsletter Newsletter

In Other Words

We're so accustomed to hearing the Bible's "love chapter," 1 Corinthians 13, at weddings and other occasions that we may not really hear its meaning anymore. It can help to listen to something familiar said in different words. What new understandings of love does this paraphrase from The Message Bible reveal to you?



"Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others, isn't always 'me first,' doesn't fly off the handle, doesn't keep score of the sins of others, doesn't revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end. Love never dies" (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, MSG).

A heavenly focus

"Why are not our hearts continually set on heaven?" asks 17th-century pastor and author Richard Baxter. Focusing on heaven stirs our faith, guards against temptation, eases suffering and makes us an encouragement to others, Baxter says. He urges: "Bend thy soul to study eternity, busy thyself about the life to come ... and let not those thoughts be seldom and cursory, but bathe thyself in heaven's delights."

Married for a mission

Jesus' command to seek first God's kingdom (Matthew 6:33) is a key component of successful, God-honoring marriages, writes Gary Thomas in *A Lifelong Love* (David C. Cook). In fact, Thomas says being "married for a mission" can renew many unions in which partners think they're merely incompatible. "My suspicion is that many of these couples actually suffer from a lack of purpose," he writes. "Jesus' words given to individuals in Matthew 6:33 are perhaps even truer in marriage. When we give away our life, we find it. When we focus outside our marriage, we end up strengthening our marriage."



Answers for
Word Search on Page 14

Q. Did you hear about the bed bugs who fell in love?
A. They're getting married in the spring!

Q. Where do hamburgers take their sweethearts on
Valentine's Day to dance?
A. To the meatball.



Boy: Do you have a date for Valentine's Day?
Girl: Yes, February 14th.

Q. What did the flame say to his buddies after he fell in love?
A. "I found the perfect match!"



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