

BRIDGING THE GAP

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Enduring to the End!

I share with you a story from Max Lucado in one of his books titled Don't Forget to Look After Me. A little boy sitting on the plane next to Max Lucado began to strike up a conversation. He said, "Hey mister, I'm glad you are sitting by me because sometimes I throw up." Not what you like to hear from the person in the seat next to you on a plane. He said, "My name is Billy Jack; I am fourteen and I am going to see my daddy. I need someone to look after me; I get confused a lot." Max goes on to write, he told me about the special school he attended and the medication he took, "Can you remind me to take my pill in a few minutes?" He showed me his cassette player, his tapes of the Little Mermaid and The Lion King. Then he started making noises with his mouth. When they brought the food he said, "Don't forget to look after me." Every time someone passed the aisles he would say, "Don't forget to look after me." The rest of

us never asked for help; we were grownups, self reliant, seasoned travelers. We never listened to the emergency landing instructions, but Billy Jack asked me to explain them to him. He understood the word *grace*; he knows what it was like to place himself totally in the care of someone else. He said, "My dad is going to meet me at the airport; I can't wait to see him because he watches after me."

This brings me to a verse in Matthew 24:13 "But he who endures to the end shall be saved." To be finally saved we must continue to be faithful to God. To turn from Christ is worse than to never have known him. The devil is always watching our life. A little neglect of prayer, a little looking toward some temptation and he tries to insert his unbelief to break our hold on trusting God. So the main truth in verse 13 is that we have a duty to each other to speak words of encouragement. To pray for each other to hold true. Hebrews 10:26-27 says if we will to sin, choose to sin, to do what we know to be wrong after being saved and spirit filled, there is no more sacrifice for our sins. Paul was a prisoner in Rome, but he was not worried because he knew Christ. And he was convinced because he was committed to Jesus, and he knew his time was near. History tells us that he was beheaded. But he was not discouraged or fearful because he looked back upon a life of trust in God. So he had fought a good fight against sin, finished the course God had given him. He had done it.

We treat backsliding too lightly at times. We must endure and continue throughout life to reach heaven. We are saved by trusting in Christ. As he neared the end of his life, Paul could say he had been faithful to his call. Paul had the secret of enduring: it's call the Holy Spirit. God's plan is that we be filled with the Spirit because we need

the power to make it to the end. Stan Toler writes in one of his books "God has never failed me, but he has scared me to death a few times."

After officiating at a funeral, a local minister took the customary lead car position in the procession to the cemetery. It was during the Christmas season and the pastor became preoccupied with thoughts of the gifts he needed to purchase after the grave side services. As he approached the Spring Hill Cemetery, he looked left and saw the K-Mart store conveniently located across the street. Obviously lost in deep thought, he turned left into K-Mart parking lot instead of making the required right turn into the cemetery. As he drove through the parking lot looking for a parking space, he happened to look in his rearview mirror and saw a string of cars following him all with lights on! Doesn't life just seem to go that way sometimes? We sometimes get lost and cannot find our way. Life is fragile: handle with prayer. Endure till the end! Always thank God for his guidance, even when you don't like it. He knows what is best for you. His job is to get you HOME! Enjoy the Journey,
Pastor Clayton

SERMON OUTLINES FOR SEPTEMBER 2006

ALL SATURDAY EVENING SERVICES ARE AT 5:30 PM
WITH PASTOR BRIAN

September 2 - No Saturday Evening Service
September 3 - Sunday Morning Service
5 Star Award Sunday

MORNING SERVICE: Pastor Clayton
Not Just Any God Will Do!
Text: Acts 17:16

EVENING SERVICE:
No Service – Labor Day Weekend

September 9 - Saturday Evening Service
September 10 - Sunday Morning Service

MORNING SERVICE: Pastor Clayton
Some Worth-While Things
Text: Matthew 6:33

EVENING SERVICE:

Project Outreach
Pass out door hangers and invite people to the
Fall Revival.

Fall Revival September 15, 16, 17

September 15 Friday 7:00 PM Service
Pastor Marilyn Stowers, Madison COG

September 16 Saturday 7:00 PM Service
Pastor Stan Reed, Centralia COG

September 17 Sunday 10:40 AM Service
Brother David Hall
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
Children's Moment Hand Bells

September 17 Sunday 6:00PM Service
Pastor Miki Merritt, New Cote Brilliante
Church, St Louis

September 23 - Saturday Evening Service
September 24 - Communion Sunday

MORNING SERVICE: Pastor Clayton
The Upper Room
Text: Luke 22:7-23

EVENING SERVICE:
Video of Service from Anderson Camp Meeting

Coming Soon to a Church Near You!
Secrets of the Vine Bible Study
by Bruce Wilkinson

This will be an eight week study starting in October on Sunday Evenings. You will learn what God wants you to produce with your live, what the Bible means by Fruitfulness for Believers, and what you can do to cooperate with God's amazing plan. You see, God didn't just save your from judgment and death; He saved you to a wonderful and important life. He wants your life to produce a harvest for Him. You will know where you are in your Spiritual life and what you can do to move to the next level of fruitfulness for God.

Washing Clothes Instructions

I've never thought of a "washer" in this light before. What a blessing!

"Washing Clothes Recipe" Imagine having a recipe for this! Years ago an Alabama grandmother gave the new bride the following recipe: (This is an exact copy as written and found in an old scrapbook - with spelling errors and all.) For you non-southerners, "wrench" means rinse.

Ivan DeHart

WASHING CLOTHES

Build fire in backyard to heat kettle of rain water. Set tubs so smoke wont blow in eyes if wind is pert. Shave one hole cake of lie soap in boilin water. Sort things, make 3 piles

1 pile white

1 pile colored

1 pile work britches and rags.

To make starch, stir flour in cool water to smooth, then thin down with boiling water.

Take white things, rub dirty spots on board, scrub hard, and boil, then rub colored don't boil just wrench and starch.

Take things out of kettle with broom stick handle, then wrench, and starch. Hang old rags on fence. Spread tea towels on grass. Pore wrench water in flower bed. Scrub porch with hot soapy water. Turn tubs upside down.

Go put on clean dress, smooth hair with hair combs. Brew cup of tea, sit and rock a spell and count your blessings.

Faith Weaver Friends!

We will begin this fall on August 30th. We are so excited! Please be in prayer for all involved. A change is that we are going to start at 6:45pm. Your support of the meals is greatly appreciated. The kids are just beaming to jump into the word. We are still taking new members; the more, the merrier!

I give praise to God for his choices and thank Him for answers to prayers. We hope to see you all there!

Take care and God bless,

Carmen Hamilton

Wednesday Night Meals

Faith Weavers is ready to begin this week and we want to get them off to a good start by serving a meal. We hope you are considering what you can do to help. A green response form was put in your mail box a couple weeks ago. We would like to hear from more of you.

The first Wednesday night's meal August 30th will be prepared by the Meal Committee - Gwen, Brenda and Ruth. We will serve Italian beef sandwiches, macaroni and cheese, applesauce and dessert. Please sign up today - Aug. 27 so that we will know how many to prepare for. Our plan is to have a sign up sheet each Sunday with the menu. Pam Knowles will be in charge of the meal for September 6. The menu will be on the sign up sheet next week.

Thank you,
Ruth Pope

Food Pantry News

Everything is going well. Seems as though we get new people every day though they don't have any trouble finding our new place. We are really happy where we are now; it is such a nice place. Come see us and see what I mean. The Food Pantry's location is 412 St. Clair Avenue and phone number 632-7074.

Supplies come in regularly every day, and go out just as fast. God keeps us in good shape. Supplies are low and some shelves are empty, but we still manage to fill orders. During the storm blackout we had several families that we had to supply in between their monthly trips; we were glad we could help.

Here is our record for 2006

	Families	People
January	54	171
February	53	154
March	55	184
April	51	172
May	60	215
June	58	207
July	58	168

If you know anyone who needs help, send them to one of the pantries. Belleville has several of

them also. They are in the midst of combining all of theirs together in to three big ones.

Thank you and I mean a big thank you to Carmen Hamilton and Judy Jackson for volunteering. They are doing a great job, and it didn't take them long to catch on.

Thank you also to the church body as a whole for their monies, supplies and help of every kind.

God is so good, all the time, all the time God is so good.

Vice President,
Gwen Campbell

J.O.Y Sunday School Class

Have you heard singing coming from the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School Hour?

No, we are not forming a new choir, but we are enjoying our study on the Heritage Songs of the Church of God. For the last few weeks, our class has been looking at the history of the Church of God thru its music and song writers starting with D.S. Warner, Joseph Fisher, Barney Warren and Jacob and Andrew Byers. These men are responsible for such Hymns as "I Know My Name is There", "I'm Redeemed", "A Child of God", "Joy Unspeakable", and "He is Just the Same Today" just to name a few.

We have learned that from the beginning the Church of God Reformation Movement has been a "singing church". In the beginning, there were no "church buildings and congregations". There were evangelistic groups who traveled all across the Midwest. It was their singing that captured the attention of the communities that they entered and brought them out to the "meetings". The songs tell the message of the Church of God. They sang about the church being "one body" not multiple denominations; they sang about "God sets her members" not that you belong to the church by membership; they sang about "the Bible is our rule of faith," and "Since my life is free from sin, Victory". In the coming weeks, we will be looking at the songs of Charles Naylor, D. Otis Teasley, Clara Brooks and many others. Come join us and join in the fun of learning our history thru our music.

Candy Niemeyer, Teacher

Announcement: I will be stepping down as the teacher for the JOY Class at the end of August as I believe that the Lord has called Jim and I to work with our youth. These past few years have been a growing and learning experience for me as the Lord has led me from "facilitator" to "teacher". I look back and I can see how God was preparing me for this move into youth ministry as you can not be a teacher without first learning yourself----and I had a lot to learn!!

Through our class studies, God has shown me that He does want to bless us in more ways than we can imagine (The Prayer of Jabez). I have learned life lessons and have come to a better understanding of God's Will thru our study of the parables (Parables: Stories for Life). I came to a better knowledge of who God is as my shepherd through our study of Psalm 23 (The Lord is My Shepherd). I can see how God has worked in my life in the past often thru painful and difficult times in order to help produce "more fruit" and that He is continuing to work in my life to give me "much fruit" (Secrets of the Vine). And most recently our study on Thinking Like a Christian has made Jim and I acutely aware that our youth fully need to understand that the Bible is God's inherent word and that His word is absolute truth and that the Bible is the only "policy and procedure" manual that they will ever need in life before they leave home and our church! Jim and I would appreciate your prayers as we step out in faith and rely on God's promise that He will supply all our needs as we move on to our new service for the Lord.

Explanation of God

This was written by an 8-year-old named Danny Dutton who lives in Chula Vista, CA. He wrote it for his third grade homework assignment, to "explain God." And someone published it. Miracles do happen! I wonder if any of us could have done as well?

Explanation of God

"One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers."

"God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off."

"God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have."

Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church."

"Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him, but he was good and kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K."

"His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God.

Like a secretary, only more important. You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time. You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God! Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong, and besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway."

"If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids. But...you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases. And that's why I believe in God."

(If you believe in God, please pass this on, and may God bless you too.)

Phyllis Field

From the Niemeyer and Droege Family

Jim, Denise and I want to thank our church family for the prayers and wonderful support you have shown to each of us this past month since losing my mother in a traffic accident. What a wonderful testimony to my family back home in Anderson to see people from the church come to the funeral home and to know that so many more of you wish you could have made the trip. And I thank God again for placing Pastor Terry and Darla at this church for a "time such as this." We are so blessed to be able to call you all our family!

Love, Candy, Jim and Denise