



The Connection

Volume 8, Issue 9, September 2010

Encouragement from the Book of Titus

from Elders Bret Larreau and Debbie Sands

In the Quest Study Bible, there are questions designed to guide someone in their study of each book of the Bible. For the book of Titus, this is one of the questions.

Why read this book? This short letter shows that it has always been a challenge to develop a good church – even in New Testament days. It tells Titus, a young leader of an argumentative church, to refute false teachers, calm church disunity and find quality leaders. Even with God’s Spirit at work, church life means sweat and tears. This letter puts church difficulties into perspective: those who persevere, as Titus did, will discover the power and satisfaction that God gives, then and now.

Take some time to read Titus 1:5–9 and 2:1–13. These verses talk about the kind of godly lives that all of us should be learning about, living and teaching to others. Titus 2:11–13 says, “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.”

Chris Tiegreen, in his book *Wonder of the Cross Devotional*, has this to say about Titus 2:13:



Everyone has a blessed hope. In fact, most of us spend at least some of our time and energy trying to bring the blessed hope into the present. As Proverbs 13:12 tells us, ‘Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.’ We’re tired of sick hearts. We want the tree of life as soon as we can get it.

That’s why waiting is so hard. There’s a gap between the promise of a future blessing and the blessing itself – a very long one sometimes – and the interim period can be excruciating. But there’s a design in that delay. God uses the hope of future blessings to shape how we live. When we’re looking forward to nothing in particular, we become aimless. But when our eye is on the prize, we live accordingly.

We discipline ourselves to press ahead, we develop the characteristics we will need in order to fit the calling, and we grow into the future God has for us as He increases our capacity to receive it. We become fit for the blessing by longing for it.

It’s extremely important to guard your perspective. A clear focus on the blessed hope you’ve been promised will profoundly affect what you do today. A lack of focus will also profoundly affect what you do today, but for the worse. Fix your eyes on the goal, and your feet will find the right path.

We, as your Board of Elders, are committed to doing the best we can to live godly lives and to keep our focus on the hope and promise God has given us for our church. We are trusting God to take whatever time is required to make us ready for the blessing.

Connecting to Life Stories

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Celebrate Recovery Update

by Pete Erb

Celebrate Recovery is alive and well. Our numbers, of late, are few but those who are in attendance continue to find and use the tools provided by God to move through life's hurts, habits and hang-ups to the grace and healing offered by God. In a recent essay published in *The Week** the value and impact of 12-step groups was analyzed (Koerner, 2010). Although science has not determined why 12-step groups work it cannot deny that they do. In the article a noted addiction therapist says that unless the addicted are using a 12-step group then he assumes that they will not be successful.

I am not, nor have I ever been, chemically addicted (alcohol, drugs etc...) yet Celebrate Recovery is a very important part of my life. CR has the tool kit provided by God to allow me to grow in His light. I have been in CR for over 6 years and the Ministry Leader for almost a year. This last week, while on vacation, I had a self realization that will allow me to continue to grow. If I was not attending CR I am not sure I would be actively seeking God's direction for my life but even more importantly I am not sure I would be looking inside to find the flaws in my character.

The essay referenced above cannot pin down the whys but the study is sure that 12-steps work because of the built-in accountability. I am not the "classic" attendee of CR or AA or NA but my hurts and habits are no less dire to me and I enjoy having a place to share the multitude of these damaging life choices in an environment that is safe, loving and understanding. Also, CR is a place to find these tools. Not everyone will feel the need to

stay beyond the acquisition of these tools. I choose to stay, in service, and I continue to need the accountability. Others may not choose to stay.

CR has been small through the summer as is always the case and we expect to grow again this fall. Please join us! CR offers 2 hours of worship, learning, sharing and freedom every single Friday at 7:00pm. Start off your weekend with a bang!



*Koerner, B. (2010, July 23). *Why AA works (sometimes)*. *The Week*, pp. 44-45.

COINCIDENCE OR MIRACLES?

By Frank Trapani

Ernie and I both had strokes on the same day five years ago. We both go to the same church and although we knew each other by sight, we were not well acquainted. After several days I found that Ernie was only several rooms away from me in the same "stroke" ward at St. Mary's. While Ernie was praising the Lord on a daily basis, I was falling into a deep depression. Ernie's stroke left him paralyzed on his right side, while I was paralyzed on my left. You could say that together we might have made a whole man.

Our afflictions were very similar, we were totally unable to walk or use most of the muscles on our affected sides especially in our legs and arms. In fact my 'core' muscles were also affected so that I needed a nurse's help to simply turn over in bed.

The worse problem I had, as is common with stroke patients, was insomnia. I was unable to sleep, and during those endless nights was continually taunted by Satan with thoughts that I was to be a paraplegic in a wheelchair for the remainder of my life. While listening to music one night (a distraction from those endless nights) I happened to hear a song I later found was sung by Garth Brooks called "Unanswered Prayers."

The lyrics to the chorus go like this.... "Some of God's greatest gifts are unanswered prayers." I felt that this song was specifically meant for me but in my confusion I was unable to fully understand how.

After our discharges we were both getting along rather well with the use of our canes. We worked out at the "Y" together and took long walks on steep hills in attempts to gain more strength and mobility. We have become hard and fast friends.

Several weeks later I received a call from the hospital. One of our nurses asked if Ernie and I would mind coming to the stroke ward again to cheer up a poor fellow who was also going through a terrible depression with a stroke similar to ours.

We visited the fellow, assuring him that in a few months he too would be walking again. We then prayed with him and left. Ernie said to me "Why don't we go have lunch in the hospital cafeteria?"

I thought it a great idea and down we went. As we went Ernie said to me.... "Oh Oh, I don't have my wallet with me!"

"That's O.K." I said, "I have mine, I'll buy."

We proceeded to checkout and after the cashier totaled our charges I opened my wallet to find only two dollars! At that moment a woman across from us on the checkout line said to the cashier "That's O.K., I'll pay the difference for them."

She was a middle aged woman in a white nurses' uniform. She was neither tall nor short; neither heavy nor slim.

We both thanked her and proceeded to a table. "I'd like to know who she is so I can send her a check."

"I saw her name tag on the uniform," Ernie said.

"What was it?"

"The name tag said 'ANGEL.'"

Both our heads began to whirl. Just then one of our nurses stopped to say hello and we told her the story. She said "I've been working here for many years, and we don't have any nurse with that name!"

Coincidence? Believe what you want but I said to Ernie "I think the Lord bought us lunch today!"



Everyone is invited! Meet Friday nights at 7:00 PM to share in support and encouragement to conquer your hurts, habits, and hang-ups. Dinner provided the fourth Friday each month at 6:00 PM for a small donation.

home groups
FIND A PLACE RIGHT WHERE YOU FIT AND START GROWING TODAY.

Grow close to others in relationships centered on our faith in Jesus. For more info on joining a home group, contact the church office at 529-1212.

Senior Adult Ministries meets September 2nd and 16th at 10 AM in Baker Hall. They have a speaker or movie, then potluck lunch. Anyone 55 years or older is welcome to come and see what they're all about. Laughter is the best medicine. Come join in the fun and fellowship.

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All ladies are invited to *The Well*
a place where . . .
Women Encounter the Love of the Lord

Monday evening,
September 27th
6:30 - 8:00 PM

The WELL

All men are invited
Saturday Morning, September 11
8:00 AM

MEN'S BREAKFAST
FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

Better Moms Make A Better World
Mothers of Preschoolers and MOMSNext meet September 9th and 23rd from 9-11 AM in Baker Hall. They exist to encourage and equip mothers. Guests are always welcome! Contact Shannon Naftzger at 876-1302.

MOMSnext

Connecting to the next Generation

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Youth Group – Whazzup?

by Ken Paine

When Pastor Ike resigned from the Youth Pastor position, I was asked to fill in temporarily. I've accepted the responsibility and will do my best (with lots of help, I hope) to have the middle and high school youth groups active and productive in studying the Word of God, and to communicate what we're up to. I've met with my advisory team and come up with the following schedule:

Sunday School, 9:00 – 10:00 AM every Sunday. We'll be going through a video series, 'That the World May Know' from Focus on the Family.

Middle School Youth Group, 6:00 – 7:30 PM Sundays, starting Sept 12.

High School Girls Bible study, 6:00 – 7:30, starting Monday Sept 13 (with a barbeque). Led by Andrea Pellicer and Laura Barnes. Contact Andrea at 525-9544. Study is at 931 Highland Rd.

High School Youth Group, 7:00 to 8:30 PM Thursday evenings (notice the day change), starting Sept 16.

Special Events:

Monday, Sept 6 (Labor Day), Water Balloon Wars (middle and high school), 3:00 – 5:00 PM behind the church. Prepare to get wet!

Saturday, Sept 18, 7:00 – 10:00 PM – Middle School game night in the Push

Monday, Sept 20, 7:00 – 8:00 PM, prayer time for youth in the Push (youth welcome).

Friday, Sept 24, 5:30 – 7:00ish, tailgate party for high school students and their families at Borleske Stadium.

Thursday, Sept 30 – Saturday, Oct 2 – High School retreat to Lake Cle Elum.

These activities are all dependant on having enough volunteers to help out. I still need middle school leaders, and can always use more high school leaders. I'd like to get another adult, and a couple high school students for my advisory team (help plan and prepare for monthly activities), snack providers for Sunday and Thursday evenings, volunteers for special events, and any other way you can help us out.

I can be contacted at 509.386.4959, paine@whitman.edu, or will be in the office on Wednesday afternoons. Please be praying for me and for the youth as we start a new school year and a new phase of our church life.



Connecting to One Another

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Celebrating September Birthdays and Anniversaries

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Joli Carlile | |
| Kathy Grewell | Justin Evans |
| Michael Huie | Gabriel Jardon |
| Andrei Osborn | 19 Calvin McNeil |
| 2 Renee Irwin | Dana Miller |
| 5 Alex Wooton | 20 Danna Jones |
| 6 Joe Leamy | Tyler Shea |
| 7 Kelle Cannone | 21 Mark Houk |
| Dustin Josifek | 22 Melanie Clark |
| 8 Hannah Burns | 23 Don Logosz |
| Jacie McDaniels | Craig Spencer |
| Douglas Nichols | Sheila Woelfle |
| 9 Lydia Whipple | 24 Kim Skifstad |
| 10 Brianne Shea | 25 Travis Erb |
| Carrie Spencer | 26 Scott Baslee |
| Troy Sherrod | Ellen Kilmer |
| 11 Lisa McDonald | Cindy Tackett |
| Mike Pettyjohn | 27 Tyler Neissl |
| Emily Snider | Tara Sept |
| 12 Carla Haen | Lisa Turner |
| Kandee Hoppen | Jerry Willsey |
| Emely Hobbs | 28 Alen Bender |
| 13 Gary Stewart | Kenneth Hobbs |
| 14 Sue Willsey | Katherine McEuen |
| Destiny Wooton | 29 Sonia Carias |
| 15 Jane Harrold | Marlene Saager |
| Dale Hutcherson | 30 Nicholas Josifek |
| 16 Jeffrey Holway | |
| Brad Hobbs | |
| 17 Asia Clark | |
| Galadriel Jensen | |
| Nat Swisher | |
| 18 Mitchell Anderson | |

- | |
|----------------------------|
| 3 Cliff & Anna Frazier |
| 5 Donny & Maranatha Snider |
| 9 Matt & Jennifer Stephens |
| 11 Bob & Sharon Loar |
| 11 Larry & Carolee White |
| 12 Frank & Sonia Trapani |
| 14 Chris & Adora Osborn |
| 18 Ed & Elissa Stites |
| 19 Gary & JoAnn McAlvey |
| Gary & Teri Stewart |
| 20 David & Karen McDaniels |
| 25 Michael & Linda Clark |

September

At a Glance

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|---|
| 2 Senior Adult Ministries 10:00 AM |
| Celebrate Recovery Leaders 6:30 PM |
| 6 Office Closed for Labor Day |
| 9 Mothers of PreSchoolers 9:00 AM |
| Board of Elders Meeting 6:30 PM |
| 11 Men's Breakfast 8:00 AM |
| 13 Building & Grounds Commission 6:45 PM |
| EOD Commission Meeting 6:30 PM |
| Worship Commission Meeting 6:30 PM |
| The Ark Commission Meeting 6:30 PM |
| 14 Quilter's Guild 6:30 PM |
| Missions Commission Meeting 6:30 PM |
| 16 Senior Adult Ministries 10:00 AM |
| 19 Faith Promise Mission Outreach 3:00 PM |
| 20 CE Commission Meeting 6:30 PM |
| 23 Mothers of PreSchoolers 9:00 AM |
| 27 The WELL 6:30 PM |

Meet Tod and Kathy Wood Faith Promise Speakers

Tod and Kathy Wood are originally members of Blue Mountain Community Church. In 1999, after sensing God's call to missions,



Tod and Kathy relocated their family and began serving as missionaries at the Christian Academy of Guatemala, an international Christian school. For seven years, Tod served as teacher, coach, administrative assistant, advisor and several other school roles, while Kathy provided counseling services to international students, primarily the children of missionaries, whose families were called from all around the world to serve God in Guatemala.

In order to continue the ministries God has called them to, missionary families rely on Christian educators who have been called to serve as missionaries themselves to provide the necessary education for their children. Without such educational support services, many missionaries who have school-aged children would not be able to continue their ministries, whether they be in Bible translation, church planting, training national pastors and church leaders, women and children's ministries, evangelical outreach, orphanage work and/or medical services.

Are you aware that MK (missionary kid) schools lose an average of 30% of their staff each year? This is extremely difficult on the students at the school, as well as the school administration team whose goal is to provide the best possible education for

their international student body. Currently there are nearly 200 international Christian schools around the globe, with over 600 staff openings to fill each school year! Unfortunately without consistent and quality education options for missionary children abroad, parents are often forced to either postpone their involvement with ministries or return to their home country, where their children's academic needs can be met. No one wants that to be the case!

In order to address the shortage of Christian missionary teachers abroad, and after serving at CAG for seven years, Tod and Kathy returned to the states to promote the need for additional Christian teachers willing to dedicate themselves to serving God by serving missionary families around the world. Still serving as faith-supported missionaries, in June of 2006 Tod and Kathy established Teach Abroad Ministries and began their journey to educate others about the urgent need for qualified educators and support staff to serve abroad. Their ministry focuses on connecting individuals called to serve overseas with MK schools and sending agencies. Their hope is not only to recruit new missionary teachers willing to serve abroad, but also to support missionary teachers and MK schools dedicated to serving the children of missionaries around the world.

If you are an educator or educational support provider who has felt God tugging at your heart to get involved in missions, don't miss your opportunity to connect with Tod or Kathy about how you could get involved in supporting MK education! Working together we can keep more missionary families on the field... pressing on towards the goal of fulfilling the Great Commission!

Quick Connect



Faith Promise Missions Sunday

September 19 3 – 6 PM

Come for an afternoon of outdoor games, table games and horse cart rides. Dust off your favorite chili recipe and enter the chili cook-off. Learn about the missionaries we help support and get your mission passport stamped at the Mission Pavilion. Learn about Faith Promise and discover how your pledge is spreading the love of Jesus around the world. Kathy Wood will be our special speaker for this event.

A monthly publication of Blue Mountain Community Church 928 Sturm Ave., Walla Walla, Washington 99362, (509) 529-1212, www.bluemountainchurch.com, Editor: Julie Caton, bmccbulletin@gmail.com. Deadline for submissions: 9:00 AM, the second Tuesday of the month prior to publication. Editor reserves the right to edit for content and space. Unsolicited materials welcome.

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