

The G E M GOD ENABLED MISSIONARY

Spring 2010
March*April*May
A quarterly newsletter

Uncut
Unpolished
NEVER
Unclaimed



A Word from Friar Chuck

“Total Forgiveness”

In my short 36 years of life I have come to learn the hard way that refusing to forgive people of past wrongs does me no good at all. It certainly does not do the other person any good. In fact, the person who offended me has long forgotten what they have done so the only person it keeps in shackles is me!

A wise friend of mine recently helped me figure out that being able to forgive completely not only involves forgiving the event, but also the emotions, effects, and unfulfilled desire associated with that wrongful event.

Most of us only forgive the event and then we wonder why the bitterness keeps coming back again and again. Instead, if we choose to also forgive the EMOTIONS associated with that event (e.g. how it made you feel), the downstream EFFECTS of that event (e.g. the ugly consequences associated with that event), and the UNFULFILLED DESIRE of that event (e.g. the hopes and dreams that were not fulfilled as a result of the event), then our chances of coming to complete forgiveness are greatly improved.

Having learned this, I sat down one day and wrote out all of the people with whom I was having trouble forgiving. I then went back through and listed out the ugly emotions, effects, and unfulfilled desires associated with their events. I then prayed through each of these and prayed for the Lord to bless that person as I was choosing to let go of my desire to get even or see them punished.

This was very freeing for me and perhaps will be helpful for you too. Remember, forgiveness is a choice and your own feelings and emotions may take a while to catch up to your choice, but they usually will. If you need someone with whom to talk in confidence about forgiveness or any other matter, please don't hesitate to call me or our elders and deacons. We all would be happy to assist you in your time of need.

Spring Cleaning

It is March...regardless if it travels as a lion or lamb...spring is near! Hope springs within for a new day, a new year and a brighter, more colorful relationship with God. Is your internal (eternal) winter keeping you from something...writing, drawing, cooking, hiking, teaching, building, visiting, singing, painting, drawing, acting, reading, praying, dancing, getting out of that chair and on with life? It is time to allow more seeds to sprout and punch up through the soil. You have GOD and family and friends who care about you. You have those who love you for where and who you are...without any pretense or facade. You are ready for anything! LET'S GROW...and step up to the plate!

But first...we must do something about getting out of our batting cages.



What is your batting cage?
Fear? Addiction?
Anger? Apathy?

And WHY are you still there??!!

I have been in a cage of fear most all of my life. Fear of acceptance, fear of failing others (including GOD), fear of messing up, being imperfect, being unloved (and unlovable). I still battle those fears at times. When embarking along new paths or revisiting old ones I have avoided...I get nervous, trepid and anxious. I can't -- none of us can -- allow this fear to run our lives! We have Perfect Love on our sides and it is not in our heads...(READ GOD'S WORD...PRAY...GET OUT OF YOUR HEAD)...and you will find GOD is real - He's not a "feeling" or emotion, GOD is constant and there, waiting for you and I to let go of our security blankets.

It is time to shed the padding of the fearful - to discard the warm-up jacket and step out of my man-made batting cage. Time to shake the dust of apathy off my cleats and dig into the fertile ground of faith. Shrug off busyness like the hecklers in the stands. And Plaaaaaaay Ball!!

Remember: A good ball player cannot be pleasing everyone -- some of them are cheering for the wrong team.

Getting to know people better

We, the writers at the GEM thought it would be nice to get to know the people in the church a little more. You can talk to a person a lot without actually finding out anything about them -- unless you mean to. If we know what a person likes, has experienced, and would like to do -- it is easier to connect with them on mutual interests and experiences.

Brooke Granade was kind enough to let us interview her.

Family and favorite things to do

Brooke is married to Charlie and is mom to one year old Drew...who is a very active little guy. She likes to walk, run, hike, read, sing, listen to and learn about different kinds of music.

Where are you from? Have you moved around a lot?

Brooke is native to Louisiana and misses the beach. She has moved about four times. Her last port of harbor was in Washington state.

How do you balance life; being a wife, and mother?

Brooke says she has to prioritize daily what needs to be done and what is the most important right now. Asking God to help her make sure she gets the right priority first helps her the most with that. Not having a job right now helps with one less thing to juggle.

Did you have to set up boundaries for all of that to work together?

Yes, there is a certain time in the evenings when the talk turns away from what is going on with the church and turns to what is going on in the family. Brooke makes sure the time she spends with her men is not just time but quality time. She also tries to make sure she can eat lunch with Charlie during the week or go out for coffee.

How do you make sure you have time to read your Bible and talk to God?

Before Drew she had her quiet time in the mornings, now when he is napping or in the evenings she makes time to journal, pray, and just be still.



Is there anything you fear about being a mom?

Brooke is sometimes afraid that she will not be the best example for her son Drew.

...Don't worry Brooke, we're all afraid of making mistakes -- and we all do. Only God is perfect! **Thank you very much Brooke for letting me interview you and letting all of us at RBC get to know you a little bit better.**

Summer G.E.M...June...July...August

Publication date: Sunday, May 30, 2010

Submission deadline: Sunday, May 16, 2010

Communicate! What do you want RBC to know? Do you have a story to share? Photos? Poetry? Drawings? Your testimony?

Send submissions to www.writers@ridgeviewbiblechurch.com

Or place them in the offering boxes in the back, Thank you!

FELLOWSHIP DINNERS

March, April & May

South of the Border



March 14



April 11

Easter Feast & Mother's Day - May 9



Quilt of Holes

Author unknown

Submitted by Juanita Whittecar

As I faced my Maker at the last judgment, I knelt before the Lord along with all the other souls. Before each of us laid our lives like the squares of a quilt in many piles; an angel sat before each of us sewing our quilt squares together into a tapestry that is our life.

But as the angel took each piece of cloth off the pile, I noticed how ragged and empty each of my squares were. They were filled with giant holes. Each square was labeled with a part of my life that had been difficult, the challenges and temptations I was faced with in everyday life. I saw hardships that I endured, which were the largest holes of all.

I glanced around me, nobody else had such squares. Other than a tiny hole here and there, the other tapestries were filled with rich color and the bright hues of worldly fortune. I gazed upon my own life and was disheartened.

My angel was sewing the ragged pieces of cloth together, threadbare and empty, like binding air. Finally the time came when each life was to be displayed, held up to the light, the scrutiny of truth. The others rose; each in turn, holding up their tapestries. So filled their lives had been; My angel looked upon me, and nodded for me to rise.

My gaze dropped to the ground in shame. I hadn't had all the earthly fortunes. I had love in my life, and laughter. But there had also been trials of illness, and wealth, and false accusations that took from me my world, as I knew it. I had to start over many times. I often struggled with the temptation to quit, only to somehow muster the strength to pick up and begin again.



I spent many nights on my knees in prayer, asking for help and guidance in my life. I had often been held up to ridicule, which I endured painfully, each time offering it up to the Father in hopes that I would not melt within my skin beneath the judgmental gaze of those who unfairly judged me.

And now, I had to face the truth. My life was what it was, and I had to accept it for what it was. I rose and slowly lifted the combined squares of my life to the light. An awe-filled gasp filled the air. I gazed around at the others who stared at me with wide eyes. Then, I looked upon the tapestry before me. Light flooded the many holes, creating an image. The face of Christ.

Then our Lord stood before me, with warmth and love in His eyes. He said, "Every time you gave over your life to Me, it became My life, My hard-ships, and My struggles. Each point of light in your life is when you stepped aside and let Me shine through, until there was more of Me than there was of you."

May all our quilts be threadbare and worn, allowing Christ to shine through!



Are you ashamed of your life? Are you struggling to "make a difference" in your own way, by your own strength? Please let go. Please do the most difficult thing for a human being - get on your knees to God...He is waiting...He is knocking...can you hear Him?



Settling for Mediocrity

By Tom Scheimo

It defies logic... Why do we settle for mediocrity in our lives? Why does an aspiring entrepreneur give up his dreams and take an "Office Space" job? Why does a bright young lady settle for a bum that mistreats her? Why would an outstanding athlete blow his Olympic chances for a drug party? Why do we waste our opportunities for a life of purpose and an intimate walk with God? Our society cultivates and dictates a "herd mentality" for us. We must live in subjection to our cell phones, be politically correct, watch reality shows, participate in every school or community event, do Facebook, etc. Pity those who do not conform! However, the worst is when we let society do our thinking for us when it comes to God!

As we crowd God out of our lives, we are left with a God-vacuum. The resultant absence of God in our society becomes apparent with rampant greed, selfishness, envy, lust, pride, revenge, gluttony, and indifference. Terrorism can't begin to wreak the havoc these things do. Ironically, we expect the government to "fix it"! This amounts to throwing more tax dollars at the symptoms, rather than dealing with the root problem - doing as WE will, rather than as GOD wills. Sadly, we mask these choices with technology, big education programs, flair, polish, and style - but no substance!

Study after study shows Christians in America are virtually indistinguishable in our society. This was not so in New Testament times. Is there anything that can change that? God tells us in 2 Chronicles 7:14, "...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." If we at RBC want to avoid the spiritual mediocrity that afflicts America, prayer will need to become one of our highest priorities. How can we impact the world around us, if we are powerless to be different? God abhors a church just content with the status quo (Rev. 3:15-16).

The Bible uses marriage as an example of how our relationship with God is. Imagine the pitiful marriage in which one spouse only occasionally communicates with the other just to air "laundry lists" of wants or grievances? How would it be any different in our relationship with God, if that is all our prayers amount to? Contrast that to a great marriage, in which the partners choose to invest plenty of time regularly in communication, and in which love and adoration are most of the focus! God loves us dearly and tells us over and over again we are to pray to Him (Matt.26:41; Luke 18:1; John 16:24; Eph.6:18; Col. 4:2; 1 Thes 5:17; 1 Tim.2:8; James 5:16).

Bible scholar Wayne Grudem shares this insight on prayer with us, "Prayer is not made so God can find out what we need, because Jesus tells us, "Your Father knows what you need *before* you ask Him" (Matt.6:8). God wants us to pray because prayer expresses our trust in God and is a means whereby our trust in Him can increase." Prayer is an acquired skill that is developed through use. Corporate prayer helps us learn from one another and unify in purpose. Prayer was never intended to be the exclusive domain of a few.

Check out what happened when people really did pray... Consider Enoch (Gen.5:18-24) and Elijah ((2 Kings 2:1-12), two men who grew so close to God, that God chose to take them directly to Heaven without either experiencing death! Look at just a few examples in both the Old Testament and New Testament, how God mightily answered the prayers of His people when they were obedient to humble themselves and pray, rather than try to do it on their own (1 Kings 18:16-46; 2 Kings 19:14-37; 2 Chron. 20:1-30, Acts 4:31; Acts 12:1-17.

Why should any of us settle for mediocrity, especially in our spiritual lives and in our church?



BIRTHDAYS

March, April and May

Kylee Garrett March 10
 Brylee Huffman March 14
 Mary Branson March 17
 Danielle Johnson March 19
 Dawn Meister March 24
 Dave Jones March 28
 Amy Juett April 7
 Gracie Jones April 7
 Ruth Varpness April 16
 Jeff Branson April 18
 Letitia Meister April 22
 Kelsey Amos April 3
 Laine Branson May 1
 Juanita Whittecar May 2
 Mikaela Hastings May 2
 Amy Horst May 7
 Marleta Hastings May 21
 Brooke Granade, May 23
 Josslyn Pourier May 24
 Kenzie Dockweiler May 26
 Craig Bullard, May 27

Some of these people have moved away yet still are in our hearts. Please send them a greeting if you feel led. ALSO, there are many in our congregation we do not have birthday information for. Please, help fill us in so we can celebrate their/your lives as well! ☺ Thank you!

Stewardship Prayer

by Marlaine Doidge, printed by permission - submitted by Kim Lund

O God, I resolve to put You first in my life.

I recognize that You have blessed me with all that I have and all that I am.

As your steward, I resolve to sacrifice when necessary but always to do so out of a spirit of sincere love, just as your Son, Jesus, did for me.

I humbly accept the challenge to share from my means rather than from my excess.

I recognize that being a good steward is nothing more than being truly Christian.

Dear God, I resolve, to be generous with my time, talent and treasure, giving in proportion to the gifts I have been given.

I commit myself to taking care of my body and all of creation.

I know there will be times when I will fail to be a good steward, but I pledge to keep on trying.

I will confidently live each day with a spirit of true peace and joy in knowing that I am doing your will. Amen.

The Body of Christ



In the "parable of the talents," we get an idea of what God expects us to do here on earth. We're all given talents, some great and some small--but whether your talent is epic or miniscule, we glorify God when we use it to further his kingdom. God isn't rating His followers based on the number of converts they win over or the number of church pews they fill; He's interested in the passion with which we use whatever gifts He has given us--Matt. 25:14-30

Teaching Our Kids About God

Good parents care deeply about how their children will turn out. It is a difficult task to sort out all the things our society tells us that are supposed to be important for our kids - academic excellence, athletic success, popularity, good looks, etc. Jesus often spoke about priorities in our lives. In Mark 8:36, Jesus told us, "What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?" In the inspirational movie, "Facing The Giants", the head coach reflected this priority when he reminded his players that champions will eventually be forgotten, and our purpose is to love God above all else and honor Him with our lives. This also goes with Matt. 12:30, where Jesus told us that the most important commandment is to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."

Clearly, the spiritual health and character of our children is the most important thing we have to work on in their lives. Sadly, major studies have shows an alarmingly high rate for turning away from God, for children of Christian parents (starting at secondary school-age, then increasing in college). What are reasons for this? God places the primary responsibility for children's spiritual training on their parents (see Eph. 6:4; Isa. 38:19; Prov. 22:6). It is good to know that the church's Biblical functions of teaching parents and supporting them in prayer and fellowship will help in this process. Children's classes at church can also supplement Christian parent's spiritual training of their children at home. Still, Sunday School, Christian schools, or organizations like Teens For Christ cannot do what dedicated Christian parents can accomplish by modeling Christian living to their children and personally teaching them from The Bible.

What should parents set as spiritual training goals? Children need to develop an understanding of who God is - His love, His mercy, His justice, His provision for us, His requirements for His people, and how a person enters in to a loving relationship with God. Along with that, children need character development



Consistent with God's standards. This needs to be ingrained into daily living. Children's spiritual development generally does no better than their parents'. The Bible says if we sow sparingly, we will reap sparingly (2 Cor. 9:6). This is a principle that has implications more important than just banking or agriculture.

Usually no one, outside of God Himself, knows or loves a child like that child's parents. No one should be more motivated to do what is necessary to bring them up to know God. Great accomplishments are never easy, and there are no guarantees. But, it's probably safe to say we all agree our children are worth investing the best of our time and efforts. There is an old accepted truth that states "Those who fail to prepare, are preparing to fail". The Bible tells us in Gal. 6:7 that we reap what we sow. Let's work together to develop good things in our children's' lives - things that can have eternal significance. Constructive parental involvement is a very positive force in any child's life.



What's Happening At CSC?

March 1: Applications due for Teaching professional Semester

March 1-5: Mid-term week

March 5-14: Midterm break

April 3-5: Spring Break

April 9: No School

April 15: Applications due for December 2010 Graduations
(and don't forget your taxes!!! ☺)

May 4-7: Finals Week

May 7: Semester ENDS

May 8: Spring Graduation!



F	E	L	B	I	B	V	R	M	J	E	S	T
N	R	A	E	L	R	M	Y	E	O	E	D	O
E	K	E	M	A	C	J	O	H	N	C	R	S
C	R	O	S	S	Q	U	D	T	Q	A	F	U
E	J	E	S	U	S	N	O	S	U	E	D	N
N	L	V	M	A	R	Y	N	I	I	P	E	S
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T	A	O	V	N	I	A	T	R	U	C	U	X
X	Q	O	Z	E	V	S	U	N	R	I	S	E

Words for Spring 2010 Word Search

THIEF	JONQUIL	QUAKED	BIBLE
ROBES	SUNSET	SUNRISE	RESURRECTION
CROSS	ASCEND	STONES	TAN
PAUL	CURTAIN	CROWN	TEMPLE
MARY	TOMB	JESUS	PEACE
GOD	THORNS	CHRIST	PALM LEAVES
JOHN	PETER	DONKEY	CENTURION

CALENDAR

SUNDAYS

Tool Time - 9:00 A.M.

Worship Service - 10:30 A.M.

Young Married Couple Bible Study - 7 p.m., Amy & Wilbur's, 828 Chadron Ave

MONDAYS

MOPS - 4th Mon, 6-8 p.m. - RBC contact Amy Horst @ 432-6929

TUESDAYS

Women's Bible Study, Beth Moore's Esther @ RBC 7 p.m.

Writing Group, RBC, 6:30-8 p.m.

(writers@ridgeviewbiblechurch.com)

WEDNESDAYS

The Truth Project - RBC 6:30-7:45--contact Hank McCallum at mcCollum@gpcom.net

PURSUIT - youth group, 7p.m. @ Juetts--contact: Amy, face book or 402-760-1810

MOPS - 2nd Weds, 9-11 a.m. - RBC contact Amy Horst @ 432-6929

Awana -- Bible learning - at 6:30 p.m. at Chadron Berean Church - 407 Shelton St. Contact for RBC - Dawn Meister - 432-5228

CRU--Campus Crusades for Christ - 8:30 p.m. CSC Ballroom - RBC contact: Will Broeder, 308.225.1097, wibro@eagles.csc.cdu

THURSDAYS

YML Young Married Lady's Bible Study, 7 pm

Amy Juett, RBC contact - 402-760-1810

Reaching out in grace

Building up in truth

Committed to Christ and each other

The people of Ridgeview Bible Church are committed to see people in Chadron and beyond reached, built up and committed to Christ and one another

www.ridgeviewbiblechurch.com

308-432-5131



GET CONNECTED! GET INVOLVED!

Stay tuned for more on

MARCH 7th at RBC's

"State of the Church" address.

Look to the website for updated info on classes, sermons, small groups and more....

G.E.M.

writers@ridgeviewbiblechurch.com

Chadron, NE 69337