

June–July
2010



Light of Faith

Faith Baptist Church of Godfrey, IL

FROM THE TOP

by Pastor Tom Olney



Recently, I awoke in the night and got alone with the Lord to just talk over the many things that were heavy on my heart. Life at best in troublesome, but God tells us to cast all our care upon Him for, indeed, He does care about us.

As I knelt before Him I got to thinking how wonderful He is. I gave thanks and praise for who He is; for letting me come to Him; to know Him; and that He cares about me and all of my concerns. I thought of the words of David in Psalm 40:5, “*Many, O Lord my God are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to usward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.*”

I began to wander back through the years of my past and see how patient and long-suffering God has been with my foolishness. How marvelous He has been in leading me step-by-step and blessing in so many ways. I thought about those who serve the false gods of the world’s religions, and of those who serve no god at all. How much they are missing, and will miss, when they go out into eternity without him!

We had a wonderful time together. I love to contemplate how marvelous it will be when I can fellowship with Him face to face in that place He has gone to prepare for us. Will you be there with me?

*He does not lead me year by year
Nor even day by day.*

*But step-by-step my path unfolds;
My Lord directs my way.*

*Tomorrow’s paths I do not know,
I only know this minute;*

*But He will say, “This is the way,
By faith now walk ye in it.”*

*And I am glad that it is so
Today’s enough to bear;*

*And when tomorrow comes, His grace
Shall far exceed its care*

*What need to worry then, or fret?
The God who gave His Son*

*Holds all my moments in His hand
And gives them, one-by-one.*

—Barbara C. Ryberg

Don't Miss
Revival Week!

Evangelist Morris Gleiser
September 19–24, 7:00 P.M.



THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

by Mr. Jerry Fair, Administrator



A warning is to clarify and to re-emphasize instruction. An effective warning appeals to the conscience which is the inward sensitivity to right and wrong. There are various types of appeals, but each should be made in conjunction with an appeal to the conscience. The physical appeal declares, "I will make you stay in for a week if you do that." The emotional appeal expresses, "You will really hurt me if you do that." The volitional appeal requests, "Promise me you will never do that again." The intellectual appeal reasons, "Do you really think that was a smart thing to do?" But the conscience appeal questions, "Were you right in what you did?" A warning that appeals to the conscience cooperates with the workings of the Holy Spirit.

Warning should occur the instant a boundary line is crossed. It is always in order to warn him that he is nearing the transgression point. *"Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly..."* (I Thess. 5:14a) *"...Ye shall even warn them that they trespass not against the Lord..."* (II Chron. 19:10)

Warn by asking a question when there is wrong doing. A question pricks the conscience, but an accusation will harden the heart. Example: "James, do you think that it is safe to be poking Harold with your pencil?" Naturally, some will not heed *any* warning. *"To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? Behold, their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot bearken: behold, the word of the Lord is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it."* (Jer. 6:10) Regardless, the warning must show that *"...the way of transgressors is hard."* (Prov. 13:15)

When an offender gets to the place of warning, he has already begun to walk on the low road toward correction. But remember that biblical correction is to admonish or to punish for the purpose of improving. *"My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of his correction: For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth."* (Prv. 3:11-12)

A SAVING FAITH

by Pastor Brent Van Sickle, Youth & Assistant Pastor



The first roller coaster I ever rode was at a little rinky-dink amusement park by the name of Joyland in Wichita, KS. I recall staring way up into the sky to behold this rickety wood roller coaster. Riding this contraption would spell certain death, or so I thought. Apparently, the power of peer pressure is a stronger force in the life of a kid than impending death, because my friend was able to coerce me to join him in going.

We waited in line until they strapped us into our little car. I dug my fingernails into the bar in front of us. The coaster began to climb very slowly up the massive first hill. The front cars began to creep over the crest and started tugging the rest over as well. Gravity took over from there, and we began to plummet straight down at several hundred miles per hour. I let out what can probably be best described as an Apache warrior war whoop (Ok, probably more likely an Apache schoolgirl high-pitched squeal) as I stared death in the face.

The coaster straightened out and began to use its momentum to climb another smaller ridge. Eventually, it ended up coming to a sudden stop at exactly the place that this harrowing journey had commenced. So, how did my kid-sized brain process all of this? "Wow! Let's do it again!"

This story illustrates the fleeting pleasures of life. This roller coaster brought immense pleasure/terror initially, but eventually a bigger and better coaster would be needed for the same thrill. The message of Ecclesiastes is that life is vain apart from satisfaction found in a relationship and service for Christ. *Don't waste your life!*

"Walk in love as Christ hath also loved us, and hath given himself for us..."

"Walk as children of light... proving what is acceptable unto the Lord."

"Walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise..."

—Ephesians 5

What's Happening

JULY

3-4	50th Anniversary Old-Home Jubilee
11	Rev. Bob Vandenbosch Juniors leave for Bill Rice Ranch
18	Rev. Jeff Smith, 10:00 a.m. Teens leave for Northland Camp
25	Youth Night and SNAC

AUGUST

12	Cottage Prayer Meetings begin
14	Work Day at MVCS
17	Teacher Orientation begins Missionary Paul Deem family
20	Parent Information Night, 7:00 p.m.
23	School begins at MVCS — full day
28	Ladies' Prayer Breakfast, 9:00 a.m.

SEPTEMBER

1	AWANA begins
5	M&M Meeting
6	No School
10	First Soccer Home Game
11	Ladies' Missionary Tea Time
12	Grandparents Honored, 10:00 a.m.
13	Church Work Night — 6:30 p.m.
14	First Volleyball Home Game
15	FBC Annual Meeting
18	Men's Prayer Breakfast
19	"FRIEND DAY" — 10:00 a.m.
26	Youth Night and SNAC
30	No School; Teachers' Convention



Dates to Note

JULY 3 AND 4

50th Jubilee Celebration of God's Goodness

Saturday: Church/School Picnic from 10:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. at the MVCS Campus; MVCS Staff choir rehearsal at 6:00 p.m. at the church; and, Saturday's Jubilee Service filled with music, testimonies, and preaching starting at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday: 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. music, preaching, and special recognitions, followed by a potluck dinner on the church grounds. Weather permitting, evening will bring horse-drawn wagon rides, snow cones, and fellowship from 5:00–6:00 p.m. before the 6:30 evening service, with music until 7:00 followed by our final hour of sweet reunion in praise.

AUGUST 12

Six Weeks of Cottage Prayer Meetings Begin

James tells us, "Ye have not because ye ask not." Wherever things happened in the Bible, it was because somebody, somewhere was praying. In the early days of the revival of the church it was because God's people were meeting together to pray. They knew earnest, sincere prayer brought the power of God. America needs prayer! We need prayer! We must lay a solid prayer foundation for the revival effort or there will be nothing accomplished of eternal value.

SEPTEMBER 19–24, 7:00 P.M.

Revival Week at Faith
Evangelist Morris Gleiser

Special Thanks

Described by those wonderful words, "willing heart" and "wise-hearted" throughout Exodus 36 and 37, God tells us of Bezaleel, Aholiab, and others like them who readily surrendered their will to His.

Faith Baptist has been peculiarly and wonderfully blessed with quite a few of

our own Bezaleels and Aholiabs who possess just such hearts of love for the Lord and for His church. During the weeks and months leading up to the 50th Anniversary, it has been a great joy to Pastor to know that one after the other has asked, as did Saul on the Road to Damascus, "*Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?*" Willing, wise

hearted men and ladies have freely stepped up to the plate and offered their hands and backs, sweat and time, talent and skill, to accomplish some special area of need in and out of the church in all sorts of tasks. Make no doubt about it, God has seen every one, and knows every heart.

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Got a Minute, Ladies?

by Lee Olney



I just could not get to sleep. Tipping quietly out to the living room, I knelt in the darkness to talk with God. I knew I had not been *fully* forgiving--forgiveness of which someone had never even asked me to give; the kind against which my flesh bucked.

Remembering, "*In everything give thanks,*" (I Thess. 5:18) and, "*It is God which worketh in (me) both to will and to do of His good pleasure,*" (Phil. 2:13), I began thanking the Lord for difficult situations and individuals which I reluctantly acknowledged had been woven into His plan for my life, even to bring me to such a "growing" time as this. Focusing on the individual instead of on God, I was guilty of nurturing resentment.

While praying, I thought of cruelly battered Stephen and his words, "*Lord, lay not this sin to their charge,*" (Acts 7:54-60) and of the Lord Jesus Christ who, though sinless and "*went about doing good,*" yet naked, nailed, and bleeding on the cross for my sins, cried out, "*Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do,*" (Luke 23:34)

Ashamed of myself, I asked the Lord to forgive me for the sin of not being forgiving. Envisioning Jesus as he wrote words on the ground (John 8), most likely to jog the memories of those proud accusers of their sins, I wondered at my sinful self. Puffed up with pride and self-righteousness, I had been nursing a grudge because of my *feelings* being hurt! Did I think that I had never offended, misunderstood, or wronged anyone? As my mother would say, "Now *that's* the pot calling the kettle black!"

Dr. Nell Collins has well illustrated getting a handle on thoughts in telling of the patriot missiles successfully *intercepting* and *obliterating* mid-air incoming enemy scud missiles during the Gulf War. What a picture! An excellent 'interceptor' for wrong thinking once sighted is to memorize and "quote as needed," II Corin. 10:5-6. This is God's remedy to gain a clear conscience (and to get some sleep!)

"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; and having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled."

to be sure of Heaven

1. Acknowledge to yourself and to God that you have sinned and deserve the penalty of death.
"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23)
"There is none righteous, no, not one." (Rom. 3:10)
2. In sorrow for your sins, turn from them to God and ask His forgiveness.
"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." (Isa. 55:7)
3. By faith receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, believing that he died in your place on the cross of Calvary.
"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

Weekly Services

Sunday

Bible Study Hour 9:00 a.m.

Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.

Evening Service 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.