

The Connection

Volume 5, Issue 11, November 2007

from Pastor Mike...

Our Heart Response

By Pastor Alec Rowlands

This is a condensed version of a much larger article written by Pastor Rowlands. His use and description of the term "revival" reminded me that God desires to pour out His spirit upon His people, churches, and entire regions and nations. However, as you read, pay close attention to his powerful, clear and concise discription of the two choices we have. It is God's desire to cause one of these two responses in us all when "the overwhelming presence of God" shows up! Love Pastor Mike

It is unfortunate, but the word revival has been so misused and abused in our day that it is almost better not to use it at all. On one end of the spectrum a revival can be as innocuous as a week of meetings with a guest speaker. On the other end of the spectrum the word is used to justify what a friend of mine calls "this present weirdness". As a result the word revival is seldom used today, and even then it is largely misunderstood.

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Proper Thanksgiving

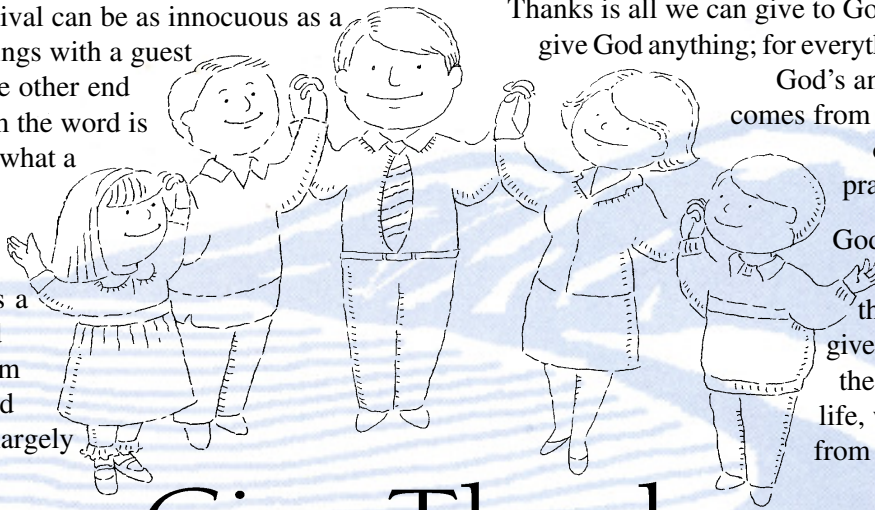
A proper Thanksgiving is one that recognizes and acknowledges the grace of God in Jesus, the Christ. The possibilities for giving proper thanks to God are as diverse as they are without limit. Samuel Pepys thanked God for a good fiddle and a good wife. Sidney Smith thanked God for happy dreams and good rest. Oliver Cromwell uttered a prayer no less appropriate for most Americans today: "Some people have food, but no appetite; others have appetite, but no food; I have both. The Lord be thanked."

Centuries before, someone else spoke a word of thanksgiving. The Apostle Paul, in his pastoral concern for Timothy, made thanksgiving all-inclusive when he wrote: "For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude; for it is sanctified by means of the Word of God and Prayer." (1 Timothy 4:4-5)

Thanks is all we can give to God. We cannot give God anything; for everything is already God's and all we have comes from God. We can only give God praise and honor.

God, the giver of all good things, who has given us Christ and the gift of eternal life, wants nothing from us but thanks.

— Bethlehem
Lutheran Church
Fairborn, OH



Give Thanks



From Your Administrative Pastor

Why I love being a pastor: Part II

7. I love being a pastor in leadership and ministry because it forces me to engage the Scripture in a way that transforms my life. I share out of the overflow of what's going on in my life as I engage the full scope of Scripture.

8. I love the Bible: not the pages, not the ink, not the leather; but the words, the ideas, the concepts that teach me that I serve a great God.

9. I do this because I believe that the gospel is the only hope of the world, that when church is done right, it is absolutely amazing.

10. I continue to do this because I accept the fact that the church can at one moment be an amazing and healthy, loving, growing environment, and in another can be a very toxic, destructive place. How could we expect anything different when we get broken people coming together confessing the reality of their own sin and brokenness? There are bound to be sharp edges among us.

11. I do this because I believe in advancing the good. The best way I can do that is promoting the redemptive mission of the gospel.

12. I do this because it is the best way I can spend my life. I've got to do something. I might as well be doing something that matters for eternity.

13. I love being around people who don't get it, who struggle, who have questions, but are hungry and are open. I love presenting the gospel to them knowing

it's not my job to convert them.

14. I am in this work because I'm a seeker of truth. I love the truth. I embrace both mystery and certainty all at the same time. I do believe that Jesus is the answer, but not all the answers are available to us right now on this side of heaven.

15. I do this because I love being a part of a world-wide movement that has changed the world and it continues to change it. It is not bound by lines on a map, or by race, creed, or color.

These are some of the reasons I do what I do and why I'm a happy pastor.



Newsletter Deadline

If you have an upcoming event you'd like to promote, faith story or poem you'd like to share, or anything else that pertains to the life of the people of Blue Mountain Community Church, please consider writing a small article (300 words or less) and submitting it to the newsletter. The deadline for articles is the second Wednesday of each month. The editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.



Pastor Sharon

Bible stories by Kids Part 2

After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of the New Testament. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. (I wish I had been born in a barn, too, because my mom is always saying to me, "Close the door! Were you born in a barn" It would be nice to say, "As a matter of fact, I was.") During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Republicans. Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him.

Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount. But the Republicans and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead.

Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.

I sure hope that you have enjoyed this as much as I did. God bless!



by Kris Eagon
Home Group Coordinator

They devoted themselves to the Apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. . . They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts praising God. Acts 2:42-47

Home groups have started back up for the fall. There is a new group that has formed in Touchet and is meeting on Sunday evenings at 7:00 PM. Other groups meet in Walla Walla on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Most groups start around 7:00 PM. Two senior groups meet during the day: Wednesday at 1:00 PM and Tuesday at 2:30 PM. For more group info call 525-7040 in the evenings or the church office during the day. Home Groups are a wonderful place to grow in Christ, be encouraged and supported, and have the opportunity to help and encourage others.





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|---|--------------------|----|-------------------|----|------------------|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Hallie Adkins | 6 | Catherine Buhmann | 15 | Stephanie Harmon | 23 | Brennan Alban |
| | Harold Benzel | | Susan Huie | | Connie Stanley | | Nicolai Carrera |
| | Roland Schirman | | Audrey Wright | 17 | Ashley Ramsey | 24 | Kathryn Logosz |
| 2 | Shaunna Bennett | 7 | Nick Caton | | Karl Dahl | | Jim Moss |
| | Wyatt Guse | | Aaron Tackett | 18 | Amanda Fleming | 25 | Tom Fox |
| | Ryan Harmon | 11 | John Hamby | | Roberta Bardsley | | Donny Hoppen |
| 3 | Bettie Freiberg | | David Waltner | 19 | Earl Stanley | 26 | Shirley Musick |
| 4 | LaVonda Hinrichsen | 12 | Lois Hobbs | | Katrina Bender | 27 | Emilia Harris |
| | Shea Matheny | | Felicia Wachtel | | Hazel Cutshall | | Paul Jones |
| 5 | Cameron Mountain | 13 | Yvonne Henline | 20 | Aaric Easton | | Sue Mize |
| | | 14 | Madelyn Pellicer | 21 | Lanetta Romero | | Tara Krivoshein |
| | | | | | Dustin West | 28 | Rachel Scott |
| | | | | 22 | Blake Woelfle | 29 | Mailen Carrera |
| | | | | | Julie Caton | | Justin Hutcherson |
| | | | | | Jinny Daniels | 30 | Evelyn Schmidt |
| | | | | | Shelby Steiner | | Ron Groom |
| | | | | | Rob Voeks | | Elaine Kerby |

- 1 Harold & Kay Benzel*
Kevin & Cindy Blair
14 Bill & Marlene Saager
Matthew & Kathy Wallace
19 Steve & Cheryl Drumheller
20 Bill & Barbara Parker
24 Rod & Patty Harmon
25 Chester & Ibbie Steen
27 Frank & Deanna Aichele



Monthly Events

- 1 SAMS 10:00 AM
Celebrate Recovery Leaders 7:00 PM
Board of Elders 6:30 PM
- 4 Daylight Savings Time Begins
Jeff Allen Performance 6:00 PM
- 10 Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM
- 11 Photo Shoot for Directory 1:00 PM
- 13 Quilter's Guild 6:00 PM
- 15 SAMS 10:00 AM
Building and Grounds 6:45 PM
Missions Commission 7:00 PM
CE Commission 6:30 PM
- 17 Photo Shoot for Directory 1:00 PM
- 19 Ark Commission Meeting 6:30 PM

Weekly Events

- Sunday**
Middle School Group 6:00 PM
- Tuesday**
Taking Off Pounds Sensibly 5:30 PM
Boy Scouts 7:00 PM
- Wednesday**
Women's Bible Study 9:00 AM
Families in Training 6:30 PM
- Thursday**
Worship Team Rehearsal 7:00 PM
- Friday**
Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM

November



- 4 Daylight-Savings Time Ends
- 11 Veterans Day
- 22 Thanksgiving Day

continued from page 1

One definition of revival is: “the overwhelming sense of God’s presence that falls powerfully on a Christian people who have become dead and lethargic in their spiritual life and revives those things that God intends as ‘normal’ for the Christian.”

The key part of this definition to remember is the overwhelming sense of God’s presence.

What are those things that get revived when an overwhelming sense of God’s presence falls on a group of believers?

1. Worship comes alive and becomes fresh and new.
2. There is a conviction of sin and a return to holiness.
3. The importance of brotherly love comes alive again.
4. There is a new excitement in serving the Lord...both in witnessing to the lost and ministering to one another.
5. There is an unquestioning belief in the obedience to God’s Word.
6. There is a new powerful desire for prayer.
7. There is a new and unequivocal battle launched against the strong holds of Satan.

But, before any of these revival characteristics can start happening on a scale or proportion that can change a church of a region, there is one thing that has to happen.

Two choices

In the Bible, from Genesis to Revelations, whenever the overwhelming sense of God’s presence is made known in a situation there **MUST** be a response in the people to whom God reveals Himself. What is our response to the initiative of His presence and His glory?

1. The brokenness and humility that sends faith to respond in complete surrender to God.

OR


2. The proud self-righteousness and self-sufficiency that stiffens itself in response against God, resisting His love and presence.

There must be a response of either humility and submission, or pride and resistance. Beginning with Cain and Abel in Genesis 4, that is the way it has always been.





MISSIONS CORNER



When Patrick and Jamie Nachtigall arrived in Hong Kong in January 2001, they were warmly welcomed into the Hong Kong Church of God. This dynamic congregation numbered about 60 with 5 cell groups and two married couples. 99% of the church was under the age of 35. Edmund Leung found the Lord in this church and put himself through seminary in order to serve the church as its pastor. He has a strong vision for the future of the Hong Kong Church and now we see that vision continue to be realized.

Today the Hong Kong Church of God numbers about 200 with 24 cell groups, at least 15 married couples, and several young families. The day has been drawing near when the HK COG would need to find a new home. After serving as a social service center for 13 years, the HK COG has moved completely into full time ministry, training pastors and doing mission work.

This is one of the ministries that your Faith Promise money supports. Please pray for the church to find a new home and for Patrick and Jamie as they continue to minister in Hong Kong.



Celebrate Recovery

by Teri Stewart

Principle 3: Consciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ's care and control. Happy are the meek. (Matt.5:5)

As many know, my son is an addict and lives on the streets of Seattle. He usually calls me once a month or so just to let me know he is all right. We follow the tough love regimen, allowing him to be responsible for his own actions and praying continually for his deliverance from addiction.

I hadn't heard from him in a couple months and had a really bad day. I wondered if the love for family could be so painful it could cause death in a mom. I spent the tearful day remembering the wonderful love my son and I had when he was younger. I remembered the faithful companion I did everything with. I thought about his giving, easy going nature, his quick smart mind, his artistic abilities, and his willingness to learn about the Lord. I looked back at the year I lost him to drugs and peer pressure. I rehashed again, the steps we took that did no good at getting him away from that lifestyle. I mourned the loss of years to a bright and loving young man in exchange for the waste of a drug life.

Finally, I realized that in my mind I was writing my son's eulogy, when as far as I knew he wasn't dead! I can't give up when I have a huge God who is unbeatable in power and love and whose will is supreme. On earth or in heaven, God is the best hands to give my son into. I recommitted my son into Christ's care and control (for the hundredth time) and immediately received a deep peace and joy.

I went out that very night and when we came home, the message on our phone was from my son. He was fine. Praise the Lord.



O LORD
my God,
I will give
you thanks
forever.

Psalm 30:12

Our Ministry Team

Senior Pastor — Mike Hinrichsen
Administrative Pastor — Dan Huntley
Children's Pastor — Sharon Wiles
Student Ministries Pastor — Isaac Freeman
Worship Interim Pastor — Richard Easton

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