

Grace Vine

Newsletter of Grace Bible Fellowship
July - September 2016
Volume 5 Issue 3

Pastor's Corner *by Keith Vik*

What to do?

As parents, Angie and I worked very hard to instill into our kids that we would not accept expressed thoughts such as: "I'm bored." or "There's nothing to do." We told them that we would be glad to fill their time up with something to do. So we never heard many of those phrases. Whether they harbored the thoughts inside or not I cannot tell. We just felt strongly that such attitudes are very lacking in good life skills. There is always something to do even if it is doing nothing, which is almost impossible to do, but really is good for you in moderation. I have found that there is always something to do and would welcome more "doing nothing" true resting times. Maybe it would be better to say "doing little" rather than doing nothing. Resting is doing something.

A parallel thought that is often expressed in doing life is more along the lines of: "What should I do?" or "What should I do next?" or "I don't know what to do." There is no boredom in these but there can be much fear or anxiety. We have ample capacity for choice but very little capacity to know how all those choices will affect us. At least in the certainty we would like to possess. What should you choose to do when you do not know what to do?

I faced the "what should I do" moment in the summer of 1991 while living, working and going to seminary in Portland, Oregon. I was quite discontented with the way things were going in my life. School was not what I thought it would be. I was doing work that was just helping me support my family but not advancing me in a career. On top of these the weather in Portland is suited for ducks, moss growing and people of pasty white complexions; no Sun. I wanted things to change but knew not how.

I decided to call a man I respected for his Biblical understanding and insight. I shared my discontentment and frustration with the present situation. I do not know what I expected from him, but knew I needed to have some counsel because I was "stuck". I didn't know what to do.

I'm sure we talked for more than just a few minutes but I remember only one thing he said and it was this one thing that moved me off my indecision and fear of the future. He said; "When you don't know what to do, go home." So I went home - to Colorado.

Colorado was not where I was born or raised but it was the place where I had known a level of God's presence and sensed His favor. It must have been because we moved back with three children, no job awaiting and no place to live. His supply was there to meet our needs.

The real "place" to go home to is not usually a geographic thing (It can be). The real answer is to see that God is the place where our hearts are to rest and we need to go where we can meet with Him. Where can we meet with Him? Anywhere. We stayed in Colorado for 4 years and then I really did "go home" to Iowa.

It's not a question of location as much as it is an attitude of need of being at home with the Lord and abiding with Him. He is our home our direction and our contentment.

**"As For Me
And My
House...
We Will
Serve The
LORD"**



Guest Article

by Keri Stifter

A Love Story

When Kevin and I first met, we took a lot of walks together. Since we lived in the same apartment building at the time (that's how we met), every morning at 6:00 we'd meet in the hallway and take a quick jaunt around the block. Later in the day after work, we'd set out again, navigating the series of trails in our St. Paul neighborhood, or the frog pond, or Como Park, or other nearby (or not so nearby) places.

We never really dated in the traditional sense; instead, as Kevin likes to say, we got to know each other at the pace of a walk. As you can imagine, after months of almost daily walks that often started in late afternoon and ended when the sun set and the mosquitoes came out, we developed a very close relationship. It seemed gradual at the time, but seven months after our first awkward stroll to Dairy Queen when we barely even knew each other's last names, we stepped out in the wonderful mystery of new love and walked down the aisle.

I think it's safe to say that the way our relationship developed caught both Kevin and me by surprise. I was too starry-eyed to notice in the moment, but looking back, I see the keys were simply time and hearts open to where God wanted to lead us. All that time we spent together walking and talking, and the time we spent prayerfully seeking God's will for our lives, gradually and yet also very quickly (at least according to our parents!) turned into a lifelong commitment that has brought both of us great joy.

As much as I enjoy telling this love story, there's another love story I want to share—a story about me and God's Word. Until recently I didn't realize the parallels between my relationship with Kevin and my relationship with God's Word, but I'm seeing it played out in my life at this very moment.

I've known Jesus my whole life, but I've gone through times of drought and times of abundance when it comes to investing in my relationship with him, especially in my study of his Word. There have been times when I can't get enough of what he has to say and times when my Bible collects dust on my nightstand because it only gets used on Sunday mornings.

I grew up singing about how the B-I-B-L-E is the book for me and how I need to hide God's Word in my heart. I know that God uses his Word to reveal himself to me. I know I need to be prepared to give an answer for the hope that I have, and that the place to find that answer is in God's very words. I know that when I feel like God is far away it's often because I've neglected to include him in the day-to-day. And yet I resist...because I'm impatient. Too often when I open God's Word I want to be blown away. I want the grand epiphany—the "wow" moment of perfect application for whatever is going on in my life. I want to internalize it and watch it change my life, and when that doesn't happen after a couple of days, or I'm not "feeling" anything when I read a verse or chapter here and there, or I don't see anything new in the same old stories, or I read a verse and think it's cool but

then forget it a few minutes later, I'm ashamed to say I lose interest.

But that's not always how it works! Forty-one years into my journey of faith, and I'm finally seeing this. Yes, absolutely God speaks through his Word in the time and place when I need it most, but it's through the daily walks—the daily, intentional act of meditating on God's Word—that my relationship with my Savior has really developed. And like my walks with Kevin, my daily time with Jesus has brought about gradual and surprising results: A sense of peace in a time that should be really stressful. A quiet nudge when I'm making the wrong decision. A comforting warmth when I'm lonely or confused. An understanding of the words of Scripture that's just there and that I can't explain.

Something else I've learned? When I don't understand something God says or does in his Word, I can pray for wisdom. When I don't know what to study in the first place, I can pray for direction. When I'm resisting, I can pray for the ability to surrender. I've always known this great blessing of prayer in *anything* and *everything* but rarely exercised it. Praise the Lord that I'm never too old to learn!

By the grace of God, I've fallen in love with his Word, and he's brought me great joy through it. What does your daily walk with the Lord look like? Is it preparing for a group Bible study? It is considering the sermon message and related Scripture throughout the week? It is a specific time every day or little snippets throughout the

A Love Story-cont'd

day? Is it a devotional that leads you to a section in the Bible to sit with for a while? My prayer in sharing this love story with my family at Grace is that you, too, would experience the blessings that come from meeting with the Lord daily. It's always a good time to start!

"Spending time with God is the key to our strength and success in all areas of life. Be sure that you never try to work God into your schedule, but always work your schedule around Him."

Salt by Mauricette Keeley

Matt 5 – You are the salt of the world

Salt is a truly special compound. NaCl preserves, prevents decay, and enhances flavor.

When Jesus said we are salt He was referencing all three properties as applied spiritually.

First salt is a combination of two elements. Separately they do none of the above. Together they team up to an excellent job. Jesus and you – now that is a combination. But you can't do the job He wants you to without Him.

And preservative- you when in combination with Christ help keep His word alive. He keeps His spirit in you to encourage and guide.

As to decay – We sometimes let things into our lives that interfere with our relationship with Christ which starts to breakdown that relationship causing it to decay. His word is the salt or the antidote to stop that from happening. Another aspect is that we can help others by becoming salt to prevent them from decaying.

Shoe Box Talk by Marilyn Jaeger



Christ's Kingdom is expanding. Peru is one place where children and their families are touched by Operation Christmas Child and The Greatest Journey lessons. The Village of Chota, in the district of Cajamarca is in Peru's highlands; it is home to 30,000 people. The residents here struggle with rampant drug abuse, with alcoholism, and poverty.

About three years ago Pastor Teodoro Quispe began leading a group of nine believers in studying God's Word. This is a difficult place to do such a thing. Two years into their study, the pastor was granted permission from city officials to host an evangelistic outreach for children (Feb. 28, 2015). OCC shoebox gifts were given to 250 children along with the good news of the gospel! With parents and other visitors, a total of 600 people attended this event and sixty children accepted Christ that day along with some of the parents.

Pastor Teodoro reports that immediately after this, children would come Sunday after Sunday to learn more in "The Greatest Journey" lessons. And through that a brand new church (House of Worship) started! The Greatest Journey is a discipleship program which teaches how to have a relationship with Christ, how to grow deeper in their walk with God, and how to share their faith.

The new congregation (40 children and 20 adults) gathers weekly at a rented storefront. Four of the "shoebox youth" who graduated from The Greatest Journey now teach the lessons to other children. Pastor Teodoro said, "After asking permission from their parents, we decided to make an investment in them and just pour into their lives."

One of these student teachers is 13-year old Yesenia. Yesenia loved the gifts she received in her shoebox but treasured most 'The Greatest Gift' Gospel story booklet which is distributed with shoeboxes. She accepted Christ that day and soon attended The Greatest Journey. Yesenia's entire family became believers through those lessons and now she teaches!

Yesenia said her life changed in different ways but especially in her relationship with her mother. It was not

Shoe Box Talk-cont'd

by Marilyn Jaeger

good before that but God showed her that her mother loved her very much. Yesenia invited her to church and she agreed after some time, surrendered her life to the Lord, then later her father and two brothers became believers. All because of 'The Greatest Journey' classes and Yesenia's willingness to share that Good News.

Jimmy, 15, also received a shoebox gift in February 2015. He attended classes and accepted Jesus. Jimmy teaches the 12-lesson program as well and wants to spread God's Word so others can know what he knows. Lenddy is 14. Lenddy received a shoebox, participated in The Greatest Journey and listened as Pastor Teodoro told her about the needs of other children in their community. She was inspired and trained to also become a teacher. Lenddy wants children to know about God and give them an idea of what He wants to do in their lives. Another girl, 13-year-old Anita's life showed great change. Her obedience and study of God's Word motivated her mother to change her life as well.

Pastor Teodoro reports that people in the community are "really impressed" with what they have seen in the young people there. Through **their growth** his church has changed! He is so thankful for Operation Christmas Child and their "particular strategy to evangelize, disciple, and get children involved in a praying network." Children who attend The Greatest Journey are encouraged to intercede for family and friends who don't know Christ. Pastor Teodoro also said, "God is using this project to spread the Gospel message and reach everyone in this town of Chota. I pray that God will give me a long life so I can witness people rising up to evangelize my whole country."

What a desire! And what a work God is doing through children who have studied those 12 weeks of lessons. Please pray for this endeavor and the continued work of Samaritan's Purse and Operation Christmas Child. Any time you would like to donate to this cause both locally and specifically for "The Greatest Journey", it would be greatly appreciated. And, please remember... there is **SO MUCH MORE** to a shoebox than a few little toys, a bar of soap, and a toothbrush. God's plans are **HUGE!** He is using children to help bring us closer to the day of Christ's return. How can He use **YOU?**



*Praise
the Lord*

Family Focus by Angie Vik

No one does more work on producing our quarterly newsletter than Deb Kmetz, so I thought it would be fun to interview her for this issue's family focus article. When I first approached her about being featured, she assured me that she had a boring life and no one would want to read about her. I can assure you, Deb is anything but boring.

She is a lifelong resident of the area, growing up on a farm in Moquah, WI. She went to Ondossagon School for kindergarten through high school. It is interesting to note that she attended summer kindergarten, which only met for a few weeks in the summer, not a full year, and then started first grade in the fall.

She has two children - Stephanie, age 30, who is a nurse in Wausau, and Tyler, age 27, who works for Northern Clearing as a Foreman, and has spent most of the last few years on the east coast.

Deb has worked for Bayfield County for 23 years, first in Register of Deeds, and then in Planning and Zoning. She has also worked part-time as our church secretary for six years. She is a valuable asset to GBF and we are grateful that she keeps us organized.

Deb first came to GBF in 1999, during a hard time in her life. She worked with Marilyn Jaeger and they developed a close friendship. Vern and Marilyn helped walk her through some rough patches. When they invited her to church, she accepted and was drawn in by the friendly family atmosphere. She appreciated the strong emphasis on the Bible and having a personal relationship with God.

Deb is an avid Packers, Brewers, and Badger fan. She loves to watch and follow those sports. She also loves antiquing and collects and decorates with old tools. She is too busy for hobbies because she spends most of her free time helping family and friends. She finds serving others to be very rewarding.

Deb has a 2 ½ yr. old pit bull/Labrador named Harley who keeps her life interesting. Thanks again, Deb, for all you do. Your hard work is noticed and thoroughly appreciated.

Give and Do

Someone is lonely, wants tender care;
Someone needs someone, just to be there;

Someone is longing for a hand to hold;
To hear, "I Love You," words of gold.

Someone you know needs a friend,
Make it you, with help to lend.

Someone near you has much to give;
Graciously show them how to live.

Reach out and touch, give and do;
That "someone," someday may be you.

Ruth Moyer Gilmour



Recipe Corner by Annette Meyer

Quinoa Salad

1 Cup dry quinoa
1 Pepper or 1/2 red and 1/2 green pepper
1 Medium Onion (I use only a couple of Tablespoons)
1/3 Cup maple syrup
3 Tablespoons mustard
2 tsp. apple cider vinegar
1 cup (or more) shredded cooked chicken (or canned) Grapes, Blueberries, craisins etc. if you want (I use lots of grapes)

1 cup dry quinoa, rinse—put in 2 cups of water (or broth), bring to boil and then simmer over low heat for 15-20 minutes (until water is absorbed)

Rinse in cold water and let quinoa drain (use fine strainer)—set aside

In skillet, saute 1 pepper (Cut up small) and one chopped onion in oil until veggies are sort of soft, not over done—set aside (I don't do this step—I use raw veggies)

In pan combine 1/3 Cup of maple or pancake syrup and 3 Tablespoons mustard and 2 tsp. apple cider vinegar. Mix well and cook down a bit. It will thicken as it cools, so don't cook too much.

Stir the veggies into quinoa along with 1 cup or so shredded chicken and mix well.

May add salt and pepper and garlic powder to taste.

Add fruit and mix together.

I usually double the recipe for potlucks etc...

How to Get Along with Others

1. Keep "skid chains" on your tongue; always say less than you think. How you say it often counts more than what you say.
2. Make promises sparingly and keep them faithfully, no matter what it costs you.
3. Never let an opportunity pass to say a kind and encouraging word to or about somebody. Praise good work done, regardless of who did it. If criticism is needed, criticize helpfully, never spitefully.
4. Be interested in others, interested in pursuits, their welfare, their homes and families. Let everyone you meet, however humble, feel that you regard him as one of importance.
5. Keep the corners of your mouth turned up. Hide your pains, worries and disappointments under a smile.
6. Preserve an open mind. Deliberate, but not argue. It is a mark of superior minds to disagree and yet be friendly.
7. Let your virtues, if you have any, speak for themselves, and refuse to talk of another's vices, discourage gossip. Make it a rule to say nothing of another unless it is something good.
8. Pay no attention to ill-natured remarks about you. Simply live that nobody will believe them.
9. Be careful of another's feelings. Remember the Golden rule, and treat others as you would like to be treated.

Labor Day

September 5, 2016

The first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

A Prayer for Labor Day

Lord on this Labor Day,
we thank You for the blessing of work.
We ask for strength to complete each day.
We ask for rest when we are weary.
We ask Your guidance
for everyone seeking employment,
and we ask that
You be with those whose faces
we might never see
but who work tirelessly each day
for the good of us all.
Amen.

*Yesterday is a cancelled check
Tomorrow is a promissory note
Today is all the cash you have
Spend it wisely.*

Library by Angie Vik

Out of the Ashes by Elizabeth Fawn-Weedor

A memoir by a Christian Liberian who survived the brutal years of Liberia's first civil war, one of the bloodiest civil wars in Africa. Elizabeth was born into a Muslim family but became a Christian. She and her husband Tony were part of a mission compound, when civil war ravaged their country.

Out of the Ashes is the author's personal story of survival during unimaginably hard times, faith under pressure, and the providence of God in all things. The book also does a great job informing about Liberian politics, history, and culture.

Elizabeth and her husband attended Denver Seminary and they served for four and a half years in Ethiopia as missionaries. She is now an advocate for female victims of sexual harassment, abuse, human trafficking, and HIV/AIDS. Tony is now Advancing Native Missions desk director for Africa and co-director of ANM's Love for Muslims department. Tony and Beth have four children.

I was blessed, challenged, and inspired reading this book. It's always good to be informed about other countries and to get a glimpse of what God is doing in the world.



The Art of Living

Be interested, Don't try to be interesting.
Be pleasing, Don't expect to be pleased.
Be entertaining. Don't wait to be entertained.
Be helpful. Don't ask to be helped.]
Be loveable. Don't wait to be loved.

June Masters Bacher

Birthdays by Deb Kmetz

July

- 3 Ken Compton
- 3 Mary Ann Reimer
- 4 Lynne Borchers
- 4 Steve Meyer
- 5 Jan Utecht
- 10 Sam Orthmann
- 10 Christina Vik
- 12 Emmer Shields
- 16 Joe See
- 21 Margaret Guski
- 25 Brandon Rusch
- 27 Richard Utecht
- 29 Bill Long



August

- 1 Patti Piff
- 4 Angela Shields
- 5 Ken Ekelund
- 6 Joanne Long
- 15 Judy Kurschner
- 19 Ryan Schneeberger
- 25 Bruce Von Riedel
- 28 Alex Noble

September

- 3 Bill Guski
- 3 Tara Olson
- 8 Jenna Christenson
- 11 Angie Vik
- 13 Craig Locey
- 18 Donna Compton
- 21 Sharon Locey
- 26 Abby Miller
- 27 Melanie Christenson
- 27 Lani Vik
- 27 Sandy Von Riedel
- 28 Dan Meyer
- 29 Doug Borchers
- 29 Maureen Ekelund
- 29 Frank Kostka
- 30 Cortland Bailen



**remembering you
on your special day..
happy birthday !!**

Anniversaries by Deb Kmetz

July

- 1 Joe/Christine See
- 6 Jim/Rose Bailen
- 7 Bill/Joanne Long
- 7 Keith/Angie Vik
- 12 Barb/Mike Schneeberger
- 17 Charles/Betsy Carrier
- 20 Randall/Teresa Rusch
- 23 Leland/Melanie Christenson

August

- 1 Ryan/Tara Olson
- 15 Leo/Joan Dallaire
- 19 Denny/Judy Kurschner
- 22 Gary/Barb Pennington



September

- 12 Chad/Emily Ludwig
- 23 Bruce/Sandy Von Riedel
- 26 Janice/Bob Karaba

Usher's Schedule

by Larry Carter

July

Lead: Wally Vietmeier

Bill Long; Kevin Stifter; Brendon Shields

August

Lead: Emmer Shields

Dan Kovach; Elmer Wilber; John Smylie
Thaddaeus Meyer

September

Lead: Vern Jaeger

Frank Kostka; Robert Bailen; Randall Rusch



Upcoming Events

by Deb Kmetz

GBF Church Events

- **July 2** – Women’s Breakfast (7:30 AM)
- **July 4** – 4th of July
- **July 30** – Church Picnic at Thomas’s
- **July 31** – 2nd Qtr Business Mtg
- **Aug. 6** – Women’s Breakfast (7:30 Am)
- **Sept. 3** – Women’s Breakfast (7:00 AM)
- **Sept 11** – Noisy Offering for OCC



Area Events

- **Sunday’s** – Community Dinner (4-6 pm)
St. Andrews Episcopal Church
- **July 9** – Food Distribution at Bretting’s
Center (10:00 am)
- **July 31** - Annual Veterans Family Picnic -
11am-4pm at Northwest Ron & Gun Club
- **Aug 6** – Food Distribution at Bretting’s
Center (10:00 am)
- **Aug 11-14** – Bayfield Co Fair
- **Aug 17** - 55+ Health Expo, at the Bay
Area Civic Center (11am – 5pm)
- **Sept 1** – Student Orientation
- **Sept 1-5** – Ashland Co Fair
- **Sept 2** – School Starts
- **Sept 3** – Food Distribution at Bretting’s
Center (10:00 am)



In The Kitchen

by Roxanne Shuga & Donna Linton

Hospitality/Kitchen Committee

July

Chair: MJ Weaver

Angie Vik & Girls; Bernice Carter; Maria Osness

August

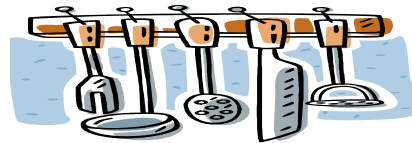
Chair: Pat Shields & Family

Alice Johnson; Claire Helsper; Donna Linton

September

Chair: Terry Frostman

Mauricette Keeley; Donna Compton; Karen Johnson



Grandparents Day

September 11, 2016

- A grandparent is a babysitter who watches the kids instead of TV.
- Grandparents are short on criticism and long on “Love.”
- Grandchildren are God’s way of compensating us for growing old.
- Becoming a grandparent is wonderful. One moment you’re just a mother/father. The next you are all-wise and prehistoric.
- Grandparents hold our tiny hands for just a little while, but our hearts forever.