



HAPPY
EASTER

Special Interest

Message from Pastor Mike

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Just for Fun

Resonate Global Missions

Scrubbing Toilets for the Glory of God?

-EVIE POLSLEY

I have a great job!

Seriously, every day I get to read the Bible and dive into amazing content to find ways to bless others. Working at a Christian publishing house, I get to work with amazing men and women who have dedicated their lives to bringing God glory through the written Word.

*"So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."
1 Corinthians 10:31*

Still, there are times I just don't want to go to work. Maybe there's a huge presentation looming, I just can't stand to look at one more spreadsheet, e-mails are piling up, or I once again have to use my "giff" of nagging so we can meet a hard deadline.

It's during those moments of hair-pulling frustration that I usually see my friend Felix. I can't think of one time when I haven't seen Felix smiling as he diligently goes about his work. Vacuuming the stairs - amazingly done with a smile. Polishing a drinking fountain - it shines like nobody's business, and Felix did it with a smile. That huge popcorn spill I had at my desk while nervously eating and trying to meet a deadline? You guessed it - Felix was there, helping me clean it with a joyful heart.

God keeps teaching me through Felix that it's not what we do but that we do it for God's glory. We can be the most consistent Bible reader or a walking theology encyclopedia, but unless we apply God's Word to our daily lives, we are empty.

Consider the Pharisees. They were the most biblically literate people around. They even knew the Law and the message of the prophets from memory, but when it came to their hearts and applying Scripture to their lives, they were in the negative zone. Check out **Matthew 23** to hear how Jesus doesn't hold back when rebuking them:

*"What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs - beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people's bones and all sorts of impurity. Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness" **Matthew 23:27-28.***

Ouch!

Every day we face situations small and large where we need to choose how to respond. So, am I like the Pharisees, living my life for show and the praise of others? Looking all put together on the outside - but really letting pride and selfishness take control on the inside? Or am I like my friend Felix, who allows Christ's joy and love to shine through him no matter the task?

When we read God's Word, and apply it to our lives, we give God glory and praise. When we live out God's truth, our lives are testimonies to His goodness, and we can bring real love and hope to a world that desperately needs it.

As today's key verse says, "So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" **1 Corinthians 10:31**. In other words, our actions should be motivated by God's love ... in order to bring God glory.

So, whatever I do - whether I'm eating or drinking, scrubbing toilets or finishing one more spreadsheet - I can pray: How am I honoring God? Lord, may everything I do be for Your Glory.

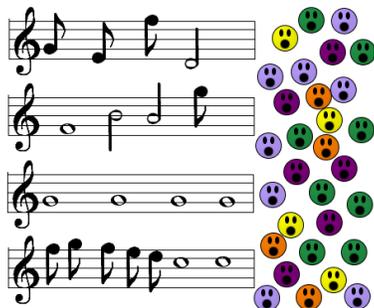


You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

John 15:16

SPORTS CAMP

Watch for information coming soon about our upcoming Sport Camp



Committees.....

-Decorations

Faith Ruiter – Chair
Shar Vork, Kathie Wolf

-Faith Nurture

Mark Brondyke – Chair
Evelyn Holtrop, Paul Foulkes, Pastor Mike
Joyce Van Beek, Secretary

-Finance

Dale Carlson – Chair
Tim Annema, Jim Plaisier, Lee Sytsma

-Ministry Leadership Team

Cal Vork – Chair
Mark Brondyke, Evelyn Holtrop, Jim Plaisier, John Ruiter, Pastor Mike
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-Outreach

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John Ruiter – Chair
Dale Carlson, Joe Lyons, Lee Sytsma
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-Worship and Music

Pastor Mike – Chair
Mark Brondyke, Melanie Buys, Dale Carlson, Joe Lyons, Muriel Peterson, Jen Sytsema, Brandon Sytsma
Joyce Van Beek, Secretary

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!

New Heart Songs for 2018

Awesome God – Ena Brondyke
Blessed be the Name of the Lord – Ena Brondyke
I Will Sing of My Redeemer – Agnes DeWitt
My Only Comfort in Life and in Deah – Ev Holtrop
Stand by Me – Darrell Sikkenga
Showers of Blessings – Bill and Arlene Wierenga
Sunrise – Bette Carpenter
The Longer I Serve Him – Bill and Arlene Wierenga
You Are My King – Kathie Wolf

Please continue to submit your Heart Songs to the office
Note: Some of the songs submitted are already on our list

THANK YOU!

Giving Up Control

-Pastor Mike

Letting go of our control and letting someone else take over is never easy. It's something that, frankly, we just don't like to do. Maybe it's handing the keys over to your young driver-in-training and letting them take the family on a trip to Norm's for some ridiculously big ice-cream cones. Maybe it's walking your daughter down the aisle on her wedding day and trusting that she and her new husband will navigate their new lives together well. Or maybe it's watching your children raise *their* children and make decisions for them—even if you would sometimes do things a little differently.

Let's face it: even when we're giving up our control for something *really* exciting, it's still hard to let go, isn't it? It's never easy to put our trust in someone else—even if they've already proved their trustworthiness.

I think about Jacob from the Old Testament. He had more reason than most to trust in God. When his brother Esau was ready to kill him for stealing their father's blessing, God carried Jacob safely to his Uncle Laban. And while he was there, God blessed Jacob with wives, children, and great wealth. Then later, when Jacob's and Laban's relationship soured, God protected Jacob as he fled from Laban. Even more, when Jacob unknowingly wrestled with God, God spared Jacob's life.

Yet amidst all these powerful examples of God's protecting hand, Jacob still hadn't learned to trust God fully. He was terrified to reconnect with his brother Esau. So, instead of trusting God, Jacob devised his own way to handle the situation. He sent caravans of servants and gifts ahead of himself to Esau to try to appease his brother's wrath. He even divided his people and possessions into two groups. That way, if Esau attacked one group, the other group might be able to escape and live.

Of course, God was still watching over Jacob—just as he'd always been. When Esau saw Jacob, he ran to his brother and embraced him. You see, all those gifts and strategic plans that Jacob thought he needed weren't necessary. God had been working in Esau's heart long before Jacob ever thought of returning home. If only Jacob had trusted God a little more, he could have saved himself quite a bit of trouble.

Well, friends, isn't this so true in our lives too? When we are facing something scary, how often is our first instinct to start making plans of our own—plans that we think are best—instead of pausing to remember that God is already handling the situation? Because when we start making all these plans—just like Jacob did—we are really trusting in ourselves and in our own ingenuity a little more than we are trusting in God.

But when we are trusting in God fully, we are freed from our sense of self-reliance. Instead of being led by our worry (like Jacob was) we are led from a place of peace. We are able to look back on our lives and see all the other scary things that God has faithfully carried us through, and we are reminded that we can keep trusting in God no matter what comes next. So whatever plans we make, and whatever steps we take, they're no longer our futile attempts to hold onto our sense of control. Rather, they're always done from a place of trust—trust in our faithful God. That sure seems like a much better way to live.

So, friends, whatever you are facing, remember that our God is faithfully watching over you. He's in control. He's brought you safely thus far. And he will never abandon you. It's not up to you. God's got this.

Library News

Pay a visit to the charming Swiss Miss gift shop in the village of Sugarcreek, known as the Little Switzerland of Ohio. You'll get to know Cheryl Cooper, a newly arrived "Englischer", who with her Siamese cat, Beau, is settling into the routine of running the store and adjusting to life in an Amish community. But it's not the laid-back country living she expects. She befriends Naomi Miller, an Amish farmer's wife, and together they lend a helping hand to their neighbors and untangle the mysteries of Sugarcreek.

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This is a series of 25 books located on the top shelf of the wire book rack in the library.

When you read one, you're anxious to read the next.

Thank you, Ruth Wierenga, for this donation to the church library.

Thank you for your generous gifts

Excerpts from thank you notes received from the following:

BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICES – "Thank you so much for your recent donation; your contribution will be used to continue serving the children and youth in our community."

LOVE IN ACTION – "Your gift will not only help one of our neighbors to have their basic needs met, it will provide the opportunity for us to share the love of Jesus Christ with them."

WESTERN MICHIGAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL – Your support allows us "to educate with excellence, integrate faith with knowledge, and equip students to work and serve Christ in their communities."

WORLD RENEW – "With your help, World Renew has been able to support communities through poverty, disaster, and injustice. Stories of hardship are changing into stories of hope because of your generosity."

PRAISE GOD FOR HIS WONDERFUL GIFT OF GRACE
-Western Michigan Christian

Just for Fun

Billy Graham, The Chauffeur

Billy Graham was returning to Charlotte after a speaking engagement. When his plane touched down, there was a limousine there to transport him to his home. As he prepared to get into the limo, he stopped and spoke to the driver, "You know" he said, "I am 87 years old and I have never driven a limousine. Would you mind if I drove it for a while?"

The driver said, "No problem, have at it." Billy gets into the driver's seat and heads down the highway.

A short distance away sat a rookie state trooper operating his first speed trap. The long black limo went by him doing 70 in a 55-mph zone. The trooper pulled out and easily caught the limo. He got out of his patrol car to begin the procedure. The young trooper walked up to the driver's door and when the glass was rolled down, he was surprised to see who was driving. He immediately excused himself and went back to his car and called his supervisor. He told the supervisor, "I know we are supposed to enforce the law... but I also know that important people are given certain courtesies. I need to know what I should do because I have stopped a very important person."

The supervisor asked, "is it the governor?" The young trooper said, "No, he's more important than that". The supervisor said, "Oh, so it's the president." The young trooper said, "No, he's even more important than that."

The Supervisor finally asked, "Well then who is it?" The young trooper said, "I think it's Jesus, because he's got Billy Graham for a chauffeur!"



Ed Gregory's Great Truths that Adults have learned:

1. Raising Teenagers is like nailing Jello to a tree
2. Wrinkles don't hurt
3. Families are like fudge...mostly sweet, with a few nuts
4. Laughing is good exercise, it's like jogging on the inside
5. Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground
6. Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fiber, not the toy

Why we say the things we say:

Full of beans (lively, in high spirits)

This expression dates back to the 19th century and originally described a horse in very good condition. In the past, beans were a staple food for horses; a particular variety of bean was grown especially as fodder for horses and cattle. Beans are high in carbohydrates and a good source of protein, so a horse that was literally "full of beans" would be full of energy and vitality.

With bated breath (in great suspense)

Bated is a shortened form of the word *abated*, which means 'reduced or lessened'. The idea behind the phrase is that the anxiety or excitement you experience while waiting for something to happen is so great that you almost stop breathing.

Off the hook (no longer in trouble)

An expression from angling; the image is of a fish managing to wriggle off the hook that lodged in its mouth when it took the bait. Being 'on the hook' is a bad situation for the fish, but if it manages to get 'off the hook' it is out of trouble.

Watch out all you turkeys!

Pastor Mike now has his turkey license.

