

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF



²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28-30 ESV

Submit your comments to our Editor, Jacquie Hinton, about “The Shepherd’s Staff;” and, any other *thoughts* you might have about the publication that you feel will be constructive or interesting to our readers. You may do so by emailing us at: newsletter@pahrupcc.com



<p>VOLUME XCVIII September 2019</p>		<p>THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF</p>	<p>PAGE 2</p>
---	---	------------------------------------	----------------------

Mutually Encouraged

Sometimes we read the Word of God and the Lord brings heavy conviction. Even though we may (we *should!*) be praising Him for loving us enough to bring conviction and discipline, the truth is that such times are not so much *encouraging* as they are *uncomfortably beneficial*.

At other times a Biblical message reminds us of the need to recognize Who God is and what He demands of us. Again, this is very helpful even if it may feel as if it underscores our personal inadequacies.

Then there are times when a Biblical principle is presented that causes us to feel as if God has lifted us to a higher level of joy within the fellowship of brothers and sisters in Christ.

Such was the case recently as I was reading in Romans:

...That we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.
Romans 1:12

I am encouraged by the faith of others! Consider with me some ways that we encourage each other in the faith.

Last month we held our annual Vacation Bible School. This event is the result of many people putting their faith into action by stepping up to volunteer for various leader/helper positions, as well as decorating in advance and clean-up afterward. I may not have all the names, but I know these were included:

Nicole Barrager, Bobbie Benbo, Robin Benbo, Alyssa Cain, Daniel Clasen, Dave Clasen, Andrea Coibion, Rich Coibion, Shannon Coibion, Karen Crispell, Mikayla DelaRosa, Veronica DelaRosa, Dottie Dyer, Kristi Foust, Dave Goodman, Robin Guttridge, Chailyn Hall, Lori Hall, Diana Hill, Kyle Hill, Karen Houston, Luke Lanciardi, Bonnie Lynn, Celine Owens, Sean Owens, Darian Peterson, Allie Porter, Ava Porter, Carol Sievers, Chic Sievers, Cindy Smiley, Amy Walker, Kim Walker, Kyler Wright and Tanis Wright.

What an encouragement to see all these work together to help build the Kingdom through this ministry!

Then I think about those who are involved as teachers, helpers and assistants in our Sunday School ministry. That includes Phil Barnes, Roy Bell, Renee Bell, Julie Carrington, Daniel Clasen, Dave Clasen, Rosalee Clasen, Joan Hammond, Joyce Schnelzer, Barbara Self, Don Sutton, Linda Wilson, and others whose names I can't recall right now (because I'm getting old).

I would also be remiss not to mention those who teach/help in our Women's Ministries, Men's Ministries, Awana & Youth Ministries and additional Children's Ministries (Children's Church, Nursery, CCA & PCCP)!

My heart is blessed just thinking about your acts of service!!

...And the list goes on:

Many of you tirelessly show up on a regular basis to exercise your faith by serving in our Food Pantry Ministry.


Every week we have In-Touch Ministry volunteers who help check people into our worship services, serve at our Welcome Center, make phone calls to check on our absentees, and create prayer sheets for our Intercessory Prayer meetings.

Each Sunday morning, you receive a warm welcome as you come into our worship service. Thank you, Greeters, for creating a friendly atmosphere for both our guests and our family alike! I am encouraged by your faithful service!

I am encouraged by the Wright family who faithfully prepare our Communion Table each month before the worship services.

I am encouraged by those of you who are always on task to serve as ushers during our activities.

I am encouraged by our Worship Team volunteers and AV crew who show up for rehearsal each Thursday and then facilitate a worshipful atmosphere on Sunday mornings.

VOLUME XCVIII September 2019		THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF	PAGE 3
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2			

I am encouraged by those who live out their faith by being willing to serve as elected officers: Phil Barnes, Roy Bell, Dave Clasen, Rosalee Clasen, Bob Hammond, Mark Knickerbocker, Dixie Proctor, Kirk Rex, Don Sutton, & Steve Wright.

Whenever we have any social-type events or activities, there are always people who are actively working to make sure everything is prepared and runs smoothly and is cleaned up properly afterward. Thank you Social Committee and kitchen workers! What an encouragement!

Thank you Chair Teams (including the Thursday evening Youth Group) that set up and take down chairs on a weekly basis so that we can use our Multi-Purpose Building multi-purposely!

I am encouraged by our prayer warriors who faithfully exercise their faith by praying for all of our Prayer Chain Requests and for those who come on Sunday evenings to pray for our In-Touch Requests!

Whenever our church family gets together we have come to expect to hear words of affirmation and encouragement from one another! Even outside the confines of our campus facilities, our church family includes so many who reach out to their family, friends, and neighbors to invite them to experience the cheerfulness of PCC where the Good News of Jesus Christ is proclaimed and the joy of the Lord is shared. The result is that we are *mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.*

So I say to you, my family: *Thank you for the encouragement!* I love you and appreciate you!

Serving the Savior,
 Pastor Keith

<p>VOLUME XCVIII September 2019</p>		<p>THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF</p>	<p>PAGE 4</p>
---	---	------------------------------------	----------------------

Power Outages

Why does all the cool stuff have to take place while I'm out of state? I exaggerate, certainly, but I missed that earthquake a few weeks ago. Amy and I were down in Mayer with her folks and watching *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs*. As my phone kept buzzing with family texts, the biggest "issue" for my folks (who were in town) was, unsurprisingly, the lack of air conditioning when the power went out. I won't give my dad too much trash since I likely would have been right there with him in hot misery (albeit to a lesser degree).

At the same time, I've always enjoyed power outages. My fear of the dark as a child has evolved into a vaguely biblical suspicion thereof in my adult years, but when I was a kid outages never seemed to last long enough. As a member of the family who wasn't responsible for providing/cooking/whatevering, those pesky workers at the power company were consistently ruining my fun.

The romance of a dark house (with flashlight-wielding guardians close-by, obviously) thrilled me whenever I got to experience it. I've spent all my life in the age of technology – only a power outage could truly deprive a building of its illumination. From the clock on the stove to the little blinkers on the VCR/DVD player, the house was black... for a moment, anyway. My favorite part of an outage was less the darkness itself than it was the minutes (hours, if we were lucky) in which we could sit at the kitchen table under camp lanternlight and listen to my dad read to us.

I still enjoy a good power outage (though I thank the fine folks at Valley Electric for keeping the lights on). I have come to realize the nuisance they bring about. It's great when the power company can restore energy to my home in a timely fashion. There's also a special type of annoyance that comes from a power outage that lasts for no more than a minute. I'm fond of extended periods of no electricity, but it was one of these brief outages that spurred my thoughts for this article.

Some time ago (I've had this idea percolating for a while in my Shepherd's Staff Seed Stash), the lights shut off here in the office. I had plenty of battery juice left in my computer so my work was not affected, but my clock needed to be reset. It's seldom that I'm content with resetting any clocks I own via an approximation. Getting the right time means waiting for the proverbial "dot" (i.e. 11:10 on said dot). I recognize that this necessarily takes less than a minute, but when you're waiting for something so precise, it often feels like it takes quite a bit longer. As I ticked off the seconds (forty-one, forty-two, forty-three...), it struck me that frogging something up doesn't take very long. My little red timepiece was cut off from its power source for less than three seconds (probably for less than two) and it began pitifully imploring me for help: 12:00! 12:00! 12:00!

Pardon the pun, but in my spiritual walk, my display doesn't often reveal to others that I've lost track of time (Ephesians 5.16). For those of us who have been in the family of God for a while, it's unfortunately easy to act as if all is well even when our hearts and minds are enduring sin's torment. I'll connect the power outage illustration here in a minute, but I think we can all agree that our thoughts are often the most wicked place in our bodies.

I have had 2 Corinthians 10.4-5 in my spiritual arsenal for many years. In my daily fight against temptation, the Holy Spirit has repeatedly brought them to my mind as aid. I still struggle with conflating New King James and English Standard Versions of the verses (since I memorized them in NKJV over fifteen years ago), but they're key to warfare:

For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ...

Praise God unendingly for His granting me victory over some pretty big sin issues over the past few years. I'm not planning on patenting anything here (God inspired Paul to say it 2,000 years ago), but I'm more or less convinced that the root of most sin is simply a failure to "take every thought captive." Consider the temptations that most consistently plague you and ask yourself: "How many of those thoughts do I take captive to obey Christ?" Maybe more easily: "How many of those thoughts do I try to take captive to obey Christ?" Only the big ones? Only those that begin to get out of hand? The seeds of those thoughts?

We finally return to the whole power outage picture. How long did that clock need to be cut off from its power source to need resetting? I appreciate that this convenience store special isn't what you'd call a "smart" machine, but all it took was a few seconds. Just one break in the electrical current and I'm out thirty-eight seconds to get it set again.

VOLUME XCVIII September 2019		THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF	PAGE 5
---	---	-----------------------------	---------------

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

How many evil thoughts need to get through your defenses to lead you into sin? Just one. At least in my experience, there's a reason that Paul doesn't say that we need to take 95% of our thoughts captive to obey Christ. For that matter, even if there's just 2% of those thoughts that are allowed to run free, my joy in Jesus tanks because I have ceased walking by the Spirit. I still stumble, but by God's grace and that alone, I have found in 2 Corinthians 10 a strategy that works.

When sinful thoughts begin to germinate in my mind, I do my best to immediately confess this: "God, I know this thought is not subject to Christ. I don't want it in my head. Take it out, please, and fill my mind with a passion for Your glory." Too much of the time, we try to complicate the fight against sin. In an effort to make our battles more "practical" (follow these steps, take four breaths, or go serve in Botswana), we inadvertently distance ourselves from the only source of victory. Sanctification's fight has little fanfare and it seems unlikely to me that you'll be spotting little demons hopping out of your path. Our weapons aren't fleshly – they're spiritual. The key is staying connected to the power source every moment. The smallest lapse in vigilance is sufficient to wreak havoc. It is an hourly, minutely, or even secondly commitment to prayer over every thought: "Jesus, take this one over. Don't let any through that don't obey You."

Keep on fighting, y'all.
 By God's grace,
 Pastor Caleb



Summer Report, Germany 2019

Prayer—Answers

Over the summer we hosted Navigator missionaries from the USA and Côte d'Ivoire, and visited with two families (from the USA) in England and Hungary. We also participated with the French Navigator ministries at their annual student and family camp.

Thank you for praying *with* and *for* us! God is giving clarity for current and future ministry direction in Germany, France and in French speaking Africa.

The fall takes off with a Navigator US Military retreat over Labor Day. Then we will launch into the academic year with significant ministry through small groups in our area of Germany.

There will be opportunities to come alongside French Navigator works at times, and we have an invitation to help train emerging leaders in the Ivory Coast, West Africa in early 2020.

Thank you for your support ! Please remember us over Labor Day as we meet up with other Navigator staff and leaders for a rich time in the Word and prayer together.

The first week of September there are several small groups forming across the US military community where we live and work. Some will launch the first book of The Navigators' church Colossians 2:7 discipleship series. Growing in relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ as well as helping others come to know Him and helping them grow in their faith will be the focus.



Jack Blanch (top). US Military Family in Hungary (left). Family from US in London (above). At French Nav camp—wood oven bread making workshop (below).



CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

PAGE 7

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6



With Jérémie and Marie Claire Agré
in Worms, Germany

***“...rooted and built up in Him, growing
strong in the faith as you were taught, and
overflowing with thankfulness.”
Colossians 2:7***

Mike & Karen Kotecki

Sonnenstr 14, 66849 Landstuhl
Germany

navstaff.org/give/40956

[@ gmail.com](mailto:jm.kotecki@gmail.com)

jm.kotecki or karenk52

The Navigators, P.O. Box 6079

Albert Lea, MN 56007-6679

Mission Account #40956

Ph: 866-568-7827

Mike and Karen Kotecki are Navigator Missionaries in Germany that our PCC family supports.



Western Talc Mine, Tecopa, California By Bob Jacobs

This mine was one of the largest talc operations in San Bernardino County, California. Next to borax, some of the biggest bonanzas in the Death Valley region were in ordinary white talc. This humble mineral, in addition to being the basis of baby powder, is used in the manufacture of paint, soaps and detergents, plastic, paper, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals and many other products.

There is a huge exposed belt of this mineral in the vicinity of southern Death Valley, stretching for 60 miles from the Panamint Mountains on the west to the Silurian Hills on the east.

NOTE: Talc (Soapstone is a form of Talc) is a clay mineral composed of hydrated magnesium silicate. Talc in powdered form, often in combination with corn starch, is a widely used substance known as baby powder. One particular issue with commercial use of talc is its frequent co-location in underground deposits with asbestos ore which is why talc has been strictly controlled since 1976. Asbestos is a general term for different types of fibrous silicate minerals.

The first big talc strike in this area was the Western Talc Mine, developed in 1912 by Lycurgus Lindsay, the self-proclaimed "Talc King." He was seeking the mineral to use in his two large pottery businesses, which made wall tile and sewer pipe, respectively. He had originally made his fortune by speculating in Mexican copper mines, and was always on the lookout for new sources of talc and clay. Lindsay bought a group of claims known simply as the Talc Mine in 1909. The deposits had been discovered a year earlier by the owner of the nearby China Ranch and his two partners. By 1912 he was hauling about a wagonload of talc a day to the Tonopah & Tidewater Railroad for shipment to his pottery works.

Shipments that first year amounted to less than 1,000 tons worth approximately \$10 a ton, but the output grew steadily, reaching 5,000 tons at \$15 a ton in 1915. He vigorously expanded the mine, producing 12,000 tons in 1920, and by the end of that year had taken out roughly \$500,000 in talc. The mine boomed, but the Talc King was in deep financial troubles. He had expanded too quickly and overextended his credit, and in 1921 the business went belly-up, even though talc shipments continued under a new owner. In 1928 the mine again changed hands, and eventually produced more than 300,000 tons of high-grade talc worth several million dollars. This mine had been in operation (intermittently) up until 1972.

To get to the Western Talc Mine follow the signs from Shoshone, California to the China Ranch Date Farm and before you get to the Date Farm at the intersection of the China Ranch Road and the Furnace Creek Road proceed straight on the Furnace Creek Road (this road was once paved but now it's mostly dirt). Travel 5.6 miles and turn right on the Western Talc Road and the mine diggings start in about 2.7 miles and continue until the road dead ends at 4.8 miles. A high clearance vehicle is required to get to this location.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8



Some of the Talc workings at the Western Talc Mine



More Talc workings (there are pockets of exposed Talc everywhere)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11



Loading Bins that were used to store different grades (purity) of Talc



What's Happening

BIBLE STUDIES RESUMING

Saturday Men's Bible Study—9/7—8-9:30AM—MPB Room 1

Men come and join us as we dig into Sunday's sermon.
Men's Kiosk - Contact: Don Sutton—775-503-0349

Women's Evening Bible Study (WEBS) 9/10—6-7:30PM—MPB Room 1

Let's study the book of Job and fellowship together.
Women's Kiosk - Contact: Kim Walker—775-537-7708

Women at Prayer (WAP) 9/11— 9:30-11AM Room 11:00AM—MPB Room 1

We will be praying and looking at Revelation this year.
Women's Kiosk - Contact: Sandi Mancuso—440-554-9872

MINISTRIES RESUMING

Awana— 9/4—6-7PM—MPB—PreK-12th Grades

Approved workmen are not ashamed as we have fun growing in grace.
Youth Kiosk—Contact: Caleb Walker—775-513-5449

Griefshare— 9/9—6-7:30PM— MPB Room 4

Support and encouragement for those who have lost a loved one.
Info Kiosk—Contact: Kim Walker—775-537-7708

UPCOMING EVENTS



CHURCH MATTERS FELLOWSHIP DINNER—9/8—After 2nd Service—MPB Picnic Style! Join us for fellowship and then a bit of church business.
Events Kiosk—Contact: Charlene Rex 303-358-4408

VOLUME XCVIII September 2019		THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF	PAGE 12
	EDITORIAL PAGE		

The Open Mouth Policy

How often have I said, "I'm Sorry?" How often have I opened my mouth after "brain shut-down" has invaded my lips and caused me to utter that phrase? Am I also alone in being a victim of "Close brain" - "Open mouth" - "Loose lips"? Well, I personally have been utterly crushed by someone who has delivered that knockout blow to me recently.

I strongly believe that "honesty is the best policy." But, "tact" is part of the delivery. We all have our little idiosyncrasies, but we must be careful not to deliberately "Open mouth – put in foot." Or, maybe we just speak what we feel and not think of the consequences it will deliver to the receiver. You really cannot be an adult if you can't accept criticism. But, giving "criticism" requires "tact." Especially if it is given to a friend.

I have a friend who is quite vocal when giving their opinion. Which is a good thing, but they lack consideration about how it will be received. Would I lack "tact" if I replied – "I don't care what you think" or "Who asked you?"

Let me quote – "Sticks and stones may break my bones. But words will never harm me." Isn't that saying pure "poppycock"? Words CAN harm! And, they DO harm! I know I have been guilty of saying things that harm others. I know I possess an "easterners" sense of humor. A humor that is dry and can be caustic. I know because I have often found myself often saying: "You know I'm just kidding, don't you?" That is something I can say when I am conversing face to face. But when I say it over the telephone who can see my face? So, I am careful about "Opining" when I am not "face to face."

To quote the late poet, Maya Angelou: "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

So, I will take that in consideration when I speak. I will think deeply before I spew out my "opinions." I will readily apologize when I see I have hurt others. And, I will make it a daily, silent prayer to be alert to reactions caused by my conversations with others.

To those of you who are designated as my "friends"- help me to remember to strive to always make you feel "**GOOD AND POSITIVE**" about our friendship. I will always be aware of your reactions to my opinions. If your reaction(s) show a level of pain, I trust you to make me aware of it – immediately. Friends are careful NOT to hurt their friends and not to make assumptions about what they say and how it will be received. My English professors all said the same thing about my critical evaluations: That I would make a good literary critic because I always based my criticism on the writing and not on the writer. So, "if you can't say something nice – with tact – don't say anything at all." After all, who asked you anyway?

	CONTINUED ON PAGE 12
--	----------------------



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

**"Sticks and stones may break my
bones but names will never hurt
me"... or is there more damage than
we even see?
How much power do my words
have?**



Jacquie Hinton – *Editor*

Pastor Caleb Walker and Karen Crispell– *Copy Editors*

Reporters and Contributors: *Our Missionaries and PCC family*