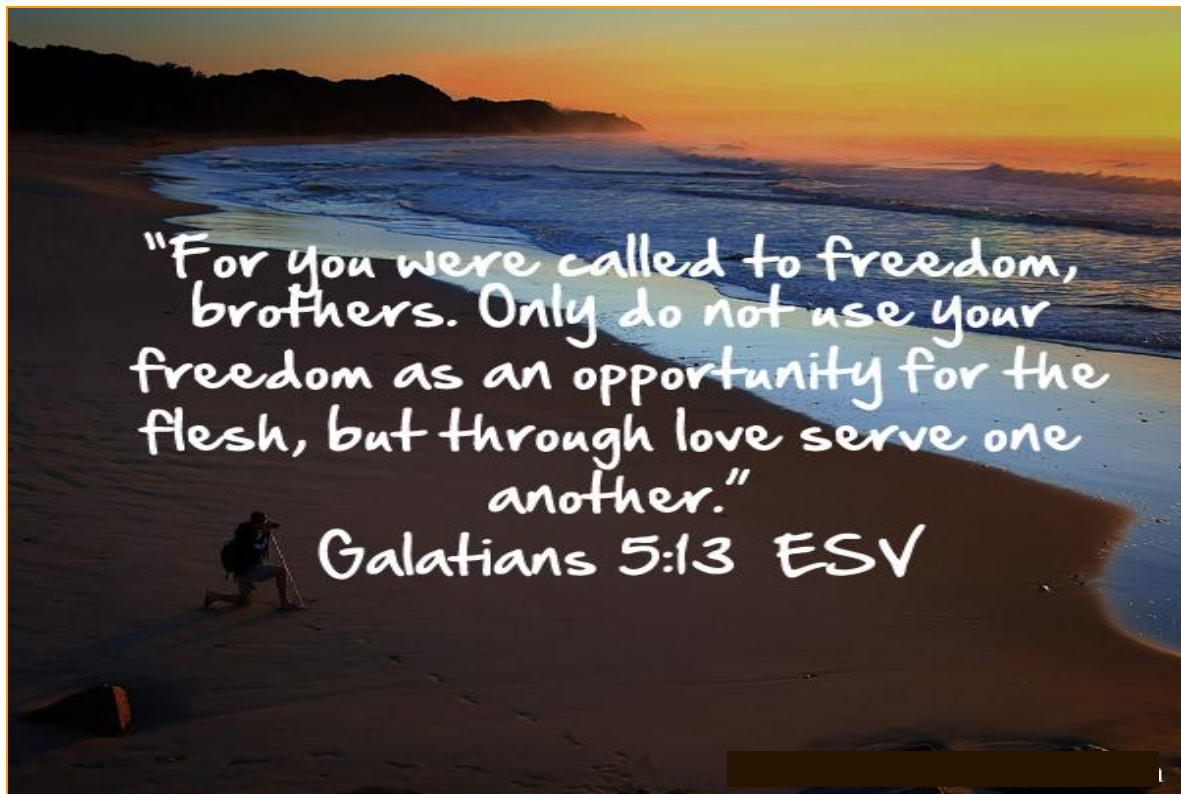


VOLUME LXXIII  
July 2017

## THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF



The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want." Psalm 23:1 ESV



***YOU SAID IT!!!***

Submit your comments to our Editor, Jacquie Hinton, about "The Shepherds 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](mailto:newsletter@pahrupcc.com)

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### The Message of Salvation

It has been my experience over the decades during which I have been in full-time pastoral ministry that, even among sincere Christians, there is a common tendency to assume that some people who have not accepted Jesus will still be allowed into heaven.

The argument generally takes one of two forms. The first has to do with people who lived **before** the coming of Jesus Christ. The second deals with those who were born **after** His coming but who may have never heard of Jesus. Let me address these two arguments.

Obviously, it is difficult to put your faith in someone who has not yet even been born.

*Difficult, but not impossible.* The promise of a coming Savior dates back to the Garden of Eden. After Satan successfully lured Eve (and Adam) into rebellion against God Almighty, the Lord pronounced a curse upon the devil:

***I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel. Genesis 3:15***

This promise immediately following the fall of man points to a coming conflict between the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2) and the King of Kings (Revelation 17:14). At the crucifixion, the devil struck a mortal wound to the reigning King. But three days later, the tables were turned and what appeared to be a fatal blow turned out to be nothing more serious than a briefly bruised heel.

The grand finale of this conflict will be the utter and complete defeat of Satan by the offspring of woman—Jesus Christ Himself! Mankind has been under the cruel oppression of Satan since the fall of the first couple in the Garden as recorded in the first book of the Bible. But the last book of the Bible prophesies with absolute certainty what will take place at the appointed time of Jesus' ultimate victory:

***The devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Revelation 20:10***

Thousands of years before His incarnation, God promised mankind a Savior. During that intervening period of millennia, God was progressively revealing Himself more and more through angels and prophets. Many believe that people during this period were saved (i.e. guaranteed a place in heaven) by being *good* or being *sincere*. But sincerity and goodness have never been the source of salvation! Salvation has always and only been the gift of God's grace received by faith. Abraham's salvation is a clear picture of this reality:

***[Abraham] believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness. Genesis 15:6***

Abraham **believed** (faith), and the Lord provided **righteousness** (grace). Although many Old Testament examples could be cited, the bottom line is that those who trusted in the promises of God (like Abraham) were actually trusting in the Christ Who would be revealed at a later time (read Galatians 3).

Now, on to the second argument.

Based on the answer to the first, some would say that true believers of **any** religion today will be saved in the same way that true believers **before** Christ were saved—because **they trust in God**. But there is a Biblical/theological catch.

First, **religion does not save**. Salvation is a matter of personal faith and the grace of God that accompanies such faith. The "religion" of Abraham was faith in the God Who is Truth. The vast majority of the religions of the world are based on *man's* ideas of *what God should be*—not on *Who He really is*! Religion does not save, and faith in the god of a misguided religion is of no value.

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| <p>Which brings me to another necessary observation: <b>sincerity does not save</b>. Sincere belief in a false religion is no more effective than believing that a toothpick bridge will support the weight of a Sherman tank. Just sincerely believing it won't change reality! There are sincere believers in every religion on every continent around the world, yet Jesus says:</p> <p><b><i>Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few. Matthew 7:13–14</i></b></p> <p>It is clear that most people (even <i>sincere</i> people) are on the road to eternal destruction. But Jesus also clarifies the determining feature of the way that leads to eternal life:</p> <p><b><i>Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6</i></b></p> <p>No one gets to heaven except by believing in Jesus Christ! Period!</p> <p>The next point in this common argument goes something like this: <i>What if a person <b>would</b> believe <b>if</b> he ever heard the truth about Jesus, but he <b>never gets the opportunity</b> to hear about Jesus?</i> Aside from the fact that God draws to Himself all who will be saved (John 6:44), the Bible also makes it clear that God is fully capable of bringing the message of salvation in Jesus Christ to everyone who will receive it.</p> <p>Rather than trying to make multiple exceptions that include various possible ways for a person to get to heaven without receiving Jesus, lets evaluate a Biblical account of someone precisely in that situation.</p> <p>Cornelius (Acts 10) was a non-Jew. He was also a God-fearing man (Acts 10:2) who knew nothing about Jesus. If salvation were only a matter of sincere faith in God, this would be the perfect passage through which God could reveal this truth to man. God could have said, <i>Cornelius, your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God, and I want you to know that your sincere faith has earned you a seat in heaven with me.</i> ...But, that's <b>not</b> what God said. <b>This</b> was God's message:</p> <p><b><i>Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; he will declare to you a message BY WHICH YOU WILL BE SAVED.... Acts 11:13–14</i></b></p> <p>Peter showed up and gave Cornelius the message that salvation only comes through faith in Jesus Christ. Cornelius, having been drawn to faith by God Himself, received Christ and was saved! He was saved not because of his sincerity but because he responded to the truth of Jesus with faith! <b>God knew Cornelius' heart and made sure he would hear about the only way of salvation.</b></p> <p>We could also look at the account of the salvation of the Ethiopian official (Acts 8). Or we could consider the profound significance of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). Regardless of where you turn in God's Holy Word, the message is the same:</p> <p><b><i>By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:8–10</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. John 3:36</i></b></p> <p>Jesus is the Savior! <i>He</i> is the <b>only</b> way to the Father! When God lays on your heart the need to talk to someone about Jesus, remember that He wants to use you to share the truth that is the difference between eternity in hell or forever with Jesus in heaven.</p> <p>Jesus is the only answer. He is the message of salvation.</p> <p>Serving the Savior. Pastor Keith</p> |   |                      |        |

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### **No Good Thing**

The next time I see you, I'll be married.

I knew I wanted to start this month's Shepherd's Staff article with that sentence, but I didn't get much beyond that. As I type this, I am five sleeps away from being the husband of the second greatest gift God has given me.

People keep asking me if I'm nervous. I feel like my favorite response to that is, "I'm nervous about most everything." Others ask me if I'm having second thoughts. My recommendation: maybe find another joke. I know it's expected, but might there be something more constructive and edifying you could say to someone who is about to commit himself or herself to another for the rest of his or her life? No, I'm not having second thoughts. I far prefer those who ask me if I'm getting excited. Most certainly! I would say that I've been excited for months, but that would not be the whole story; I've been excited for twenty-some years.

It has amused me in the past when people have asked me if I'm even interested in getting married someday. I feel like I'm horrible at concealing my emotions, but apparently I've done a fair job of keeping my desires and dreams to myself. I'm not the most outgoing and extroverted person I know (don't tell anyone) and am not one who easily inserts himself into new groups of people. Couple my natural social skittishness with the fact that I'm pretty choosy when it comes to whom I'll date and you're left with only a handful of girls I've ever even considered pursuing.


I have banked on Psalm 84.11 more than I can say. "For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly." Obviously, taken apart from a full understanding of the rest of Scripture, this could easily be used for some form of the "Do what's right and God will give you everything you want" reading of the Text. Let's eject that and think through what, exactly, the second portion of this verse actually says.

This Psalm doesn't really include any of what we would typically expect regarding "walking uprightly." The Sons of Korah don't unpack propriety or practical holiness here. Instead, they focus on worship. They highlight the worthiness of the LORD of hosts (vv. 1, 3, 10) and express an ardent desire to be closer to the living God (vv. 2, 4, 5, 10). We don't treat Psalms the same way as we treat other literary genres in Scripture (Psalm 84 is a song, not a letter written to a church), but at the very least it's clear that an "upright walk" is one that is all about loving God and living for Him.

"No good thing does he withhold..." Now what does this mean? Let's assume, just for novelty's sake, that it means what it says. (That's a joke, by the way... always assume that the Bible is straightforward and means what it says.) No good thing. This means, brothers and sisters, that if something is for your best and you're living for the Lord, you will have it. Period. As our good and loving Father, He doesn't have a room of forgotten presents. He doesn't spy something up on the shelf and say, "Doggone it! I meant to give that to Caleb last month!" That's not how God works. If something is for my best and I'm staying close to Jesus, God will not withhold it from me.

This is a promise that I particularly applied as a twenty-three year old and as a twenty-four year old and as a twenty-five year old (and yes, I know I'm a whippersnapper). When opportunities for dating came up, I took them. None of them worked. Expected, obviously, but isn't it better for man to not be alone? Why hadn't God provided someone yet? Some of that would likely be chalked up to my actions, but I believe that Psalm 84.11 holds. When there was no one in my field of prospects, God was not withholding a good thing. I know there's a double negative there, but think through what that means in your life.

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Are you walking uprightly? Is Jesus the center of your Sundays *and* your Mondays? Are you striving for holiness and a closer communion with the Lord? Are you finding your joy in the only Source that will ever satisfy you? If those things are true and you're waiting for something in particular (maybe a job, maybe a spouse, maybe a piece of news), God is still a sun and shield. If something is for your best, He's not withholding it. He's got a far better conception of our "best" than we ever will. We have to wait, but even the waiting is a "good thing."

A "good thing" entered my life on February 4, 2016. Later on my timeline than I would have chosen and not at all whom I would have expected. I thought I wanted someone short, quiet, and introverted. That would not have been a "good thing" for me. I got someone who's just "shorter enough" (praise the Lord) and who is more beautiful than I would have been brave enough to select for myself. That's a good thing. God gave me someone who is far more at ease talking to strangers than I am. Turns out, gentleness is far more of a good thing than simple soft-spokenness. I got someone whose extroversion is off many of the personality charts. I'm still working on emotionally embracing this one at times, but I have no doubt that this is a wonderful thing for my personality.

I share this not to simply celebrate Amy (though, really, who wouldn't want to?) but to point out some of the truth of Psalm 84.11. Too often, we think that if God would just listen to us then we could have what we need for a productive and healthy life. Psalm 84.11 isn't a blank check for blessings; it's a guarantee that God will unreservedly and emphatically provide the "good thing."

Amy is a good thing and I praise God for her. I'm sure there are a million things that I can't see that confirm that I needed to wait until June 24, 2017 for her to be for my best. My best has included more pain than I can express and a greater joy than I would have guessed (and I'm not even married yet!).

Take heart, brothers and sisters, if your "good thing" has not yet come. Walk uprightly and trust in the favor- and honor-bestower. He's not withholding from you. He's planning something better.

Ever only by God's grace,  
Pastor Caleb

P.S. Amy Walker is a good thing for y'all too, if I do say so myself.







## We Awakened a Giant

The Chapter Planting Cohort has caused a ripple effect in America's oldest, largest campus ministry.

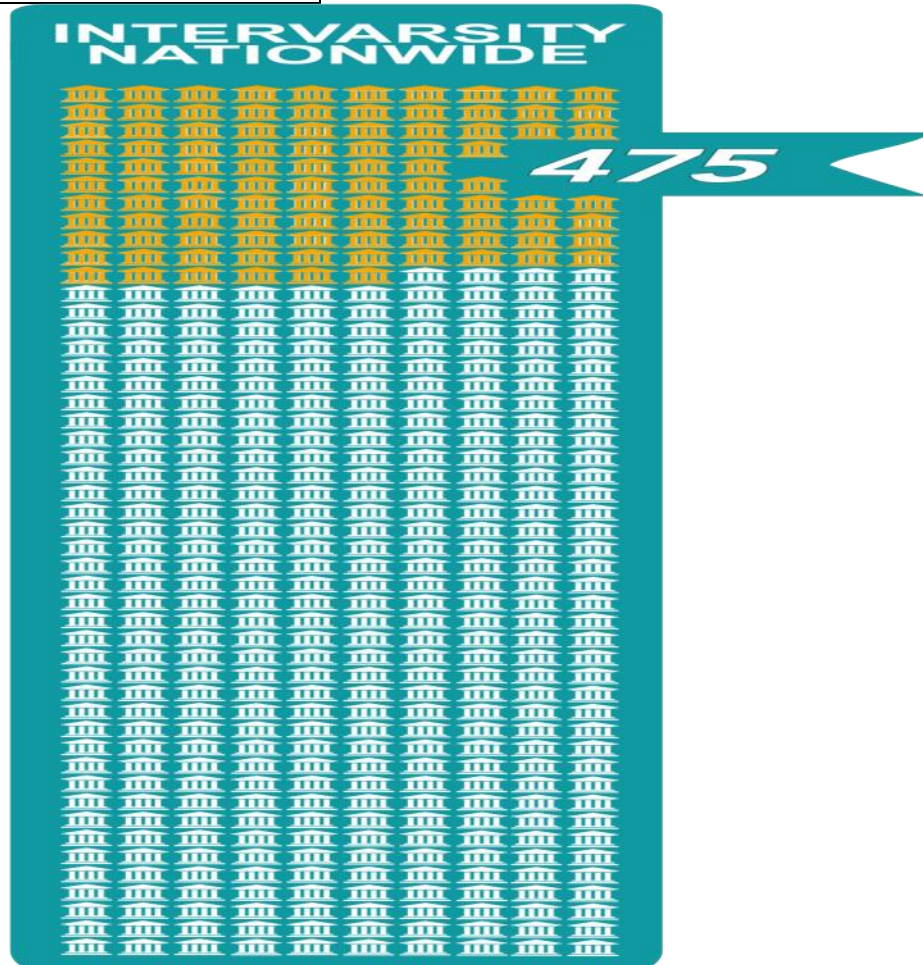


The new InterVarsity chapter at the University of Alabama is helping to heal racial tension through uniting Christian students of every ethnicity around a common commitment to follow Jesus Christ.

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| InterVarsity currently has 1065 chapters on 675 campuses in the United States. (Some campuses have multiple chapters that focus on specific populations like athletes, nurses, different ethnic groups and faculty, for examples). We are reaching 17% of the total 4000+ campuses in America. It is estimated that all of the Christian ministries <b>combined</b> are only reaching 33% of the total.   |   |                      |        |
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| <h3>The Chapter Planting Cohort is good, but not enough.</h3> <p>Through the Planting Cohort, I've had the opportunity to train and send 100 of InterVarsity's sharpest campus staff to plant 116 new chapters over the last five years. That has led to over 5200 students and faculty joining our mission on campuses and leading thousands more to follow Jesus. There is no other program like it in college ministry. However, it simply isn't possible to scale this program large enough to see a witnessing community started on every campus in America--not in our lifetime. As Director of Chapter Planting, I carry a burden for seeing every student have the opportunity to respond to the gospel and become part of God's Kingdom work on campus, and beyond graduation. I've been praying and working to see a "revival" of planting take hold in InterVarsity that turns into an unstoppable movement.</p> |   |                      |        |



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The Planting Cohort has caused a ripple effect in InterVarsity, influencing the entire organization with a renewed vision for reaching America's college campuses. In the last 5 years, staff teams in every state have adopted the training, ideas and resources from the Planting Cohort and started their own planting initiatives. On average, 2 new chapters are planted every week!

It's exciting to see this planting movement actually taking hold in our organization, changing how we approach ministry, what we pray for, and what we believe is possible in our lifetime.

Shawn

**Shawn and Caryn Young are InterVarsity Christian Fellowship missionaries our PCC family supports.**



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**Pahrump Valley, Dec, 2016, where we live**

### *PIERSALLS PROGRESS JUNE, 2017*



*Old School*

*Attir Village, Kenya*



*New School*


Attir Village had one thatched-roof hut for a class. Now there are proper classrooms for kindergarten and first grade!

"Beyond any reasonable doubts, Attir now has reason to smile with confidence, knowing that we are marching towards the right direction and hope is unfolding in the lives of our children," says Albino, the chairman.

Attir is in the middle of the remote bush and neighboring villages are distant. To go to school, they had to walk about five miles and had to pass through a bush that is full of wild animals, including dangerous snakes. They either went to Gambella Primary, which is about six miles away, or Chumviyere Primary, which is about five miles away. They had to wake up as early as 5:00 AM to be at school on time, intensifying the dangers on the way. By the time they arrived at school, they were already tired and found it hard to concentrate. This contributed to their parents' decision to discontinue sending them, especially during tribal clashes. Many of the pupils dropped out, the girls were married early, and boys ran into child labor. It became a way of life in Attir, accepting living in despair.

When [GHNI-Kenya](#) came into the village, we helped a child bitten by a snake in the thatched classroom. We were surprised to find a classroom in this condition, and the village presented their problems to us. After a long discussion, GHNI staff informed the community of [GHNI's](#) fifty-fifty principle, and the community agreed to give their fifty percent share in terms of land and labor to start building a proper school.

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Today, the youngest children no longer walk kilometers to school. The kindergarten and first grade class has been built. The Attir Education Committee encourages all the parents to send their children to school. More classrooms will be built as the children age. Albino thanked [GHNI -Kenya](#) for also helping to feed the students a lunch at school as a means of encouraging them to attend.

*Christopher -[GHNI](#) TCD Worker*

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**In May**, Jan and I attended a conference in Phoenix focused on helping impoverished people and villages around the world improve their lives. Not by doing work for them, but by sharing ideas and working with the people. This is the heart of [GHNI](#) and open secret of our success. We assist and coach locals in addressing their problems. But the local people must take ownership of their problems. We come alongside them, sharing knowledge, and coach them to find solutions to their problems.

We visited a church who visited and funded work in a rural village in Kenya. They are excited about returning this fall to again visit and work with their new friends in the village and build a new dorm for orphan kids infected with HIV/AIDS virus by their parents.

**This month (June)** I have been in the Los Angeles and San Diego area With Martins Atanda, our West Africa Director, visiting [GHNI](#) donors and listening to their stories of how and why they became involved with [GHNI](#) to improve the lives of people in Africa and the Middle East. One man found [GHNI](#) searching the web, called our Orlando office and asked questions, then committed to fund the Transformational Community Development (TCD) for a village in Africa. He will be going to the village with Martins later this year to see the start of the project.

**In July**, we will be traveling to Oregon to visit donors, a few churches and other people we know, as well as visit family. If you would like to know more about [GHNI](#), or would like us to visit your church, civic group or organization or would be willing to host a small group of friends to see a presentation of [GHNI](#) work around the world, please contact me to make arrangements. This is a helpful way for us to grow visibility of our important work. Please know our visits are informational and allow for hearts to respond rather than a high pressure presentation.

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Jan and I are thankful for all of you who pray for us for good health (Jan is having gastrointestinal problems again, prayer requested), safe travels, and most importantly, being in God's Will. We give thanks for those who help support us financially.

Blessings to all of you.

**Guy Piersall** (503) 697-8888 / [guy.piersall@ghni.org](mailto:guy.piersall@ghni.org)

**Jan Piersall** (503) 697-7765 / [jan.piersall@ghni.org](mailto:jan.piersall@ghni.org)



*Guy and Jan Piersall are Global Hope Network International missionaries our Church family supports.*

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| <p><b>“Sojourners”</b></p> <p>I want to introduce you to a series that I am starting.</p> <p>This series is about people, average missionary folk I have run into over the past three years.</p> <p>I want to highlight several people and share the wisdom they have gathered on their journeys.</p> <p>Allow me to introduce you to my series, sojourners.</p> <p>YWAM is an organization spread throughout 160 plus countries with over 20,000 staff.</p> <p>I have met many of these people as well as many more students who come to and fro.</p> <p>Let me to take you through the lives of these people and how God has led them and moved in their lives.</p> |  | <p>The first person I want to talk to you about is a man named Brice. I have known him for the past three years and I am always blessed by the poise he carries.</p> <p>Brice comes from upstate New York in a place called Buffalo where he spent his childhood.</p> <p>Brice came to YWAM at a time when he had recently returned to the Lord and didn't feel like he was making a difference.</p> <p>The story of Brice is a story of someone who responded to God's call and so began his missionary journey.</p> <p>Brice has been around the world and back several times over for the work of the kingdom of God.</p> <p>From the snow capped Himalayan peaks of Nepal, to the sandy beaches of Indonesia. From the jungles of Papua New Guinea, to the plains amidst the killing fields of Cambodia and as far as the city streets of Tokyo Japan.</p> |                |
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| <p>Brice has had an amazing a fruitful time in YWAM serving God all over the world. With all that experience Brice said his biggest take away from the last several years in YWAM is summed up in one word, <b>“community.”</b></p> <p>It is so evident in scripture that community is important to God as it is a place where you can grow and thrive.</p> <p><b>How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity</b><br/><b>Psalm 133:1</b></p> <p>This is something Brice took note of and took to heart.</p> <p>That being said I asked him what his biggest struggle had been and he responded with the same word, <b>“community.”</b></p> <p>It's not always easy living in a community 24/7 with 50 plus other people. Yet learning to live with each other is exactly where some of the most heartfelt relationships are made.</p> <p>Community isn't Brice's biggest take away because of the struggles; but, it is because he knows what benefit those struggles bring.</p> <p>There is a lesson we can all learn from Brice, to paraphrase him, “Wake up. Don't waste the opportunity that God has given</p> |   | <p>you.”</p> <p>That's something he told me a few years ago and it changed my life.</p> <p>I came to YWAM not knowing what my purpose was and let opportunity slip by time and time again.</p> <p>But Brice was the kind of person who sees opportunity in the individual to do great things for the kingdom of God. He doesn't let that go by but is willing to challenge you to take action.</p> <p>The average person won't ever live in a community like I have for three years plus; but, it is where I have grown closest to God.</p> <p>The lesson we can all learn from Brice is the value of <b>“community.”</b></p> <p>So I have a challenge for you. Throughout your week go out of your way to bless someone in a way they don't expect.</p> <p>You have an opportunity every day. Don't waste that opportunity; but, give it a shot and take a risk.</p> <p>With all love in Christ,<br/>Ben Wichaël.</p> |         |
| Ben Wichaël is a “Youth with a Mission” (YWAM) missionary in Honolulu, HI. our PCC Church Family supports   |   |  |         |



Sunnyside Community Church  
Damascus, OR

**June 30 – July 9**

We are taking a team of 13 on a missions' trip to Wistaria, British Columbia. Wistaria is a brand new Village Missions' field. Nathan and Kathy Born, new Village Missionaries, have been there since February 2017. Prior to that the church was without pastoral leadership for 10 years. Wistaria is rather isolated. In anticipation of our arrival, they are building a new outhouse at the church!!

Our team will run a day camp **Monday-Friday** from **10:00 -3:00**; they are expecting 20-30 kids to come. We will have Bible lessons based on the theme "Life is like the game of football" (soccer as it is known to us); music; Scripture memory; crafts; games, including soccer; lunch, etc...

We will have outreaches/activities for the teens. Some of us will be involved in service projects for people from the church and community, i.e. cutting wood for seniors, cleaning up yards. We will participate in the **Sunday** morning service the day after we arrive through music, testimonies, and preaching (Guy).

Encouraging Nathan and Kathy and their family of 6 ages 2-12 will be a primary focus. We won't know exactly how that will look until we get there and see how we can best serve them.

The team is made up of 3 families and 1 other teenage boy; 3 dads; 3 moms; 1 teen girl; 6 teen boys. We will be camping out among the moose and bears!! Some of us are a little nervous about that.

We leave Friday, June 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 am and plan to be in 100 Mile House, BC that night. We plan to arrive in Wistaria **Saturday** night. Returning home, we will leave **July 8** (whenever we get on the road) and will drive through the night to be home some time in the wee hours **Sunday** morning; so we can be at our church!! The travel days will be challenging but we trust God to help us survive and thrive!!

**July 10 – 14**

We are lending helping hands to a lady (not part of Sunnyside) who is hosting a 5Day Club in her mobile home park. She has been ministering to kids in her community for the past 18 years but has not had any church support as the church she attends is in another town. We would like to partner with her as she serves these kids, seeking to get them and their families acquainted with and connected to a local church...Sunnyside. Being involved in her 5 Day Club is a first step.

**July 17 – 21**

This is the week of VBS at our church and will be held in the evenings. We are hoping some of the kids from the previous week's 5 Day Club will get involved as well as kids in the surrounding neighborhood.

**July 30 – August 6**

Summer camp sponsored by several Village Missions churches. We will be working at camp most of the time along with another couple from Sunnyside. At this point we don't have any kids attending for Junior Camp but will have a nice group from SCC for the Senior Camp.

We don't have firm dates yet, but we will be in FL for a couple of weeks after camp ends to visit Geni's mom and sisters. After this very full summer we will be more than ready for some rest and relaxation!!

Thank you, Pahrump Community Church, for praying for these summer events!!

In Christ,  
Guy and Geni Shields

*Guy and Geni Shields are Village Missions missionaries our church family supports.*



We are excited about this year's Vacation Bible School! We will be using the Voice of the Martyrs "Kids of Courage" curriculum as our emphasis. If you would like to serve in VBS, write VBS on your "In Touch Card" (available at both Sunday services); or, call Linda Hill at 775-513-3142.

VBS begins on July 24th and ends on July 28th. It is open to Pre-K through 8th graders. Pre-registration will begin sometime later this month.

"High Schoolers" are welcome to help out!!

We are asking that all of those desiring to serve in some capacity to let us know by July 9th.





### "SEEK HIS FACE"

Sharon Ankrum

There are certain phrases in God's word that make your heart sing with joy. *"In the midst", "His right hand", "at the appointed time" and "Seek My face"*, are a few of my favorites.

Seek My Face from 2 Chronicles 7:14 is one I'm going to talk about today.

Did your mom ever grab you by the cheeks when you had done something wrong, (usually lying) and say "Look at me, do you understand what I am saying?" When my kids were little I did the same, as teenagers I just said "look at me and look me in the eye. I could tell when they were lying or had done something that I didn't approve. When I had to look at my Mom's mad eyes I knew I was in big trouble and no sense trying to get out of it. It was the hardest thing ever to look her in the eye and admit I was wrong, then I would pray that a licken wasn't coming with the lecture.

This passage is used to bring us to repentance. It says" *(If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.)*

This was written long before Christ came to heal us and it is not clear who wrote the 2 Chronicles, but Ezra, the scribe, is pointed to by most theologians to have written it around 400 or so BC, but *God's word is the same yesterday, today, and forever. (Hebrews 13:8)*





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Now if we look at this passage we see that first it is for God's called people. As Christians we are called "sons and daughters" *1 Corinthians 1:9 says we were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord*. *John 1:12 "But to all that did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become "children of God"*.

Then He says to humble ourselves. Repent children of God and confess those things that are separating you from that relationship with the Lord. *1 John 1:9 says "if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"*. Humility is a hard pill to swallow sometimes because Satan loves it when we stubbornly want our way.. All through the letters of Paul we are reminded of the wickedness that is in the world, (Satan's domain) and how we are to abstain from those things that will keep us away from God. Then we are to pray and ask for forgiveness when we are weak.


Now for the words I love. "SEEK MY FACE". Just as my Mom pinched my face to know her will, God is reminding us to seek His will. *1 John 4:12 says "No one has ever seen God"*, but the scriptures tell of His Grace, Mercy, Justice and Love. We are to walk with Him and obey His will. We do not have to physically see His face to know what he desires of us. There is a portion of a song "THE KING IS COMING" which says The King is Coming, the King, is coming, I can hear the trumpet sounding and now I see His Face." Oh, Glorious Day!!!

This scripture could be used for Salvation to the unsaved too.

Humble yourselves (Admit you are a Sinner)  
Pray (Ask God for forgiveness and Believe He has forgiven you through Jesus who died, was buried and rose on the third day.)  
Seek His Face (Let the New Spirit that now abides within you guide you to know His will)

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Walk (Walk in the Light as a New Creation, the old man died the New Man is born again. ( Micah 6:8 says *"He has told you, O man, what is good and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*

So the next time you feel the pinch on the face, just think of it as a reminder that God is asking you to SEEK HIS FACE. DO HIS WILL, BE OBEDIENT!!!!

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## We the People

In anticipation of the coming celebration of the birth of our country on July 4<sup>th</sup>, I think it is only fitting and proper that I write something about "our country." Even though I love focusing on and dedicate myself to the history of our country, I find I must now focus on the present and future of our country.

It was not a surprise when during "Intercessory Prayer" last Sunday; a prayer was requested for "our country." At this time there indeed seems to be a great need of prayer for our country. There is such turmoil and "mud slinging" going on. This is such a puzzle to me. Have we forgotten this is the **UNITED** States of America? Where is that UNITY? Have we become so self-absorbed that we are now becoming not **united** but polarized?

I have even become aware of this among Christians; and, even among our own church family. Many are not working together for a common goal but gossiping and maligning others who are trying to render service for and to others. Have they forgotten the power of a team to work together for a common goal? Does a farmer get more done with a team of yoked oxen than with a single one?

**Abraham Lincoln said: "A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure; permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved — I do not expect the house to fall — but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing or all the other."**

Well, what "all one thing or all the other" will our nation become? What will we become? We cannot stand if we fight with and among and against one another. There can be no victory where polarity exists. Any business person will tell you that in order to get what you want, there must be some form of negotiation. Negotiation is a form of getting to a win/win solution. And, in order to get to that win, you must understand what it is that the other faction wants. No shouting, name calling or back stabbing will result in "negotiation."

We cannot rely on mass media or social media to enter into solutions that will benefit all of us. We must face up to our problems and our adversaries' problems before we can even begin negotiating. We must understand what they want and what we want; and arrive at a proposal that will satisfy both. We can't act like spoiled children in the "terrible twos" laying on the floor and kicking our heels until we get what we want. We must act like adults and realize that we will never get all we want in life. But, we can get the best out of life through "negotiation."

Where do we start our "negotiation?" I am not that insightful to even begin to define that. I do know that you cannot listen to others when you are talking. You cannot learn what their problem is if you are discussing what your problem is.

It hurts me when I find out about the gossip that is going on behind my back over things that can easily be "negotiated." Will that bring about a win/win solution? What can be gained by this sort of child like behavior?

When we rely on the media to provide us with "truths," we are being lazy. We are failing to use our ability to search for the truth and maintain our adult mentality. If you think the news media's reports are not slanted, you are seriously mistaken.

I remember in the year 1998 when I was taking an English Literature class and learned I was seated next to a news copywriter at one of the local TV stations in Albuquerque. We started talking and I learned he was taking classes to get his teaching credentials. I couldn't believe it. He had my dream job. But, this is basically what he told me which I shorten in the name of brevity.

He said he was tired of trying to write copy to please his political bosses. He said if his boss was one of a certain party, he had to slant his copy to reflect that Copy Editor's opinion. However, if his boss was one of a different party, he had to slant the news to reflect that Copy Editor's opinion. He said he was just tired of "slanting" the news. He just wanted to report the news as it came off the wire and leave it to the listeners to make their own decisions. If you think that is an exception, you are wrong. This happens daily not only on television but on every other source and form of news media.

News sells; and, the more perverted the news the more listeners. Learn to research comments and commentators. Learn to think for yourselves and not resort to thinking like the masses. Their brains are not any better or superior to yours.

***If you think there's something wrong with our government remember what Mr. Lincoln said: "We the people are the rightful masters of both Congress and the courts, not to overthrow the Constitution but to overthrow the men who pervert the Constitution."***

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## Corn Creek (National Wildlife Range), Nevada

### By Bob Jacobs

If you have ever traveled on State Route 95 North of Las Vegas, you probably noticed the "Corn Creek Road" exit sign and wondered what was out there. Here is a short history of that area. Corn Creek Springs was purchased by the U.S. Government to use as a field station for the Desert National Wildlife Range which is part of the national wildlife refuge system. The Desert National Wildlife Refuge was established May 20, 1936, and encompasses 1.5 million acres of the diverse Mojave Desert in southern Nevada. Perpetuating the desert bighorn sheep and its habitat are the most important objective of the range. This is a pastoral area, which was inhabited in the 1700's by Paiute Indian; by Mormon settlers in the 1850'; and, by pioneers and ranchers in the 1900's. It was even a wagon stage stop.

The best time to view wildlife at Corn Creek is during the spring, summer and fall months. Corn Creek Springs contains an auto-tour route, hiking trails, wildlife viewing sites, archaeological sites, and wilderness areas which contain an environment filled with trees, pasture and spring-fed ponds. The area attracts a large number of migrating birds not common to arid environments. The ponds are home to the endangered Pahrump pool fish which were transplanted in Corn Creek in 1971 when their native habitat at Pahrump Valley's Manse Springs was destroyed.

After looking through the exhibits in the Visitors Center, set out on one of the five trails, three of which are ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessible. Five short trails provide access for bird watching or just enjoying nature; they are the Coyote Trail, Bighorn Trail, Wandering Ben Trail, Birdsong Trail and Roadrunner Trail. These are really nice and easy meandering trails which take you over and along the creek; several ponds; some historic ranch buildings; and, under shady trees. For more information, an 11,000 square foot Visitors Center at Corn Creek houses interpretive exhibits, a gift shop, bookstore, classrooms and administrative offices. Detailed topographic maps of the refuge are available to buy at the Visitors Center.

To get there coming from Las Vegas, take highway 95 North past the Snow Mountain exit and at mile marker 101 turn right on Corn Creek Road. Continue down the paved road 4 miles to the Visitors Center.

Coming from the north, take highway 95 south to marker 101 (see map on the following page) and, turn left on Corn Creek Road. Continue down the paved road four miles to the Visitors Center.

NOTE: at the time of this writing the hours of operation are as follows: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday they are closed, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday - 8 AM to 4:30PM. For current information call them at (702) 879-6110.

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**Cement Pond behind Visitors Center**



**Prison Ministry  
June 2017**

This June we broke a record! We had a high of 117 degrees on one of the Sundays we traveled to Jail.

It will be our great joy to never break that record again. However, we are doubly pleased to share that we were blessed with air conditioning to gentle down our day. In taking good care of the prisoners, the administration also takes good care of us. We are pleased and grateful for the good care and protection we receive during our time of ministry.

Another great blessing in Jail during services in the month of June was the baptism of two women and two men prisoners. When we receive requests for baptism, the officers are willing to supply us with some water for the service. Each individual receiving baptism confirms that (1) they believe in God the Father, (2) that they believe that Jesus Christ died to pay for their sins, and (3) that the Holy Spirit is now a part of their new lives.

Whenever we receive these requests, we baptize during the present service, because we are never sure we will see that individual again due to Court proceedings which may change their location.

In two of our services, two team members were absent due to health issues. At Boot Camp, it was Ron due to dental surgery; and, at Inspirations it was Jon due to having abdominal surgery. Ron is back again, but Jon's recovery will take a bit longer. Please pray for our Team Members, especially these two recent health issues. Any time part of our Team is missing, they are greatly missed.

One night at Boot Camp we were surprised to find the attendance at our service cut almost in half. As time went on that night we learned that there was an emergency at the main prison and the Boot Camp Trainees were needed to man the kitchen, do the cooking and other duties. Whatever the problem, it was resolved and they were back in our service next week. It is reassuring to know that the training the men receive in the camp builds their ability to respond to emergencies. They are receiving good skills to carry home with them after they have completed their limited sentences. The trainees are also very helpful for us in our ministry. On the day Ron was not able to come, several of them filled in with leading the singing and other activities he usually handles, and each Monday night when we arrive at the prison, they are allowed to come to our car and help us bring in and bring out the equipment we bring, such as musical instruments, amplifier, books, etc.

As far as Jon being missed at Inspirations, we still miss him and will be happy when he is well enough to return. We are also missing one of the residents at Inspiration, who plays the violin. She has joined our "little orchestra" to accompany the singing. Her name is Dorothy, and we have been told that she is currently recovering from a heart attack. Please keep Dorothy and Jon in your prayers for an early recovery. We also ask for your prayers for our whole Team and thank you for your support.

God bless you,  
Irene Hunt, Chaplain

**STATISTICS FOR JUNE  
MATERIALS GIVEN**

**Total Services—24  
Total Attendance— 274  
Total Team Hours — 96  
Ministry Miles— 520**

**Bibles—11    Daily Bread—30  
Books—20    Writing Materials—61**