



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Jim Brannon

Once upon a time there was a man who worried so much he was on the verge of a nervous breakdown. Life was becoming more and more unreal to him. He began to imagine that he was other than human. He decided to see a psychiatrist.

"What's your problem?" the psychiatrist asked.

"Actually I've got two problems," the man replied. "My first problem is that I think I'm a soft drink vending machine. I can dispense six different kinds of soda for fifty cents each: orange, grape, lime cherry, root beer and cola."

The doctor pondered the man's claim for a while and then decided on a course of action. He put two quarters in the man's mouth and said, "I'll have an orange soda, please."

Whereupon, the man answered, "That's my second problem. I'm out of order!"

Most of us are not that "far gone", but there are times when we are a bit nervous and perplexed. Times when we want to trade our feelings for other feelings. Times we simply don't feel the way we want to feel. Our emotions begin to send us messages we don't like. How do we get off the emotional roller coaster and get control of our feelings?

You can exit your emotional roller coaster when you realize that your feelings must be judged by two criteria: truth and fact. If your feelings can't be judged valid by these two criteria, then move to the second action. Begin to make your decisions, and base your actions on truth and fact. Emotions follow actions! When you start acting the way you want to feel, you will begin to feel the way you want to feel.

Example: Ever feel that God has forgotten about you or left you on your own?

FACT: Isaiah 49:15-16 says, "***Can a woman forget her nursing child and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; your walls are continually before me.***"

Start acting on the basis of truth and fact! God has not misplaced you and He is as near as the breath you breathe. The truth can transform your feelings! ACT on it!!



MEN'S MINISTRY

Cris Alexander

Without a doubt, our cultural values are eroding rapidly. The morals and standards that were "gospel" in the "Mayberry days" when I was growing up are all but gone today, considered quaint and old-fashioned. And because those values were, for the most part, biblically based, the Scriptures are also considered quaint, old-fashioned and narrow-minded. Our "enlightened" culture is now able to see beyond those old holdovers and tolerate other belief systems. After all, that freedom is what America is all about, right?

More than ever, Christians are "strangers and aliens" in this world. We have been marginalized and labeled as intolerant, narrow-minded bigots. And it would seem that we have to go along to get along in this world. But that's not what we're called to do. We are called to have clean hands and pure hearts, and we can't do that if we play in the pigsty that our culture has become.

So what are we to do? How can Christian men be what we are called to be, remaining unsullied and blameless while functioning in our enlightened culture? We'll talk about that and more at the next RBC Men's Group breakfast and Bible study on Saturday, February 18. Be there at 7:30 for breakfast – we'll feed your body and your spirit. See you there!



INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Jeanne Fruh

"Personally, I have been stirred to pray as I have observed and felt the difference between praying men and men who do not pray. There is a sharp difference in the quality of life and spiritual tone that comes from the man who prays. That same difference is manifest among the churches regardless of their size. I once spent several days preaching in a church of fifty eight hundred resident members. Some say a church gets too big to be spiritual, but that church throbbed with the sense of God's presence."

Quote taken from "Always in Prayer" by E.F. Hallock



YOUTH NOTES

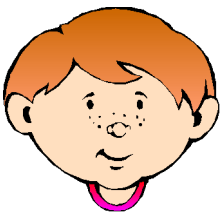
Radu Pasca

There were once two men who wanted to love their neighbor the proper way. One of them, although sincere about this business, allowed his heart to guide him. "I will relate to my neighbor as my emotions will tell me", he thought to himself. It was all well until one day when this man's neighbor transgressed greatly against him. Offended and very angry, the man took his neighbor to the judge immediately.

The other man chose to use his head and test his feelings so that his love for his neighbor was sincere and intelligent, not just sentimental gush. Sure enough, this man's neighbor sinned greatly against him, as well. His emotions were telling him to act like the first man and take his neighbor to the court. However, after testing his feelings against the truth revealed in the Scripture, he chose to forgive his neighbor. More, he invited his offender to dinner and treated his as if he was a celebrity.

Which of these two men loved his neighbor appropriately?

Love never gives up.
Love cares more for others than for self.
Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.
Love doesn't strut,
Doesn't have a swelled head,
Doesn't force itself on others,
Isn't always "me first,"
Doesn't fly off the handle,
Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,
Doesn't revel when others grovel,
Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,
Puts up with anything,
Trusts God always,
Always looks for the best,
Never looks back,
But keeps going to the end.
(1 Corinthians 13: 4-7; The Message)



KIDSTUFF

Kathy Sanders

Tis the season for hearts, flowers, chocolate (hey, I'm in!) and all of the lovely stuff that goes with Valen-



tine's Day. As you make your Valentine goodies and plan your parties, remind your kids that we have the opportunity to share God's love every day of the year, not just Feb. 14. Loving the unlovely, sharing a smile with the new kid in class, showing consideration for a sibling - the best Valentine a mom or dad could imagine! I know that I can speak for those involved in children's ministry at Redeemer when I say that the love we receive from your little ones is a valentine that lasts year round for us.

Those preparing for our children's Easter program are going to be hard at work learning their parts and songs. Parents - lets do our part by making sure the kids make all of the practices and rehearsals. We're all looking forward to Palm Sunday and their presentation!

Believe it or not, we'll soon be picking out Vacation Bible School material, recruiting volunteers and planning work sessions. It may seem terribly early, but I know that a lot of you have to commit to vacation time and trip plans soon. Please keep June 18-22 clear on your calendar. We'll need everyone's help to make it a special week in the life of our church.



"Wow! Is it February already? Where did January go? Time sure is "racing" along. Speaking of racing, did you happen to see the First Annual Awana Grand Prix on Saturday, January 28th? We had a

great time. For those of you that missed it, you really missed a great event! The Awana Grand Prix is a "pinewood derby" type of event that Awana has been doing for many years. It was created as an outreach primarily to dads but also to other family members that are unsaved and may not normally go to church. It was our first one here at Redeemer. It will be an annual event for years to come. The kids and adults had a great time. We heard a Gospel presentation and enjoyed some fellowship with coffee and cookies! Look for the race results on the bulletin board next to the sanctuary! Our club has begun something else new this year. A newsletter custom made for each of the three clubs. It will be issued monthly. You can pick up your copy of the newsletter at the secretaries table on Wednesday night. The Cubbies newsletter is called "Parents Pause". The Sparks newsletter is called "Sparkles". and the Truth and Training newsletter is called "Kidspeak". We hope that it is a helpful resource for you. Please pay special attention to the last page of each issue. It will have information about up coming events and other information as well.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Julie Zgorzynski

Food Closet foods for February are tomato sauces and canned fruits.

Redeemer Baptist Church

18800 E. Iliff Ave.

Aurora, CO 80013

Redeemer Reflections

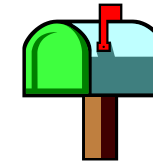
A Newsletter of Redeemer Baptist Church

18800 E. Iliff Ave. Aurora, CO 80013

(303) 369-0763 www.rbcaurora.org

February 2012

TO OUR OUT-OF-TOWN FRIENDS



In preparing to write this update for you "out-of-towners", I always look back over the past month's calendar to review what happened during the month. Eight days had appointments for service calls related to our heating/AC system and the fire alarm system. We had major problems with getting heat to a large portion of our building. It turns out that the problem was not with the HVAC but with the fire/smoke dampers. We have 20 smoke dampers in our system and 10 of them were faulty. So, after all that time and just over \$5,000, we have a warm, toasty facility once again.

As I sometime fret over "stuff" like this, it is only as I see it in the rearview mirror of perception that I realize how easy it is to fix machines...that the angst and bother about it doesn't begin to compare with the brokenness of hearts and lives. Oh that we could have a preventive maintenance contract to take care of such things. Or that they could be easily soothed with a bit of \$\$\$.

Kind of puts things in clearer perspective, don't you know!

Looking ahead to February we have youth and adult valentine banquets planned and a new member class for 10-12 folks who want to join our fellowship. The youth will have their ski retreat and I will have a dental appointment for my six month check-up and abuse (cleaning).

We ended our financial year with just over \$1,000 more than our expenses. The economic realities of our country has had an impact on many of our folks; but we rejoice that God has provided everything that we needed and a little more! I hope you and yours can say the same.

We have had little by way of winter weather. The snow has been sparse and the temps very mild. Hope the critters don't get confused and wake up too soon!

See you next month!