



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Jim Brannon

On Dec. 19, 1999, Rep. Dick Gephardt, Democrat from Missouri, delivered a speech. When he finished, he stood in a thunderous ovation for several minutes. The television commentators spoke about the speech's eloquence and power. The background and occasion for the speech was the impeachment proceedings of Bill Clinton; and of Bill Livingston, who was set to become the Speaker of the House, but who announced that he would not seek to be Speaker of the House due to his own adulterous infidelities. Rep. Gephardt declared in that speech: ***"We need to stop destroying imperfect people at the altar of unattainable morality!"***

For all the passion and eloquence of the speech, I wonder if anybody paid any attention to what he said. Because what he said was that telling the truth, taking a solemn oath and abiding by it, is now unattainable morality! What he said was that being faithful to one's spouse is now unattainable morality! Bill Clinton lied under oath. Bill Livingston cheated on his wife. They were both Democrats under pressure and Dick Gephardt was their political party's defender. His defense was an impossible standard of morality.

Indeed the ubiquity (repetitiveness) of adultery in our society is legendary. Bill Clinton had several. Newt Gingrich had an affair while he was trying to impeach Bill Clinton for his. John McCain cheated on his wife, who stood by him. Tom Delay was involved in an adulterous affair. John Kennedy cheated on Jackie and Martin Luther King cheated on Coretta Scott King. Franklin Roosevelt cheated on Eleanor and Warren Harding cheated on Florence King Harding. John Edwards had a "love child" and so did Arnold "what's his name". And on and on it goes. Indeed, it seems that it would be easier to compile a list of high profile politicians who "haven't" been sexually immoral.

Clearly, according to people in high places, being faithful to one's spouse is a morality that is unattainable. So why is such behavior so newsworthy? To fall short of something that is by definition unattainable is hardly worthy of note. It seems to me that there still remains a Christian sense of right and wrong and even though many people cheat on their spouse they know it is wrong, and far from being unattainable.

"Truth forever on the scaffold. Wrong forever on the throne. Yet the scaffold sways the future, and, behind the dim unknown, standeth God within the shadow, keeping watch above his own."



MEN'S MINISTRY

Cris Alexander

Life is full of choices. Every day we are presented with options, choices that we must make. While some are inconsequential, many choices have at least the potential to be life changing. Make a wrong turn and you could end up in a very bad neighborhood.

I've long wondered about some of the characters in the Bible that made wrong choices. Lot's choice of the well watered plain around Sodom is perhaps the best example. How might Lot's life and lineage have been different had he chosen otherwise? Certainly King Saul made a bad choice when he opted to offer the sacrifice himself instead of waiting on Samuel as instructed. It seemed like after that point, he couldn't make a right choice anymore. Some of his choices affected the nation of Israel for hundreds of years after. And how might things have turned out differently for the tribes of Ruben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh had they chosen to take their inheritance in the land God had promised? By choosing as they did, at the very least they settled for less than God's best.

As the spiritual leaders in our families, it's up to us, Christian men, to make right, biblically based decisions. As such, we are responsible for the outcome and any fallout that results. Soberly consider that as you weigh your options in each and every matter. The choices you make today may have long-term benefits or consequences.

The RBC Men's Group is taking the summer off. Get out there and do something fun with your family and friends. We'll



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Julie Zgorzynski

Julie is on vacation. We will hear from her next month!!



YOUTH NOTES

Radu Pasca

It's the end of the school year! Students of all ages rejoice. They all cheer and jump for joy! No more homework, finals or papers. They all look forward to enjoying the free time of summer break.

However, after about two weeks of rest, most students get bored and tired of doing nothing. This is when the critical time of summer break begins. What will happen until school begins again?

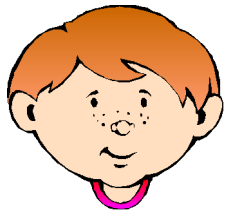
It is a fact that idleness and laziness can be fatal. They usually cause teenagers to do things they would never do during school when their minds are occupied.

This summer many teenagers will lose their lives in the name of "having fun". Others will end up in jail while some will be in the hospital at detox.

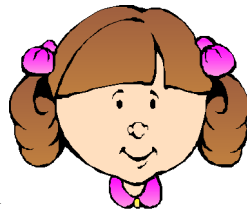
What will you do with this summer break? How will you use it? Over the years I've seen teenagers that go into summer break one way and come back totally different. For some it was a good change while for others not so good.

If you allow me I would like to challenge us all to keep our minds engaged in the Bible. Whatever you may do, don't forget to use common sense. Above all else, make sure that whatever you do, do it for the glory of God.

One more thing... summer nights are great time to see the stars in the sky. Let this summer be a time when you too will shine like a star among those who do not know Jesus the Christ. "Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky". (Phil 2:14-15)



KIDSTUFF **Kathy Sanders**



Children's ministry at Redeemer can pretty much

be summed up in 3 words these days - Vacation Bible School! The theme for this year's VBS is SonSurf Beach Bash - so put on your board shorts and flip flops to join your fellow beach bums as we craft, play, snack, sing, explore and learn God's Word! Monday - Friday, 9 AM - 12 Noon, June 27 - July 1. We will have registration cards available in June and would appreciate your pre-registering Redeemer kids and their friends ahead of time (would make Monday morning a lot easier for all of us!) Kids eligible for our school are four year olds through those entering 5th grade. I hope you'll make this a priority in your summer schedule. Would also appreciate your prayers for our leadership as we prepare and that everyone would stay healthy!

Many thanks to all of the dedicated AWANA leaders for a great year! Our children have learned so much and I hear nothing but praise for Redeemer's club. You all are the best!

Our baby population is expanding, so we are looking for some extra workers to help in the nursery during AM worship. You must be at least 18 and be willing for us to run a back ground check (nothing financial - only criminal search). Please contact Marla DeZern if you'd like to be added to the schedule and enjoy some quality rockin' time with our littlest ones.



INTERCESSORY PRAYER **Jeanne Fruh**

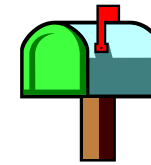
“The reason many of us leave off praying and become hard towards God is because we have only a sentimental interest in prayer. It sounds right to say that we pray; we read books on prayer which tell us that prayer is beneficial; that our minds are quieted and our souls uplifted when we pray. But Isaiah implies that God is amazed at such thoughts of prayer. Worship and intercession must go together. The one is impossible without the other. Intercession means that we rouse ourselves up to get the mind of Christ about the one for whom we pray.” (Quote taken from *“My Utmost for His Highest”* by Oswald Chambers.)

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Redeemer Reflections

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This past month has been one for the record books as far as weather happenings, nationwide! Our state has been blessed in comparison to many parts of the country. We began May in drought conditions, but ended the month with record rainfall, and it has been unseasonably cool. For the moment, drought concerns have been replaced by flooding issues that will result from melting of the above normal snowfall in the mountains. Our insurance policies characterize all of the bad weather issues as “acts of God”. Floods, tornadoes, hail, earthquakes and hurricanes are “God’s doing”, and we don’t like any of it. Interesting how we are quick to give God credit for the “bad stuff” and never give Him much thought for the sunshine, blue skies, and gentle breeze we so enjoy at the beach or on the mountain hike.

We are preparing for a very busy month of special activities and ministry opportunities. Our youth are headed to Glorieta, New Mexico for “Centrifuge” camp the second week of the month. Then we will plunge into VBS the last week of the month. The summer months mean vacations, which means people are absent from church responsibilities, which means we must have substitutes to fill these vacancies. Always a challenge for us, as well as for your church.

Pray with us as we begin negotiations with our bank for the refinancing of our church loan. Every five years we have to go through this process, since the bank will only give a five year term on commercial loans. Who knows what the interest rate may be and what closing costs will be involved.

Once again I want to jog your memory about sending us your email address so that we can add you to the growing number of people who receive this newsletter electronically. It is an enormous time saver for us; not to mention the savings on postage. If you wish to receive the “hard copy”, that’s okay; but if email is an option. Send your email address to “rbc1994@gmail.com”.