



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Jim Brannon

When Jimmy was nine years old, he was with his Dad when they were stopped for speeding. His Dad managed to talk the officer out of issuing a citation by slipping him a twenty dollar bill. Feeling an explanation was necessary, his Dad said, "It's okay son. Everybody does it."

When Jimmy was twelve, he fell off his bicycle and broke his glasses. His mom told the insurance company that the glasses had been stolen. She collected the replacement money and said to Jimmy, "It's okay son. Everybody does it. That's why we have insurance."

When he was fifteen, Jimmy made the football team. His coach showed him how to block and at the same time grab the opposing players jersey so the official couldn't see it. The coach said, "It's okay guys. Everybody does it."

When he was sixteen, Jimmy got his first job, working in the produce department of a supermarket. One of his first assignments was to put overripe tomatoes in the bottom of the boxes and the good ones on top. The manager told him, "It's alright. Everybody does it."

His first year in college, Jimmy was approached by an upper classman with some test answers. For \$10.00 he could buy a copy of the answers. The sales pitch went something like this, "It's okay man. Everybody does it."

Jimmy was caught cheating on his final exams and sent home in disgrace. "How could you do this to your mother and me?", his Dad asked. His mother was appalled. Jimmy got the same reaction from his football coach and the manager of the supermarket. Ditto for all the people who had had an influence on Jimmy as he was growing up.

If there is anything the adult world can't stand, it is a kid who cheats!

Dads, Moms, coaches, employers, Granddads, Grandmas, Sunday School teachers....consider what your life says to the young people who are watching you. God will hold us accountable for how we bend these "twigs". Their growth, in large measure, will be determined by our influence and example!!



MEN'S MINISTRY

Cris Alexander

Failure, contrary to the optimistic words of Gene Kranz during the Apollo 13 mission, is *always* an option. This is particularly true in our spiritual lives, where failure is the default end unless we take specific and ongoing steps. In the same way that a gyroscope or flywheel will eventually succumb to the physical forces of friction and wind down, our spiritual lives will eventually atrophy and wind down, succumbing to the spiritual forces of this dark world... unless we take action to recharge them, and not only once in awhile but on an ongoing basis.

The Scriptures have a great deal to say about this subject, and we'll take a close look at the key passage during the next RBC Men's Group breakfast and Bible Study on Saturday, March 19. We'll eat breakfast at 7:30 and open the Word at 8:00, having you on your way no later than 9:00. If you are so inclined and skilled, come at 6:30 and help prepare breakfast. See you then!



INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Jeanne Fruh

Prayer also prepares the ground before the seed is scattered on it. The sower scatters the seed, and our tears water it. Prayer is the place where God softens our hard hearts toward difficult people who may be giving the sower a hard time. And our prayers soften their hearts, too. Jeremiah prayed plenty of "I've had it with them" prayer. When he stayed in the presence of God long enough, however, he began to catch the heart of God for these same people and soon he would be weeping for them instead of wanting vengeance. There is little hope nursing a heart of vengeance if you are engaging in a viable prayer ministry. A heart for people is developed on your knees.

(Quote taken from **Faith Enough to Finish**, by Jill Briscoe)



YOUTH NOTES

Radu Pasca

What sets a Christian aside? That is the question we have been trying to answer on Thursday nights with our youth group. So far we have come up with four answers.

First of all a Christian must be known for his love for God and other people whatever their nationality, creed, skin color, or social status might be. (Mark 12:29-31)

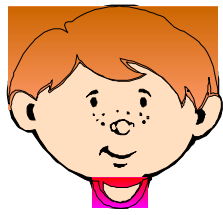
Secondly, we should stand out because of our compassion. Compassion is a fundamental quality of God (Lamentations 3:22). Therefore, Christianity is the religion of compassion.

Honesty is another trait that sets a Christian aside. To be honest means we are truthful, upright and fair in dealing with others. The Bible teaches us to be honest in the business arena (Proverbs 16:11) and in our speech (Prov. 16:13; 24:26).

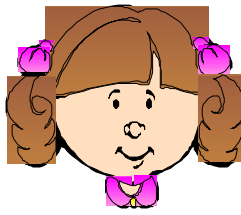
Finally, a Christian stands out because of his purity. To be pure means to be free from anything that contaminates. As the children of God we must be pure because He is pure. Jesus said that it is not what we eat that contaminates us but that which comes from our mouths. In other words, a Christian must be pure in his speech. Ephesians 4:29 says, "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen".

Jesus taught us that what we think is also important. We can very easily sin with our thoughts. Therefore, it is critical that our thoughts are pure.

Above all, a Christian should stand out when it comes to sexual purity. It is very sad, but when it comes to sexual purity there is very little difference between those who claim to be Christians and those who don't. Why is it that God's word is no longer taken seriously among God's people? "God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." (1 Cor.10:13) This verse, as the rest of scripture, is true whether we act like it or not.



KIDSTUFF
Kathy Sanders



THE FIRST ADULT TO MENTION THIS ARTICLE TO ME SUNDAY MORNING WINS A PRIZE! OK - now that I have your attention, I'd like for you to prayerfully consider two issues before our Children's Ministry. I believe that all too often we "skim-read" the newsletters that come to us. However, this is the best way for me to reach the largest number of folks in our congregation, so I'm asking you to give me a bit more of your time.

Our PraiseKIDS program is on permanent hiatus. Our past leaders had to step down because of other obligations, so we currently have no programming for our school aged kids on Sunday evenings. If you would consider leading a music program, let me know. There's also curricula out there for children's discipleship, Bible skills, etc. In addition to being a church member, a commitment to kids, a positive/patient attitude and a willingness to share the love of Jesus are the only qualifications!

This year's VBS is titled Son Surf Beach Bash (say that three times without stuttering!) Despite the tricky title, the program looks to be a lot of fun, mixed in with some good biblical lessons. During the month of March, there will be recruitment flyers in the bulletin Think about where you could help and circle your areas of interest on our form. Our VBS will be June 27 thru July 1 and I'll look forward to working with many of you

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
BEGINS ON
MARCH 13 !!**

**DON'T FORGET TO ADJUST
YOUR CLOCKS !!**



WOMEN'S MINISTRY
Julie Zgorzynski

Our Women's Retreat this year is welcoming ladies of high school age on up. This year we are blessed to have Paula Sweatt as our speaker (Laura Schafer's cousin). She will share stories of various women in the Bible and how the choices they made affected their lives. The retreat will be held Friday, March 11 from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. and continue Saturday, March 12 from 9:00 to 2:00. Lunch will be provided. Please sign up at the table in the lobby or contact Julie Zgorzynski by March 3rd. Sign up in the lobby or contact me, Julie Zgorzynski, by March 3. There is no cost. Child-care is not planned for this event.

"The Child" is a documentary for ALL: parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and those interested in protecting children of the future. It will be shown this Friday, March 4 at 6:30 and Saturday, March 5 at 3:30. Please become informed of our parental rights and what we can do to protect them.

SECOR's food of the month is pasta, any style, remembering the Pasca's anniversary.

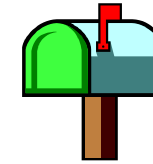
RBC Crafters is March 5 at 9:30 and CardMakers is March 7 at 6:30.

Redeemer Baptist Church
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Redeemer Reflections

A Newsletter of Redeemer Baptist Church
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I have been reading the Facebook posts from many of you "southerners" regarding the four letter word that begins with "s". It seems that you have had occasion to deal with it several times. For some it is an historical, or should I say hysterical, experience. Everybody should have a bit of winter in their life sometime! Forgive me for a bit of laughing at your plight!

Speaking of laughing. You can return the laughter when you hear that Sandy and I visited Phoenix this month to have a break from the snow and cold. Would you believe that everywhere we traveled in Arizona, except Phoenix, that it was snowing. The Painted Desert was white. The Petrified Forest was white. And the snow was so hard that you could not see across Canyon de Chelly. As soon as we got back into Colorado the snow stopped and the roads were clear. Go figure!!

Our weather has run the gamut from below zero to 70 degrees with some snow but not as much as normal. When you live in the west, you will take moisture whenever and however you can get it. Water is a precious resource out here. So if you all down there want to shift some of your moisture to our account, just make your request known to God.

I saw a robin today, so Spring can't be far away. His calendar may be off a bit because I don't see him getting many worms out of our frozen ground for a few weeks.

Please lift some "long distance prayer" our way for our city fathers to do whatever it is they do to approve our playground fence. It's been months since this issue was presented to them and we can't imagine what is taking so long.

Radu Pasca begins his 8th year of ministry with us this month. His responsibilities have expanded from the 20 hours a week, part time work with the youth to full time ministry with youth and young adults. He has married and become a father during his tenure with us. There are few who can match his dedication, love and devotion to the people he serves. His calm, gentle spirit is always on display. His only negative trait is that he always sides with Cheryl Hadeen on every issue that comes up around the office! God bless you Radu. We love you!!