



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Jim Brannon

After a few of the usual Sunday evening hymns, the church's preacher once again slowly stood up, walked over to the pulpit, and gave a very brief introduction of his childhood friend. With that, an elderly man stepped up to the pulpit to speak.

"A father, his son, and a friend of his son were sailing off the Pacific Coast," he began, "when a fast approaching storm blocked any attempt to get back to shore. The waves were so high, that even though the father was an experienced sailor, he could not keep the boat upright, and the three were swept into the ocean."

The old man hesitated for a moment, making eye contact with two teenagers who were, for the first time since the service began, looking somewhat interested in his story. He continued, "Grabbing a rescue line, the father had to make the most excruciating decision of his life...to which boy he would throw the other end of the line. He only had seconds to make the decision. The father knew that his son was a Christian, and he also knew that his son's friend was not. The agony of his decision could not be matched by the torrent of waves. As the father yelled out, 'I love you, son!' he threw the line to his son's friend. By the time he pulled the friend back to the capsized boat, his son had disappeared beyond the raging swells into the black of night. His body was never recovered."

By this time, the two teenagers were sitting straighter in the pew, waiting for the next words to come out of the old man's mouth. "The father," he continued, "knew his son would step into eternity with Jesus, and he could not bear the thought of his son's friend stepping into an eternity without Jesus. Therefore, he sacrificed his son. How great is the love of God that He should do the same for us." With that, the old man turned and sat back down in his chair as silence filled the room.

Within minutes after the service ended, the two teenagers were at the old man's side. "That was a nice story," politely started one of the boys, "but I don't think it was very realistic for a father to give up his son's life in hopes that the other boy would become a Christian."

"Well, you've got a point there," the old man replied, glancing down at his worn Bible. A big smile broadened his narrow face, and he once again looked up at the boys and said, "It sure isn't very realistic, is it? But I'm standing here today to tell you that THAT story gives me a glimpse of what it must have been like for God to give up His Son for me. You see....I was the son's friend."



MEN'S MINISTRY

Cris Alexander

Have you ever had a great idea, a vision even, and started off in pursuit of that idea or vision with great zeal and enthusiasm only to get sidetracked later and have the whole project fall by the wayside? It's happened to me many times, and I know it happens to others, too. There are many examples of this very thing in scripture, and perhaps the most clear word picture we have is from Jesus Himself when He tells the parable of the seed and the sower. The seed that fell among the thorns (the worries and stuff of life) started off strong but were choked off. I can identify with that, and I'm sure you can, too.

Is that the Christian man's lot while he walks this planet, to never really finish anything worthwhile? Will the distractions of life, of work, family and even church activities always get in the way and derail us to some extent? While it may seem like it, that need not be the case. At the next RBC Men's Group meeting on October 15, we'll take a look at some of the many examples in scripture and see what they have to tell us about what we can do to stay on task. Be there at 7:30 AM and come hungry, because we'll feed you. Bring a friend! See you there!



INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Jeanne Fruh

"Brooding hens were both difficult and valuable. A brooding hen would sit for days, even weeks on her eggs, barely moving except for brief respites to eat and drink. Throughout the hen's time of brooding, it looked as if nothing was happening; it looked as if she was being lazy or indeed was asleep, but something important was going on beneath her. Her brooding was breeding; she was incubating new life. Brooding prayer is a little like that. Christian brooding or meditating as we call it, ripens, stabilizes and strengthens our renewed hearts. It is a vital, energizing element in our communion with God. What is it? In essence it is directed thinking, which is a basic Christian discipline for all of our living and especially for our praying." Quote taken from "Praying" by J. I. Packer and Carolyn Nystrom



YOUTH NOTES

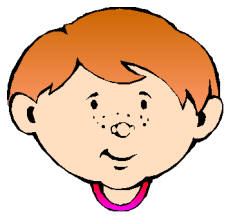
Radu Pasca

"Fun" – the measuring stick for any event or activity. Don't we find ourselves living and asking questions that communicate this definition?

We use the fun factor to promote events, "It will be so much fun!" When we want our peers to know how we feel about something we have been involved in, we use the word "fun" to communicate how successful that event was. Therefore questions such as "Was it fun?" or "Did you have fun?" are used very often in everyday conversation.

Wanting to have fun is alright until we begin to use it as a measuring unit for spiritual activities. Should a Christian avoid participating in a spiritual activity that the Bible clearly commands that he should, simply because that activity may not be perceived as fun? I should say not. A believer should not base his faithfulness and obedience on the fun factor. While many God-honoring activities do allow for fun and enjoyment, we must remember that the Christian life is about becoming more like Christ. This involves discipline and a sober view of our lost world.

And one more thing, let's weigh the fun we may have against the consequences. The Bible says: "You who are young, make the most of your youth. Relish your youthful vigor. Follow the impulses of your heart. If something looks good to you, pursue it. But know also that not just anything goes; You have to answer to God for every last bit of it." Ecclesiastes 11:9 (The Message)



KIDSTUFF
Kathy Sanders



Happy Fall!! Hope your football teams are doing better than mine....

Anyway, we have a very special fall event right around the corner. Redeemer's Fall Festival will be Saturday, Oct. 29 from 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM. It is designed for any child up through 5th grade - and a lot of us "older" children who like to help with this event! There will be games with prizes, cake-walks, balloon animals, photo booth with a make-your-own-frame opportunity, hotdog supper and everyone goes home with a bag full of candy.

This is our Halloween alternative (all of our games are spiritual - I mean, where else can you bowl through the Red Sea?) and it gives the kids an opportunity to wear costumes. Adults - we encourage you to get creative and wear a costume as well. Just, PLEASE, no scary or occultish kind of costumes. We're celebrating fall, harvests and God's blessings in our lives.

We need lots of help. Check in with Laura Schafer if you can help in one of the booths. Or, if that's not your thing, maybe you'd like to bake goodies for the cakewalk? Smaller batches of cookies, brownies, cupcakes, etc. would be most welcome. Again, check in with Laura. Do remember to refrain from using nuts in your baking. We also need bags of wrapped candy - to be deposited in the provided box outside of the auditorium doors.

We'll have flyers for you to share with your friends, neighbors and grandkids. This is a free event - come one, come all!

PS: Check the front bulletin board for the letter from the Romanian maternal care home that we raised money for during VBS. They were so pleased and appreciative with what our kids both here and in Kremmling contributed. Well done, kids!



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Julie Zgorzynski

Women's Ministry is quiet for October BUT we will have plans on November 12 at 9:00 so mark your calendars. We will build Operation Christmas Child and military boxes. Please join us for an exciting and fun time. It is great to see how the Lord is using us to build up boxes for these organizations. What a great witness we are for them..

SECOR's Food of the Month is soup! They really appreciate our help! THANK YOU VERY MUCH for your contributions

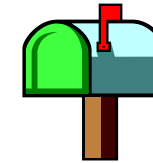
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Redeemer Reflections

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October 2011

TO OUR OUT-OF-TOWN FRIENDS



As of this morning (10/4), we are still waiting to hear from the bank concerning our loan renewal. They say it's just a matter of time before they have the particulars to us....so keep this on your prayer list in our behalf.

Our part of the world is resplendent in fall color! I have often said that God made this world "unnecessarily beautiful" and this season seems to emphasize that fact. Our youth and young adult groups have both made hikes in the last two weeks and they all speak of how beautiful the mountains are.

It sure seems that when you turn the calendar page to October, the view is downhill. It seems that things accelerate from now to the first of the year. So many special events and holidays and December really should have 35-40 days to make room for all the class socials, banquets, special services and miscellaneous activities.

I will be on the road again this month attending my 50th high school reunion. Never been to one of these things but figured this would be one not to miss. Looking forward to connecting with old class mates and finding out "if the most likely to succeed" really did. I have not visited my home town since the death of my parents many years ago. Praying that God will turn the humidity down while we are there!

My canoe /fish trip with Jason was a tremendous time. The weather was beautiful, fishing was excellent and no one fell out of the canoe. Even if I had not caught a single fish, the week was worth it to have the time with my son. It's so "cool" to see him looking out for his dad instead of dad looking out for the son. Already looking forward to doing it again next fall!

The invitation is always open for ya'll to come visit the most beautiful place this side of heaven!