



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Jim Brannon

As you can see from reading Radu's column, the past few weeks have been a difficult time for our church family. Stephenie Zgorzinski was 18 years old and had just begun her freshman year at Colorado Mountain College, studying to become a veterinary technician. She died in an auto crash near the school, October 21.

This young lady had a smile that would light up the metro Denver area. She possessed a zest for life and passion for her Savior. She was a musician, song writer and lover of horses. You would most often see Steph in jeans and a signature "ball cap". She loved the Colorado Rockies and the outdoors. Steph could work her way into any person's heart!

C.S. Lewis said: "God whispers to us in the good times and screams at us in the painful times." How much of our life is spent without much thought of our frailty and the uncertainty of our days? We go about our living as though our need and dependence on God can be taken for granted. And then death visits in a most unforeseen moment. Suddenly our need for God screams in our ears. We may not like to hear what death has to say, but we can't help hearing it. That's why it is a grief experience.

And for all the grief and tears, God has, once again, shown that He never leaves us nor forsakes us. He does work in all things for good. With all of our angry "Whys" He embraces us, holding us with a grip that is failsafe. We hear, and understand more perfectly, what the Apostle Paul meant when he said, "I am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day." We commit our questions and our inability to understand such tragedy to God.

For the 400+ people who attended Stephenie's memorial service, it was a time of celebrating a Savior who brings peace in the midst of the storm. No one can deny the storm of grief; but neither can any of us, who know Jesus, deny the calm and peace that only He gives. That peace was very beautifully evidenced by Steph's parents and her brother. As tragic as it was, her death was the occasion for our being able to see more clearly that our's is a God who is Lord of life and death.



MEN'S MINISTRY

Cris Alexander

Many years ago, I remember going through the Experiencing God program, then taking it on the road and teaching it in places far and wide. One of the principles that I learned and then taught was that of "God-sized tasks." I always thought of those in terms of ministry, someone going to the mission field, planting a church, putting up a new church building or whatever. I didn't really think of those in terms of everyday life or my vocation. In the years since, I have been handed a few "God-sized tasks" that had very little to do with church work, and I have seen God very much at work in these situations, doing what only He can do. My part has been to join Him, remain faithful and stay with it no matter how hopeless a successful outcome may seem. In every instance, He has come through.

My guess is that I'm not the only one who occasionally faces seemingly impossible tasks in the course of his work or home life. We'll talk about this and more at the next RBC Men's Group breakfast and Bible study on Saturday, November 19. Join us at 7:30 for a good breakfast, and then we'll open the Word to see what the Lord has to say to us. See you there!



INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Jeanne Fruh

"Lord Jesus, you are my shield of faith. My self nature has been crucified with you, and the life I now live, I live by faith in you. I will resist the devil by being firm in the faith. Thank you for being a shield unto me. I put my trust in You, choosing to walk by faith, not by sight or circumstances. I will speak words of faith and I will ask in faith without doubting. Your Word is your power. Thank you, Father, that you are alert and active, watching over your Word to perform it.

(Quote taken from *Becoming a Prayer Warrior* by Elizabeth Alves.)



YOUTH NOTES

Radu Pasca

Most teenagers think they are bullet proof. Yes, they hear about other teens getting in trouble with the law, getting pregnant, or even dying. However, they think it will never happen to them.

Last month we had a sober reminder that life is fragile. Unfortunately death does not care about how young, healthy, smart, or popular we are.

With heavy hearts and many tears we had to say "so long" to one of our dear teenagers. Stephenie's death cased us all to think about the meaning of life. It is so hard to believe that she is with Jesus. Too young, some may say. Indeed too young...

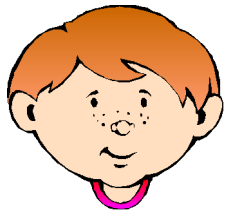
In our grieving we face the giant "WHY?" only to realize that we can't make sense of the death of a good, beautiful, and Christ worshipping teenager.

Over the past few weeks I have thought about all those times I stood in front of our youth group and urged them to take God seriously and come to Him for the forgiveness of sins NOW, since we don't know if we would be alive tomorrow. That message is all the more poignant to me now in light of the events of the past two weeks.

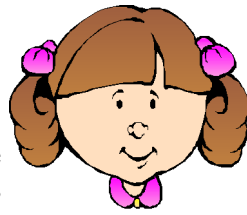
Stephenie's unexpected death sends a powerful message to all of us. Get right with God - accept Jesus as your savior - NOW - because tomorrow is not guaranteed.

In the midst of grieving, I am thankful that Steph knew Jesus as her Savior and that for a little while we had the opportunity to worship our Creator together.

So long Steph! You will be greatly missed.



KIDSTUFF **Kathy Sanders**



A big shout-out to everyone who participated in this year's Fall Festival! Many

thanks to all of the folks who helped with set up, running the booths, baking goodies and clean up - the evening went very smoothly. I was sorting supplies into bins for storage, looked around, and the auditorium had already been cleaned and set up for Sunday. What a great church family! We had a good turnout - including several of our neighbors from the area. Every child left with not only a bucket full of candy and prizes but a tract explaining the plan of salvation in kid-friendly terms.

Speaking of thankfulness, this is one of my favorite times of the year - Thanksgiving. A lovely holiday that involves no presents but rather a time to gather with those we love to share a meal and fellowship. Share with your children about how our forefathers came here seeking religious freedom and how they gave thanks to God for their very survival. We are blessed in so many ways - how much more should we be grateful to God!

A date to circle on your calendar: Saturday, Dec. 10. We will be celebrating our annual Birthday Party for Jesus and your children and their friends are all invited!

AWANA NOTES



If you have been here on Wednesday night in the past few weeks, then you've no doubt experienced the wonderful sight and sounds of kids! These kids have been coming faithfully each Wednesday. They are reaching out to their friends and they have been working hard in their handbooks, hiding God's word in their hearts. It has been wonderful seeing them happy and having fun as well. I want to thank all the leaders and helpers who come faithfully each week and present lessons, help with games and assist the kids in their groups as they work on their handbooks. Cheryl and I are so greatfull for each one of them. We appreciate all that they do. Just this past Friday and Saturday I was able to attend the 1st level of Awana Commanders College, something that I had been wanting to do for several years. It was a tremendous learning opportunity and chance to bond and network with other local Awana commanders. Pray for me as I continue to process all of the information gained so that it will further benefit not only myself, but the leaders, the children and the families that we minister to.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY **Julie Zgorzynski**

Julie's column will return next month.

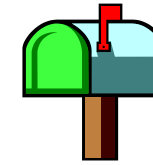
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Redeemer Reflections

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TO OUR OUT-OF-TOWN FRIENDS



In spite of the tragic experience of Stephenie's death, our church family stuck by our plans for the children's Fall Festival...the day after her funeral.

I think Steph would have been pleased to see so many first time kids attending from the neighborhood. The building was covered up with ninjas, princesses, chickens, eggs, pirates, tinkerbells, Raggedy Ann and one distinguished "Colonial Lady" who was variously identified as Martha Washington. Mother Hubbard, Grandma Moses and a few others I can't remember. It was a great night! Thank you Kathy Sanders and team for a job very well done!

Looking into this month we have our church family Thanksgiving Feast, the Turkey Bowl and a Family Talk Time to discuss next year's budget. Very early in December we'll have our annual Missions Banquet.

We finally closed the loan on our building financing with a 5.60% interest. Five year term with a 15 year amortization. Glad to have that behind us. Next time around perhaps we can get the bank to go for a 10 year term, meaning we will only have to go through this process one more time before the loan is paid.

The loan renegotiation process has caused me, once again, to reflect on how faithful God has been in providing our financial needs. He has used many of you out of town friends in that provision; and I/we are so very thankful for you. It is truly amazing that some of you would contribute to a church fellowship that you will never visit, see or have the chance to meet. Redeemer is a very special church and you help complete our fellowship. Paul said it very well: "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now." (Philippians 1:3-5)