

Faith Story - Dave Graves



What, me worry?

If you're old enough to remember "Mad" magazine, you will recall Alfred "What, Me Worry?" Neuman. He was the magazine's know-nothing icon and his philosophy toward pending disasters was "What, me worry?"

Opposite of Neuman is the statistic that 86 percent of adults consider themselves to be worriers. One survey found that the average adult worries 110 minutes — nearly two hours — per day. This despite other statistics that show that 85 to 90 percent of the things we worry about never happen.

So what does the Bible say about this? "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." Matthew 6:34.

Yes, bad things do happen and this verse

doesn't negate the value of planning nor should we expect God to rescue us from our stupidity. But I have generally found that things usually work out. We all want to know how an uncertain situation will play itself out. So I have found "things usually work out" to be a comfort for me.

In my 59 years, I have found this truism to be accurate. And, no, that's not just a lazy imitation of Alfred Neuman.

Isaiah 26:3 teaches "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you." Finding comfort in

Continued on page 2...

Robertson's Ramblings— Thankful

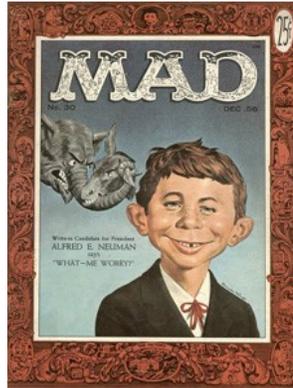
Thankful is the most appropriate word that comes to mind for me when I think about the time 15 of us from Bethel spent in Haiti. Thankful to God for all that He did. Thankful to God for providing smooth travel, safety,

and health while we were in Haiti. Thankful to God for the fruitful ministry he allowed us to have with kids and adults alike. God used us to provide encouragement for the church and for those we came in

contact with. God provided us with many opportunities to plant Gospel seeds that we are now praying that God will cause to grow. God also provided us many opportunities to pray for our brothers and sisters in

Continued on page 3...

Faith Story (continued from page 1)



“things usually work out” is finding comfort in him who asks us to cast our burdens on him. There is no scripture that says “Worry continually. Worry in all circumstances because this is God’s

will for you.”

Not worrying isn’t an insurance policy to ward off misfortune. But as we continue to do what is right, we increase the odds that “things will work out.”

As Pastor Robertson taught us in the introduction to Proverbs: right thinking produces right living.

Ministry Highlight—Nursery & Children’s Church

Nursery-

The nursery at Bethel is where 0-3 year olds can be dropped off and loved on during the 10:30am church service every Sunday morning it is staffed with 3 volunteer workers who provide a safe and caring environment for children while their parents enjoy worship just across the hall. The nursery is stocked with a multitude of age appropriate toys to play with and books to enjoy. There is also a CD player where Seeds Family Worship and other Scripture based music is often played. A snack of goldfish or ani-

mal crackers is usually provided about mid-way through the service to keep little tummies full and happy. Last summer the nursery received a new bright paint job and Noah’s Ark wall decal and verse to spruce things up. Looking ahead, fun-colored curtains will be added to the windows. Also, a volunteer will be designated to check all children in and out of the nursery so that we are doing all we can to ensure the safety of the precious lives entrusted to our care. Jesus had an incredible love for children and we consider it a privilege and joy to care for the youngest attendees at

Bethel. If you feel that this could be a calling in your life to help in the nursery, please contact the church office.

Children’s Church-

Have you ever wondered what the kids are going off to do, when we dismiss them during the worship service each Sunday? While the younger children may spend the sermon time in the nursery, we have a special lesson time available for preschool kids ages 3-6 years old.

We use the Hands

Continued on page 5...

Elder Report



EXALTING • EQUIPPING • EVANGELIZING

In the March newsletter this

column focused on **partnership** based on the Apostle Paul's commendation of the Philippians as partners together in the ministry for the Gospel. My comments anticipated the spring and summer seasons of ministry at Bethel with Easter outreach, Haiti missions, camps, search team, VBS, camps and other summer ministries.

We are now seeing the fruit of these **partnerships**. VBS is in full swing with energetic praise songs filling the

sanctuary each evening. The Haiti team fulfilled a demanding schedule and ministered in love and courage. The search team saw amazing unity and God's direction so that as a result we are on the exciting threshold of adding an associate pastor. Fourteen individuals attended a membership class in May. God has blessed us with growing finances. Prayer emphasis is growing in our church. And Ministry Team Leaders come together on the evening of June 26th to coordinate current and future ministry. God is blessing **partnership in the Gospel**.

Paul also prayed that the Philippians' "love would **abound** more and more, with knowledge and all discernment." **Abound** is not a word we use very often, but it is related to **abundant**, which is what we as believers experience from our Heavenly Father.

Paul's prayer for **abounding** is also the prayer we have for the Bethel family, that we bring glory to God by an **abounding** love for one another and courageous service to others that brings honor to the Lord. Look for the opportunities to love and serve in this next season of family life

as a church.

Need some hints about what these might be? Here are a few: welcoming the new associate pastor and family, welcoming new members and visitors, serving alongside each other in fall ministry, learning together in classes, participating in a life group and mentoring other believers in the faith.

At Bethel, may God's love **abound** and bring honor to our Heavenly Father.

For the elders, Bob Burke

Robertson's Ramblings (continued from page 1)

Christ while we were in Haiti. Thankful to God for the beginning of what we are asking God would be a partnership for many years to come.

Thankful to the Haiti mission team! Thankful for their hard work, their Christ-like attitudes (they never complained even though there were many opportunities to do so) their unity with one-another, their being fully engaged with the local Haitians throughout the week, and simply for

being a blast to be around for a week! Also, deeply thankful for the ways many stepped out of their comfort zones (some WAY out) and trusted God to provide for them! It was a joy to see them grow.

Thankful to the Bethel family who partnered with the team in sending us to Haiti. Thank you for your prayers as they were needed and felt. Thank you for your encouragement. Thank you for your financial generosity. Thank you for the

encouraging letters that God used to help us through the hard times. Thankful for all who stayed here who helped carry out the tasks that those of us who were gone typically do. Thank you for truly making this an all church mission trip to Haiti.

Thankful for our partner church in Haiti! Thankful for their love, their kindness, their hard work, their service to us (the cooks literally cooked all day long under a tarp

outside), their hospitality, and their friendship. Thankful for all they taught us about life and faith in Jesus Christ. What they taught us about endurance, perseverance, patience. Thankful for their desire to see those in their community be changed by the good news of Jesus Christ.

Thankful to God and praising Him for what He has done and trusting in Him for what He will do in the future.

Faith and Work— Nacasius Ujah

Tell us about the work you do.

I am an assistant professor of corporate finance here at SDSU. Broadly speaking finance hovers in the choices we (humans) make. It goes beyond satisfaction, it goes beyond allocating resources, it goes beyond reconciling our choices, it goes beyond the continual promotion of ourselves. Rather, it is the harmonization of the above, and finding the right perspective, provided no harm is made to the environment, the community, and the associates of the organization. In a nutshell, finance is beyond maximizing shareholders value. My primary responsibilities here at SDSU are as follows: research, service, and teaching. Finance is dynamic, more than ever, given the openness of market, resource allocation, and human nature, finance is continually ever changing. In teaching, my role is to serve as moderator/agent to spark curiosity, to disseminate knowledge, and to evaluate the tools in the discipline. Beside teaching, my other responsibilities include research and services to the discipline, department, school, university, and community. In research, I have addressed and still ongoing,

some of the causes of divergent views between agents (managers – also included here is workforce) and owners of the business. For instance, why does political connection matter? Is politically connectedness harmful? How does specific clauses in an executive compensation affect his/her drive for risk? Are risk taking always advantageous to companies? Does location matter? Etc.

What are some of the issues you face in your work?

In teaching, the obvious challenge will be the need to continually challenge our students to learn. A drawback I see in learning is that students overly rely on their technological tools, rather than, it is okay to not know, and by asking, I will learn. Hence, missing out on the scope and dimensions of learning. Learning is not getting an 'A', learning is being able to apply the tools, being able to evaluate, being able to observe and make concise/objective conclusions.

Does your faith make a difference to how

you deal with these issues?

As a Christian, our foundations in Christ is that we be a light to the world. In this, as His disciplines, we know that every place we find ourselves, we must live out our lives for His glory and His way. Thus, as an academic, I am blessed with the obvious location in living out my faith before the students, peers, and the community. For instance, in teaching, I must make sure that my gradings are not subjective rather objective. In teaching, I must remind the students on ethics and the ethos of the discipline. In research, my quantitative analyses must not be tainted by obvious errors and the adjustments/manipulations of results to suit my arguments. My service must be commendable in all aspects, in all glorying our Father for His providence and guidance as I live my life for His glory and His way.

How would you like us to pray for you and your ministry in the workplace?

Pray that I continually live for Him. I have tasted His goodness and I do not want to depart from His goodness.

Using Shoeboxes to Perform Miracles

By **Nicole Sheldon**

Operation Christmas Child
Upper Midwest director –
Minneapolis

I just returned home last week from a Vision trip to Rwanda, Africa. I've got a sweet story to share with you from our first outreach event in Kigali, the capital.

A mom came up to me and told me that her daughter

had gotten a sewing kit in her shoebox. The mother is a seamstress. She thanked us for the wonderful gift. Her daughter was beaming.

It was an answer to prayer for that mom—through her daughter's box! It was a great reminder to me that God knows the child who is going to receive our gift, and He knows the needs, the prayers and the hopes

that the child and family have. Don't forget to PRAY as you pack your boxes.

Pray that God would direct you to WHAT you should put in your box and pray that God would bring that box to the person WHO it will impact the most!

2017 National Collection Week: Nov. 13-20



Ministry Highlight (continued from page 2)

-On Bible Curriculum to teach a lesson from the Bible each week. These lessons employ a mixture of active projects and interactive teaching to convey their message, especially focusing on one "Bible point" each week. Kids have been learning about the prophet Samuel this spring.

Our goal is to give these kids an opportunity to learn about God in a more active and interactive environment than the preaching service. This is not an easy task! While the age range may seem small, certain skills like sitting still and answering questions are much more

developed in a 6-year-old than in a 3-year-old, so it's tricky to teach all these ages at once.

Multiple adults, including college students, take turns teaching and helping in this classroom. Each person serves about once a month and, of course, having more volunteers would allow us to stretch that out even further. The teachers prepare the lesson each time; helpers are asked to simply come during class time without any prep work beforehand.

This preschool class has grown substantially over the past

months, as God has brought more families with children to Bethel. A few months ago it was serving five to 10 children each week; now it typically serves 12-18 children per week and even more sometimes. Please pray that God will work through this time to bring our kids to know Him, and that teachers would have wisdom leading the class and communicating truth with the kids.



EXALTING · EQUIPPING · EVANGELIZING

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Exalting His Name...
Equipping His People...
Evangelizing His World...

Upcoming Events

7/21 Men's Night Out

7/30 Quarterly Business Meeting

9/10 Fall Kickoff

Missions Focus - Paul and Aimee Petersen



This month we are spotlighting Paul and Aimee Petersen, missionaries with Navigators, who are assigned as Staff in Training to CU in Boulder, Colorado. Aimee grew up here at Bethel Baptist and has a special place in our hearts. Paul and Aimee reflect the hearts of her parents, Howard and the late Jo Woodard, who were also very faithful in serving the Lord through college minis-

try.

The Petersen's spring semester began with an intentional focus on prayer. This continued consistently throughout the rest of the semester as students were engaged and participated in focused prayer as a community. They also participated in a new event this year where they joined several other ministries on campus around Easter, spending time collectively in prayer and evangelism to make Christ know on campus leading up to Good Friday. Some of the major events of the semester were a prayer retreat with their

students, the Laborer's conference, Evangelism Team, Good News Week, and ongoing Bible studies and NavNights.

Aimee recently shared how she and Paul had the opportunity to be Shepherds at an Edge Summit. They were asked to be an encouragement and resource for those coming out of their first and second year of staff with Navigators. Because Aimee had a chance to share her passions along with the struggles she's experienced in the last year, praise God that a door was opened where many girls and guys

came to her because they have had similar experiences.

The biggest news for the Petersens is that they are expecting their first baby in November. In preparation for the addition to their family and increased housing costs in Boulder, they will be raising support this summer after Paul takes a short summer course in Texas. Pray that they will be able to secure a place to live this fall and for an additional \$1,500 that they need to raise in support.