

Summer & Fall schedule

- July 24th – Picnic with softball team
- August 12th – Karaoke dinner night
- September 9th – Sunday school starts
- September 16th – Progressive dinners
- October 1st – 6th – Bible study groups launch

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- How objective do you think you are in measuring your own loyalty?
- How does yours stack up to Ittai the Gittites's example?
- How divided is your heart? Identify some things you've chosen over God.
- What kind of commitment are you ready to make to become a more loyal person? What are your next steps?
- Take time to identify what action God wants you to take from today's message.

VOLUNTEERS TODAY

Worship Hour Nursery: Bill and Elizabeth Hendricks

Ushering: Gordon Kaufman

Snacks: The Hilts

Coffee Set-up: Chuck Eklund

Closing: Pam Grettenberger

Counting: Pam Grettenberger and Elizabeth Hendricks

OUR STAFF

Naas Tredoux

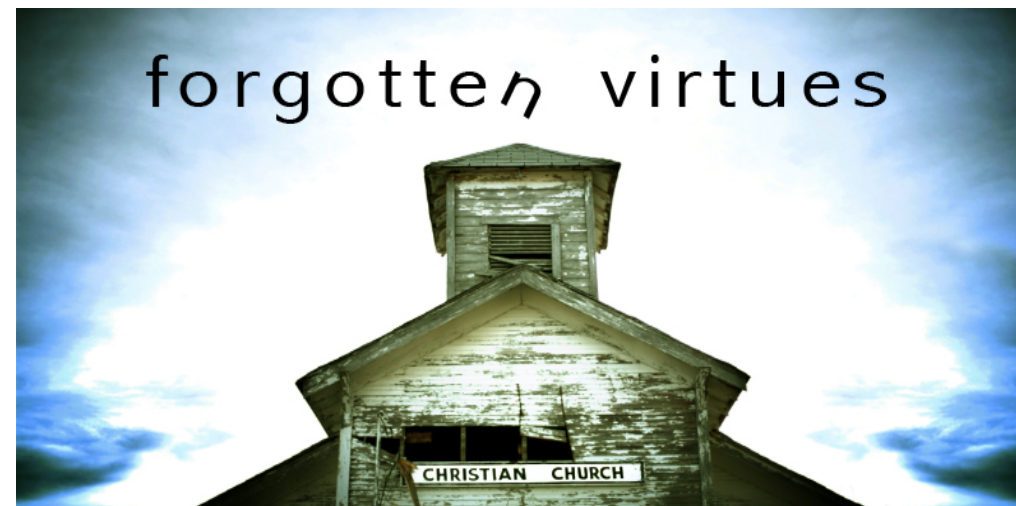
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FAITH COVENANT CHURCH

Sunday, July 15th, 2012

Forgotten Virtues

Honor. Loyalty. Honesty. Gratitude. Humility. Are they gone? Have believers left true character behind? I certainly hope not! I read a heartwarming story about loyalty this week, that I think you will appreciate. It's about Babe Ruth.

Babe is, as you know, one of the all-time greats in baseball. His bat had the power of a cannon, and his record of 714 home runs remained unbroken until Hank Aaron came along. The Babe was the idol of sports fans, but in time age took its toll, and his popularity began to wane. Finally the Yankees traded him to the Braves. In one of his last games in Cincinnati, Babe Ruth began to falter. He struck out and made several misplays that allowed the Reds to score five runs in one inning. As the Babe walked toward the dugout, chin down and dejected, there rose from the stands an enormous storm of boos and catcalls. Some fans actually shook their fists. Then a wonderful thing happened. A little boy jumped over the railing, and with tears streaming down his cheeks he ran out to the great athlete. Unashamedly, he flung his arms around the Babe's legs and held on tightly. Babe Ruth scooped him up, hugged him, and set him down again. Patting him gently on the head, he took his hand and the two of them walked off the field together.

This story inspires me to be a loyal friend and follower! I hope it inspires you too!
– Pastor Naas

FAITH COVENANT CHURCH

4965 Barnes Road, Colorado Springs, 80917
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Fueling our vision

	June	2012 (Jan-Jun)
Budgeted Income	\$ 16,175	\$ 97,050
Actual Income	\$ 11,575	\$ 70,036
Difference	\$ -4,600	\$ -27,014
Budgeted Expenses	\$ 16,167	\$ 97,002
Actual Expenses	\$ 11,510	\$ 90,149
Difference	\$ 4,657	\$ 6,853

Our giving increased slightly in the month of June in addition to our expenses staying well below budget.

Semi-annual meeting

The Lead Team would like to inform the members of Faith Covenant that our next Semi-Annual will be held on the Sunday the 19th of August. The main purpose of this meeting is to vote on new Lead Team members. We will reveal the new Lead Team member proposal once it has been finalized.

Prayer Requests

Pam Grettenberger is asking for our support in prayer on behalf of her sister, Chris. She had major surgery at the end of last week. Please pray for her to have a full recovery.

A dear friend of Bob and Ruth West's is in need of our prayer support. Stan Lang recently suffered a massive stroke. He is currently unable to speak and has only partial use of one limb. They are also concerned he may have lost his sight. Please pray for Stan and his wife Dee, as they battle for his recovery and healing.

On a positive note: We praise God for answered prayer. Heather starts her new job at Compassion on Monday!

Why church membership is important

To be a member of a church is to make a public promise to live according to the Word and to support the work of the congregation. In the Bible this is called a covenant. Every believer is part of the church as organism (the Spiritual Body of Christ), but only by a public promise can you be part of the church as an organization. A public promise, or covenant, is the basis for all society, according to the Bible: marriage, employment, citizenship, church membership, etc., are all relationships of accountability.

Membership in a church is not like membership in a social club or other organizations. Most organization members are consumers; the organization exists to serve them. The Church of Christ is a completely different community - membership means ministry and service, going from being a consumer to becoming a provider of God's love and care to others. At Faith, we take seriously that we are a church not for ourselves, but for others. We serve each other as well as the people in our community.

We therefore encourage all those who call Faith their church home to become official members. If you'd like to know what it takes to become a member here at Faith, we invite you to speak to Pastor Naas about attending one of our membership classes.

The unshakable love & loyalty of a Father

The 1989 Armenian Earthquake needed only four minutes to flatten the nation and kill thirty thousand people. Moments after the deadly tremor ceased, a father raced to an elementary school to save his son. When he arrived, he saw that the building had been leveled. Looking at the mass of stones and rubble, he remembered a promise he made to his child: *"No matter what happens, I'll always be there for you."* Driven by his own promise, he found the area closest to his son's room and began to pull back the rocks. Other parents arrived and began sobbing for their children. *"It's too late" they told the man. "You know they are dead. You can't help."* Even a police officer encouraged him to give up. But the father refused. Four eight hours, then sixteen, then thirty-two, thirty-six hours he dug. His hands were raw and his energy gone, but he refused to quit. Finally, after thirty-eight wrenching hours he pulled back a boulder and heard his son's voice. He called the boy's name, *"Arman, Arman!"* And a voice answered him *"Dad, it's me!"* Then the boy added these priceless words, *"I told the other kids not to worry. I told them if you were alive, you'd save me, and when you saved me, they'd be saved too. Because you promised 'No matter what, I'll always be there for you'".* May we be as loving and loyal in our promises and service to one another!



The loyalty of a true friend

Friends are people with whom you dare to be yourself. Your soul can be naked with them. They ask you to put on nothing, only to be what you are. They do not want you to be better or worse. When you are with them, you feel as a prisoner feels who has been declared innocent. You do not have to be on your guard. You can say what you think, as long as it is genuinely you. Friends understand those contradictions in your nature that lead others to misjudge you. With them you breathe freely. You can avow your little vanities and envies and hates and vicious sparks, your meannesses and absurdities, and in opening them up to friends, they are lost, dissolved on the white ocean of their loyalty. They understand. You do not have to be careful. You can abuse them, neglect them, tolerate them. Best of all, you can keep still with them. It makes no matter. They like you. They are like fire that purges to the bone. They understand. You can weep with them, sing with them, laugh with them, pray with them. Through it all-and underneath-they see, know, and love you. A friend? What is a friend? Just one, I repeat, with whom you dare to be yourself.

C. Raymond Beran, in *Bits and Pieces*, September 19, 1991