

GracePoints

JULY 1, 2011

Be careful that you do not fall!



Dear Partners in Ministry,

Do you remember Arte Johnson on the Laugh-In tv show back in the late 60s to early 70s? Wearing a yellow raincoat, he would ride on a tricycle far too small for his size and eventually topple over to one side. It seemed absurd that a grown man would fall over riding a tricycle.

So . . . the other day I was riding a bicycle . . . and for the first time in my life I was wearing bicycle shoes that clip on to the pedals. They're really small vices that have the gripping power of super glue. You're supposed to be able to easily exit the pedals by twisting your foot slightly outward, thereby releasing your foot from the powerful clutch of the metal grips.

I had practiced and successfully clipped in and exited a few times during my ride, so I was feeling pretty confident. As I was cutting through the

wind, with less than a mile to home, I had to stop at a street light. I began to brake and with my right pedal up I twisted my foot to the right and . . . the pedal wouldn't release. "Let my right foot go," I screamed at the pedal.

Now picture the following: my forward momentum was slowing and I began a tilt to the right, when the pedal finally paid attention – but it was too late, and I found myself underneath the bike with blood flowing from both legs. I distinctly heard the pedal say, "Gotcha."

The injuries looked worse than they really were, but that reminded me of some words that the apostle Paul wrote, *So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!* (1 Corinthians 10:12)

There are too many times when I have become spiritually lax because my external circumstances were going so well. There are other times when I have become spiritually proud because I've been *doing* the right things; you know, devotions, praying, talking the spiritual talk. And then, suddenly, I find myself limping, bleeding, and underneath a mess that I've created due to being in the grip of religious achievement.

I think I've learned that there's a fine balance between being clipped in to the power and presence of God and being clipped into spiritual responsibility. Both are vital to prevent spiritual tilting. I need to never lose my amazement of the splendor and majesty of God, as well as be reminded of my responsibility to live in His Word, seek His face, fellowship with other Christ-followers, and speak the truth into dark places. That doesn't mean I won't take a spill or always clip in/clip out at the right times. I know my spiritual deficiencies will want to take a crack at me; yet, I know that He who is in me is greater than he who is in the world.

Let me encourage you: be impressed with God and trust every facet of your being and life to Him. I can tell you that I haven't been back on that bike since my fall, but I have returned to God after every fall – no matter how difficult or challenging the circumstances have been.

Do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord, no matter what happens. Remember the great reward it brings you! (Hebrews 10:35)

With road rash and praise,

Pastor Fred

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

All Church Picnics

July 10

August 14

Carlene's Crazy Boat Races

July 10

Faith Day at the Rockies

August 21

Men's Conference

October 14 & 15



Missions Update

Following is a word from our missionary, **Dr. Michael Cassidy**, the **Founder and International Team Leader, Emeritus** of **African Enterprise**:

“My dear wife, Carol, gave me a wonderful gift of seven or eight books on the Antarctic which she picked up at a second-hand bookshop. They are absolute jewels, and I have reveled in these last few days in reading Ernest Shackleton’s ‘South’ the story of his 1914-1916 ill-fated journey which though at one level was a failure in terms of not achieving certain objectives but was one of the most historic and exciting success stories in terms of the human spirit and monumental human courage, as well as conveying an interesting spiritual principle.

“It was early January 1915 when Shackleton’s ship ‘The Endurance’ got stuck in ice in the Weddell Sea. They floated on a vast ice floe a distance of 560 km over the next 16 months before finally being able to take to the lifeboats and get to the famous Elephant Island. The rescue voyage of Shackleton and five other men in the little lifeboat ‘James Caird,’ as they sailed 1,300 km to South Georgia, being buffeted by mountainous waves and gales and beneath cloud cover which made navigation monumentally difficult is one of

the great adventure stories of all time. Their desperate venture succeeded but landed them on the wrong side of South Georgia so that Shackleton and two others had to take a never-before-done journey over the glaciers and mountains of South Georgia over to the other side and down to the Stromness Whaling Station. A staggering saga.

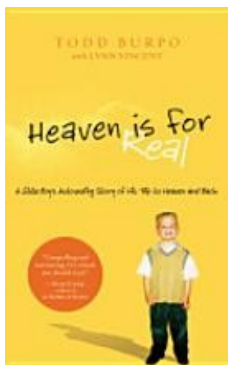
“Anyway, I wanted to encourage you, if you are presently in any storms or valleys in your life, with the moving statement Shackleton made in the following terms: ‘*When I look back at those days, I do not doubt that Providence guided us, not only across those snowfields, but also across the stormy White Sea which separated Elephant Island from our landing place on South Georgia. I know that during that long march of 36 hours over the unnamed mountains and glaciers of South Georgia, it often seemed to me that we were four and not three. And Worsley and Crean had the same idea.*’ Later, Thomas Crean, one of the threesome, wrote simply to a friend: ‘The Lord brought us home.’

“This affirmation is so reminiscent of the experience of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego thrown into the fiery furnace by King Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel 9:24 reported the king as

‘astonished’ and saying to his counselors: ‘Did we not cast three men bound into the fire? They answered the king, ‘true, oh king.’ He answered, ‘but I see four men loose walking in the midst of the fire and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.’ Is not then our Lord Jesus the same, yesterday, today and forever, whether with Daniel’s three friends or with Shackleton and his colleagues, or with us now. Jesus still walks with us. Shackleton also added: “We had pierced the veneer of outside things. We had seen God in His splendors, we had heard the text that Nature renders. We had reached the naked soul of man.”



Library News by Mindy Grudenich



I recently read the book, “Heaven is for Real” by Todd Burpo. The book tells the story of a family whose 3-year-old son had an experience of going to Heaven during a surgery

for a burst appendix. We will have a copy in the Library soon. This book causes one to think about what he/she really believe about Heaven.

We were given a very nice book from Susan Craig titled “Operation World” by Jason Mandryk. The book lists all countries (or at least most of them) in the world and their prayer needs. We really appreciate this donation.

We also recently received a copy of the last 3 books used in Sunday School classes including “The Prodigal God,” “Desperate Faith” and “Radical.” If you have not had a chance to read any of these books, please stop by the Library and check them out. We have also received some new reference books on who’s who in the Bible. Please check them out.

Extreme Makeover: Faith Edition by Brett Marker

There is a new show called Extreme Makeover: Weight Loss Edition. The show documents the weight loss journey, both the ups and the downs, of one person through the course of a year. The first episode was about a 21 year old named Rachel who lost 161 pounds in one year! The weight loss is obvious when the progress of a year's work is compressed into an hour long episode. But, for Rachel, the progress was not so obvious because it's hard to notice the loss of a single pound, only when all the pounds are added up throughout the year the progress is apparent.

This got me thinking about my faith. If I were to condense my faith journey over the last year into an hour time lapse would I have made any pro-

gress? One Wednesday, I asked the youth this same question. How has your faith grown or matured in the last



year? Just like in weight loss, it might be hard to notice subtle changes; so, I gave the youth a survey to fill out about their faith. In one year I am going to mail the youth their answers. Then they can look back and see if they made any progress in their faith.

Time lapses are great because they make progress (or the lack there of) obvious. If I were to look at a time lapse of your faith, what would I see? For me it was a somber realization that I need to continue to grow in my faith (1 Corinthians 13:11). I hope that in a year when the youth open and read what they wrote on their surveys, it will be obvious they have grown in their faith. And if their faith stayed stagnant, or digressed, I hope it will inspire them to start to work on their faith. Time lapses can be great encouragements, or sobering experiences. If you were to look at your faith over a course of a year, what would it be for you?

Kid's Corner by Debi Van Eps

I always look forward to summer - opening up the windows and letting the sunshine and fresh air breath throughout our home. This energizes me. The only problem is that we keep everything closed up during the day to keep it cool. Having a southern exposure can be great in the winter but hard in the summer.

But as wonderful as the sunshine is it also exposes the dirt, smudges, and fingerprints that have found their way on

window panes. Once again out comes the glass cleaner and tons of rags as Kylie and I began washing each of the windows. How much more fun a chore like this can be when it is done with a friend.

I thought about my life. My sins can make my daily walk clouded, dim, and hard to see my way. But the Holy Spirit working in and through me is like a breath of fresh air rejuvenating me and

lighting my path.

No wonder Jesus asked us to be a light in the world, shining for all men to see His glory.

Next time you clean your windows take a moment to reflect upon the awesome gift of how Jesus has given us a clean heart. And may we be a reflection of Christ so we can offer the world a breath of fresh air and a bit of sunshine!



On **August 27** there is a wonderful Free Family Event called **Kidzfest** sponsored by the **Billy Graham Organization (Rock the Range)**. It will be held at Dick's Sporting Goods Park at 10:00am - Noon. The Park will open before 10:00

am for children to have their face painted, see clowns, mimes, etc. A group of young people known as "God Rocks" will be leading everyone in an awesome time of music, skits, videos, etc.

This summer the children are learning 5 parables that Jesus taught us in His Word. The hands on curriculum is great for learning the Bible stories as well as offering fun crafts, snacks, games, etc., that help them put the story in their hearts not just their heads.

On July 3 we will not have Sunday School but will have Jr. Church. The boys and girls will be having a service project for one of our military men as well as honoring all those serving in the armed forces.

Summer Fun & Fellowship

You are invited to

Carlene's Crazy Boat Race and Picnic

Sunday JULY 10, 2011

Columbine Knolls Pool

6191 W Plymouth Dr

Littleton, CO

The main activity will be the building of boats using only cardboard and duct tape. The physics of the project are simple. 1 cu ft = 62 lb. So a "boat" 1 ft by 1 ft by 1 ft will support a 62 pound weakling. The vessel must carry two paddling occupants 25 yards down and 25 yards back in the pool. Since there will be several heats, the winner will obviously make several trips. The schedule is:

Start building at 2:00 (This is flexible)

Picnic at 6:00 (Bring your picnic for your team)

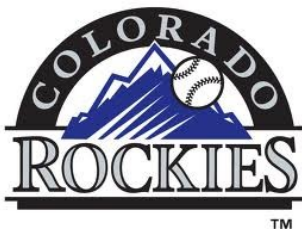
Race at 7:00

Your design is only limited by your imagination and how much cardboard and duct tape you bring with you. Come to build and race or bring your picnic or just come to watch the fun and frivolity (Craziness). Start saving large cardboard. Please tell me if you can bring a paddle. I need to borrow 8 boat paddles. An RSVP would help with scheduling and the draw, but is not necessary. Come have FUN. Carlene at 303-973-7473 or carlene@chrismanc.com.

I have been asked about rules. I will use the KISS (Keep It Simple) rule on rules. Laughter and Glorious Sinkings are the purpose of the activity. Winning is nice, but success should be getting out of your boat DRY. Having sunk in my own race, I really want to stay afloat and be fast this year!

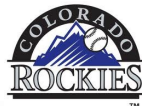
Don't forget your swimsuits to enjoy some pool time before and after the races. Bring friends and neighbors. Let's have FUN.

I'm excited to see all of the great creations!



Faith Day 2011

Sunday, August 21 1:10 PM



\$16 per person
Sign up in the
Fellowship Hall
Contact Vicki
Muehler



Featuring A Post-Game Concert By

Casting Crowns



www.ezraproject.net

303-369-8001

MIGHTY MEN OF GOD BIBICAL SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE & CHALLENGE

"Some Gadites joined David at the stronghold in the wilderness, mighty men of valor, men trained for battle, who could handle shield and spear, whose faces were like the faces of lions, and were as swift as gazelles on the mountains." 1 Chronicles 12:8

Christian men are Biblically instructed to be spiritual leaders in their homes, churches, and occupations; yet many struggle to do so. To become Biblical spiritual leaders, men need to understand their God given talents and abilities, discover their passion and purpose in this thing called life, redeem time for kingdom building not just making a living, and discover Biblical principles applicable to their work, marriages, finances, families, and ministries.

Today we need men who are sold out to Jesus, trained to be Christian warriors, men who are willing to stand up for Christianity by being examples to follow in a world becoming increasingly void of Christian role models. This conference will equip men for Biblical spiritual leadership in their personal, family, and professional lives. Men will be trained to become mighty men of God.

GRACEPOINT COMMUNITY CHURCH
90 E. Orchard Rd., Littleton, CO
303-798-6387
CONFERENCE AGENDA

FRIDAY EVENING – OCTOBER 14

6:00 p.m. Registration
7:00 p.m. **Opening Session: What is a Mighty Man of God?**
8:00 p.m. **Your Nature, Your Nurture, Your Spiritual Nature**
(features a spiritual assessment instrument and workshop on your God-given talents and abilities)

SATURDAY – OCTOBER 15

8:00 a.m. Quick Breakfast
8:45 a.m. **Praise and Worship**
9:00 a.m. **Passion, Purpose, and What are You Good at?**
(features a powerful questionnaire and workshop on your passion and natural talents)
10:30 a.m. **Redeeming the Time**
(features a time management questionnaire and workshop on Biblical time management)
11:30 a.m. **Personal Prayer and Reflection**
Noon Lunch
1:00 p.m. **Two Essential Spiritual Principles for Mighty Men of God**
2:30 p.m. **Breakout Sessions With Mentors**
3:45 p.m. **Closing Challenge**
4:00 p.m. **Praise and Worship**
4:30 p.m. Adjourn

Cost for this inspiring Men's Retreat -- \$49 – Scholarships are available

***"Most men will proclaim each his own goodness,
But who can find a faithful man?"
Proverbs 20:6***

Women's Ministry

The 'new' leadership team of GracePoint's Women's Ministry have been actively engaging the women of GracePoint to come and play with us. We had a wonderful Spring Retreat at the end of April, an enchanted

movie night in May, a lively jazz night in June and look forward to the July and August afternoon get-togethers. We are thrilled to see cross generational interaction at our events! We hope you will join us soon, if

you haven't yet, and please give us your honest feedback if there is something we are inadvertently neglecting that you would like to see us do.

Serving YOU in the name of Christ, we are:

Arlene Peterson, Leslie Thoreson, Merry Snyder, and Joyce Weaver

GracePoint Community Church

90 E. Orchard Rd.
Littleton, CO 80121
303.798.6387

*Weaving truth and
relevance together*

www.gracepointcc.us

Puritan prayer:

*No day of my life has passed
that has not proved me guilty in thy
sight.*

*Prayers have been uttered from a
prayerless heart;*

*Praise has been often praiseless
sound;*

My best services are filthy rags.

All things in me call for my rejection,

*All things in thee plead my
acceptance.*

*I appeal from the throne of perfect
justice*

To thy throne of boundless grace.

*Grant me to hear they voice
assuring me:*

*that by thy stripes I am healed,
that thou wast bruised for my
iniquities,*

that thou hast been made sin for me,

*that I might be righteous in thee,
that my grievous sins, my manifold
sins, are all forgiven,*

*buried in the ocean of thy
concealing blood.*

*I am guilty, but pardoned,
lost, but saved,*

wandering, but found,

Sinning, but cleansed.

Happy Birthday!

July

1 – Margie Drake, Don Thomas, Marjorie Tomko; 2 – Mari Grattet, Mae Wooley; 3 – Tierney Heaslet; 5 – Tammy Brown; 6 – Owen Randall; 7 – Alyssa Heaslet; 8 – Breez Marker; 12 – Shari Drennan; 13 – Kelly Borger; 15 – Garret Daly, Taylor Daly; 16 – Fran McKelvey; 17 – Robin Grattet; 19 – Austin Porras, Harvey Wooley; 22 – Amanda Maes; 23 – Shirley Folsom, Lela Grattet, Pam Kearby*, Karen Kupilik, Forrest Rose; 30 – Joni Gillette

August

2 – Anthony Negale; 6 – August Rose; 8 – Sarah Knoll; 10 – Austin Bell, Jenay Heaslet; 14 – Cammie Daly; 17 – Jeri Joseph; 19 – Trevor Petersen; 22 – Vicki Muehler; 23 – Len Dutton; 24 – Debi Van Eps; 26 – Steve Hughes, Nelson Prentiss, Kara Thoreson; 29 – Mike Guy*, Michael Harrington, Leslie Thoreson

September

3 – Mike Van Eps; 7 – Carlene Chrisman, Ruthmarie Tieri; 8 – Joe Devlin; 9 – Sue Miga; 10 – Mindy Grudenich; 11 – Carol Conner, Jim Handy; 14 – Joyce Weaver, Jesse Myers; 15 – Mitchell Norrell; 18 – Rick Hall; 19 – Susan Craig*; 20 – Janet Walker; 24 – Ben Borger



July

1 – Hal & Sally Seerveld; 8 – Dean & Margie Bowman; 11 – Harvey & Mae Wooley; 18 – Mike & Rebecca Vahle, Russ & Carol Wibbens; 28 – Paul & Kathy Maes

August

9 – Tom & Jan Marshall; 10 – Tim & Cammie Daly; 11 – Gary & Ann Wooley*; 12 – Steve & Anne Hughes; 15 – Larry & Judy Rose; 25 – Gary & Leslie Thoreson; 31 – Dave & Joni Graeber

September

15 – Royce & Joyce Weaver; 24 – Rex & Jane Chilson; 26 – John & Karen Kupilik, Rob & Janet Walker; 28 – Vaun & Robin Grattet, Dale & Judi Richardson



Church Picnic



July 10th and August 14th

Invite friends and family for great food and fellowship. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. GPCC will provide the entrée.