

Mustard Seed

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Special Points of Interest

- There is nothing that compares to the moments where you feel God with you.
- You can support our Haitian brothers and sisters is to attend the breakfast Saturday April 9th being held from 6:30 AM to 10:30 AM. here at KMC.
- Our times of fellowship and learning have truly been a blessing and a reminder that God uses young people and has wonderful plans for them.

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Investing In The Future

The parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30 makes it clear that we are accountable for all the talents we have received and how we invest them for the sake of God's kingdom. Faithful investing means that we are to do everything possible to help others come to know Christ and serve Him throughout our lives. I want to be a good investor. I want others to experience what I have in Christ. Because of this, I want to find ways to make sure people have the opportunity to hear the transforming power of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

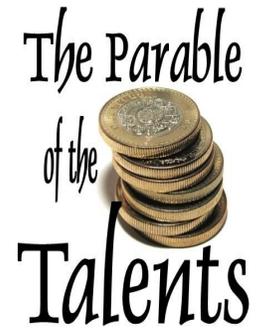
The challenge for us as a congregation is to be faithful investors in the spiritual well-being of others. To turn a blind eye to the lost is failing to be a good investor for God and His kingdom. To not care about the lost is to be a people who have hidden their light, resources, and gifts. Jesus is calling us to be good and faithful investors in the lives of others.

Right now we are seeing many young people who are open to hearing the Good News of Christ through faithful investing by our youth leaders. May we continue to do all we can to help people from all walks of life come to Christ and grow in Him. Our prayers and encouragement are needed to take the steps of faithful investing in lost people. Let's be quick to invest and quick to do all we can to reach others who are in need of hope, healing, and salvation.

Scott Swartzendruber

A Tip for Strengthening our Relationship with God

Keep a devotional, Bible or set of memory verses or something similar in your car, briefcase, purse, backpack, etc. This way when you find yourself waiting for someone or something you gain extra time alone with God.



The challenge for us as a congregation is to be faithful investors in the spiritual well-being of others.

In Pursuit



I hadn't even known I wasn't free until I started looking into the Word of God with the knowledge that it was alive, powerful and able to change my life in dramatic ways for the better.

One evening a number of years ago a six year old girl was sitting in church with her family. This wasn't an unusual event, but rather a very common event in this girl's life, but what happened that night to that girl was far from ordinary. In fact, it was one of the most extraordinary moments in her life. There was an altar call this night. It wasn't an unusual event at this church. But to that girl it was life changing. If you haven't already figured it out, I was that girl.

Altar calls at this church were for keeping and getting your life right with God. It wasn't strictly considered for accepting Christ as your Savior. That night Mom had gone up to the altar call. At least that is what I am told. I don't remember that part. What I remember is going up myself. Dad didn't stop me because he didn't want to cause a stir and just thought I was following Mom. But I didn't. I remember finding a spot to kneel down and praying for Jesus to enter my heart. I remember the pastor placing his hand on my shoulder and praying for me. But more than anything I remember the supernatural feeling of being totally right with God and the indescribable presence of God in me.

My family was rather surprised when Mom came back to them and I wasn't with her. I am very grateful, however, that when I told them about my experience they didn't doubt me, but they rejoiced with me. That experience is the one that I am most confident about in my life. I felt God there. There is nothing that compares to the moments where you feel God with you.

Since that moment I would say that I lived an average life. I

went to church and Bible studies, attended various events, read my Bible, prayed, taught Sunday school and did a variety of things that we would say that people within a church do. There were ups and downs within my Christian life, but nothing too major. Then about four years ago, something changed.

It is hard to put a finger on the exactly how it happened, but my life changed. Curt and I were teaching a Sunday school class. The class was studying the book of Luke, and God being who He is, placed a devotional in my path that was on the book of Luke. I looked at it as a way to double up my devotional time and my study time for Sunday school class. It was a practical and efficient way to use my time. I know it wasn't very spiritual, but that's where I was at that time. Little did I know that God was going to start pushing me in a variety of new ways.

As I studied the devotional and my Sunday school lessons I started noticing extraordinary things that God did both in the Bible and in other people's lives. They weren't necessarily big miracle things, but day to day extraordinary things that make all the difference in your daily life. I started craving God to do things in my life. I was fascinated with the things my Bible and my devotionals were showing me. John 8: 31-32 became real to me. ". . . if you abide in My Word [hold fast to my teachings and live in accordance with them], you are truly My Disciples. And you will know the Truth and the Truth will set you free." (Amplified)

I hadn't even known I wasn't free until I started looking into the Word of God with the

knowledge that it was alive, powerful and able to change my life in dramatic ways for the better. God intends for us to have more in this life than just the knowledge of our salvation. Don't get me wrong; salvation is the most important thing, but you are shortchanging yourself and others if you don't take time to see that God intends for our lives to be so much more.

Philippians 1:6 talks of this very thing. ". . . I am convinced and sure of this very thing that He who began a good work in you will continue until the day of Jesus Christ [right up to the time of His return] developing [that good work] and perfecting and bringing it to full completion in you." God is really smart. He intends to keep improving our lives. Then as our lives improve they more and more reflect His glory. The more of His glory that we reflect then more people will see just how awesome God truly is.

Once I realized that God wants more for my life it has become an incredible journey. I started praying for God to change my life. I started praying for more of Him in my life. It's not always easy, but God is always faithful. It is well worth any amount of effort. One of the benefits for me has been more moments like the one I had when I was six years old. Let me tell you I can no more describe the incredible feeling of God's presence on my life at 45 than I could describe it at six. However, I can say that I want everyone to experience it. God's presence will change your life. It has changed mine.

(Continued on page 3)

(In Pursuit Cont.) God brought a verse to my attention about four years ago that has altered my life. It is 1 Peter 5:10. “And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace [who imparts all blessings and favor], Who has called you to His [own] eternal glory in Christ Jesus, will Himself complete and make you what you ought to be, establish and ground you securely, and strengthen and settle you.” When I take the verse in smaller pieces it shows me a glimpse of what God wants for my life.

First, “after you have suffered a little while”. This tells me to not panic just because things aren’t easy, but it will only be a little while. Second, “the God of all grace [who imparts all blessings and favor]” lets me know that God is involved and that all good things come from Him. If God is involved good things will happen.

Third, “Who has called you to His [own] eternal glory in Christ Jesus” lets me know that God wants me with Him forever within His glory. How great is that?!! Fourth, “will Himself complete and make you what you ought to be,” is my favorite promise from this verse. God is going to make me what I ought to be. It isn’t for me to do. God will do it for me. Fifth, “establish and ground you securely, and strengthen and settle you,” God is going to do a top quality job in me. He is going to do a work that lasts. God isn’t into just getting by for the short term. He deals in the eternal.

1 Peter 5:10 is just one of many verses that are packed with promises from God for us. It is an incredible gift each time we open one of these verses into our hearts and take ownership of them.

Four years ago, God changed the focus of my life. Now I am seeking a deeper and deeper relationship with Him. A.W. Tozer in his book “The Pursuit of God” sums it up well, “If we cooperate with Him in loving obedience God will manifest Himself to us, and that manifestation will be the difference between a nominal Christian life and a life radiant with the life of His face.”

None of us really want to have an average Christian life do we? A radiant life is so much better. Please, join me in the pursuit of God. You won’t regret it.

*As always, in pursuit,
Dawn Wyse*

Debit (Direct Deposit) Giving

Stewardship and Finance Commission

At the last annual business meeting, the idea of debit (direct deposit) giving was discussed. In response to that discussion, we have looked at several methods to offer for debit giving. Not knowing how many people are interested in Debit giving, we have decided to offer direct payment (ACH Debits) as our initial method of debit or direct deposit giving. Similar in nature to automatic withdrawals you may now do with your electric or telephone bill, it differs in that you decide how much you would like to give on a weekly or monthly basis.

You do not need to have a computer or online banking for this form of debit giving. You do need to have an envelope number, which we currently use for tracking contributions, for tax or IRS purposes only, to support your annual giving. Because of the nature and

limited flexibility of this type of giving, all money contributed through the debit giving will be directed to the general fund. You may choose to contribute weekly or monthly. If you would like to implement debit giving, forms are available on the table in the foyer. Complete the form and return per instructions at the bottom.

Whether or not you decide to use debit giving, I would encourage you to use the envelope system we offer. We are required by the IRS to issue a letter or receipt for each check \$250 or greater we receive from individuals not using the envelope system. Don’t get me wrong, I’m only letting you know the parameters we are required to work under. We appreciate the generous support you give the church, and will accept your offerings, however you choose to con-

tribute!

You should have received your annual envelope giving reports shortly after the first of the year. If you did not, please let Janice or me know.

If you have any questions regarding this information feel free to contact me.

Phil Ropp
– Stewardship and Finance Chair



BEYOND OURSELVES

You can support our Haitian brothers and sisters is to attend the breakfast Saturday April 9th being held from 6:30 AM to 10:30 AM. here at KMC

As I am sure many of you have, continue to pray for the Japanese people in these very sad and challenging times. MCC currently does not have any projects in Japan to address the earthquake suffering, but is accepting donations and channeling them to other "like minded" Christian relief agencies currently working in Japan. Donations can be sent to MCC and marked "Japan Earthquake".

It has been over a year now that Haiti experienced earthquake devastation. Continue to hold them up in your prayers

also.

Remember Lincoln Schrock who will soon be ending his 6 week term with Water For Life in Haiti. Pray that he will be able to adjust to life here and the immense inequalities between life here and in Haiti.

It is great news to hear that Troy Miller will return to Kalona soon for a "work visit"! We continue to hold you up in prayer also Troy.

Yet another way you can support our Haitian brothers and sisters is to attend the breakfast Saturday April 9th being held

from 6:30 AM to 10:30 AM. here at KMC. The donations will go toward building a medical clinic in Lambert, Haiti. Work for the clinic will begin in 2012 with 2 rooms being planned: a birthing room and an obstetric room. Both will be in memory of Ivy Jane Yoder. Ivy Jane, the 17 month old daughter of Trent and Tammy Yoder from this community, died last fall. Her father Trent has been on previous mission trips to Lambert.

dave koerner

WHAT'S HAPPENING!!!

Well, I just watched enough College BB to last me for quite some time. It was fun but my bracket really suffered a lot this year. I hear Nick Ropp did very well in his BB pool as he correctly picked Virginia Commonwealth University to go a long way. Nick lives in Virginia so he had some inside info, just the same, good for him for picking all those upsets.

Todd Thompson & family were in Chicago celebrating Todd's 40th birthday. They got tickets to see the Chicago Bulls and on that particular night the Bulls were celebrating the 20th Anniversary of their NBA Championship. Todd and the boys had seats down on the floor and got to shake hands and exchange high fives with Horace Grant, Scottie Pippen and Michael Jordan. Wow! Sherri & Ramona also were at the game, but had to sit in the 3rd balcony! I am sure they were pleased to see the guys down below having a thrill of a lifetime.

Several Sundays past the men

and boys of KMC went on an afternoon outing to Colonial Lanes in Iowa City. We all did a lot of bowling and of course there were a lot of laughs and a great time. Then we returned to KMC for BBQ sandwiches and the much anticipated awards ceremony. Ed Hershberger won the trophy for high score. It was pretty entertaining watching a bunch of guys bowling, who had not bowled in years. Thanks to Frank Yoder, John Schlabaugh and Atlee Yoder for making the arrangements.

We recently ran across a book called "Heaven is for Real." It is about a 4 year old boy, who had surgery and during that time made a visit to heaven. It's an easy read and you will enjoy it. You may purchase the book at Miller's Medicine Cabinet.

So where is Will Dehogue? Now he is in Nicaragua working at an orphanage. He and Nathan Stoddard are spending 6 weeks there and are hauling rocks to build an artificial barrier to save the shoreline. CICRIN Orphan-

age is on Ometepe Island, which is located in Lake Nicaragua. The boys eat all there meals with the children and yes, they are getting a steady diet of "rice & beans." They hope to explore one of the two volcanoes on the island, however that will be with the help of a guide. Too many have turned up missing!

Summer Schrock recently volunteered to help Elsie Mast. Elsie was looking for someone to give a program at Pleasantview Home and Summer said "Sure we can do it." Summer organized the help of two other families and they sang, played piano, played violins and had several readings. They put on a very good program and needless to say Summer received a big hug from you know who!

Well that's about it for now. Have a good April and enjoy all the birds migrating North. Spring has sprung!

*Blessings to all,
Ed V & Carol Miller*



Library Notes

As a library committee (Elaine Brenneman, Brenda Miller, Karen Stalter, and Shirley Hochstedler) we are pleased to see increased use of library books and other materials. Sometimes the book drop is so full that it is impossible to get more books in! Sometimes it takes a long time to replace cards, and get the books to their proper places on the shelves. But we don't mind. We are so glad to see the books and other materials being used so much. It makes our jobs worthwhile and more fun! If you would like to see a book placed in the library, please talk to one of the women on the committee and we will consider it.

As a committee we try to

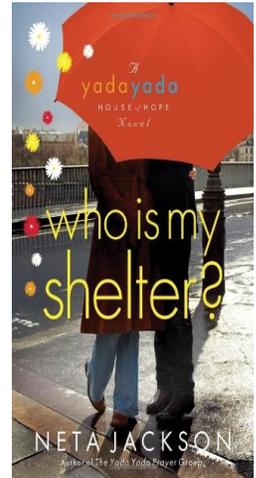
meet once a month to check in new books, put the 'older new' books on the regular shelves, and generally keep the library looking good. There is always something to do!

Books are purchased and others are donated. Someone may read a good book and donate it to the library so others can enjoy it also. The new books this month include *Faith Beyond Borders* by Don Mosley, who was one of the founders of Habitat for Humanity. Revelation: *A Reconciling Presence in Israel* by Roy Kreider is his own families story of their years in Israel. A book in the Family Living section is called *Saving Your Marriage Before it Starts* by Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott.

Two small childrens books have been added: *I Was There the First Christmas*, and *The Time of Christmas*.

For fiction lovers: The newest and last book in the House of Hope series has arrived: *Who Is My Shelter?* by Neta Jackson. Other titles include *The Noticer* by Andy Andrews and *Beyond Tuesday Morning* by Karen Kingsbury. There are many, many good titles on the shelves, stop by to take a look and check out a good read!

Shirley Hochstedler



God's Not Dead

The song from when I was younger that says, "God's not dead, no! He is alive!" immediately comes to mind when I think about all that's been going on in MYF since I last wrote. The work I've seen God doing in the youth of so many in our congregation and community is impossible to describe in words.

We've begun a new series about purity and relationships that have opened the door for more conversation than most of us would have imagined. The first few weeks our new group came together, I think many of us wondered how we would all pull together, but that is exactly what we've moved towards. Through sharing tears and

laughter, confusion and insight, we have truly mourned with those who mourn and rejoiced with those who rejoice.

Our group has not yet stopped growing, and I think that's one thing that has excited me the most. I've grown up with youth around the house, and I can't remember another group of kids that has consistently grown so much in one year. I see youth excited about learning and sharing the things of God, MYF conversations are carried into public high schools, and we are always excited for the next week. Our times of fellowship and learning have truly been a blessing and a reminder that God uses young

people and has wonderful plans for them.

We ask that you as a church family continue to pray for us as God lays things on our hearts and we seek a relationship with Him. Summer is also approaching, and we are beginning to think more towards Convention and the DOOR missions trip. Your prayers for everyone involved in each of those activities would also be appreciated. We cannot thank you enough for all the support you show us and the interest you take in our daily lives!

Nicole Murray

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The Motley Crew

(In a recent sermon, Pastor Mick introduced us to The Motley Crew, Jesus' 12 disciples. Since this was the beginning of a series of sermons on Unity in the Church, I am printing the list here to remind us of how different the disciples were.)

Simon Peter

Key Characteristics

- Fisherman
- Impulsive
- Early life was characterized by “Ready, Fire, Aim”

Major Life Events

- He was the only disciple to walk on water with Jesus/he was also the only one to sink.
- He denied Christ three times.
- He became the key leader of the Church at Jerusalem

Andrew

Key Characteristics

- Fisherman
- Peter's brother-(depending on his personality, I bet that was challenging!)

Major Life Events

- Andrew responded to John the Baptist's message, and followed Christ, then went and found Peter and invited him to Christ.

James

Key Characteristics

- Fisherman
- He and his brother John were given the nickname “Sons of Thunder”
- Selfishly Ambitious-he and John asked for the places of honor in the new Kingdom.

Major Life Events

- Judgmental-he and John asked fire to come down from heaven and destroy a Samaritan village-Jesus ends up rebuking James and John
- He ends up being the first recorded Martyr under the rule of Herod.

John

Key Characteristics

- Fisherman
- Referred to himself as “the disciple whom Jesus loved.”

Major Life Events

- One of the “inner 3”-witnessed the events on the mount of transfiguration.
- Wrote the Gospel of John and 1,2,3 John
- Exiled to Patmos where he wrote Revelations

Philip

Key Characteristics

- Fisherman
- Questioning attitude
- Was from the same town as Peter and Andrew

Major Life Events

- Jesus directly questioned Philip to test him-feeding
- Philip told Jesus he would “believe” if he could only see the Father. Jesus responds, “Philip don't you know me after all this time?”

Bartholomew/Nathaniel

Key Characteristics

- Also known as Nathaniel
- Blunt
- Honest
- Straight-forward

Major Life Events

- Initially rejected Jesus because he came from Nazareth
- Jesus called him a “true Israelite in whom there is found no deceit.”
- Was one of the 7 disciples with Peter when God restored Peter

Matthew

Key Characteristics

- Tax collector-formerly an outsider
- Gave the other disciples an opportunity to be with notorious “sinners”
- Wrote the Gospel of Matthew

Major Life Events

- Was called by Jesus while collecting taxes
- Was given the chance to hear Jesus' response concerning “tax collectors and sinners” - “he healthy do not need a doctor...”

Thomas

Key Characteristics

- He was a mixture of courage and doubt
- Straight-forward

Major Life Events

- Was willing to go to Bethany even if it meant death.
- Told Jesus they didn't “know where He was going.”

James (son of Alphaeus)

Key Characteristics

- Was known as “James the less”, compared to “James” one of the “Sons of Thunder”

Major Life Events

- Became a disciple of Jesus Christ
- He was faithful through it all –we find him listed in Acts 1

Simon (the Zealot)

Key Characteristics

- Started in a Jewish political party determined to overthrow Rome by force (used primarily guerrilla warfare tactics and terrorism)

Major Life Events

- Became a disciple of Jesus Christ
- Still known as Simon the Zealot in Acts 1

Judas son of James

Key Characteristics

- He was also known as Thaddaeus

Major Life Events

- Asked Jesus why he intended to show Himself to the disciples and not to the world. Jesus reminded him that we each have as much understanding of Jesus as we have responded to.

Judas Iscariot

Key Characteristics

- Somewhere along the way Judas became enslaved to money.
- Greedy
- Dishonest
- Uncompassionate
- Disloyal

Major Life Events

- Complained about the expensive perfume being poured on Jesus' feet-said the money should have gone to take care of the poor.
- Betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver, gave the money back, and hung himself.

The Motley Crew

S G P N A J N K S Q T I E T W
E I R F A O O E B B O T B A E
M M K E M M L H R F I A G X R
A P X I T P R O N L R Y Z C D
J U S O I B T E E T A R E O N
S L Y C U H U A H J C O A L A
R S S T E P R O F S S B L L L
L I C R I S L P D A I J O E E
D V S L I O J U D A S F T C I
Y E I E M W E H T T A M I T N
D H U E T H O M A S D L Z O A
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T S E N O H G S N J J K Y Z T
S O N S O F T H U N D E R Y A
R E T E P N O M I S X D S Y N

ANDREW
BARTHOLOMEW
BROTHERS
DISCIPLES
DOUBTER
FISHERMAN
HONEST
IMPULSIVE

JAMES
JOHN
JUDAS
JUDASISCARIOT
MATTHEW
NATHANIEL
PHILIP
SIMONPETER

SONSOFTHUNDER
TAXCOLLECTOR
THADDAEUS
THOMAS
TRUEISRAELITE
ZEALOT