



Mustard Seed

Kalona Mennonite Church

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Teenagers Make a Difference

Starting off a week of missions can be very difficult. You don't know what's going to come your way. But I didn't have much difficulty. I went to Acquire the Fire with a group of 150 youth from around the Kalona area, [at least 15 youth from KMC participated]. Mike Guzzardo and Ron Luce gave messages that pushed us to not only change for the weekend but to change our entire lives. Mike gave a message about Paul and the different relationships he had in his life and how we should strive to make those relationships in our lives. There was a Barnabas, who was a mentor. A Silas, who was a good friend that would hold you accountable and there was a Timothy, who Paul mentored. Being in a small town everyone knows everyone. I believe that these relationships should be important.

The worship at Acquire the Fire was simply incredible. We just gave it all to God. We even found a new favorite band, Rapture Ruckus. That weekend filled us with a new strength that we aren't willing to just throw away. God is great.

A few days after Acquire the Fire, I went on a witnessing trip to Sarasota, Florida. There was a group of about 30 kids from Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Florida, and Iowa. God was so good and so present even in the worst circumstances. My favorite story was from

the night we went out to the beach around 11 pm. The leader of our group, Michael Miller, was telling us we should go out and talk to people and I jokingly said what if they come to us, and then a few minutes later, a guy we later found out whose name is Anthony, came up to us and asked, "Have you seen Michael?" and Michael Miller is like, "I'm Michael." and then they went into the witnessing thing and afterwards Anthony said, "Is your name really Michael?" and Michael said, "Yes, I am Michael Miller." and Anthony was so astounded, "I was looking for a Michael Miller but I don't know why." It was so amazing and it was just proof that God works in so many ways. The Bible tells us that those who bring good news have beautiful feet. The verse below was my motto for the week.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Isaiah 52:7

Now comes the final question. Do you have beautiful feet?

Larissa Wyse

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- Special Points of Interest:**
- I have not heard of any morel mushrooms being found yet this year.
 - God is opening a joy in my life that I never knew could be mine.
 - What a joy it is to be in a Sunday School room with eleven 3-4 year olds.
 - Words of Wisdom

WHAT'S HAPPENING!!!

Well, what a week it has been. The rain gauges were full and running over. Nearly everyone around these parts had a "Wet Basement Story" to tell. It "sounds" like Spring with a lot of birds having returned. However, it still doesn't look or feel like Spring. The Braves & Cardinals fans are feeling very positive about their favorite teams, so yes we are glad that Spring is here! OK, now for the news.

Ian McDowell had his senior recital at Mid-Prairie High School several weekends ago. It turned out to be quite an event.



There was lots of great music and even his mother, Glenda (guitar) and his brother Tim (drums) got to join in. Jack was the official photographer of the event. The food afterwards was also very good, complete with a chocolate fountain. Yum.

A trio of KMC'ers helped with the morning worship service at Pleasantview Home last Sunday. Gayle Garner played the organ for preservice, Beth Miller delivered a sermon on "Joy", and Ed V. Miller led music. It's always good to see all the familiar KMC faces there at PV home and they are always so glad when you come to brighten their day. Little did they know how much they brightened my day! Herb & Dorothy Hartzler were also there transporting residents to and from the chapel. I had a nice visit with Herb afterwards and somehow we got on the subject of "Handfishing on Old Man's Creek." Quite interesting!

We are happy to report that Calvin & Judy Yoder have a new grandchild. Josh and Kyla Wiebe are first time parents with the arrival of Allyson Ranae Wiebe. Allyson weighed in at 7 lbs. 1 oz. They are now living in London, Kentucky, where Josh is a pilot for an air-ambulance service. Congratulations on your new arrival!

Ben Wyse was recently baptized at Ada Bible Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He was asked to dress in black, then after he was immersed, Ben was given a white robe to wear. Quite the symbolism! Ben is a junior at Calvin College and the son of Curt & Dawn Wyse.

We received an e-mail from Dick Oyer and he asked us to share the following note. "Thanks for all the cards I got from KMC friends--too many to thank each of you individually. Everyone who knew Margie really appreciated her and I am going to miss her--even though I had already mostly lost her due to her severe Alzheimer's. I got over 100 cards, 6 from former students of mine from AZ, CO, IA and IN. And a special thanks to Ed & Mary Jane Miller for coming to the visitation and memorial service even though they had just been out here the week before. I have many good memories of our time at KMC. Blessing to all of you." Dick Oyer

I almost forgot to report, that two more KMC'ers have won the weekly drawing at JW's Foods. Recent \$40.00 winners were Levon Christophel and Carol Miller. Happy shopping!

It "sounds" like Spring with a lot of birds having returned.

I have not heard of any morel mushrooms being found yet this year. Last year my 1st mushroom was picked on March 27th and the year before that the 1st one was on April 27th. So we will just have to wait patiently.

That's it for now. Hopefully we can all get some garden planted now, as we look forward to some warmer temperatures.

So long for now, Ed V. & Carol Miller

**We're on the web:
Kalonamennonitechurch.com**

“A Miracle, Twins!”

Sharing one birth certificate all your life sometimes doesn't seem fair.
We shared one womb, yes, it's all right with me.
God had two in his plans.

You shared your toys and sometimes not.
Always having a bosom buddy.
Special closeness, a friend at all times.



Lois & Eunice

One's the leader.
One's meek and giving.
Day and night, someone to hold your hand.
Singing in harmony to “God's Highest Strings.”

One to feed the chickens and gather the eggs,
One to feed and milk the cows.
One to help Mom, one to help Dad.
Rotating mowing the grass.
Oh, what a double blessing!

One in trouble, two in trouble.
Usually addressed as “The Twins.”
One to share the other's colds and so forth.
Always dressed alike~drawing many stares.

You are called her name, and she yours.
Oh, how can it be? Sharing each other's identical voice!
Our names rhyme.
We share our secrets.
Give your life to your Lord to get you through the long journey.

One is married and moves on, and is lonely as can be.
The other is very sad.
One pursued church and her dear family.
The other pursued family, and God's calling in His fields of work.

Oh my Twinnny!
So, so, glad we're twin sisters.
I just didn't know how I could live without you when
God took you by His hand, leaving me behind.
Sometimes life is quite sorrowful.

You, my dear twin, now have no pain.
My Lord sees me through each and every day.
Eunice Madrene Miller Yoder

In Pursuit

It has been an interesting year so far for me and my family. Some of it has been so public that everyone knows about it. Things like: Ben spending a month in Indonesia for school, Curt going to India (totally energizing his faith in new ways), and unknown people driving a car into our deli (a unique telephone call to wake you up).

Other things that were lesser known were Larissa going with SWAP (Students with a Purpose) down to Florida for Reach the Beach (an evangelistic outreach mission) and my sister, Terry being diagnosed with very early stage breast cancer, and Ben being baptized (He had accepted Christ many years ago and never before felt God pushing him to be baptized until recently. The opportunity came for him at his church in Michigan and he knew God was telling him it was time. Praise be to God, Ben was obedient!)

However, it isn't any of these things that have impacted me the most this year. For me, it all started with a book I was reading. It is the book The Circle Maker by Mark Batterson. I would encourage anyone who wants their prayer life to be potentially challenged and stretched to read it.

This verse from Isaiah sums up what I am going to attempt to share with you. It is Isaiah 56:7 ***"I will bring them to my holy mountain, and bring them joy in my house of prayer."*** You see I often find myself with more of a burden of responsibility in life instead of the joy of living the life that God intends for me. At the time I was reading The Circle Maker, I felt like God was telling me that I needed to have more joy in my life. How was I going to encourage others to grow in their relationships with God or encourage people to go into a relationship with God, when my example of the Christian life was more burdened than joyful? It is a good question (Does God have any other kind?) and one I knew I had to figure out.

So there I was with a question God was asking me (for which I had no good answer), and a book in my hand (which God had placed there) challenging my prayer life. Sometimes God knows you are going to need something and makes absolutely sure that you see it. This was one of those times.

I took the prayer challenge of the book. I took God's challenge about joy in my life. It was the beginning of the season of Lent. For me, Lent was a time of praying circles. I chose 7 things for prayer during this time and would walk



in circles as I prayed. I would walk 7 circles for each thing. This gave me a structure to discipline myself during this time. Of course one of the things I prayed for was to have God's joy in my life.

You see, joy is one of God's promises for

us. It is a fruit of the Spirit. (See Galatians 5:22) In John 10:10 Jesus says, ***"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."*** That doesn't mean that life will be smooth. In fact, Jesus told us the opposite in John 16:33 ***"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*** Our joy in this life must come from our

relationship with God and not what goes on in the fallen world we live in. I am finding that as I ask God for joy and claim it as a promise from Him to me,

God is opening a joy in my life that I never knew could be mine. But I need to add a word of caution here. James 4:2b-3 is very true. ***"You don't have because you don't ask. You ask and don't have because you ask with evil intentions, to waste it on your own cravings."*** You do need to ask God for His promises to be fulfilled in your life, but you also need to be in a place of obedience to God as well. God does not provide blessing in our life when we are knowingly being disobedient (sinful) to Him. God wants so much for our lives, but it cannot happen until we give up all of our selfish sinful ways and claim the awesome life God has waiting for us.

If you believe in prayer, especially prayer that is in line with God's wishes, you cannot read John 17 without being in totally awe of what Christ prayed for us there.

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Isaiah 56:7 "I will bring them to my holy mountain, and bring them joy in my house of prayer."

What a joy it is to be in a Sunday School room with eleven 3-4 year olds. Each week I look forward to see their happy little faces. They are so focused as the story is being told.

Dolores Miller, teacher



Left to right: Erin Schlabach (Sylvan, Corrie), Lawson Schrock (Leon, Robin), Nate Young (Rob, Hannah), Grace Lehman (Kent, Kim), Nancy Van De Walle (Mark, Karen), Beckett Slaubaugh (Justin, Shalee), Ruby Miller (Clint, Nicole), Rachel Lamb (Jake, Angie), Dawson Richards (Cristina, Lance), Brett McDowell (Tim, Hanna). Not pictured Morgyn Bender (Kelby, Leanne)

In Pursuit (Cont. from page 4)

Christ asked that God would watch over us, that we would be one as Christ and God are one, that we can share completely in Christ's joy (this one really hits me hard), that Christ will be in us, and the list goes on and on.

I believe God will give what we ask for if we ask in perfect oneness with His will. I have absolutely no doubt that Christ was one with God. Therefore I believe what Christ prayed for us will happen. I encourage you to claim these promises as your own. God always keeps His Word.

Let me finish by telling you that my prayers for joy really impacted and continue to impact my life. God showed me things I needed to repent from. It has made a big improvement in me and my life. I have had a peace and joy at times in my life where I wouldn't have had peace and joy a year ago. A car drives into the deli and I go back to bed and actually sleep since I knew I would need the energy the next day. My daughter was out of contact for 10 days and drove alone from here to Indiana and back. Yet I

had no worries. Curt was in India for more than 2 weeks and I didn't stress over work and all of its challenges. Was this me being mature and capable? No, it was God's joy and peace at work in my life.

Granted, I still have too many burdened moments in my life, but I am still praying for God's joy to fill my life so full that it is obvious that it has to come from God. There is no way that it can come from any other source. There is still work to do in this area, but I have hope in the eventual outcome because Christ prayed for it for me . . . and for all Christians! It will happen!

I challenge you to grab on to God's promises. Pray for them and listen. It will change your life and even better than that it will show God's glory to the world. Praise be to God! He loves us!

As always, in pursuit. Dawn Wyse

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If you have a graduate in your family—high school, college or seminary, please let Shirley or Janice know. We would like pictures for a slideshow on a Sunday morning, their degree and future plans!

Our Vision is to be a life-giving church: Presenting the life-giving message of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior to the people of the Kalona area and the world, challenging them to accept Christ, worship Him, and serve Him.

Our Mission is to fulfill the Great Commission: Leading people to Christ; discipling them in the faith; equipping them to witness; and sending them out to serve.

Words of Wisdom

If you're headed in the wrong direction, God allows U-turns.

A Christian is a living sermon whether or not he preaches a word.

The Bible is meant to be bread for daily use, not cake for special occasions.

The task ahead of us is never as great as the power behind us.

Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.

Prayer is the one thing everyone can afford to give.

Your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God's grace. And your best days are never so good that you are beyond the need of God's grace.