

# On The Wind

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## How to be Perfect

It's one of those intriguing Bible verses that puzzles people: "You shall be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). We have no problem with understanding that of course God is perfect. But except for those moments when we are lost in our own self-importance, we all recognize that we are far from perfect. And yet there it is, in the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount: "You shall be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

In its context, the passage turns out not to be about 'perfection' as an abstract concept; instead, it's about how we love people with a deep and generous love for those who do not deserve it. "If you love the people who love you" – if you are gracious and generous with the people who are gracious and generous with you – well, what's special about that? It's what anyone would do. But God shows this perfection of love: "he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous."

I want you to live your life like that, Jesus said. I want you to have this kind of love, generous and gracious not just to those who can do the same for you, but for those who can't or won't or don't.

Jesus didn't just *talk* this way, of course. He lived it out, and died it out, pouring out his lifeblood for us all, for the repentant and the unrepentant, for the good and the bad, long before any of us could offer him anything in return.

Because the grace and generosity of Jesus' love has touched our souls, our grateful hearts want to respond: not just with words, but with actions that demonstrate the grace and generosity that we have received, by expressing that grace and generosity in ways that make a difference for others.

OK, but how do we do it? Here are some ways you can take practical action, to live out what it means to be a child of God by demonstrating grace and generosity to those who can't pay you back. You could:

- support a mission project in a third world country
- make a difference in the life of children
- provide anonymous support for a local service effort
- participate in a mission trip
- provide scholarship assistance for students

.. and many more such items, limited only by your own imagination. Go ahead: pick one. Go ahead and do it. Be the person of grace and generosity that Jesus calls you to be. Won't that be just perfect?

Jay Ayers



(l-r) CRE Barney Korbelik; Rev. Len Dale (ELCA); Rev. James Ayers; Rev. Odir Flores, & CRE Kevin Salzman

Congregations from **Presbyterian Church Dodge City, Mission El Divino Nino, & Iglesia Corazon Sagrado de Jesus** joined together in a celebrative bilingual worship service on Sunday, June 14. Preaching, liturgy, and music all took place in both English & Spanish as the 3 churches shared in communion, prayer, and devotion.

During their recent confirmation on May 31<sup>st</sup> Olivia Roesky and Nick Slavin of **First Presbyterian Church, Coffeyville**, presented the Presbyterian seal banner as a gift to the church. Monies for the banner came from a submarine sandwich fundraiser the two confirmands held in February.

## A Learning Experience!

During a recent Mission Trip, the youth of **First Presbyterian Church, Derby**, worked at the Community Food Bank in Allenspark, Colorado. The group was able to accomplish so much in just a couple of hours.



**Thank you**...for your many prayers for Brian & Diane, the counselors & staff of WMW Summer Camp!



**Campers...3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade AND 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**



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**First Presbyterian Church, Syracuse**, held their VBS in conjunction with the Methodist Church on June 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>. One hundred nine kids came with an **average attendance of 86 kids every day!** It was a GREAT PROGRAM directed by Meghan Houtsma of the First Presbyterian Church.

The VBS theme was *"Everest" Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power*. One of the songs the kids liked doing the most was the "Power Shuffle". The church walls had not seen that much excitement in years!!

