

Navigator

Cause me to know the way in which I should walk, for I lift up my soul to You. Psalm 143:8b

Conforming to the Image of God's Son

As I write this there is only one week left in 2008. We are on the threshold of a new year that will no doubt hold many surprises for us all. Sure, we have plans for the next year and we have a basic framework for how we think things will go, but we simply do not know what the future holds for our lives. For some 2009 will be just another run of the mill year with nothing new or remarkable taking place. For others it will be filled with blessings the likes of which they have never encountered before. And still for many this next year will be remembered as a year of heartache and grief and trial and struggle.

With this year of unknowns lying before us we need something that will get us through the next 365 days no matter what comes our way. And for the Christian, understanding God's plan for your life will help you to be equipped to face this year with confidence and trust in our gracious and sovereign God.

The Apostle Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote to Christians in Rome and said, "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). This verse is a treasure chest full of the rich promises of God to His people and should serve to strengthen us and give us perspective for the year to come.

We can face 2009 with confidence knowing that God is active in our lives. The events of our lives do not mysteriously mix and mingle together until good comes from them. Rather, God "causes" the events of our lives to work together for our good. Nothing in our lives is left up to fate, luck, or chance. God is providentially orchestrating all of our lives to bring them to their divinely determined goal.

And God's reach extends to "all things." Whether trial or blessing; whether tribulation or rejoicing; whether struggle or prosperity: since I am a child of God through faith in Jesus (Galatians 3:26) God is using it all for my good. But in the context of Romans chapter 8 Paul seems to specifically have in mind suffering in the life of the Christian. In verse 18 Paul speaks of "the sufferings of this present time." And while God surely uses all things for the good of the Christian, the truth of Scripture and the truth of human experience attest to the fact that God does

His best work in the midst of trials and sufferings. What a reassuring thought to know that God is always active in my life and that no experience in life, no matter how hard it is, is a "waste" as God is using all of it for my good.

While this promise of God has been a source of strength and encouragement for Christians throughout the ages, it has also been widely misunderstood. The misunderstanding comes as we seek to understand what the "good" is that God is working all things for. Some equate the "good" with wealth or health or comfort or some other source of material blessing or ease. This, however, is not the good that Paul has in mind. The "good" of verse 28 is defined in the following verse: "Those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son" (Romans 8:29). The ultimate good that God is working all things in my life together for is to conform me to the image of His Son. In other words, God's plan for my life is to make me more like Jesus. God is most glorified not in my living in wealth or comfort, but in my living like His beloved Son.

This truth is the doctrine of sanctification. Sanctification is a progressive work that begins at the moment of a person's salvation and continues until they go to be with Jesus. In this process they are made to more and more live and think and act like Jesus in their lives. This process is never completed in this life, but there will be growth in sanctification throughout the life of a Christian. So once I become a child of God through faith in Jesus, God's desire for my life is to transform me into the image of His Son and He is using every single detail of my life to accomplish that end.

So what is God's plan for your life? If you are a Christian it is to make you more like Jesus Christ. Keep your eyes open for all of the ways that God is using "all things" in 2009 and beyond to do just that.

**God does
His best
work in
the midst
of trials
and
sufferings**

† Pastor Matt



Staff

Pastor	Matthew Boyd 293-2841
Youth Pastor	Shannon Pharaoh 329-0159
Worship Leader	Chris Myhre 644-6421
Treasurer	Kim Flick 536-4643
Men's Ministry	Robert Kohler 324-3545
Women's Ministry	Mandy Auclair 324-3668
Education Leader	Kevin Bickel 324-2654
Children's Leader	Gina Bickel 324-2654
Nursery	Laurena Parish 324-2517
Webmaster	Greg Peasall 837-6003 webmaster@nrfellowship.org
Bulletin	Jolleen Kohler 324-3545 thekohlerfive@msn.com <i>Have bulletin items to Jolleen by Wednesday</i>

Leadership

Elders

Matthew Boyd	293-2841 pastor@nrfellowship.com
Travis Flick	536-4643 tkflick1@netzero.com
Rich Henry	736-5025 rich_henry3@hotmail.com

Deacons

Kevin Bickel	324-2654 whispermtn@yahoo.com
Jeff Hanni	539-4079
Chris Myhre	644-6421 ccmyhre@msn.com
Brian Parish	358-1671

Schedule see calendar for more!

Sunday	
8:15 a.m.	First Service
9:30 a.m.	Bible Study
10:30 a.m.	Second Service
Tuesday	
6:30 p.m.	Youth Ministry at NorthRidge Fellowship
Wednesday	
6:15-7:45 p.m.	Kids 4 Truth at NorthRidge Fellowship
Tuesday/Thursday	
6:00 a.m.	Prayer and Devotions at Jolly Bean

Children's Ministries

Helping Children Become God-Focused Believers Through Essential Christian Truth

Thanks To The Kids 4 Truth Workers!

As we enter 2009, I would like to thank all of you who have worked in our children's ministries over the past year. May God bless you as you continue to assist our parents in their vital role of teaching their children the truths of God's Word.

K4T Wordless Book Color Night: January 21st

Children are to wear colors from the wordless book (black, red, white, gold/yellow, green)

Test Your Bible Knowledge

1. Which judge had seventy sons?
2. Who was Joshua's father?
3. What was Paul's hometown?
4. Who became crippled when he was dropped by his nurse, when he was a baby?
5. Who warned Pilate not to condemn Jesus?
6. At what age did Moses die?
7. Joshua commanded what to stand still?
8. In whose field did Ruth glean?
9. What kind of tree did Jesus curse?
10. How long did David reign?

Check your answers. 1. Judges 8:29, 30 2. Joshua 10:12, 13 8. Ruth 2:3 9. Acts 21:39 4. II Samuel 4:4 5. Matthew 27:19 6. Deuteronomy 32:7 7. Joshua 10:12, 13 8. Ruth 2:3 9. Acts 21:39 4. II Samuel 4:4 5. Matthew 27:19

VBS- June 15-19th "Boomerang Express"

Children's Ministries: Kids 4 Truth Wednesday evenings, 6:15pm to 7:45pm
Sunday School 9:30am-10:20am ♦ **Bible Builders** During the 10:30 Worship Service

H₂O YOUTH MINISTRY

JOHN 4:13-14

Looking Forward - As we start off the new year the Youth Ministry will be embarking in a new direction that will take us out of our comfort zones. I'm not able to discuss them at this time, but I know God is wanting us to do more. I'm excited about the youth that we have as I've seen them grow in the Lord so much this past year. We are learning so much as we go through different books of the Bible.

We are a young group, and with God as our center we can accomplish anything He wants us to. As I read Mathew 28:18-20, I can't help but think that God has something amazing in mind for the youth as long as we are faithful to Him. So please be in prayer for us, because I have something dreamed up big that can only be accomplished through God's sovereign will. Look for more updates to come because we will need your prayers and help to accomplish this feat.

Ski & Share - Also be in prayer for Ski & Share which will be coming up in March. Ski & Share is a weekend-long event that is held in Burley, Idaho, where we get to listen to an awesome speaker and then the youth get to go skiing on Saturday. Notice I said youth; I don't ski or snowboard, with the exception of some of the sponsors who go that like to do that sort of thing. I don't have the exact dates yet, but I will let you know.

Planning Ahead - We are also trying to plan our 4th Annual Valentine's Banquet, so stay tuned for more info to come.



Thanks, Shannon Pharaoh

Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

Meet Cherrynn Bizik

Where were you born and raised?

I am an Idaho native – and a farm kid at that. I was born in Twin Falls and grew up on the 101 Ranch in King Hill. Dad raised corn for the Jolly Green Giant, potatoes, hay and Angus cattle. I grew up building forts in the sage brush and swimming in a cement pond in the backyard. Mom ran a clothing store that I worked at as a teenager in the nearby town of Glens Ferry.

Who are (or have been) the most influential people in your life?

My husband is the most influential person in my life. In addition to being a little crazy, he has overcome obstacles that would have destroyed many people. He has consistently set aside his own desires to take care of those he loves and done a great job of it.

What is one of your favorite passages and/or books of the Bible?

Colossians 3:23-24 “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.” Most of us “workaholics” cling to this verse.

Aside from the Bible, what are your favorite books?

I like fiction, but about 15 years ago, after working in a Christian Book Store, I found myself a little bored with their offerings. I picked up an Oprah Book Club book. It was horrible – and so was the next one. I still have nightmares from them. I was afraid my “curl up with a blankie and a good book days” might be through. In desperation, I started reading children’s literature. They are clean, almost always have an important message and are intended to make a person think as well as entertain. I like the Newberry Award books (that award is given by librarians) and try to keep up on each year’s nominees for the Young Reader’s Choice Award (an award selected entirely by kids). I’m too old to vote, but that doesn’t keep me from campaigning.

If you were stranded on an island, what four foods would you most want to have?

My mocha. That would be coffee, milk, and chocolate. I don’t think anything else is really necessary.

Who in the Bible do you most identify with?

Peter. Do I really have to tell why?

What are the four most interesting places you have been to?

(1) Salem Hospital: the world’s two most beautiful babies were born there. (2) Xavier Charter School’s Third Grade Classroom: kids and a crazy teacher are excited to learn there. (3) Mt. Rushmore: there are some really cool sculptures. (4) The Philippines: the amazing faith of believers living in tiny, cramped spaces above sewage and garbage heaps humbles the proud there.

How did you come to know Christ?

I received Christ as my savior as a child at VBS at Bliss Community Church. When I was in my early teens I recommitted my life at a Nazarene Church Camp in McCall. I was challenged and grew in my faith through High School Youth Group at Hammett Community Church. Go youth ministries!



Books Worth Reading

Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another. Romans 14:19

Do Hard Things: A Teenage Rebellion against Low Expectations by Alex and Brett Harris

“Most people don’t expect you to understand what we are going to tell you in this book. And even if you understand, they don’t expect you to care. And even if you care, they don’t expect you to do anything about it. And even if you do something about it, they don’t expect it to last. We do.”

~Alex & Brett Harris

I am a Rebelutionary. Translation: A teenager who is doing more than what is expected of me. “The words rebellion and revolution combined to form an entirely new concept: rebelling against rebellion. More precisely, they define rebellion as ‘a teenage rebellion against low expectations.’ The teen years are not a vacation from responsibility; they are the training ground of future leaders who dare to be responsible now.”

Do Hard Things is a book by teens for teens with a Biblical perspective. *Do Hard Things* helped me understand that I don’t need to do only what is expected of me. Society tends to look at us and excuse our behaviors and attitudes because we are young. *Do Hard Things* describes the opposite. We teens can push ourselves to do our best in everything; we can be future leaders now! Not to prove to others how much I can do, but prove to myself of what I am capable of. 1 Timothy 4:12 says “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”

The book also helped me understand that the teen years are the starting point of what we are going to do with ourselves in the future. If you have a dream or an ambition, this is the time to start reaching for that goal. Don’t wait until you are older, because then it might be too late. 2 Timothy 2:22 says “Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

Here are some of the chapters in the book:

“The First Scary Step: How to do hard things that take you out of your comfort zone”

“Taking a Stand: How to do hard things that go against the crowd”

“The Power of Collaboration: How to do hard things that are too big for you to do alone”

I would definitely suggest reading this book; not only for all teens, but for families with future teens. Adults could benefit from reading it as well.

~Ashley Myhre



“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

8:15 a.m. First Service
9:30 a.m. Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Second Service

Sunday Services

www.nrfellowship.org
314 West Ave J
Jerome, ID 83338



Place
Stamp
Here

To The Ends of the Earth



Alicia Pharoah reflects on Diouloulou

There are so many things rushing through my head about the awesome trip God sent me on. The cool thing is I'm still on it. You know, when God confirmed to me that I was to go on this trip there were so many thoughts of what I thought it would be like, but things were so different.

To be honest, I thought I would get to share the Gospel and see God save someone. But that didn't happen. Not yet anyway. Instead, I saw people asking some big questions, like why would you come, and who is this God you serve? This showed me that the continuous trips that NRF is taking are making these people want to understand why we would care for them: because God's love is shining on them.

If you had someone come hang out with you one time and they told you they cared about you and as they left they gave you the first part of an awesome yummy recipe, and then never came back or even called, what would you think about this person? Would you feel that they truly cared for you? And would you be aching to have the rest of that yummy recipe? Or what if you had a friend who came over every week and spent time with you and even helped you accomplish things you wanted to get done, and maybe even taught you new things. Now how would you feel about this person? They might never say they care about you, but you would know they did anyways. This is what I believe is going on over in Diouloulou!

The day I got to meet Theophilus I knew that this young man was

seeking the truth. He asked questions about the Bible, and on the last night we were there he told Pastor that he didn't worship Mary anymore, just Jesus; that was huge. My prayer for this young man is that he continues to have a passion to understand the truth. I also pray that

when the Bickels arrive he would want to take part in a Bible study and God would save him. When I think about Theophilus a smile comes over my face. There are others there who we can tell are interested in knowing more about this God we talk about.

I'm so excited about the Bickels going over and spending three months with the people of Diouloulou. Please pray for them and know that your prayers are truly felt and needed over there. I believe that God wants to use everyone in the Church over in Diouloulou. It may not be by going, but by your prayers, your giving, your talent, or hey—it may be by going! So trust that He does want to use you. He didn't use me the way I thought He would, but it is so awesome to see that His way was so much bigger and better!

Just before I left a good friend gave me a card and told me not to open it until I was in Africa. In the card it reminded me that we all are given different gifts by God and the verse she put in the card was a reminder of that (1 Corinthians 12: 1-11). Your gift is different too, so seek out God in prayer and know that He wants to use you and the gift He gave you.

**There are diversities of gifts,
but the same Spirit.
There are differences
of ministries,
but the same Lord.
And there are diversities
of activities,
but it is the same God
who works all in all.
But the manifestation
of the Spirit
is given to each one
for the profit of all.**

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Alicia Pharoah

JANUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEN, come join the LEAD Bible Study every Wednesday from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Wok and Grill in Twin Falls. Come study *The Pursuit of Holiness* by Jerry Bridges.

Be in prayer for Kevin and Gina Bickel as they leave for Pennsylvania on **January 14th**, and from there leave for Diouloulou, Senegal on **January 28th**. They will be in Diouloulou, Senegal for three months.

Visit with Brian Parish on **Saturday, January 3rd** from 2:00 p.m to 5:00 p.m. at NRF.

Contact Robert Kohler at 324-3545 or Candy Myhre at 644-6421 if you know of community service needs that NorthRidge can help with.

HEY KIDS! Find the sled hidden in the newsletter. Tell Mrs. Brockway where it is, and you will get a prize!

Join a Sunday Morning Bible Study!

Creationism
Tim Logan

The Seven Churches of Revelation
Rich Henry

10 More Doctrines Every Christian Should Know
Matt Boyd

Bible Studies Begin at 9:30 am

Coffee is provided!



The Humanist Reaction to Loneliness

Spread Despair and Alienation During the Holidays

For centuries mankind has been trying to deny the existence of God. While God has declared His existence to all mankind through general means such as creation (Psalm 19:1-2; Romans 1:19-20), the human conscience (Romans 2:14-15), and His loving care of all mankind (Acts 14:16-17) and has revealed Himself through the special means of His Word (2 Timothy 3:16-17) and His Son (Hebrews 1:1-2), mankind still chooses to suppress and distort this truth about God (Romans 1:21).

One such attempt to deny God was made in the weeks leading up to Christmas. The American Humanist Association launched a \$40,000 holiday ad campaign in Washington D.C. by putting the message, "Why believe in a god? Just be good for goodness sake" on the sides of city buses. A spokesman for the group stated in an interview that, "We are trying to reach our audience, and sometimes in order to reach an audience, everybody has to hear you. Our reason for doing it during the holidays is there are an awful lot of agnostics, atheists, and other types of non-theists who feel a little alone during the holidays because of its association with traditional religion."

The D.C. ad campaign came on the heels of a similar anti-God barrage in England. The British Humanist Association ran ads on London buses declaring, "There's probably no God. Now stop worrying and enjoy your life." This ad campaign in the U.K. goes to show that foolishness knows no geographical boundaries (Psalm 14:1; 53:1).

But as I read and considered the content (or lack thereof!) of the ads and the comments of their propagators, I was immediately

struck with the absurdity of their argument. Simply wishing God away or denying His existence does not change the fact that He does exist. I may not believe in gravity, but one step off the Perrine Bridge sans parachute and I will be quickly convinced, at least for a second or two, of the truth of the force of gravity. Month after month I can choose to deny my accountability to the bank for my mortgage, or even go so far as to deny the very existence of the bank itself. But the bank will be quite quick to remind me of its existence and the consequences of my denial when it begins foreclosure proceedings. Why believe in a God? Because the overwhelming evidence leads us to the existence of a God who has made Himself known. God exists and He is far from silent about His existence.

The message, "Just be good for goodness sake" is not good news at all, because as hard as we may try, we cannot be good enough. The message of the Bible and the Gospel is not "clean up your act and try harder and be good for goodness sakes." The Good News of the Bible is that Jesus came because I cannot be good. He embarked on a divine rescue mission where He would deliver sinners from the penalty of their sins through His death (1 Thessalonians 1:10; 1 Timothy 1:15).

And while many "agnostics, atheists, and other types of non-theists" feel alone during the holidays, they only feel such because they have rejected God. The message of the

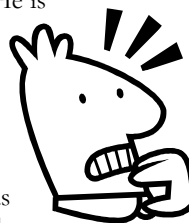
Bible is that we are not alone: the God of this universe cares for us. The message of Christmas that makes them feel "a little alone during the holidays because of its association with traditional religion" is the one that proves to them that God loves them enough to send His Son to save them (John 3:16; Romans 5:8).

Is anyone really willing to rest their life on the shifting sand assertion of "there's probably no God"? Besides that, if there is no God, then I have lost all capacity to "stop worrying and enjoy your life." The problem is that if there is no God then all I can do is worry. If there is no God then I

have been cut off from the only thing in the universe that brings true joy to my life and is able to satisfy the deepest longings of my heart (Psalm 73:25; Isaiah 43:7). If there is no God then life ceases to make sense and nothing really matters at all.

Jesus came because I cannot be good. Jesus came because I do feel alone. Jesus came because I need hope for this life and hope for the life to come. He came for "agnostics, atheists, and other types of non-theists" and for just run-of-the-mill sinners like you and me. There is a God. And this God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him would not perish, but have eternal life. Now that's a great message for an ad campaign (Acts 1:8)!

Pastor Matt



There is "probably" no God?