

Navigator

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

CALLED TO

Just the other day I was in nursery at the church and ran across a small children's book about Jesus. You know the kind of book: vibrant pictures, a sentence or two of explanation using short, easy to understand words, and written at the level of a very young child. All who are parents remember the beckoning of our children to read and reread such books until they are virtually memorized by parent and child alike.

On the cover of the book was a picture of Jesus with a wide smile, perfect teeth, groomed hair, and an appearance that said, "I want to be your friend." Make no mistake, I think that it is great for kids to know and be taught from an early age the great love of Jesus Christ and for them to have cemented in their minds the truth that Jesus desires them to come to Him (Luke 18:16) and that He truly is warm and welcoming and desires to be the friend of sinners (Matthew 11:19). The problem is that we grow up and still have this view of Jesus exclusively. In other words, we cannot imagine Jesus saying or demanding anything over and above wanting to be our pal.

While I believe that Jesus was indeed the most joyous man who ever lived, since He had no sin and had perfect communion with God, He was also the man of sorrows (Isaiah 53:3) who came to speak out against sin and to deal decisively with sin once and for all (Hebrews 9:11-12). And the smiling, easy-going, happy-go-lucky Jesus is also the Jesus who calls His followers to absolute and unconditional commitment to Him. Jesus continually confronted those who wished to follow Him with the high cost of discipleship.

In Luke 9:23-24 Jesus said, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it." To deny one's self is to live as if we no longer exist. To take up one's cross is to not just deny self; it is to die to self. And Jesus drives this point home by stating that if a person desires to hold and cling to their life and live for themselves then they will lose and waste their life. But those who give their lives wholeheartedly over to Jesus and live solely to follow Him will save their lives and truly experience what it means to live.

The Apostle Paul expressed these truths in his own words when he wrote, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). He was saying that Paul and his life were dead and gone. Now it was Jesus who was living in him and through him. And in a day when many people desire to carry the name, yet few want to carry the cross, we are reminded by Paul and more especially by Jesus, that the call to follow Jesus is one of great self-sacrificing commitment.

Later in Luke's Gospel Jesus says, "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple" (Luke 14:26). Jesus is not calling His followers to a literal hatred of their family. Rather, He is calling us to have a greater love for Him than for anything else. He is saying that when comparing the love that we have for Him with the love that we have for those closest to us it should appear that we hate them because we treasure Jesus so much. Our love for everything else, even those dearest to us, should pale in comparison with the love and devotion that we have for Jesus.

UNCONDITIONAL

In Luke 14:33 Jesus said, "Any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be My disciple." Jesus is emphatic that all has to be given up to follow Him. This does not mean that a person has to take a vow of poverty in order to be a Christian or that they have to sell all of their possessions and give the proceeds to Christian causes, but it does mean that nothing is to get in the way of our radical following of Him. It means that we dare not allow our hands to be full of things that must be given up for Christ.

COMMITMENT

I am eternally grateful for the smiling Jesus who's arms are wide open to receive sinners and who calls them friends (John 15:15). I am constantly amazed at the grace of God shown to me in Jesus as He receives me not based upon my works, but based upon His death (1 Peter 3:18). Yet I am continually confronted and challenged with Jesus' call to absolute commitment to Him, the One who has always been absolutely committed to me.

† Pastor Matt



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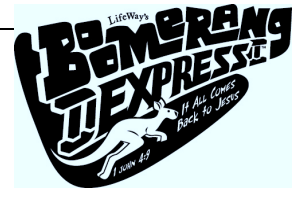
Navigator PDF

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Children's Ministries

Helping Children Become God-Focused Believers Through Essential Christian Truth

A Letter From JUMBUCK



G'day, Mates!

It was great to see all of you mates at Jumbuck Junction a couple weeks ago. Hope you enjoyed your trip to the Land Down Under where we learned that "It All Comes Back to Jesus!"

I sure loved hearing you sing those unforgettable songs. I keep singing them over and over. One phrase that I keep singing is, "The most important thing in life is that you choose to live for Jesus!"

During Bible Time I heard that Pastor Matt and Mr. Bickel taught you how Peter learned to follow, worship and live through Jesus Christ. Talk about important decisions! Peter had some pretty important decisions to make in his life. I hope you have decided to follow Jesus and put Him first in your life.

Those Outback Guides did an excellent job leading you around Australia. You were able to experience some of our fantastic snacks, exciting games and creative crafts.

I was very impressed by your generosity. You brought in over \$500 for Bibles and other Gospel literature that will be used in Africa and in your home town of Jerome, Idaho. I heard some of the money will be used to buy children's pamphlets for the Jerome County Fair.

Well, I guess I better run but before I do I need to tell you that Katie Kangaroo, Sheldon Shark, Corky Cockatoo and Christopher Crocodile were glad that they got to meet you and they all say "G'day!"

From the Lamb Down Under,

Jumbuck

Children's Ministries: Kids 4 Truth Wednesday evenings, 6:15pm to 7:45pm (on summer break)
Sunday School 9:30am-10:20am ♦ **Bible Builders** During the 10:30 worship service

H₂O YOUTH MINISTRY



JOHN 4:13-14

SonFest 2009

August 7, 8, and 9 will be SonFest in Layton, Utah. We will be leaving at noon on the 7th. This is our annual summer event when we go to Utah for the weekend and listen to an awesome speaker, great music, and on top of that, have a lot of fun learning about Christ. This is open to 7th grade through 12th grade.

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for their support and prayers over the years. I feel God calling me to do something different than the Youth Ministry. I know God has the right people in place for the job. I consider it a privilege to have served as the Youth Pastor for 4 years. With that said, Sonfest is still on for August 7-9th. For more information you can contact Kevin and Gina Bickel at 420-8048 or 420-8546. Again, I can't thank you enough for your support!

God Bless, Shannon Pharaoh



Meet

Jerry Kesler

Where were you born and raised?

In Southeastern Kansas just above the Oklahoma border.

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

My grandmother Kesler, Darrell and Janice Bailey, Pastor Tim Wetmore, and Pastor Bill Leewagner.

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

I enjoy reading all of God's words. My favorite book is James. My favorite passage is John 14:2-3.

Aside from the Bible, what are your favorite books?

Who Are You When No One's Looking by Bill Hybels, *Home Again* by Charles Swindoll, and *Living a Life of Hope* by Nathan Buseniz.

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

Milk, meatloaf, sugarless foods, and veggies.

Who in the Bible do you most identify with?

James. I have tried to be an obedient servant of God.

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

Glacier National Park, Montana; San Jose, Costa Rica; Santiago, Chile; and Tortugas Island off of Costa Rica.

How did you come to know Christ?

My daughter's friend's parents led her to Christ, and used her to share Christ with me and led me to Christ.

There are many rooms in my Father's house, and I am going to prepare a place for you. I would not tell you this if it were not so.

And after I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to myself, so that you will be where I am.

John 14:2-3



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

Made In Our Image, by Steve Lawson

Who is God? What is He like? In his book *Made in our Image*, author Steven Lawson examines the modern church and how we have a distorted and diminished understanding of God. Throughout the next chapters he sets about demonstrating how we have substituted an accurate, biblical view of God and instead made Him into a "user-friendly", diminutive deity that we think is much more to our liking.

At the beginning of the book the author explains the importance of having an accurate view of God. Early on he states, "The greatest sin anyone can commit is to distort the true knowledge of God." This faulty view of God leads believers to live lives that are shallow, superficial and often self-serving, having very little impact on the unbelieving world around them. In describing our distorted view of God as "a celestial Santa Claus" and a "divine copilot," Mr. Lawson explains that rather than serving the Creator God of the Bible, we have instead created a god of our own liking and expect him to serve our every desire.

In the second and third parts of the book we are introduced to the true and magnificent God as described in the pages of scripture. Part 2 of the book examines such topics as the sovereignty, holiness, and greatness of God. These chapters provide a glimpse into the awesome power, great love, and perfect justice that God has expressed to us in His word. We see God for who He truly is: equally loving, merciful, just and righteous; the sacrificial Lamb and the righteous judge pouring out his wrath on a Christ-rejecting, sinful world.

The final part of the book is used to help the reader understand that although all mankind must come to Christ in utter humility, in Christ we are granted forgiveness of sin and the privilege of an intimate relationship with the King of kings, and Lord of lords. Our faith is not about just our knowledge of God, but in *knowing* God, intimately and personally, through Jesus Christ. In conclusion, the author reviews the image of God as witnessed through the eyes of Isaiah the prophet, taken from Isaiah 6:1-8, and explains that when we as believers seek God with our whole heart, the image of the invisible God becomes immense, and mighty, terrible and frightening and awesome, because of what Christ has done for us on the cross.

I would highly recommend this book for all Christ followers, and especially for those who want to catch a glimpse of the amazing God we are privileged to know. This book will definitely cause the reader to have a BIG view of our phenomenal God!

Timothy Logan

Made In Our Image is available to check-out from NorthRidge.

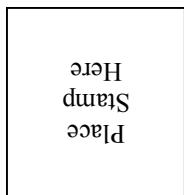


“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

9:30 a.m. Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Worship

Sunday Services

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



To The Ends of the Earth



Here I am. Send me. Isaiah

The mark of a great church is not its seating capacity, but its sending capacity. Mike Strachura

We talk of the Second Coming; half of the world has never heard of the first. Oswald J. Smith

World missions was on God's mind from the beginning. Dave Davidson

Some wish to live within the sound of a chapel bell, I wish to run a rescue mission within a yard of hell. C.T. Studd

May it become, once again, the ambition of the church to preach the Gospel where Christ is not known. David Sitton

I have but one candle of life to burn, and I would rather burn it out in a land filled with darkness than in a land flooded with light. John Falconer

I'm exasperated that we continue to spend 97 percent of our resources in concentrating on our Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria rather than moving out to reach the ends of the earth. Jerry Rankin

The command has been to 'go,' but we have stayed—in body, gifts, prayer, and influence. Robert Savage

Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever. John Piper

In the vast plain of the north I have sometimes seen, in the morning sun, the smoke of a thousand villages where no missionary has even been. Robert Moffat

Why should anyone hear the Gospel twice before everyone has had a chance to hear it once? Unknown

You can give without loving. You cannot love without giving. Amy Carmichael

Let my heart be broken with the things that break God's heart. Bob Pierce

My father, my grandfather, my great-grandfather and all of my ancestors before me – they lived and died – and they never heard the name of Jesus Christ. Why did it take you so long to come to us with the Gospel? A cannibal war-chief turned Christian in the jungles of Papua New Guinea speaking to a missionary

Would that God would make hell so real to us that we cannot rest; heaven so real that we must have men there. J. Hudson Taylor

This Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come. Jesus

It has always been my ambition to preach the Gospel where Christ was not known. The Apostle Paul

JULY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Women's Summer Bible Study is enjoying their study through Galatians. Wish you had joined the study when it started? **It's not too late**—come join in whenever you can! We meet every Tuesday at NorthRidge at 2:00 p.m. Come join us for a **luncheon on Tuesday, July 7th at noon** at Win Mobley's residence. Bring a salad to share!

Saturday, July 18th, **39 and Holding** are giving a barbeque for the seniors living at the Prestwick Apartments on Lincoln Avenue. We would love to have some of you come help us provide a fun time for them. We will be bringing the food and barbequing hamburgers, and just having a good time. This will be at 4 p.m. that day, and we need to know if you are able to help. Call Myrla at (208) 324-2406. Come help us share Jesus' love by showing we care about them!

MEN, bring a friend and come eat lunch at the Wok and Grill in Twin Falls with your NRF brothers. LEAD Bible Study **every Wednesday from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

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! Stump Mrs. Brockway! Ask Mrs. Brockway a Bible question, and if she can't answer, you will get a prize!

I simply argue that the cross be raised again at the center of the marketplace as well as on the steeple of the church. I am recovering the claim that Jesus Christ was not crucified between two candles; but on a cross between two thieves; on the town garbage heap; at a crossroad so cosmopolitan that they had to write His title in Hebrew and in Latin and in Greek; at the kind of place where cynics talk smut and thieves curse and soldiers gamble. Because that is where He died, and what He died about.

And that is where the church ought to be, and what the church should be about.

-George MacLeod



God's Peace Guards Our Hearts and Minds

Each day I hear more people questioning what next crisis will occur. Will the stock market crash again? Will I still have a job? How will I pay my bills? Will we go into another war, this time in Iran? Can our country afford any of this? These are unsettling times for each of us.

Different people respond differently to "crises" whether it is the baby crying or just receiving a bill and not having the money to pay for it. I talked with a friend recently who told me of problems in his church, problems at school with his kids, problems with his health, problems, problems, problems..... He was literally overwhelmed with problems. Why would God allow this? He was beginning to feel upset with God. These problems were interfering with his walk with God including his prayer life.

Where are you today? Did you wake up praising God, excited for another day to serve him? Or are you like most of the rest of us, waking up thinking of all the things that need to be done, worried that there is never enough time or energy to accomplish these things? What does the Bible teach us about worrying?

"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on. Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing. Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them.

Of how much more value are you than the birds? And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? If you then are not able to do the least, why are you anxious for the rest? And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you." Luke 12:22-26, 29-31

Whenever Deb tells me what has happened today in the world according to Fox News, I am faced with two basic choices: becoming emotional (angry, upset, worried, etc.) or repeating to myself and Deb that "God is in control." It is easy to say, but so hard to do. If we are worrying, we are distracted from seeking the kingdom of God. We are not relying on God's promises. God has given his people great promises in His Word.

How can we stop worrying? By trusting God and His Word. This involves reading His Word so that it is hidden in our heart. God has given us many great promises in His Word. Is God a liar, or will He keep His promises? God is not a liar. He says in Philippians 4:6-7: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God,

which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Paul shows us in this passage how to deal with worry and obtain peace. He says to let our requests be known to God by prayer (to pray about our circumstances instead of worrying over them) and supplication (a humble and sincere appeal to somebody who has the power to grant a request) with thanksgiving (trusting that the Creator of all things already knows our request). Isaiah 65:24 says: "It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear."

Can we rely on God's promises? As a Christian, we can. The Holy Spirit that indwells all believers confirms this fact. But we still struggle because of our flesh and our lack of faith. We need to trust daily in 1 John 5:14-15: "And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him."

Rich Henry



How much more value are you than the birds?