

# Navigator

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

## Trusting God's Record of Faithfulness

For God's people in the Old Testament His defining act of deliverance was His rescue of them from their bondage and slavery in Egypt. God's deliverance included the ten plagues that afflicted the Egyptians (Exodus 7:14-12:30) and the miraculous Red Sea crossing and subsequent destruction of the pursuing Egyptian army (Exodus 14:1-31). One interesting thing about God's deliverance of His people from Egypt is that He seems intent on making sure that they do not forget it.

Before God gave Moses and His people the Ten Commandments He said, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the land of slavery" (Exodus 20:2). Before God's people entered the Promised Land He warned them saying, "Take care lest you forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery" (Deuteronomy 6:12). In a multitude of passages God seems obsessed with making sure His people remember that He is "the LORD your God, who brought you up out of Egypt" (Psalm 81:10).

This theme is so pervasive in the Bible that there must be something profound behind it. God seems to continually rehearse His past faithfulness because His people are prone to forget. Our forgetfulness usually takes one of two paths: we forget and then begin to take God and His blessings for granted or we forget and do not trust God when we face struggles and trials. Let's deal with each of these forgetful tendencies in turn.

God seems to continually rehearse His past faithfulness because His people are prone to forget.

When we forget about God's past faithfulness to us we are inclined to take the blessings of God for granted as we grow accustomed to His lavish care for us. In many cases this may even lead to us ascribing the blessings of God to our own resourcefulness, ingenuity, and hard work and thus attempting to steal the glory that is due to God and God alone. In any case, ingratitude toward God is an inevitable result.

But the second temptation of forgetfulness is even more troublesome for our lives, for in this case our lack of remembrance leads us to a lack of trust in God. If we forget that God was faithful yesterday (and every other day of our lives before that!) then we will struggle to rely upon His faithfulness today. But when God's people remember God's past deliverance and faithfulness it spurs them on to present day trust in Him.

In the Old Testament when God called His people to remember His past deliverance it was usually because He was asking them to trust Him in the present. It is as if God were saying to them, "You are going to have to trust Me. And lest you doubt Me and what I am asking you to do

remember what I have done in the past. Remember when I rescued your ancestors from Egypt. Think about the Red Sea and how incredibly hopeless that scene seemed until I saved the day. Remember all that I have done in the past and how I have shown you My great faithfulness. Now trust Me fully today."

God's past faithfulness drives us to trust in His future faithfulness. So the reading of God's Word is like an expedition where we unearth new truths about the past faithfulness of God and we occupy our minds with thoughts of His mighty acts (Psalm 77:11-12). Yet we also look back at our past with God seeking to find our own personal "Exodus" events that dot the timeline of our lives—times where God rescued and delivered us and manifested His faithfulness to us in the struggles and trials of life.

God does not change (Malachi 3:6). If He has been faithful to His people in the past as we see in the Bible, and if He has been faithful to us as we can see as we rehearse what He has previously done for us in our lives, then we can rest assured that God will be faithful today and in the future. We have to continually remind ourselves of this and we may have to see it by faith, but recounting God's past faithfulness may just help us to trust Him today and declare, "Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22-23).

Pastor Matt



### Staff

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Bulletin Jolleen Kohler  
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*Have bulletin items to Jolleen by Wednesday*

### Leadership

#### Elders

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Chris Myhre 644-6421  
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Brian Parish 324-2517

### Schedule

#### 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

#### Thursday

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer  
at NorthRidge Fellowship

## Children's Ministries

### Sunday School

9:30am-10:20am

### Bible Builders

During the 10:30 Worship Service

### Kids 4 Truth

Wednesdays 6:15pm-8:15pm

### Vacation Bible School!



### The Ramblin' Road Trip

## June 16 ~ 20

### 4-years-old ~ 5th grade

### Monday ~ Friday 6:15-8:15

On this exciting road trip you will experience thrilling Bible stories, awesome crafts, music for the road, energizing snacks, and fun recreation.

## ♥ A Heart for Children ♥

Deuteronomy 6:5

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart*

**Where:** NorthRidge Fellowship

**When:** Saturday, March 8th  
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM



Coffee and Muffins at 8:30 - 9:00  
Workshops begin at 9:00

**Topics:** Vision for NRF's Children's Ministry  
Protecting Our Children and Workers  
Storytelling  
Think Outside the Box  
Making Learning Fun  
How to Come to Faith in Christ



**Details:** Lunch will be provided.  
We will not be able to provide childcare.

### R.S.V.P.

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the foyer if you are planning to attend.

# H<sub>2</sub>O Youth Ministry

### John 4:13-14

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."

**Our Many Thanks:** We would like to thank all the people who helped with the Valentine's Banquet and the people who came for making this year's Valentine's banquet a success. Thanks for all the help and support!!! Pictures will be posted on the church website soon.

**Ski & Share News:** At this time we will be taking 9 youth and 4 adults over to Burley for the weekend of **March 14th-16th**. Ski & Share is a weekend long youth event that focuses on getting youth close to God. We will have times of worship and we will have a time of having fun at Pomerelle on Saturday the 15th. I would ask that people would start praying for the youth and adults that are going, specifically for each of us to have a closer walk with God, boldness to share our faith and traveling mercies. Also pray for the speaker and the band that are coming, for God to give them the words we need to here.



**Parent's Night Out:** Don't forget to look at your calendar for the next Parent's Night Out. It is an awesome ministry that the youth provide for parents. We are proud to offer this ministry, so parents can have time alone with their spouses each month.

Your Bro. in Christ  
Shannon

# MARCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ladies Scrapbook/Craft night on **March 7th** from 6:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight. Bring your own project and enjoy fellowshiping!

The 39 and Holding group will hold an event in April—watch for news in the next newsletter.

If you are struggling with substance abuse or you know someone who is, consider attending the Christ Centered Addiction Recovery Program hosted by Brian and Laurena Parish. Meetings will be held every other Monday evening, starting March 3rd at 7:00. For more information, contact Brian at 324-2517 after 5:30 p.m.

The Parish address is 615 West Avenue D, Jerome.

**HEY KIDS!** What did the resurrected Jesus make for breakfast at the sea of Tiberias? Tell Mrs. Brockway and get a prize!

## Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life Survey of American Religion

“An extensive new survey by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life details the religious affiliation of the American public and explores the shifts taking place in the U.S. religious landscape. Based on interviews with more than 35,000 Americans age 18 and older, the U.S. Religious Landscape Survey finds that religious affiliation in the U.S. is both very diverse and extremely fluid.”

Here are just some of the numbers from the survey:

Religion	%	Christian Religions...	
Christian	78.4	Protestant	51.3
Jewish	1.7	Catholic	23.9
Buddhist	0.7	Mormon	1.7
Muslim	0.6	Jehovah's Witness	0.7
Hindu	0.4	Orthodox	0.6
Unaffiliated	16.1	Other Christian	0.3

For full results see [religions.pewforum.org/reports](http://religions.pewforum.org/reports).

*A Message From Your NorthRidge Elders*

## God's Provision in our weaknesses

As we start another exciting year at NorthRidge Fellowship, we look forward to the Lord providing us with many opportunities to serve him. These opportunities will come to us on an individual basis as well as on a Church body basis. Many times we feel inadequate for the tasks that God has called us to fulfill—this is true if we are relying on our own power and wisdom.

Many times we sound like Moses in Exodus 3:10. God had just called Moses to lead the Israelites out of captivity in Egypt. Moses replied, just as we do sometimes, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” The Lord replied in verse 11a, “I will certainly be with you.” This was not enough to stop Moses' worries and in 4:1 we see him questioning if he was the right person for the task. “But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say ‘The Lord has not appeared to you.’”

In verses 2-9 we see that God equipped Moses with three signs that would show Moses, as well as everyone else, that Moses was the person God had chosen to accomplish His plan. God first turned Moses' rod into a snake to demonstrate His

power and presence during Moses' coming task. With the second sign, God again demonstrated His power to Moses by making his hand leprous and then healing it. The third sign would be to transform the Nile into blood. God had provided not one, but three signs to help Moses accomplish his task.

Even with all this, Moses still felt he was not adequate for the task that was required of him. In verse 10 we see Moses saying to the Lord; “O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since you have spoken to your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.” In the following verses we see that God, with great patience, reminded Moses that He was the one who made Moses' mouth, even as it is He who has made each of us. Then he promised to instruct Moses exactly as to what to say.

Still in verse 13 we see Moses crying out: “O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever else You may send.” At this point, Moses got a glimpse of God's anger. The patience God had shown earlier to Moses was starting to wear thin. Although Moses did not know it, God was already arranging some assistance for Moses. This was in the form of Moses' brother Aaron. Aaron

**We can be confident** that in whatever tasks God has asked us to do He will be with us, He will give us what we need to accomplish his plans, and many times He will provide us the assistance we need before we can even ask for it.

“could speak well” and would be Moses' spokesperson to the people.

Our God, by His very nature, is unchanging. Today we serve the same God as Moses did in his day. This year we may not be asked to lead millions of Israelites out of captivity or part the Red Sea, but we are called to be obedient and trust not in our own understanding in doing whatever God has called us to do. We can be confident that in whatever tasks God has asked us to do He will be with us, He will give us what we need to accomplish his plans, and many times He will provide us the assistance we need before we can even ask for it.

If we continue to be God-focused and not self-focused, the Lord will do awesome things this year in our lives and in the life of NorthRidge Fellowship. I pray that God will do these things in such a way that everyone would see His greatness and there would be no doubt that it was of Him and not of us, so that He may get all the glory.

Travis Flick, Elder

# Meet Zac Bickel

*Every month you will be introduced to a fellow attendee at NorthRidge Fellowship.*

## **Where were you born and raised?**

I was born and raised in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania.

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

My parents and my sister.

## **What is your favorite passage and/or book of the Bible?**

Psalms 125.

## **Aside from the Bible, what are your favorite books?**

*Lord of the Rings.*

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

Steak, French fries, pizza, brownies, and ice cream.

## **Who in the Bible do you most identify with?**

John Mark.

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

Niagara Falls, Senegal West Africa, Alaska, Disney World.

## **How did you come to know Christ?**

I was raised in a Christian home and have attended church all my life. When I was 5 years old I prayed a prayer to ask Christ into my life and was baptized a few months later. After that I always looked back at that time to say that I was saved and that I was going to Heaven. Through the years after that I lived a life that made me appear to be a Christian but there was no changing faith in my life.

At the age of 16 I went to a youth retreat with my church. That night I listened to the speaker and felt convicted about my life and the way that I was living. Later that night I struggled with it until about one in the morning and finally asked Christ into my life. I came to the conclusion that night that I believed in Christ and that He had died on the cross but up to that point it had never changed my life.

Since that time I have been on 2 mission trips, one to Africa and one to Utah. On these trips Christ taught me a lot and I grew in many ways. They taught me to depend on Him and know that He will never leave me.

After finishing my schooling I plan on going into full-time Christian service. I am not sure where God is calling me but I am looking forward to the plans He has for my life.

# What is Chris Listening to?

*That my soul may sing praise to You and not be silent.  
O Lord my God, I will give thanks to You forever. Psalm 30:12*

**Chris Myhre serves at NorthRidge most Sundays up front through music. What music is a blessing to Chris? Let's find out what Chris is listening to!**

## **What kind of music do you like to listen to?**

Mostly contemporary Christian music now, but I will occasionally listen to the "oldies" from the 70's - the music I grew up listening to.



## **What are your three most listened to CD's right now? Tell us a little about them.**

- 1) Jimmy Needham, *Speak*: he's a new Christian artist Candy stumbled upon with a blues sound.
- 2) Chris Tomlin, *See The Morning*: Another great worship CD by Chris Tomlin.
- 3) Mercy Me, *All That Is Within Me*: I love the vocals and the heart behind the songs.

## **What was your favorite music in 1984, when you graduated from High School?**

When I was in High School I listened to mostly secular music. Two albums I remember listening to were Def Leopard *Pyromaniac* and Billy Ocean *Caribbean Queen*. The Christian music that I was listening to were David Meece, Petra, and the Imperials.

## **What CD is in your car right now?**

My CD Player broke a while ago, so I usually have my iPod plugged in. There are 396 songs and 47 sermon podcasts on my iPod right now. I usually have one of the sermons on anymore. I really enjoy listening to Albert Mohler (President of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Pastor Matt's seminary), R.C. Sproul, Ravi Zacharias, John Piper, and Alistair Begg. All are excellent pastors, preachers, and speakers.

## **What radio station do you listen to most often?**

It depends which town I am in. At home, if I'm listening to the radio, it is 88.1 KTFY.

## **What was the last concert you went to?**

Phillips, Craig & Dean, Freedom Concert in Boise. Opening was Mark Harris from 4Him.

## **What is your favorite concert you've ever been to?**

I hate to admit this but, probably my first major concert, Kool and the Gang and The Commodores, in 1985 when I was stationed in Mississippi. They had lots of lights and pyrotechnics and more people in one place than I had ever seen. Growing up in Montana the only concerts that came to town were country, not really my favorite style.

## **What concert would you love to see next?**

Definitely, either Chris Tomlin or Matt Redman. Both of these songwriters put God in the proper perspective. God is God and we're not. They both have a real heart of worship with their songs.

## **What CD's do your kids most enjoy?**

Any kids Christian music. Right now they listen to The Go Fish Guys a lot. Audrey likes this new independent artist named Mrs. "B". Have any of you heard of her?

## **What CD have you bought recently that you wish you hadn't?**

I honestly can't think of one that I wish I hadn't bought. Some I enjoy more than others, but anytime someone worships the Lord, I enjoy it. Psalm 95:1 says "Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation." It doesn't say it has to sound good to us; as long as it is worshipping "the Rock of our salvation" it's a blessing.



Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

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

### Sunday Services

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



## To The Ends of the Earth



# Jesus for a People Without Hope

I don't know if I read it, heard it, or thought of it myself, but a few years ago on the inside cover of my Bible I wrote the following words: "Jesus is the only hope for the world. He is worthy of me giving my life that the world might know that." I will occasionally look at those two brief sentences, which summarize much of what the New Testament teaches, and wonder if I am really living out those twin truths. I frequently ask myself if I am truly doing enough so that the world might hear that Jesus is their only hope.

The Bible clearly proclaims that Jesus is the only hope for the world. There is salvation in "no other name" than His (Acts 4:12). He provides eternal life to those who trust in Him (John 3:16) while those that reject Him stand condemned before God (John 3:18). He is "the way, the truth, and the life" and there is no other access to God, but through Him (John 14:6). Jesus reconciles us to God (Colossians 1:21-22), delivers us from the wrath to come (1 Thessalonians 1:10), takes our sin and credits us with His righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21), redeems us and forgives our sins (Ephesians 1:7), and the list could go on and on. Rightly did the Apostle Paul refer to Jesus as "our hope" (1 Timothy 1:1).

Yet we live in a world today where people are without hope or searching for hope in things that cannot truly provide it. In our society secularism, materialism, and practical atheism are rampant, while followers of Jesus Christ hold the answers to the world's greatest need. And the hope that Jesus Christ brings is a hope that is meant to be shared. As Christians "the love of Christ compels us" to

live our lives as "ambassadors for Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:14-21). An ambassador is defined as "an authorized representative or messenger." That is how we are to serve King Jesus as we speak on His behalf to people who do not follow our King.

But to be an ambassador of Christ who is willing to give their life so that the world might hear of their King calls for great sacrifice. Christ's call to deny ourselves and take up our cross and follow Him (Luke 9:23) is the summons to declare "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). But in the giving of our life to make Christ known to the nations we will find out what it truly means to live (Matthew 10:39).

J. Campbell White, a leader in the Laymen's Missionary Movement nearly one hundred years ago wrote: "Most men are not satisfied with the permanent output of their lives. Nothing can wholly satisfy the life of Christ within His followers except the adoption of Christ's purpose toward the world He came to redeem. Fame, pleasure, and riches are but husks and ashes in contrast with the boundless and abiding joy of working with God for the fulfillment of His eternal plans. The men who are putting everything into Christ's undertaking are getting out of life its sweetest and most priceless rewards."

Jesus is the only hope for the world. What will you give so that the world might know that?

Pastor Matt

Place  
Stamp  
Here