

# Navigator

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

## AN OFFER YOU CAN'T REFUSE!

We are often bombarded with offers that seem too good to be true: infomercials that tout the latest get rich quick scheme, telemarketers calling with a once-in-a-lifetime deal, pop-up ads on our computer screens enticing us with a hot bargain, or even advertisements in the mail for this deal and that deal if we act now since we are already “pre-approved.”

Most of the time we simply dismiss all of these and more because we know that somewhere in the deal is some fine print. We know that offers that seem too good to be true usually are. There is an innate feeling within us that the best things in life cannot really be free.

And then we read our Bibles and see the offer that God holds out to us in places like Isaiah chapter 55. In Isaiah 55:1-2 God speaks through the prophet and says, “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.”

Wine, milk, rich and satisfying foods all for free! If there ever was an offer that seemed too good to be true, it would be this one. That is, until we realize that the One making the offer is the fully trustworthy God of the universe (Titus 1:2) who offers these things to His people. But God does not expect that His people will come to Him with a grocery cart waiting for it to be filled with actual food. What God is offering is Himself. He is the bread that satisfies (John 6:26-35, 48). He is the water that never runs dry (John 4:13-14). He is the One that is to be feasted upon (Psalm 34:8).

God invites His people to turn away from the things that do not satisfy and turn to Him as the One who always satisfies. One author writes, “If you don't feel strong desires for the manifestation of the glory of God, it is not because you have drunk deeply and are satisfied. It is because you have nibbled so long at the table of the world. Your soul is stuffed with small things, and there is no room for the great.” God's offer is for us

to stop stuffing ourselves with things that do not satisfy so that there is more room in our lives for the One that brings total satisfaction and delight.

But there is a catch here; there is a bit of fine print: you have to be thirsty. You must be hungry. And your thirst and hunger must actually be for something that you cannot buy; namely God Himself! You must come to God with the words of the Psalmist being the expression of your heart, “O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water” (Psalm 63:1). That is the cry of a man who is hungry for God and tired of his soul being stuffed with small things.

And you also have to come bankrupt. Penniless. Destitute. The person who God invites to take part in this offer is the one who “has no money.” And the person who accepts God's offer is the one who comes bringing nothing but hunger and thirst and need.

At first glance there seems to be a bit of a contradiction when it says, “He who has no money, come, buy and eat.” How can the one who has no money buy anything? Later the same theme is repeated as God says, “Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.” Again, how do you buy something without money and without price? This seems like a hopeless cause at best; a taunting of the bankrupt at worst. But not when you consider that the purchase price for what satisfies is paid by someone else. What is free to the man who is thirsty and hungry is costly to the One who provides what truly satisfies.

The free grace of God is only free to us. It cost God everything. Jesus had to die so that we could thirst and hunger for God and so that there might even be an offer of free grace in the first place. Jesus died, the righteous for the unrighteous, so that I could come to God and be satisfied in Him (1 Peter 3:18). Now, through Jesus, let us come to God and hunger and thirst for Him and find satisfaction and delight in Him. This is an offer that you simply cannot refuse!

† Pastor Matt

### Staff

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### Navigator PDF

To receive the newsletter as a PDF in email, please send a request to newsletter@nrfellowship.org and you will be added to the Navigator email list.

## Children's Ministries

Helping Children Become God-Focused Believers Through Essential Christian Truth



## Sharing Christ With Four to Six Year Olds



Teaching this class is a real joy each week. There is no one more honest or more open than a four to six year old. They love Jesus with an intense and genuine love and never get tired of learning more about Him. I am often surprised at their insight, teaching me in the process!

Each week we have just one hour which I find way too short...there is never enough time! Usually we break that time into four areas: activity, music, Bible teaching, and prayer and sharing time. We also add in games and extra activities when we can fit them in.

We sometimes do special projects, asking the parents to help support them such as making our own Samaritan's Purse boxes. This year we made two boxes and the children worked to earn the money, buying the things to fill them. One boy in the class misunderstood my instructions about bringing an item and went home, started washing dishes, etc. and made up an entire box on his own! I was so proud of them all!

Last week's lesson was on how Jesus told the disciples to tell others about Him. Each child made their own page saying "Jesus Loves You", carefully designed it, and then put it in an envelope to deliver to someone they wanted to tell about Jesus. Along with this we had the story from the Bible, and an activity page from our curriculum we worked on together.

A very special reward is given at the end of each class which the children look forward to, and is partly a "thank you" from me for listening and taking part in class.

The children often come and talk to my husband, Ron, about the class. They look on me as somewhat of a "grandma" figure, and tell him how much they like the class. I have never pictured myself as a gifted kindergarten teacher, but I have discovered I love sharing Christ with the children. I found Christ when I was five-years-old, so I know children can find Him in a real and lasting way. What a joy to teach them the character qualities of following Jesus! Thanks for allowing me to teach your kids!

Myrla Plant

**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

## H<sub>2</sub>O YOUTH MINISTRY



**JOHN 4:13-14**

Over the past three months we have talked about a youth ministry with a purpose. We have taught on each of the six purposes for a healthy youth ministry and they are as follows: Evangelism, Worship, Discipleship, Ministry, Fellowship and Prayer. These six purposes can be found in the Bible passages Matthew 22:37-40, Matthew 28:18-20, and Acts 2:41-47. It is the goal of our youth ministry to act on these purposes for our lives. We have developed our own purpose statement for our youth ministry: Our youth ministry exists to REACH non-believing students, help them to GROW in God's Word, show them how to SERVE and HONOR God while RELATING with other believers. Please be in prayer for our youth that they will be able to follow these purposes for their lives.

Just a quick note to the youth—we will be moving youth from Tuesday, May 5th to Wednesday, May 6th at the Pharaoh's house.

Thanks, Shannon Pharaoh



## Meet Greg Peasnall

### Where were you born and raised?

I was born in Provo, Utah, and raised in Tooele, Utah. I spent all my school years in Tooele except my 10th grade year which I spent in Yuma, Arizona.

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

Jim Ballard, who was my first pastor—he helped me understand my need for the Savior and turn to Him. Ernie Hazlett, who disciplined me through my early days as a Christian.

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

My favorite passage is one that jumped out at me and made me crave to learn God's word. 1 Peter 3:15 - "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear."

My favorite book is the book of John, because it shows without question who Jesus is.

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

Books about the Bible, particularly books written by John MacArthur .

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

I'm really not that picky, as long as there was fruit and veggies I'd be happy (as long as it wasn't tomatoes).

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

Paul, as far as his transformation that is. Mine wasn't quite so dramatic though, but it was definitely a 180 turnaround.

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

Maui, Yosemite National Park, Zions National Park, Oregon coast.

### How did you come to know Christ?

This was one of those Romans 8:28 things, where something bad that had happened turned out for good. Peggy's mother developed an acute case of leukemia and died some months after that. The day she died was Sunday, and just happened to be Jim Ballard's first Sunday preaching at First Baptist Church in Battle Mountain Nevada after moving there. None of us were church goers at the time. A friend of Peggy's family that went to that church brought Pastor Jim over to minister to us and the rest was history.



# 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

## *God's Big Picture: Tracing the storyline of the Bible*, Vaughan Roberts

One day a man receives a package in the mail. Filled with excitement, he rips open the box only to find another box. He opens this box to disclose a third box. This continues until he has five boxes scattered around him and one box on his lap. This box is plain looking and very small. By this time, the man has given up hope of finding anything of value. He decides, however, to open the little box anyway. In the sixth box lies a ruby; a perfect, flawless ruby. All the disappointing boxes fade from the man's memory in light of the precious stone. The storyline of the Bible also contains many layers or sections. Just as each box led the man one step closer to the ruby, each section of the Bible leads us one step closer to Christ.

Christ is the ultimate goal and fulfillment of every covenant, prophesy, and picture given to us in the Bible. He is our hope for the future. The whole Bible is brought together in Christ. In his book, *God's Big Picture*, Vaughan Roberts explores each of the Bible's layers in depth. He walks his readers through eight kingdoms. Each kingdom is significant. Each one plays a vital role in God's master plan. Six of these kingdoms have been realized, and two are yet to come. Roberts uses these eight kingdoms to create a framework for studying God's Word:

- The pattern of the kingdom - Genesis 1-2
- The perished kingdom - Genesis 3
- The promised kingdom - Genesis 12- Exodus 18
- The partial kingdom - Exodus- II Chronicles
- The prophesied kingdom - Ezra - Malachi
- The present kingdom - Matthew- John
- The proclaimed kingdom - Acts - Revelation
- The perfected kingdom

Readers are offered a new perspective in *God's Big Picture*. Instead of thinking of the Bible as sixty-six different books, readers are invited to see the bigger picture. Roberts shows how the Bible tells one story—a story of redemption.

*God's Big Picture* is a basic book which covers many questions Christians have about the Bible. It discusses the purpose of the Old Testament laws and sacrifices. It also shows how the Old and New Testaments tie together. Roberts uses countless Scripture passages and illustrations to prove his arguments and reinforce his thoughts. This past week I followed Robert's on his step-by-step journey through the eight kingdoms. His book challenged me to think about where specific passages fit into the whole scheme of the Bible. Just as we need to study a chapter to discover the context of a verse, we need to understand the framework of the Bible before we can see the whole picture.

*God's Big Picture* provides a basic framework for the Bible. Read *God's Big Picture* and enjoy seeing how the whole Bible fits together. You will gain a better understanding of basic truths. The eight kingdoms will bring the Bible to light in a new and challenging way. New and mature Christians will benefit from the truths discussed in Vaughan Robert's book.

“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.northridgefellowship.org  
314 West Ave J  
Jerome, ID 83338



Place  
Stamp  
Here

# Tending God's Sheep



**John 21:1-19** The third time Jesus appeared to His disciples after the resurrection, He cooked fish and bread on a fire of coals on the beach for Peter and the others. It was early morning, and the disciples had spent the entire night casting and hadn't caught a single fish. When Jesus appeared on the beach He told them to cast again on the right and they found themselves unable to bring in the net because it was so loaded with fish. Peter, in his exuberance for the Lord, dove into the water, swam ashore, and joined Jesus in an early morning breakfast.

After breakfast, Jesus asked Peter a question three times. The repetition indicates that it was an important question. Though there were subtle differences each time, the essence was the same: "Simon Peter, do you love Me?"

I don't know exactly what Peter was thinking, but I can imagine. Peter had three times denied Christ prior to the crucifixion. The agony in his heart was immense as we know he wept bitterly. Here, on this beautiful morning on the beach, sharing fish and bread with Christ that Christ made for him, he is directly asked by the Lord three times, "do you love Me?"

Each time, Peter replied that he did. The third time, Peter was grieved and replied, "Lord, You know everything; You know that I love You." Jesus wasn't testing Peter's love for Him. Of course Jesus already knew that Peter loved Him. Instead, Jesus had something to say to Peter that He wanted Peter to store in his heart and mind. Each time Peter affirmed his love for Jesus, Jesus replied, "feed my lambs"; "tend my sheep"; and finally, "feed my sheep."

These replies are variations on a theme—I have sheep, and I want you to tend them, feed them, love them, care for them. Jesus concludes His conversation with Peter by stating, "Follow Me."

In 1948, Thornton Wilder wrote a three act play entitled *Our Town*. Emily, the lead female character in the play, is given one day of life to live over again and she chooses her 12th birthday. Yet, in the midst of reliving this happy childhood day, Emily stops and exclaims, "I can't! I can't go on! It goes so fast. We don't have time to look at one another. I didn't realize. So all that was going on and I never noticed!" I read those words in high school and I've never forgotten them! Life goes very fast; the Scriptures point out that we are like grass that withers. We need to take time to look at one another—time to tend, love, care, and feed those whom God has placed around us.

Each day, we are surrounded by God's sheep. We sometimes have moments, and sometimes we are given years, to tend, care, love, and feed these precious sheep of Christ's. Who are these sheep in your life? The answer is as simple as your family, your close friends, your sisters and brothers at NorthRidge, the clerk at the grocery store—the fellow sheep who are all around you.

I can't help but reflect on the example Jesus gave by building a fire on a beach on an early morning, after a long, fruitless night, and serving His disciples fish and bread. He was carefully tending those He loved. Let us who love Christ take careful note of the sheep our Chief Shepherd has placed around us, and tend them, care for them, and feed them in the rich love, grace, and truth of our Lord.

Karen Brockway

## Too much stuff?

### Clean it out!

Start your Spring cleaning  
and bring your excess belongings to the famous  
NorthRidge Yard Sale.

Saturday, May 9th, 8:00 to 2:00

## Strong Man Conference

"...you are strong, and the Word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one." | John 2:14

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Don Whitney  
Additional Speakers: Pastor Matt Boyd  
Pastor Paul Thompson

Worship: Josh Rosenthal

Location: NorthRidge Fellowship

Date: June 26 and 27

Time: Friday 6:00 pm  
Saturday 8:00 am

\$25 per person. This includes dinner on Friday  
and breakfast and lunch on Saturday

## MAY

## 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. The men are reading *Disciplines of a Godly Man* by Kent Hughes.

The Ladies regular craft night will be on Friday, May 1 at 6:00 p.m.

You've been given a second chance to bring your excess stuff to the **NorthRidge Yard Sale!** Bring your items to the church on May 6, 7, and 8 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. All proceeds go towards our Africa missions.

**Vacation Bible School** is collecting supplies for art projects. Please be collecting empty paper towel rolls and/or the inside rolls of foil or plastic wrap. See Gayle with questions or to hand in your rolls! Watch the bulletin for upcoming VBS meetings and announcements.

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!** What kind of animal bit the apostle Paul? Tell Mrs. Brockway, and you will get a prize!

# Praising God For His Blessings to NorthRidge

On April 5, 2009 NorthRidge Fellowship had a deacon appointment service for our newest servant-leaders: Dennis Cornwell, Jay Gandiaga, and Tim Logan. As an elder involved in the process from beginning to end, I can tell you what a blessing it is to have men like these chosen by the members of NorthRidge, examined by the elders and finally appointed by the elders, to serve this flock. Our Lord is truly blessing this body of believers.

Blessed is *makarios* in Greek. It is derived from the root *mak* which means "large" or "lengthy," and means "fortunate" or "happy." It describes the kind of happiness that comes from receiving divine favor. The word can be rendered happy. When we individually or as a church are in God's will, we will be blessed. This doesn't mean that our life will be easy, but we will have the joy in the Lord. God continues to raise up the right people to build or lead this body in His time.

I had been a member at another church. They had instituted a leadership position of trustee on the "deacon board". When I asked what this was, they explained that they did not have enough men in the body that met the scriptural qualifications of deacon,

and "the work of the church had to be done." I was very uncomfortable with this. During my time at that church, I saw a continual power struggle between this deacon board and the pastor. As a result the church underwent two church splits while I was there. I struggled to see how this could bring glory to God and finally quietly left that church. A short while later we were told of a small church in Hagerman. We started attending there and met a young church-planter named Mickie Kelly. After sharing our testimony with him, he asked if Deb and I would be willing to help with a new church plant in Jerome, NorthRidge Fellowship. Up until that point, it was a bible study that met weekly at his house. My wife and I prayed for God's guidance in this move. There was so much work that would have to be done! And His answer was a peaceful stepping out in faith to be servants in this new church.

We have seen God's blessing on NorthRidge Fellowship in many ways: from the beginning as a worship service at the Best Western Hotel in Jerome, agreeing to build on our site when we had about 25 regular-attendees, being appointed as an elder with Travis Flick, writing a church constitution and articles of faith that were scripturally based, seeing Mickie being called to serve in

Oklahoma, being on the pastor search committee, calling Pastor Matt Boyd to NorthRidge, appointing deacons as servant-leaders, seeing the new building nearing completion, and seeing God's blessing in the people coming to hear the Word of God preached by Pastor Matt. Throughout this, our goal has been to glorify God by loving Him, loving one another, and loving our community and the world. When you look at NorthRidge Fellowship we can see the love of God in the many parts of this flock.

This blessing from God comes from a determined effort by those in leadership to follow the "Chief Shepherd," Jesus. In John 10:11, Jesus says "I am the good Shepherd." The shepherd represents one who loves and cares for his flock just as a leader or ruler cares for those under his charge. If you are reading this article, God has a reason for you to be part of this blessed work for our Lord. Think about it! Pray about it! What is the spiritual gift that you have? Talk to the pastor, the elders, the deacons, and any of the members. They may already know why God has placed you in the body. Do His work! And He will bless you and continue to bless this church.

Rich Henry