

NEWS2USE

July 16, 2009-July 29, 2009

PASTOR'S CORNER

"Curse God and Die" (Job 2:9b)

The Biblical book of Job prompts endless discussion, and theological speculation in several directions. The number of angles and opinions are impossible to keep up with. Once people start talking about Job and the issues it raises, they can't stop. This is the surest sign that Job is (a) brilliantly conceived and written, and (b) literature in which God is still at work, still speaking.

The multiplicity of views includes a variety of thoughts on Job's wife. Though she appears only in Job 2:9-10, she impacts readers greatly. Upon an initial reading, she strikes me as antagonistic. I read Job and I am ready to dismiss his wife as faithless, negative, and unhelpful.

Recently I shared these views, judgmental as they are, in a group discussion. I wasn't imposing my views on the group, just sharing what I thought. My voice was one among many, and there were definitely other opinions. "She has lost all her children, and her wealth," one person said. I paused in my thinking on Job's wife, and took a step back. It dawned on me that even though she is only heard from in these two verses, she is there, a part of the story. Furthermore, hers is a complex character, even if a silent one.

Bible scholars with a feminist bent would be justified in pointing out that even though she isn't mentioned in chapter 1, Job didn't have those 10 children by himself. She was there and she had a say, even in her silence. She mattered greatly. Also, we remember that in ancient Semitic cultures all a woman had was her father, and then her husband, and ultimately her sons. Job's wife was wealthy because her husband was wealthy and respected, and they had 10 kids including 7 boys. Due to her wealth, Job's wife was an important woman in the community.

Then, Satan, with God's permission, stripped all the wealth away by provoking the Sabaeans and Chaldeans (1:15, 17). Next, obviously endowed with limited elemental powers, Satan provoked a desert tornado of sorts that collapsed the house where Job's 10 children were enjoying fellowship with one another. Finally, Satan inflicted loathsome sores on Job's body. The woman had nothing – no kids, no property, and her husband was reduced to grief on an ash heap.

Should she have *stood by her man*? Of course! Compassion and support were what Job needed more than anything. But, before we jump to quick judgment of this woman, it behooves us to remember she also suffered greatly. In truth, when we go through trials that rip at the soul, how do we respond? *Blessed be the name of the Lord*; or, *curse God and die*. Clearly, the former is the 'right answer.' But has that been the honest answer in your life or mine?

Alexander Solzhenitsyn was an army officer in Soviet Russia when he was arrested by state police for dissidence in the 1940's. He saw the evil wrought by Stalin — evil that millions of Russians dared ignore. He even wrote about what he saw and ended up in the misery of the prison system for 10 years. One of his closest friends in the army was Lieutenant Ovsyannikov .

Unlike Solzhenitsyn, Ovsyannikov was not arrested even though he knew many of Solzhenitsyn's subversive views. In fact, just the opposite happened. Solzhenitsyn lost contact with his old friend during his prison years. When he tried to track him down, Ovsyannikov was elusive. Finally, he got hold of his old friend only to discover that his old lieutenant had gone to work for

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(‘Pastor’s Corner’ continued from page 1)

the same corrupt government that had arrested and brutally tortured Solzhenitsyn and millions upon millions of others. He criticized the beast; one of his best friends became the beast (see *The Gulag Archipelago*, ch, 4).

My whole point in recounting the journey he took and that of Lt. Ovsyannikov was to say either man could have gone either way. “If there were only evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds,” writes Solzhenitsyn, “and it were necessary only to separate the rest of us from them and destroy them; but, line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart” (p.168).

Solzhenitsyn could become the persecuted idealist, or the immoral interrogator. So could you or I. We could face the pain of life with the courageous faith to “bless the name of the Lord” even in instances of unspeakable pain. On the other hand, we could be hit with tragedies that are sad, but not all that uncommon, and yet be driven to “curse God and die.” We each have in us the potential for spiritual success and spiritual failure.

Knowing this, I pray that our church is a place where people who want to curse God and die can be welcomed and loved. I don’t affirm that conclusion. But, I do affirm the pain of the person who is so broken he or she feels that is all there is left to do. I pray that our church will heap mercy and more mercy when we meet those who have lost their way. I pray our church will be a place where they can voice their most bile-filled vituperations at God. I don’t want to see people in that condition remain in that condition. But, we must allow them to voice their pain. Redemption and healing won’t come until they do.

Rob Tennant

UKRAINE GYPSY MINISTRY

On August 15, I will be going again with a team to Munkacs, Ukraine to have Vacation Bible School with the Gypsy children and do whatever we can in that church and the villages. God has blessed bountifully both spiritually and physically since our trip there last year. Many exciting things have happened --the church had its first baptisms, the church building now has a roof, windows, electricity, and water. Our mission team of ten will be staying at the church during our time there. Based on what earlier teams have experienced, we have been told to prepare for 300-500 children this year.

If you would like to donate to this work, below is a list of some of the items that we need. A basket will be on the table in the main hallway for your donations through Sunday, August 9.

- Yarn and Ribbon, any color and any amount
- Stickers
- Toothpaste and Toothbrushes
- Hand towels
- Money to buy 300 small boxes of crayons (about \$100)

Most of all, please pray for this team as we prepare, travel, and minister with the people there. Teams are going each week from churches throughout North Carolina and we all need your prayers. The gospel is being told to those who have never heard it before and those who had no hope are finding hope in Jesus.

Thank you again - Laura Shrewsbury



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NOTES

Are children important? Are children important to our church **and to the health of our church? Are children valued?**

Scripture teaches us that *God/Jesus* values children. They are important to Him and loved by Him. In Mark 10: 14-16, Jesus said, "*Let the children come to me.*" Then in v.16: "*And He took the children in His arms, put His hands on them and blessed them.*" **Jesus was "hands-on" — involved.** The children mattered to Him. In fact, He corrected/rebuked the disciples who thought otherwise.

There are many other scriptures that make it clear that children are special to God. They are gifts from God (Psalm 127:3). Each is uniquely made and known by God (Psalm 139:13-14).

We as adults (parents, teachers and church congregations) are given mandates for teaching our children so that they will know God and His ways from Psalm 78:4-7:

v.4 "*We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power and the wonders He has done.*" and v.7, "*Then they would put their trust in God.*" From Deuteronomy 6:1-7 and 11:18-19 we're commanded: "*Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds;... Teach them to your children.*"

We're given an awesome privilege and responsibility to lay spiritual foundations. We're preparing them to hear and know *God's* voice; to respond to Him; to know Him personally; to love Him; follow Him; and to obey Him.

Here in the middle of summer vacation , we need to be getting ready for classes in September.

Staffing for Children's Ministries for the Fall

Please be in prayer for our church, our families, our children and our ministry to them each week. **Pray that God will bring the right people to meet the needs that we will have.**

To staff one typical Sunday morning requires 18-20 committed adults (at least 2 for each classroom.) 10 Sunday School Teachers; 6-8 Extended Session Teachers, and 2 Kingdom Kids teachers.

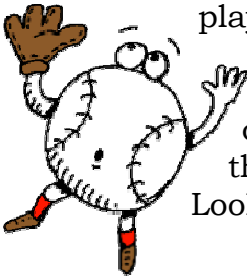
Prayerfully consider if *God* might be calling you to work with children this year. There are many opportunities - **perhaps 1 hour per month in Extended Session or Kingdom Kids (serving one time each month on a rotating basis for the year). Sunday School teachers serve 1 hour each week for the year.** When we can have two teams of Sunday School teachers for the class, the responsibility is shared even more and allows for some flexibility. Substitutes are needed in all areas. **An Extended Session Director is needed for the Fall to recruit and schedule workers for the worship hour for babies - K. There are one time opportunities in October and December and other times in the year.**

Please see Faye if you have questions or need more information.

PICNIC

July 26th

Everyone get ready for great fun!!! Mark your calendars for Sunday, July 26th, for a church picnic and softball game. The pavilion and one softball field will be reserved at Anderson Park in Carrboro from 3pm-7pm for us all to gather for good food and great fellowship. The church leadership teams will supply the hamburgers and hot dogs if all families will bring the "fixins" and side dishes. There will be opportunities for gathering, playing volley ball, playing on a shaded playground, and of course a softball game that will be fun for all. Looking forward to seeing you all there!



BIRTHDAYS IN JULY

- 1 Katie Randolph
- 2 Laura Booth
Andrea Cobert
- 8 Phillip Parker
- 9 Emily Asbill
- 11 Laura Shrewsbury
- 19 David Seng
Lynn Cohen
- 21 Johelen Courliss
- 26 Nelson Keller
Dana Brower
- 28 Mason Meacham
- 30 John Chavez
Oscar Moncada
David Sanders

NEWS 4 YOUTH

Are you ready for the summer?

connection Bible Study Wednesday
Nights at 6:45pm

Upcoming Youth Stuff

- * Saturday, July 18 to Friday, July 24 - World Changers Team in Roanoke, Virginia
- * Tuesday, July 28 - Game Day at Hill-Song
- * Saturday, August 8 - Trip to the North Carolina Zoo
- * Friday, August 14 - Afternoon at the movies

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WORLD CHANGERS

Catch a glimpse of our HillSong World Changers working in Roanoke, Virginia next week on the web:

<http://blogs.world-changers.net/roanoke-va-july-18-25/>

Pictures are updated daily and video will go up a few days after the trip is over.

Food Drive for Durham Rescue Mission

Please bring in groceries (canned goods and non-perishable items) that we can donate to the Durham Rescue Mission. The cause is worthy and the need is significant. We will be collecting groceries through the end of July. The Durham Rescue Mission provides shelter and meals for homeless people every day. It is a worthwhile organization and they need our help.