



*A Great Place To Grow in
Christ*

For the Entire Family

January 8, 2017

This Weeks Events

Today:

10:00AM: (Grange)—*Bible 101*—Pastor

11:00AM: (Grange)—The LORD'S Supper, Popcorn Preaching, Video and Singing

12:00PM: (Grange)—*Potluck*—Dee Coale

6:00PM: (Grange)—*Business meeting* (Elect officers for 2017)—Pastor

Upcoming Events

July 9, 2017: *MISSIONARY TO GREENLAND*—J.R. Wright Family

Note from the Pastor

First: Dee and I would like to thank you for the wonderful Christmas gifts you bestowed upon us. You are truly a blessing!

Second: Thank you for your sacrifice to our building. I know that it was untimely, but necessary. I do realize it was a sacrifice on your part.

Third: The new septic is installed and we are scheduled to close on the building on February 1st (or thereabouts). It has been a long and difficult haul as is anything that has any worth. - Pastor



Children's Church and nursery services are available for every service. Our staff is highly trained and offers the best in child development of the spirit. Note: children are usually excused by announcement from the pulpit if you wish to take advantage of these services.

The Gift of God



Ron Coale

After labor, the child had come. Curiosity prevailed about these shepherds who had come to “see the king.” Marvel she did when the wise men from the east crowded the manger bowing to her newborn baby laying precious gifts at His feet. Truly this was a special child, but how special would He be? As far as Mary was concerned, like most mothers, the child was a gift from God to her. But, He would be more than that. He would be a gift to the entire world. God Himself would make Himself to be a gift to all people.

Gifts are not truly gifts if you can buy them for yourself. My wife bought a calendar for herself for Christmas. She laid it on my desk to wrap and put under the tree with this note attached: “This is my gift from you. Could you please wrap it?” It’s not the same as a gift that I buy and surprise her with.

What do you do with a gift? First you receive it. When somebody comes to a party for you, bringing gifts, they place them in an area set aside for you. They give you a gift and you receive it. After that you decide whether you will accept it or not. This is how

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Losing Strength

By Dr. Gary Hall

I just finished the Book of Nehemiah again this week and have been once again reminded of the fact that sometimes we get part way into a project and feel like we



Dr. Gary Hall

have run out of gas so to speak and need to make the decision like David did to Encourage Himself In the Lord. The Bible says in **Nehemiah 4:10** ***And Judah said, The strength of the bearers of burdens is decayed, and there is much rubbish; so that we are not able to build the wall.***

Have you ever felt that way in your life? You have given all your strength to a task, and you feel like you have run out of gas. Your strength that you started with is Decayed, like a sandwich I left in my lunch pail at work over the weekend one time. I had been in a hurry and had simply forgotten to grab it and take it with me, when I left work that Friday. I had been busy and had not had time to sit down and eat my entire lunch, so the sandwich remained uneaten. However, when I arrived at work Monday morning and opened the lunch pail the sandwich had already gone bad, and it could provide me with no nutrition for the day's work ahead of me. It is a good thing I had packed a sack lunch, because I could get no use or benefit out of the nasty tuna-fish sandwich left over the weekend. The Jews had already used up what strength they had started with and felt like what

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The Loewen Family in the Yucatan Peninsula

September & October 2016

Dear Pastor & Praying Friends,

Hello fellow pastors, supporting churches, friends & family. There have been some exciting things happening these last two months.

Pastor Charly keeps encouraging me with great updates which I shall pass on to YOU. First, as a church they have decided to finish the bathrooms on the church property, as well as construct a thatched roof over the Sunday school area. It's thrilling how they have saved up money to buy the concrete blocks and are still saving money to buy the supplies needed to construct the roof. There are more men that are faithful to church and are gladly using their 'talents' for the Lord to help construct these structures. Secondly, Pastor Charly has also indicated that all the benches are full of people during the services and they need more benches made. We've learned that Ronny's family has started attending regularly, and his step father just got saved. The twins' mom, Lady, got saved too. Pastor Charly is faithfully soul winning as well as discipling new converts. This is a glorious testimony of God's continual working in Tekax on your behalf and ours. Third, Xool (pronounced 'Shoal'), who we mentioned in our last letter, took the step of being baptized, along with Enrique, one of the twin boys. Please pray for Enrique's brother Raymond, who seems to have taken some steps back. Edwin, Ruby and Emanuel got baptized as well and there is already another baptism scheduled.

Our annual church conference is this November. We have scheduled to have Br. Bill Wall from Chihuahua, Mexico come once again. We are praying to have a good number of new folks from Tekax come out and visit, but we may also have visiting churches from the state of Yucatan. We are praying that our folks will 'come forth as gold', as they prepare to host this conference. We believe in our people and they will do amazing! The enemy will work hard against it, but God is all-powerful! Next, we are praying that Br. Wall will be able to preach to our Mennonites in the days following the conference. Please pray the Lord breaks through their religion and touches their searching hearts.

The transplant recipient appointments for me, begin next week. Transplant donor appointments don't begin until December. Please continue to pray that all these appointments, tests and dates would fall in place quickly. The Lord is teaching me to trust His timing. I appreciate a quote by a pastor, "God is ALWAYS good and God is ALWAYS right". This is easy to say when things are going good, but this quote is put to the test when things are not going the way we hoped for. The news I hear from Tekax, overwhelms me how God is continuing to bless this work in our absence. In addition to that, Pastor Charly and his wife Sandra have mentioned a number of times, how there is a love developing in their heart for the people of Tekax. What a tremendous encouragement!

It thrills my soul to hear what God is doing! Remember this — your prayers and financial support make it possible for this work to continue. Thank you to each one of you who prays for us and our mission field.

Yours for souls in the Yucatan Peninsula,

Niles & Pam Loewen and Family

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they had left was about as useless as that sandwich for energizing the work that yet remained. They said that there was still a lot of work that remained undone. I remember years ago digging about a 100 feet long ditch by hand in the Texas sun during the summer in order to lay out some septic "leech" lines or drain lines. I started out with plenty of pep in my step, but a couple of hours in I felt completely washed out; yet there was at least half or more of the ditch that still needed to be dug. I had a wet towel over my head to keep the sun off and to give me a little coolness as I sat on a bench trying to catch my breath. At first I had started with great vigor and worked about 45 minutes without much pause, but by the time I was two hours into the project I was only able to work for about 5-10 minutes before sitting down for 5-10 minutes. My clothes were completely soaked from head to toe, and I was starting to get chaffed a bit from the constant rubbing of my wet clothes primarily under my arms. At one point I was thinking: "Man, I don't know if I can DO this. I don't WANT to do this!" After two more hours of starting and stopping, I realized that I was NOT going to get the job done THAT DAY, and I started thinking: "Lord, I do NOT want to have to do this TOMORROW." Then, I started complaining a little in my mind wondering why I was the ONLY ONE that had made myself available to DO THE WORK. I had a little pity party for myself for a short while, but that drained my energies even more, so I just told myself to SUCK IT UP and BE A MAN! I could whine and complain all I wanted to, but that wasn't going to get me any volunteers to help, and it would make me even weaker and more unable to do the job, so I might just as

well get over myself and take the bull by the horns and DO IT.

The people in Nehemiah's day felt the same way. They no doubt had the conversation with themselves similar to mine and determined that the job was still not done and the strength was already spent handling the burden to that point, and they were "**looking for a soft spot on the canvas.**" They wanted to quit. They wanted to problem to go away. They wanted to be at the FINISH LINE, but they suddenly realized that the road was longer than they had first thought it would be, and they were feeling inadequate to face the problem ahead.

Additionally, for them, they had real enemies that provoked them to fear and mocked their efforts and the project they had set out to finish.

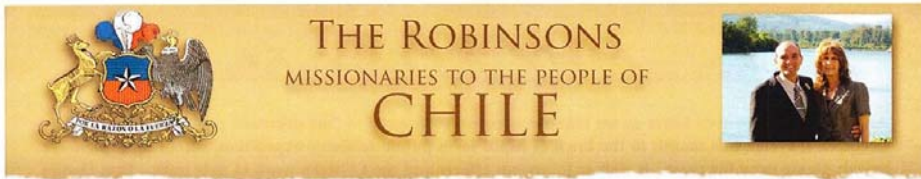
Nehemiah 4:1 ¶ But it came to pass, that when Sanballat heard that we builded the wall, he was wroth, and took great indignation, and mocked the Jews.

Verse 2 And he spake before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, What do these feeble Jews? will they fortify themselves? will they sacrifice? will they make an end in a day? will they revive the stones out of the heaps of the rubbish which are burned?

Verse 3 Now Tobiah the Ammonite was by him, and he said, Even that which they build, if a fox go up, he shall even break down their stone wall.

Sometimes, when we set out to DO SOMETHING FOR GOD, the effort that is required will Drain our Energies - just like it did the Jews in Nehemiah's day. Additionally, though we may not have Physical Enemies that are threatening

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October 2016

“We do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches...”

Another month has come and gone wherein the LORD has graciously allowed (and enabled) us “to serve the living and true God; And to wait for his Son from heaven,” being witnesses unto Him in the preaching and teaching of His Gospel to the lost, “according to the Scriptures.” In company with the 2 local churches here, we continue to go through the yet-open door of opportunity to present to all our LORD JESUS CHRIST, “Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.” The core groups of both churches remain firm in their commitment to this “Gospel imperative,” in spite of the “signs of the times,” which can be quite discouraging if a believer (or group of believers) loses focus on Him and becomes distracted by surrounding circumstances in “this present evil world.” The brethren here are “subject to like passions as we [all] are,” and just like any local church anywhere in “Laodicea,” they struggle with “distraction” and “inconsistency” of faithfulness; we continue to request your “fervent prayers” for them, that always have and will continue to “avail much” in their behalf, that they “might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.” Likewise, as it is everywhere else, many others come and go, usually “going” for good; whenever one returns with the desire to “get going again” - that is, in the *right* direction - it is cause for rejoicing. So is the case recently with Bro. Danilo, who had “dropped out” for a couple of years but is now struggling to make a “comeback,” so to speak; please pray for him and his family in that regard. We ask prayer once again for Bro. Hector, Sr., who is trying to sell his house up north (where he has lived all of his life) and move here to be a permanent part of the Valdivia church. Apart from the cessation of David’s migraines and Raul’s full recovery from surgery - both of which you prayed for and the LORD responded with great mercy - there are no further updates at this time on any of the various physical-health situations we have reported over the past few months.

“For from [them] sounded out the word of the Lord...”

The Itinerant Public Ministry Circuit started off this month with street preaching, tracting, and personal work in the town of *Corral* (pop. 5,000); this was our first time in public ministry there, and it just “happened” to be on the day that the open-air street market was set up in the town center and most of the inhabitants were passing through it. Although the general response was similar to everywhere else (this town being no exception to the spiritual devastation wrought by Catholicism, sects, and Evangelical Religionism), at least there were a few people sincere enough to ask about the tracts and receive an earful (if not a heart-full) of Biblical and personal testimony about JESUS CHRIST. Our next external expedition was a return to the town of *La Union*, where we had preached for the first time last May. As this second “incursion” was programmed as a “mass-canvassing”

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effort of the Paillaco church and the Bible Institute, we split up into three large groups and went to the three different main areas of the town (which is actually quite large and spread out, geographically), distributing tracts house to house, and then preaching in whatever park or centralized intersection presented itself as strategically optimal. Since then, our “regions beyond” vehicle has had to go down for major repairs, which will have us off the road for a bit, due to cost and difficulty of parts acquisition [our long-time readers know all about our track record as regards this topic; thank God we’re in Chile, not El Paso!], so we have already begun focusing our public ministry efforts on an “interim plan” limited to Valdivia. With the church, the regular surrounding-neighborhood strategy goes forward as before; with the Bible Institute, we will be ministering publicly twice a week in public places and new areas where we have never done so before, this being made possible by the significant growth of the city since we first arrived here 12 years ago. This past weekend, for instance, we preached and tracted for the first time in the busiest area of the section of town where we have been living since we got back last year. So, the word is preached, thousands of are tracts distributed, and many individual souls are personally dealt with during our continuous “rounds,” and although exceedingly few are manifestly willing to recognize both their own needy condition (i.e.: be lost...) AND the unique and exclusive sufficiency of JEUS CHRIST (i.e.: ...and then get saved), we count it all joy to be able to keep going into all the world and preaching the Gospel, “For the love of Christ constraineth us...” (and, after all, the “Gospel Imperative” is still, well, *imperative!*).

“This man was instructed in the way of the Lord...And he began to speak boldly...And...he Iped them much which had beIieved through grace. ”

The Bible Institute course of study continues to move right along its programmed trajectory, with all of the students (and the teachers) still (relatively) intact and pressing forward; as I have said before, none of that can be taken for granted in any aspect or detail - it is all because of the grace and mercy of God and your prayers for us. I will take the opportunity to report on one specific aspect which facilitates us the blessing of seeing the “fruit” of this labour even this early on (we’re in the second semester of our first year). The Preparation and Delivery of Sermons course consists of one semester of “homiletical theory” (and related practical counsel), and then two-and-a-half years of practice; i.e.: “preparing” sermons and “delivering” them in the pulpit. The LORD has opened the pulpit of the Paillaco church for this purpose, and so, on the second Sunday of each month, one of the young men from the Institute class preaches the “main message.” As of this month, all three have now preached their first of ten times each, and each has done a fine job, the LORD clearly using them to “reprove, rebuke, [and] exhort [their brethren] with all longsuffering and doctrine.” There is quite simply no height of “thesauristic extravagance” to which I may aspire in order to sufficiently express the extreme privilege that it is to be even a small part of the LORD’s fashioning vessels meet for His use, so I won’t even try (I’m getting older, and may strain something). Thank you for being faithful to your part in all this, and “Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift.”

In Christ,

The Robinsons

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our lives, we will most definitely have the Adversary of our Soul to shoot his Fiery Darts against our minds. He will assault us with thoughts of defeat and despair. He will Tell us that we CANNOT FINISH the WORK God has Called us to Do. He will seek to Overwhelm Us with "All these things are AGAINST Me" thoughts - like he did with Jacob. Paul said that He would not have the Corinthians to be Ignorant of the Troubles that had come upon him in Asia.

2 Corinthians 1:8 For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life:

Some folks think that it is a bad thing to express the fact that they are Struggling or that they have Struggled in the past because of something they call "Negative Confession." They reason that "Death & Life are in the Power of the Tongue" (Proverbs 18:21), so they should never speak about anything negative. However, Paul would not agree with the conclusion that the aforementioned folks come to because of that verse. Frankly, neither should we. Many times, when people are Struggling - especially Christians - they can feel so isolated and alone that it makes the Struggle that much Harder to deal with.

In II Corinthians 12:7-10 Paul again reveals that it is Not Unusual for Christians to Struggle and still be in the Will of God. He decides to bring the matter to the Lord, and the Lord tells him that HIS OWN Strength will be AVAILABLE to Paul, when he feels the weakest. Paul then, concluded that he would rather have weakness and difficulties IN the Will of God than he would to Not have those Struggles by being outside the will

of God. He affirmed his belief that GOD'S Strength would be COMPLETE in his Weakness, so he CHOSE to GLORY IN INFIRMITIES, knowing that When he was weak, he was Actually Strong.

When you are having difficulties, if you have someone that is Trustworthy that cares about you, you should feel free to share your struggle and to ask that person or persons' for prayers on your behalf. That is what the Fellowship of the Believers is so Helpful in to LIFT UP our Brothers & Sisters, Bearing One Another's Burdens Before the Lord.

Now, Getting back to Nehemiah for a few minutes and our original story, it is good to know that HE & His people DID NOT GIVE UP, when the going got tough, They KEPT GOING By Prayer & being prepared to BUILD & BATTLE, until the Work they had been called to Do was Finished.

The KEY DIFFERENCE many times between SUCCESS & FAILURE is PERSEVERENCE THROUGH WHATEVER OBSTACLES may be faced. Every great work is Fraught with Difficulties & Unexpected Twists & Turns and even Set-backs, but the Successful Person Never Quits. He or She has Made the Decision that they will Continue to the End of the Road No Matter What It Takes. They will Not Entertain the Idea of GOING BACK. I wrote a Short Poem a few years back that I think will speak to the reader here on this subject. I hope it will be a blessing & a challenge as well.

I KNOW I CAN'T GO BACK

EVERY DAY MAY BRING ME TROUBLE,

BUT I KNOW I CAN'T GO BACK.

ALL MY DREAMS A BROKEN BUBBLE:

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it is with God's gift.

Of course, you can reject it if you wish, but who would be so foolish to do so? Since you cannot buy it, you cannot give it to yourself, you cannot earn it, if you are to get God's gift, you must go beyond receiving it. You must accept it.

If you receive a nicely wrapped gift and you leave it sit on your counter and never unwrap it, then you have received it, but you have never accepted it to find out what is contained therein.

You do not earn an inheritance, you accept it because it is a gift. God's gift to man is the reward of inheritance. In other words, it is permission to be in His family. And, this can only be done by the forgiveness of sin. Since God is perfect, and sin is the opposite of perfection, for us to receive the inheritance of God, He takes care of our sin problem first. Once we have forgiveness, then we can accept Him, we can live for Him, all because we go beyond receiving His gift, we unwrap it, we accepted it!

When we open a gift up in the presence of others, they want to know, "what did you get?" OR,

when we open a gift that we are very excited about, we tell others what we got. So, it is with the gift of God. When we see how precious it is, and how blessed we are to have it, then we proclaim it to others. The reason why many Christians don't do so is because they have never really accepted it; they have never really unwrapped it to see what is inside. They have only received it and set it aside, never really opening it up and exploring the contents therein.

The greatest thing that God could offer to anyone is eternal life. He has already given life to everyone who has even been born, but beyond that, He offers eternal life. Life is not offered as a choice, but

eternal life is a choice to be accepted or rejected.

Everyone will someday in their future face death. The older we get, the more we are confronted with this nasty thing. It is not fun! It is not full of life and vigor. It is a sad thing that if anyone could avoid, they would do so. We spend trillions of dollars every year as a nation, just so we can put it off a little longer. But no matter what we do, God is in control of life and death.

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However, He gives us a choice concerning Eternal life.

It is precious because we each only have so much of it to live. Not only that, we don't know exactly how much we have. This creates a very unusual situation. People who have not received and accepted God's gift, try to experience the most of life before their time runs out. Those who have eternal life, know that they have all the time in the world, so it is not so urgent for them to "live life to its fullest." They possess the fullness of life.

Most people identify death with something bad; something to be avoided. AND it is bad. Since it is the opposite of life, then life is good. It is good to live. It is better to live an eternal life. Worry and fear are removed when we know that we have eternal life. This is the gift that God offers all men.

God does not do things that are improper. He is God so He acts like God. Any gift that we receive from God will be proper. The eternal life that He offers to us is the life exactly what we need. It is fitted to us like a tailor-made suit. It is proper as well as being personal.

From the very beginning, we see God creating a perfect world; a perfect environment for the man that He would create. Then He creates man and breaths into him life, then makes a helpmeet for him. Man, destroys

God's perfection by his selfish disobedience of not only accepting God's gift, but rejecting it all together.

God's plan for man has been life from the very beginning. When man disobeys, he does not remove all life from man, He limits it so man can get a taste of the regrettable consequences of death, AND the wonderful taste of life. He still offers life eternal. Did He not allow us a taste, a sip, a smell of the aroma of what we could have?

The gift of life is a unique gift that can only come from God, for He is the only one who can offer life. All life comes from Him. It is a ridiculous thing to think otherwise. It is illogical to ascribe to man's theories of where life came from. As had as man tries to, he cannot avert the overcoming influence of death. As much as man wants to, he cannot create life.

LIFE comes from God and it is more than just this time we walk the earth. The grandeur of the universe was created for a purpose. The fall of man limited his life and that limitation is called death. But as a wonderful gift, God offers this limited life so we can have a taste of the wonderful gift that we can have in eternal life.

Will we receive it?

Will we accept it?~

PRAYER REQUESTS

607.	Pastor	Souls saved in Shelton.
680.	Matt	Savings Account (Building fund) to reach —(\$10,000).
685.	Dee P.	Dee's brother Duane (a proud atheist) salvation.
755.	Regina	Grace Baptist Church to grow in influence & membership.
763.	Sally	Brother Nathan called to preach. Strength & direction.
796.	Regina	Strength for God's will in her life.
803.	Dee P.	Improved church attendance for her family.
849.	Sally	Jonny seeks God's will in making decisions for future.
865.	Dee P.	Son Joseph's health problems & depression.
867.	Dee P.	Family members to read KJB daily.
973.	Dee	Protection for Stephanie working as a nurse.
975.	Dee P.	Brother-in-law George stage 4 terminal lung cancer
976.	Dee P.	Our Christian men to grow as spiritual leaders in our homes, churches and communities.
1012.	Pastor	A quick and friendly closing on the building.
1013.	Duane K.	Ben's Salvation.
1014.	Tom	Sisters wisdom and comfort in dealing with cancer decisions.
1015.	Jim	Sisters healing from cancer.
1016.	Jim	Uncles healing from hip replacement.
1017.	Kail	Friends healing from stroke.
1018.	Kail	Friend Zach is in lockup.
1019.	Mark Poe	Melody had a stroke and is home recovering.
1020.	Jim	Sister was told she had 2 years left.
1021.	Pastor	Friend Victor Paloino's wife died. Comfort.

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BUT I KNOW I CAN'T GO BACK.

*ALL MY LIFE MAY BE IN RUBBLE,
AND MY HURT MAY EVEN DOUBLE.*

*LET ME NEVER BUILD WITH STUB-
BLE;*

'CAUSE I KNOW I CAN'T GO BACK.

Dear Christian Pilgrim, I do not know maybe what specific problems you are dealing with, but I am sure you are

dealing with some. Those troubles are the gymnasium experiences of your life that will strengthen you and bring about a Beautiful End In His Time (Ecclesiastes 3:10-11).

God is Our Refuge & Strength, A VERY PRESENT HELP IN TIME OF STRUGGLE

Psalm 46:1. Keep you Chin Up & Your Shoulder to the Grindstone. It will be worth it all, when we see Jesus!~

To Keep in touch with your church community, send the word: **GBCLIST** in a text to **84576**

NOTES:

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