

Calvary Protestant Evangelical Free Church

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CALVARY CHRONICLE

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"Everlasting Joy"

I wonder what responses I would get if I asked people to finish this line - "There is nothing on earth I desire besides.....? Certainly, the answers would vary according to the group of individuals that I was speaking to. No doubt collectors of cars might answer that with their favorite car. Those who have their mind set on money might answer with a dollar amount. Those who like to accumulate things might answer with whatever things they find valuable. You have the idea, by now. But I wonder how many would answer with the Psalmist in Psalm 73:25, **"Whom have I in heaven, but you? And there is nothing on earth I desire besides you."** And yet it is in the presence of the Lord that we find fullness of joy and eternal pleasures. In Psalm 16:11 we read, **"You make known the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."**

Richard Stearns, the president of World Vision, reflected on his visit to a church in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, nearly a year after the devastating earthquake. The church's building consisted of a tent made from white tarps and duct tape, pitched in the midst of a sprawling camp for thousands of people still homeless from the earthquake. This is how he describes the church and the lesson he learned in Haiti:

In the front row sat six amputees ranging in age from 6 to 60. They were clapping and smiling as they sang song after song and lifted their prayers to God. The worship was full of hope ... [and] with thanksgiving to the Lord.

No one was singing louder or praying more fervently than Demosi Louphine, a 32-year-old unemployed single mother of two. During

the earthquake, a collapsed building crushed her right arm and left leg. After four days both limbs had to be amputated.

She was leading the choir, leading prayers, standing on her prosthesis and lifting her one hand high in praise to God Following the service, I met Demosi's two daughters, ages eight and ten. The three of them now live in a tent five feet tall and perhaps eight feet wide. Despite losing her job, her home, and two limbs, she is deeply grateful because God spared her life on January 12th last year ... "He brought me back like Lazarus, giving me the gift of life," says Demosi ... [who] believes she survived the devastating quake for two reasons: to raise her girls and to serve her Lord for a few more years.

It makes no sense to me as an "entitled American" who grouses at the smallest inconveniences - a clogged drain or slow wi-fi connection in my home. Yet here in this place, many people who had lost everything ... expressed nothing but praise.

I find my own sense of charity for people like Demosi inadequate. They have so much more to offer me, than I to them. I feel pity and sadness for them, but it is they who might better pity me for the shallowness of my own walk with Christ.

To know God, who has revealed Himself in His Word and through His Son, is abundant joy. Jesus said, **"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."** (John 10:10b). How many miss the fact that joy can only come through trusting and serving Jesus Christ.

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No doubt the world is filled with people who think that if they just had enough money they would have joy. Others wrongly think that they will find joy in passing pleasures. But what do we say about Christians and their pursuit of joy? Often it is not that Christians are seeking it in bad places. They may seek joy in their marriage, or in their families, in their work, and maybe even in their church, but come away with disappointments. The reason, of course, for the discouragement comes from the fact that there is no one and nothing that can take the place of Christ in the heart. He alone is the real joy giver.

Friends, it is the sad reality of how truly sad our materialistic culture is in which we live. We are constantly bombarded by the computer, television, radio, and news flyers with our need for something else. We think we need so much, yet in reality the only thing we need is to know and serve Jesus Christ. He said, *"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal."* (Matthew. 6:19-20).

One of the most important things we all can learn is to recognize the source of true joy. Until we do, we will be the most miserable, dissatisfied, and discouraged people alive. None of the things of this world can bring lasting value. Christ gives a permanent, eternal joy and the certain hope that comes with it to those who have been raised from death to life by saving faith in Him. Peter says, *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."* A living hope, a true and everlasting joy, and a certain peace - all of these come by knowing the one who loved and gave his life for all whose trust is established in Him.

Friends, have you surrendered your lives to Christ. Be careful how you answer that. I suspect that most in our materialistic culture could not truly say that they had. And if you have not, then why would you not be willing to forsake all for the sake of Jesus Christ. For He alone can give to us eternal spiritual blessings, which money could never purchase.

Blessings,
Pastor Charlie

★ **Membership Service** ★

★ There are several individuals who have expressed an interest in joining the Church ★

★ Membership. On **Sunday, October 28th**, a Membership Sunday is being ★

★ planned. During the worship service these individuals will officially be brought before the ★

★ congregation and accepted into the Church Membership. ★

★ There will be a special celebration time after the service with refreshments and fellowship. ★

★ Be sure to speak to each new member and welcome them into the church family. ★

Upcoming Important Dates

In looking ahead, the following are some important dates to mark on your calendars. Look for more details about each event in the November issue of the Calvary Chronicle.

Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 4th

Thanksgiving Service & Dinner - Sunday, November 18th

Next Seniors Luncheon - Tuesday, December 4th

Baptismal Service - date to be determined

Neighborhood Night

At this year's **Neighborhood Night** the weather wasn't the best, but it didn't dampen the spirits of those who attended. Attendance was lower than usual, but it doesn't matter how many are gathered, the fellowship is always great. There was a light drizzle in the air, but it didn't effect our master chefs cooking hamburgers and hot dogs over the grill. And as always, the food was delicious.



There was a variety of entertainment throughout the night. Our special guest was Frank Rendo. Frank lives nearby and performs at different local venues. We were blessed to have him return to Calvary. Frank has a amazing singing voice. He sang patriotic songs, show tune arrangements, and several praise songs.



Barry Senita also sang a few songs - "Lord Jesus" and "Oh Lord My God." Barry composed these songs using familiar melodies and then changed the lyrics to create words of praise to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul Nembhard presented a poem which he wrote entitled *"The Grand Paradox."* It was filled with paradoxes both from the Bible and everyday things in this world he had experienced. He invited us to see life from God's perspective in order to understand the beauty of things we deem ugly.

An example of one of the paradoxes:

*"Like the same tool they used to crucify Christ
is the same tool we use to beautify life in its entirety."*

The meaning being this phrase is that the cross was a tool for execution and was an ugly sight to see, yet it is the cross we use today as a symbol of love, peace, and salvation.

Another paradox:

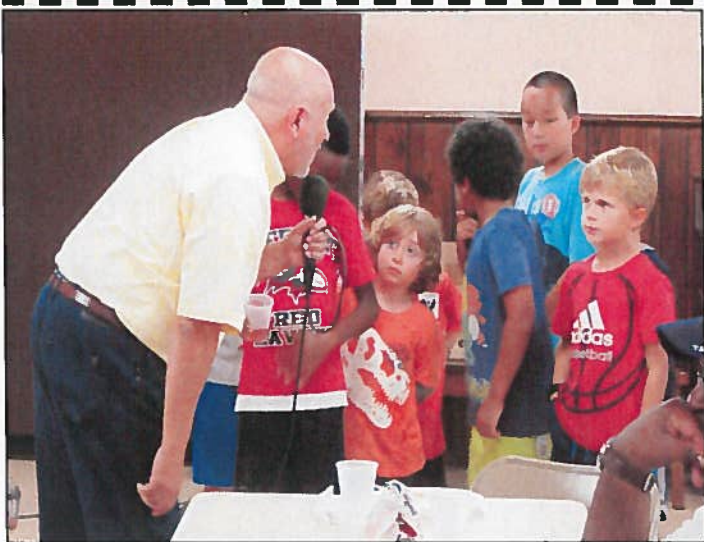
*"And the same book that convicts us uplifts us
and gives us hope. So we take Christ's yoke.*

*Even though it's still like a burden
and nothing comes easy,
His way is still better believe me."*

The meaning behind these phrases comes from Hebrews 4:12 which says the Word of God (the Bible) is sharper than a two-edged sword. This book can make or break a person, depending on the condition of their soul. The second part reminds us what Christ himself said, that following Him is a burden, but it's a light burden compared to the burden of the world.



Pastor Charlie called the young ones forward and spoke to them saying that Jesus loves them and quoted Matthew 19:14: *"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.'"* He continued to speak to everyone there on the importance of trusting in God and putting Him first in our lives.



We want to thank all those who made the event so special: to those who performed, those standing in the rain barbecuing over the grill, the many who helped set-up and clean-up, and to all the people who brought the food for dinner and dessert.

Neighborhood Night is one of Calvary's special events we look forward to. It's a great time being together in fellowship with our neighbors and celebrating the love of God.

Join us for "Meet & Greet"

Calvary's new "Meet & Greet" has been well received as many of the church family and friends have remained after the worship service for this special fellowship time.

During these Sunday get-togethers we can really get to know each other more personally and feel connected in God's family. There are snacks to enjoy (such as sweets, chips, fruit, and appetizers), and beverages as well (coffee, tea, juice, lemonade, etc.). Great to see the young and old having a great time with each other.



We encourage you to stay as often as possible and say hello and join in on the many conversations, even if only spending just a few minutes. Look forward to seeing you there!

Editor's note: Was too difficult to include names of all the people in the group pictures. Most of them you already know. Had to smile when I saw one individual in all three photos. She gets around. Sure she'll be smiling at this too.



“SO NEAR, BUT YET SO FAR!”

Luke 4:5 finds Jesus saying to Peter, *“Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a large catch.”*

None of us goes through life without experiencing some failures and disappointments. We set goals that we believe are the best, but we can never be absolutely sure about the future. Success and failures may alternate, but we must never think that failure to achieve a specific goal means we have failed totally.

In fact, failure may cause us to reappraise our goals and lead us to change course in ways that will result to the better.

Many students have experienced this. How many college students struggle with math or science and constantly think to themselves, “Lord are you leading me into this endeavor, and if so, why is it so difficult?” And then some have left a field of endeavor discovering they really weren’t suited for it after all.

So as a result of struggle and difficulty, their path was changed and success appeared in a far different form.

So, even in failure we can thank God!

Christ taught his disciples a simple lesson in turning failure into success. He performed two miracles that were similar. He continued to show them to not give up. They had fished all night and caught nothing. So He comes along and says, “Cast on the other side of the boat.”

The solution seems so obvious. Surely as fisherman they would have thought of this. But for us in our own problems, the solutions seem so obvious – to others – that often we miss them. Sometimes the answer is so near and yet we miss it because we are casting on the other side.

God can bring victory, even out of our failure!

OLD FOLKS ARE WORTH A FORTUNE

Old folks are worth a fortune: with silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones in their kidneys, lead in their feet, and gas in their stomachs.

I have become a lot more social with the passing of the years; some might even call me a frivolous old gal. I’m seeing five gentlemen every day.

As soon as I wake, Will Power helps me get out of bed. Then I go to see John. Then Charley Horse comes along, and when he is here he takes a lot of my time and attention.

When he leaves, Arthur Ritis shows up and stays the rest of the day. He doesn’t like to stay in one place very long, so he takes me from joint to joint. After such a busy day, I’m really tired and glad to go to bed with Ben Gay. What a life!

P.S. A preacher came to call the other day. He said that at my age I should be thinking about the hereafter. I told him I do - all the time. No matter where I am - in the parlor, upstairs in the kitchen, or down in the basement - I ask myself, “Now, what am I here after?”

(Some senior humor shared at the recent Seniors Luncheon. Submitted by one of our faithful seniors. Thanks for the laugh Mary!)

TIME

When as a child I laughed and wept
...Time Crept.

When as a youth I dreamed and talked
...Time Walked.

When I became a full-grown man
...Time Ran.

When older still I daily grew
...Time Flew.

Soon I shall find in traveling on
...Time Gone.

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BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER

2nd Samantha Hetzel Schultz
6th Victoria Manuel
9th Edgar Carman
10th Barbara Corcoran
13th Vincent Elcock
15th Robert Brown
17th Stephanie Wong
18th Brett Rose
21st Connor Watts
22nd Ellen Heneghan
23rd Barbara Jamison
25th Vickie Mandato
29th Ryan Waldvogel

NOVEMBER

2nd Charlie Hetzel Jr.
3rd Courtney Gross
3rd Lou Kelting
7th Sherry Valentine
8th Bridget Dowling
8th Paul Nembhard
9th Paula Kulla
12th Kirk Nehring
18th Roy Seymour
19th Shannon & Shelby
Verity
20th Florence Emeigh
22nd Barry Senita
27th Nicole Alcindor
28th Joe Waldvogel

ANNIVERSARIES

OCTOBER

2nd Howard & Maryann Brockway
8th Vincent & Rosemary Rotolo
12th Wes & Becky Carman
16th John & Lisa Conroy

NOVEMBER

5th Lou & Ree Kelting
13th Fred & Sherry Valentine
19th Bob & Diane Benedetto

The benefit of work

Thank God every morning when you get up that you have something to do that day which must be done, whether you like it or not. Being forced to work and forced to do your best will breed in you temperance and self-control, diligence and strength of will, cheerfulness and contentment, and a hundred virtues which the idle never know.

To know God's will is man's greatest treasure;
to do God's will is life's greatest privilege.