

The Herald



For Freedom
Christ has set us free;
stand firm therefore,
and do not submit again
to a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:1, ESV

From the Pastor's Desk

Hard of Hearing

It seems lots of us have some measure of hearing difficulty or impairment. I have lived all of my adult life with some impairment due to damage to one ear drum and connecting bones. But as I have gotten older I've kind of given up on assisting the bad ear and I am mostly concerned with keeping reasonable hearing in the "good ear". So, how is your hearing?

The Scripture makes numerous comments about having ears that hear. Jesus uses the phrase "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear" Matthew 13:9 or similar phrase numerous times. His usual use is in the context of telling a story or teaching a truth which gives the opportunity to "hear" or "obey" the truth presented. So, how is your hearing?

Most of us have seen our hearing ability decline over the years. Audiologists tell us this is often due to prolonged exposure to loud noises. The result is that our ears have become damaged to the point they no longer pick up the sounds they once did. So what happens to our spiritual hearing which Jesus was speaking to? It would seem that, unlike our physical senses, our spiritual sense of hearing should be able to become more sensitive by our being attentive to the voice of God. Paul gave some indication of this in 2 Corinthians 4:16 saying "Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day."

Have I allowed my spiritual hearing to become dulled by sin or just being inattentive to the Spirit of God? Do I come to the Word regularly with anticipation that this is an opportunity for the Spirit to use this written communication to speak his truth and wisdom to my soul? Am I sensitive to the promptings of the Spirit or is it more likely to require a 2x4 to get my attention? Perhaps today is a good day to invite the Spirit to renew His efforts to speak to my heart and I will be intent to hear.

GRACE,
Pastor Dennis



**INCLINE YOUR EAR,
AND COME TO ME;
HEAR, THAT YOUR
SOUL MAY LIVE.**

ISAIAH 55:3, ESV

The Family Tree

Subject: Needs and Happenings in Children's Ministries

There has been a lot of growth in our church in the last two years and because of this we have been stretched in several of our ministries. We as a church have been discussing the shortage of volunteers for Nursery, Children's Church, and Sunday School. This shortage has become more challenging as we have needed to expand to two services as many families with young children have joined our church.

We have tried several ways to recruit volunteers and leaders for these needs including having a Ministry Fair, advertising during the Welcome/Communication time, bulletin inserts, talking with people individually, sign-up sheets, etc. only to find ourselves far short of having the people needed to provide a quality experience for our kids.

This article is to inform you of the need we have for more volunteers as we head into the summer season and some possible changes for next fall. We are going to set aside the Sunday School model and go with a larger group model that we use in Children's Church for our pre-school – 3rd grade kids. We are going to this model for the following reasons:

The inconsistency of which kids attend Sunday school fluctuates so much it makes it hard for teachers to prepare lessons that build upon each other. One week you may have 3 kids in your class and the next it might be 15. The kids who have been absent are lost in the story being presented.

It's a challenge to keep the kids engaged over the entire Worship Service time. Our services range between 60-75 minutes.

We will offer Children's Church for both services. Children's church will be pre-school – 3rd grade. These groups will be dismissed from the worship service before the message, so all kids will be in church during Worship, Welcome and Congregational Prayer time. This would mean Children's Church would be approximately 30 minutes instead of 60-75 minutes making it more manageable. The 6th-12th grade Sunday School will continue to meet normally during the entire 2nd service during the school year. We have yet to determine the future for our 4th and 5th graders for next fall.

Making these changes still leaves us short for volunteers. It takes 2-4 people each week to lead Children's church.

The Family Tree

NURSERY: We need to expand our nursery as we are over capacity most every week. As we work to expand the nursery into what is now the Conference room, we will need around 8 people per week for Nursery 4 Adults and 4 Helpers (12yrs-17yrs). These young kids are a blessing, and we are grateful to have this need.

We are a wonderful church where many people serve faithfully in many different areas. Why we are struggling in filling these areas I cannot say. My hope is that the need is simply not known or fully understood. This church has always valued our children and youth knowing they are the future.

Please be in prayer over these needs and allow God to move you to serve. God doesn't only ask those who are gifted and qualified, He simply asks us to trust and obey His leading.

Please reach out to me with questions and/or concerns and be in prayer as we move forward.

In Christ,
Ben Larsen Family Life Pastor



Angels Fact or Fiction?

Angel sightings? Nothing but myth? Something in between?
 What's the truth about angels?

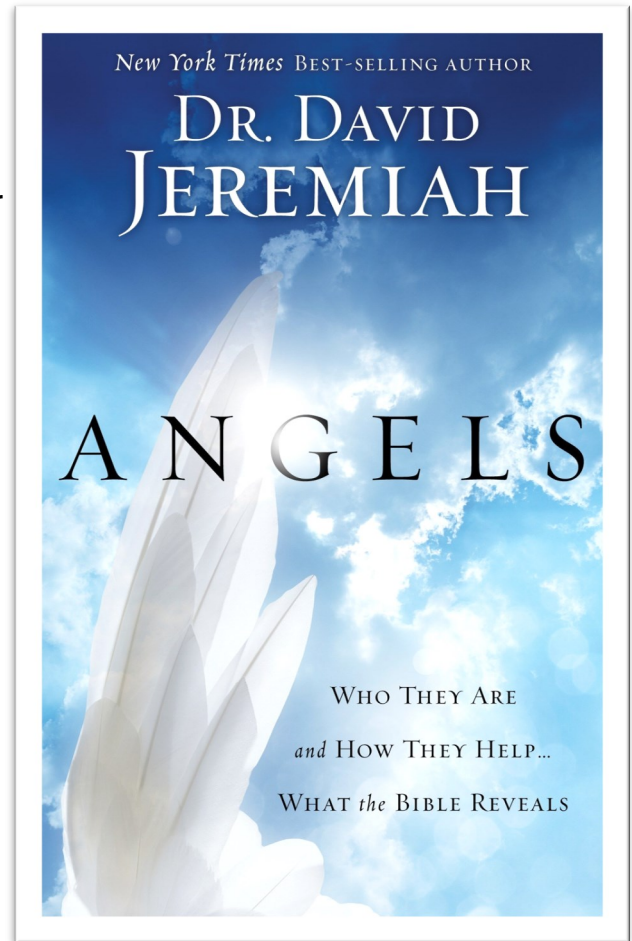
1.	Angels are powerful beings and should garner just as much of our praise as God does.	0 Fact	0 Fiction
2.	Angels are servants and ministering spirits sent to encourage us during our lives on earth.	0 Fact	0 Fiction
3.	Angels are guardians who protect us from earthly attacks that would otherwise incapacitate us.	0 Fact	0 Fiction
4.	Angels rejoice in the throne room of God when even just one person comes to faith in Christ.	0 Fact	0 Fiction
5.	Angels don't stand at the ready to go on assignments to protect God's children.	0 Fact	0 Fiction
6.	Angels didn't play a role in any significant biblical stories.	0 Fact	0 Fiction
7.	Before being known as Satan, the enemy of every Christian was known as Lucifer, an angel who worshiped God in heaven.	0 Fact	0 Fiction
8.	While there are good angels who worship and serve God, there are evil angels who fell with Satan.	0 Fact	0 Fiction
9.	As evil angels, demons have the authority to possess a Christian.	0 Fact	0 Fiction
10.	As believers, we cannot be controlled by the enemy or his angels because the Spirit of God dwells in us.	0 Fact	0 Fiction
11.	Angels are fierce warriors of heaven, not harp playing babies.	0 Fact	0 Fiction
12.	Jesus is referred to as the Angel of the Lord in the Old Testament.	0 Fact	0 Fiction

In his extraordinary book, *Angels*, Dr David Jeremiah explores the Scriptures to unveil the remarkable truth about these agents of heaven and their role and work in our world!

FINALLY—rock-solid Bible-based answers to your questions:

- Who and what are angels?
- What is their role in God’s plan?
- Are they present?
- Do they appear?
- Do they give us personal insight?
- And many more...

This book with 9 CDs, and a study guide are available in our library in the SGBS (Small Group Bible Study) section. You can use them as an individual study or group study.



I would like to remind library users to please check your home shelves for LWC items especially DVDs as we have an increasing number of overdue items.

Thank you.

May Librarians: Millie Holle and Georgie Neff

4.	Fact	8.	Fact	12.	Fact
3.	Fact	7.	Fact	11.	Fact
2.	Fact	6.	Fiction	10.	Fact
1.	Fiction	5.	Fiction	9.	Fiction
Answer key:					

Have You Met???

Adult Name(s): Don and Lori Enders

Children Name(s) and Ages:

1 daughter, 2 sons and 7 grandchildren

How did you come to be at The Little White Church and how long have you been attending?

We started attending and became members in 2019 while building our house. We felt the Spirit of the Lord as soon as we entered the sanctuary!



How long have you lived in the Black Hills? Since April 2019

List some jobs or careers you have had over the years?

Don: I benefited from 2 careers. I spent 30 years in the electric power plant industry. Rising through the ranks to managing power plants in Wyoming. I then was promoted to corporate staff in Oregon overseeing power plants internationally. We were transferred to Turkey where I headed up Turkish Operations for PacifiCorp. I had a second career in the US Army and WY National Guard where I served as commander in several units and retired after 28 years as a Colonel.

Lori: I worked at the Human Services Center in Yankton, SD for 3 years, Gurney Seed & Nursery in Yankton for 2 years, then moved to Gillette, WY where I worked in a CPA firm for 1 year. At that time, I became licensed as an Investment Advisor and CFP and worked for Ameriprise for 10 years, then for Edward Jones Co for 25 years when I retired as a Limited Partner with the firm.

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Have You Met??? - Continued

Where did you grow up or places you have lived for a longer duration?

Don: I was born and raised in Casper, Wyoming. Father was a blue-collar worker and mother was a working spouse. I have 2 brothers. We spent most all our summers at a cabin that we built as a family in the Big Horn Mountains, which developed my love for the mountains. I also lived in Glenrock, WY and Rock Springs, WY then moving to Gillette where I met Lori.

Lori: I was born in Butte, NE and moved to Springfield, SD where both of my parents are from when I was a toddler. When I was 25, I moved to Gillette, WY which is where I met Don. In 1996 Don and I moved to Portland, OR and then to Istanbul, Turkey 19 months later. We lived there less than a year and moved back to the states in 1998. We lived full-time in a motor home for 36 months, then settled in San Antonio, TX where we lived for the next 18 years.

What is a spiritual story/testimony you would like to share?

Don: I grew up in a Christian home, baptized at 6 weeks (sprinkled) in a Lutheran church, went through confirmation at 14 and always attended a Lutheran church. When living in Glenrock WY, where there was no Lutheran congregation, our family joined the Community Baptist Church. Our pastor was my Chaplain in the army and a good friend. I always saw a distinction between being a “born again” Christian and someone who was sprinkled as a baby and didn’t experience the public expression of immersion baptism. I described it as being at a party standing outside looking in through the window at those who were “born again” and felt that I was missing something by being raised as a Christian. My pastor’s response has always stayed with me. He said it’s not the public form of baptism (although Jesus was immersed) but rather your walk with Christ in your life that determines your humility and obedience for everlasting life with Him.

Lori: I have many stories to tell of how God has heard my prayers and answered them in ways that could not be attributed to anything or anyone else but Him. The most recent involved our move to the Black Hills. He heard my doubts and concerns and clearly answered them in such a way as to bring tears to my eyes... one of which involved a tiny, single-leaf, Black Hills Gold earring that I found while preparing to move out of our house in San Antonio. I didn’t even know it was lost! But He used it to calm my fears and move me to Hill City.

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Have You Met??? - Continued

In what ways have you been involved in ministry or serving over the years?

Don: I have been on church councils, been chairman of the board of Elders, been involved in music in a praise band and served on a security team for a very large church in San Antonio.

Lori: I have taught Sunday School and confirmation classes. I was responsible for building the membership of our women's group in our large church in San Antonio. But mostly I've been involved in music in every church in which I've been a member, beginning at age 13 as an organist, pianist, and vocalist.

Do you have any special talents or gifts?

Don: Leadership, discernment and I play bass guitar, sing in the shower, and love God.

Lori: Musician and Leadership.

If you could only use one word to describe God, it would be...

Don: Almighty

Lori: Magnificent

What biblical figure best describes you and why?

Don: Aaron. Moses' brother was mostly in the background. Although he was a spokesman for Moses, he was clearly 2nd in command. He sinned often and was influenced by others but was always forgiven by God, often after intercession by Moses. I like being in the background, moving to influence without being in the spotlight. I have sinned more often than I should have and always been forgiven by Jesus. I also find it interesting that Aaron means "mountaineer" in Hebrew.

Lori: Deborah from Judges 4. I was frequently in a leadership position in an industry comprised of over 80% men. In both training and directing, I would always tell them that I would never ask them to do anything that I haven't done or wouldn't do, and I worked together with them to help them build successful businesses.

Anything else you would like us to know about you?

We invited members of the LWC, friends and family to write Bible Verses on the framework of our house during construction in 2019. We value those Bible Verses immensely as they have blessed our home.

Focus on Missions—BOLT

BOLT, the after-school children's club for children grades K-5 at the Little White Church, completed another year on Wednesday, Apr. 27 with a dinner and special program to honor the children who participated throughout the year. BOLT stands for Bible-centered, Outreach focused, Life skills learned and Transformation experienced. Children who came each week were exposed to Bible stories and memorization, life-skills and games. Between 30 and 40 children attended BOLT each week, and about 50 percent of the children who came did not have a home church.

Becki Groven said, "Teaching Biblical truth to kids is a heart passion for me. When I see a kid hear a story for the first time and take it as truth, I am overwhelmed with a sense of gratitude and amazement of child-like faith. There have been many moments like that this year teaching BOLT."

Becki told the Bible story each week with the help of the older BOLT students, and it was reinforced in small groups. A Lightning Bolt truth was conveyed along with the weekly story. Small group leaders were John Bandel, Cindy Dusing, Jenny Hiller, Cole Kosmala, Sherry Liddell, Jacque Pennel, Elise Row, Sarah Walker, and Deb Wood. The Bible story units completed during the past year were: What is the Bible?, The Cast of Christmas, Men of Character, Women of Faith and Easter. Children memorized passages of scripture, repeating them week after week, sometimes learning them through special songs. They also earned BOLT bucks for learning the Bible verses, attendance, and wearing their shirts to club. Twice during the year, the kids could use their bucks to buy items at the "BOLT store." People from the church and community were enlisted by Carol Walker to lead life skills units which were as follows: Outdoor Fun led by Chuck Ferraro, Ron Walker and Ethan Walker; Art 101, led by Gigi Miller and Elise Row; Getting Strong led by Jeremy Duprey and Ethan Walker; Standing Up to Bullies led by Mike Pahl, Elementary Principal Samantha Weaver, Marcus Isakson and Ben Larsen; and finally, Wild and Wacky Science led by Andrew Schock, Danielle Lietz and Carol Walker.

Gavin Nonnast took charge of the game time with the children, planning games and setting up the social room for that purpose.

In addition, there were many people who volunteered in a variety of ways to make the BOLT program work. Lori Enders lined up people to bring food for the BOLT dinners, and Tom and Cindy Dusing led the effort to cook and serve the meals. Several parents and others provided after-school snacks for the children and other individuals walked the children from the school to the church each week.

Danielle Lietz and others registered the kids as they came in each week, and there was a prayer team that prayed faithfully for the children and leaders. It was truly a program that was put together by God and implemented by many of His people.

**Beginning this month, a 5 part definition of worship,
by William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1942-1944**

Part 1 Worship: To quicken [revive] the conscience by the holiness of God.

The Hebrew prophet Isaiah tells us: “When I was in the temple mourning the death of King Uzziah, I saw the KING of kings, the sovereign LORD, sitting on an elevated throne. His robe had a train that filled the room. Four six-winged angels were above the throne, covering their faces with two wings, their feet with two wings and they were flying with two wings. They called to one another, 'Holy! Holy! Holy! The LORD! The Commander of the angelic armies! The entire earth is full of His glory!' The doorposts of the room shook with the sounds of the voices and smoke filled the room.”

Isaiah's response to the revelation of God's holiness (set-apart-ness, uncommon-ness, sacredness and purity) was that his conscience was quickened (revived) with the realization of his own unholiness. He needed cleansing!

Let's put ourselves in Isaiah's place and join the seraphim in their praise. Remember the hymn Holy, Holy, Holy?

Triune God, there is no one like You. It is only because Your mercy flows like a river that You have made the way for us to come into Your presence. We thank You for your loving kindness and Your cleansing. We love You and we desire to glorify You. Amen!



Communion Poem—by Marci Gerritson

When I hung on the cross- I did it for you
Then I rose again and it was you in my view
The debt owed for your sin and sickness was paid
Freedom for every race and gender so openly displayed

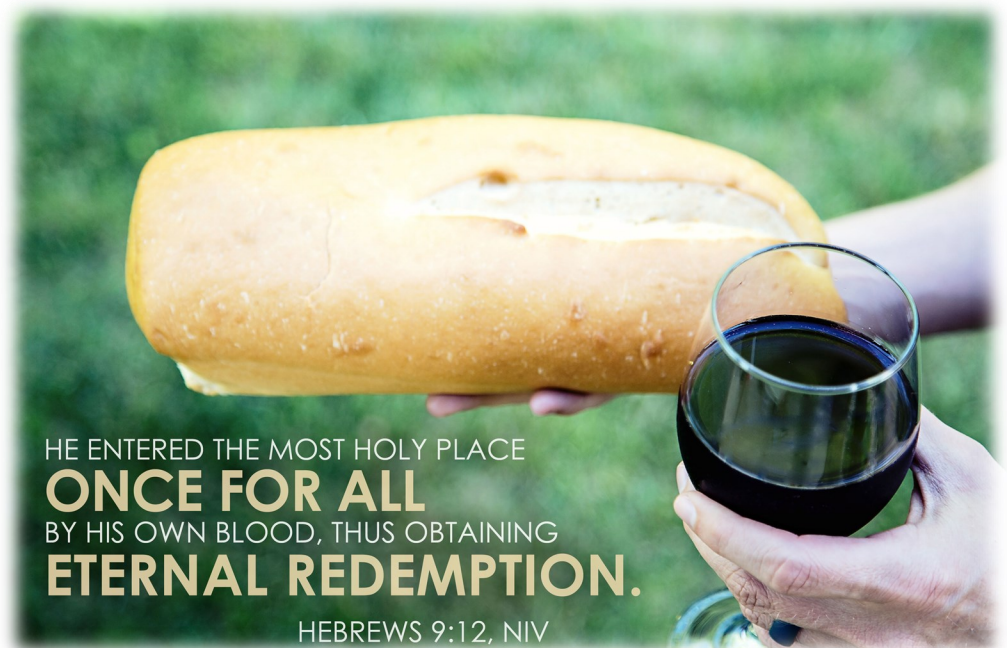
As you take the bread as representation of my body
I want you to remember that I died for everybody
Every sin and every sickness paid in full on that day
This was my choice to die for you- I am the only way

Drink the wine or juice as a symbol of my blood that was shed
When my blood spilled out on the ground below, I was looking ahead
Looking ahead to that glorious day when we are together forever
When your new reality is so much better than your present endeavor

Let the reminder of what I did on the cross sink in deep
Also remember that I am your Shepherd and you are my sheep
Blessings to you my child, in all that you're doing
Keep thinking on me and your mind will keep renewing

My body was torn and my blood was spilled
All so that the prophecy would be fulfilled
Take it all in my love, if I had to I would do it all again
But it is finished once and for all... Amen

Marci Gerritson



HE ENTERED THE MOST HOLY PLACE
ONCE FOR ALL
BY HIS OWN BLOOD, THUS OBTAINING
ETERNAL REDEMPTION.

HEBREWS 9:12, NIV

Announcements

Congratulations to Cole Kosmala & Jill Goodrich on their recent engagement!

Congratulations to Austin & Katie Verbeck on the birth of their boy, Othniel (Otto) Judah on Tuesday, April 19th. He weighed 6 lbs 11 oz and was 19 in long. Everyone is healthy, thank you for your prayers!

For an update on Josiah Venture – Ukraine/Poland, please go to our website www.thelittlewhitechurch.net/josiahventure

***Like our Facebook page to stay updated with us!
TheLittleWhiteChurchSD*



***Climb aboard for mountains of fun
at Rocky Railway!
On this faith-filled adventure, kids
discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through
life's ups and downs!***

June 20-24 from 2-4 pm

Ages K-5th grade

If you would like to volunteer, please talk to Stephanie Larsen

*We will need people to help move kids to different
stations, help with crafts, help with games,
help decorating and tear down!*

Register your kids at: www.thelittlewhitechurch.net/vbsregistration

National Day of Prayer

“EXALT THE LORD WHO HAS ESTABLISHED US”

Theme verse: Colossians 2:6-7 *“Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.”* NASB

Greetings from the National Day of Prayer Task Force! We are less than a couple weeks away from the National Day of Prayer! (See below for times and places in our community.)



As we pray through these 2022 National Day of Prayer theme verses one thought at a time, ask to receive wisdom, knowledge and understanding from the Spirit, so we don't miss the message, mission and even the joy of God's Words to us. It would be easy to overlook the few words in our theme verses that are sandwiched between the two commas. They are the truth that binds these verses to our life. These words, *“just as you were instructed,”* remind us that we are being taught every day, throughout our days as disciples of Jesus.

The Great Commission instructs us to *“Go and make disciples,”* not just decision-makers. The day you made the decision to believe and receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior was the *beginning* of your journey - born again, starting with a new life in the promise of abundant life that we receive one step and lesson at a time. A disciple is a pupil, a student of Jesus who hasn't left us to figure things out on our own. He is guiding and teaching us every day if we open our ears, eyes, hearts, and minds to listen and learn from Him. Deep roots do not grow overnight, and branches do not bud, bloom, and produce fruit in a day; there is an on-going process to our growing relationship with Jesus.

Take some time now and throughout the days ahead to remember some important lessons you have been taught in life. See how God has taken those lessons and strung them like pearls to make something beautiful out of an unexpected or even unwanted event in your life that became something beautiful like an oyster making a pearl from an irritant or intrusive grain of sand.

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National Day of Prayer

The experience may have been long and painful but the lesson and change it brought to you, grew your “roots” firmly and built up your relationship in Him to provide a deep, immovable memory that established your faith, making it stronger than when you started and gave you a new courageous and compassionate way of walking through life in Christ. These important instructions may have uncommonly strong and significant meaning rooted in Scripture that now light the path of your daily journey.

Will you please ponder these precious, and possibly painful, lessons we have received from Christ Jesus our Lord as we pray:

Jesus, You are our LORD, the Teacher who instructs us, disciples us daily, moment by moment in Your Word, through every test, opportunity, and decision. Thank You for instructing us, leading us to our destiny and for Your caring commands that keep us from destruction. Holy Spirit we cry out for Your help to recognize and respond to Your authority; to stay on the path that has been prepared for us, to learn the lessons and heed them the first time instead of taking the painful path of pride and disobedience. Keep us on the path where You lead us in the light of Your Word and the love of Your heart, and the plans You have authored towards the reward of entering into Your joy. Help us walk just as we were instructed, not partially, but putting every lesson precisely into practice, being built up in every trial and triumph as You faithfully continue to establish our faith. In Jesus’ powerful, marvelous, wonderful name we pray, Amen!

Let’s join our hearts and voices together in praise on Thursday, May 5th to exalt the Lord and pray for the Seven Centers of Influence He has established: *Family, Church, Business, Education, Military, Government, Entertainment and Media!*

Times: 12 noon at Little White Church with soup lunch following. 5:30 pm light supper at Community Lutheran; prayer service at 6:30 pm.

Also, the National Day of Prayer Broadcast “Exalt the Lord Who Has Established Us” will be aired on May 5th at 8pm ET. Check local listings for info, on Daystar, GOD TV, NRB-TV, Faith Radio, Bott Radio Network.

Submitted by Lynda Pringle

1ST ANNUAL


2022
BLACK HILLS BIKER BLESSING
LITTLE WHITE CHURCH

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THE LITTLE WHITE CHURCH
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21ST

9-10 AM REGISTRATION
COFFEE & DONUTS
10:15 AM BLESSING OF BIKES
11 AM BIKER RIDE
11:40 AM LUNCH

FREE!
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ACCEPTED
FOR YOUTH
MISSIONS

MORE INFO CALL PETE AT 507-456-1579 OR
SCOOTER AT 760-793-1547

Blame is nothing new. In fact, humans have been doing it ever since the very first humans walked the Earth . . .

Adam and Eve had it **all** – the most lush, beautiful, abundant place on Earth was given to them as a place to live. God gave them dominion over everything there . . . EXCEPT for ONE tree. They were told NEVER to eat the fruit of that **one** tree, but they disobeyed. They next time God saw them, He **knew** they had disobeyed (*parents always know, don't they?*).

The blaming started as soon as He confronted them. God asked Adam if he had eaten of that tree. In Genesis 3:12, we find Adam's answer:

"The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat."

There it is, folks: the very FIRST lame excuse – and *it* was a 'double'! "*She gave it to me!*" ~and~ "*You put her here!*" Mankind is off to a bad start, and Eve is about to make it even worse.

God then asks Eve what she has done, and she also has an answer ready.

"The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat."

Webster's dictionary defines 'beguiled' as "*to mislead by cheating or tricking; deceive.*"

And, so it began . . . Eve fell for a lie the serpent told, and she disobeyed God. Ashamed, she blamed the **serpent** for her actions. Adam followed Eve's bad example and, when caught, he blamed **her**! Thousands of years later, we're still doing this.

"*Well, everyone else was doing it!*" was a favorite when we were kids. As adults, we aren't much more creative . . .

"He made me angry –"

"She made me feel unimportant –"

"They made fun of me –"

"I had a bad day at work –"

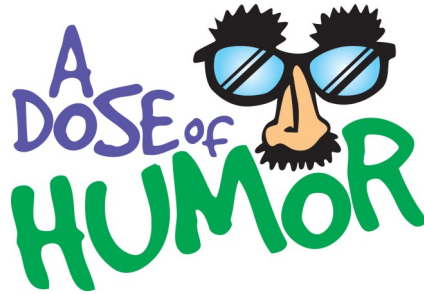
"The kids wouldn't listen, and I'm worn out –"

Our list of excuses is limited only by our imaginations. Our parents didn't buy it, and neither did God. Our parents usually had some punishment ready for us when we disobeyed or misbehaved. As a result of **their** actions, Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden – cast out completely. They left the garden in sadness, ashamed of what they had done. In addition, there were consequences thrust upon mankind for all time.

Adam and Eve lost everything because of their disobedience. What if they had been honest with God? What if they had owned up to their mistakes? Would He still have cast them out? Or, would His merciful forgiveness have allowed them to stay? Would things have turned out differently for everyone?

We'll never really know. But, we DO know this: we can change **our** attitudes. Change **our** behavior. We can stop blaming . . . we have a choice. You see, when we make **someone else** responsible for our actions, we give **them** our power. We're saying we cannot choose for ourselves.

Believing Lies And Making Excuses . . . that's a perfect description of what blame is – of what it does. We don't have to live that way, folks. We DO have a choice, and it is ours to make – given to us by our Loving, Caring Creator. Choose wisely. You'll be glad you did.



Show & Tell

A kindergarten teacher gave her class a “show and tell” assignment. Each student was instructed to bring in an object to share with the class that represented their religion.

The first student got up in front of the class and said, “My name is Benjamin and I am Jewish and this is a Star of David.”

The second student got up in front of the class and said, “My name is Mary. I’m Catholic and this is a rosary.”

The third student got up in front of the class and said, “My name is Tommy. I am Baptist, and this is a casserole.”



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