

The Herald

THE LORD WILL
guide you ALWAYS;
HE WILL *satisfy*
YOUR NEEDS
IN A SUN-SCORCHED LAND
AND WILL *strengthen*
YOUR FRAME.

ISAIAH 58:11, NIV



Thoughts from a Pastor...

As we prepare to seek out and elect Elders within our church, we need to talk about character. I have heard it said and seen it play out many times in my life that a person's true character is revealed in a time of adversity or tribulation. What this tells us is that there is much more to people than what they do or how they may act on the surface.

If our goal or focus as a believer is to follow the commands of God and to someday, when the time is right, make it into heaven, we are missing something important. What we see in Scripture at times is a battle between faith and good works. James 2:18 says, *"...You have faith and I have works. Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works."* We can see that good works are a sign of the faith of a believer, but the problem is you can have a life of good works without faith, or being a believer. Scripture calls for something in our lives that leads to good works. That something is Faith, Hope, and Love.

Where do we get this Faith, Hope, and Love? It is through a life-changing transformation that can only come through the grace of God as we are awakened from the darkness to the knowledge and truth of who Jesus is and what is it that He did for us. Part of this transformation is going from doing to being. I cannot be a good person by the things I do, but only by being in Christ.

This is where we see character come into play. Character is at the core of who a person really is. It is the essence of their being. So, as we seek Elders and leaders within our church body, we need to look for those who are already being. Those who are already living the life that is to be desired of an Elder.

The book "Church Elders" by Jeramie Rinne says the following, *"God has called elders to be men worth imitating. A healthy local church typically has many people, men and women, whose example we could follow. But when a church appoints a man to be an overseer, it is formally saying, 'Here is an official, church-recognized example of a mature follower of Jesus.' He is not the only example, not a perfect example, and not necessarily the best example in that congregation for every single Christian virtue. But an elder is a duly designated model nonetheless."*

By affirming someone as an elder, the church says, 'Imitate him as he imitates Christ.' A church should be able to direct a newborn believer to an elder and say: 'Do you want to know what a real Christian should look like? Then look at him.' To put it another way, an elder's job involves shepherding by being as well as doing. Elders pastor churches not only by what they do but also by who they are. And without the being, the doing falls apart"(pg. 101).

Thoughts from a Pastor...

I desire to be faithful to our church body by leading, teaching, and preaching. None of that will matter if I fail to be. I must be in Christ and seek to be in Christ at all times, so that I can be found to be someone worth imitating. Someone whose life brings glory to God and directs others to the source of all that is good, right, and true.

I am very much human, and I will fail. I will let people down at times, say the wrong things, or miss the mark. I can only hope that my character will shine through in those times, allowing my failures and weaknesses to encourage and equip others in their journey to maturity in Christ.

I am praying for a future associate pastor and future elders to be men of godly character who can join me in leading this incredible church body. To lead the body into a position of being in Christ, a light to friends, family, co-workers, community, and to the ends of the earth.

In Christ, Pastor Ben Larsen



Missions Moment—Jack & Brenda Rushing—Wycliffe

Once again I feel like I must apologize for the long delay since sending out our last update. The days seem to get filled up and suddenly you wonder where they went. We spend a lot of time with our grandson Tomlin, helping where we can so our son and daughter-in-law can work during the day. I was in Idaho for about 3 weeks at the end of March and beginning of April as Elsa, our younger daughter, gave birth to her 4th boy. They named him Nehemiah. It was such a pleasure being there helping where needed. I flew back to Idaho in mid May and came back 10 days later with Elsa's other 3 boys, ages 10, 12 & 14. Jack and I had the pleasure of taking them to Disneyland. This was their first trip there. We had such a wonderful time with them.

The last 2 weeks of August I flew to Western NY to see our older daughter, Anna, and her two teenage children, Ava and Ari. Ava tried out for her high school's Varsity Cheerleading Squad and she made the team. She was so excited. She has already cheered for the first game of the season and loves it. We were so impressed watching her do the drills from a video her mom sent. It was a wonderful time spending 10 days with them.

On a more somber note my sister's oldest boy, Ronny, had a heart attack on July 25th and passed away. Saturday, September 12th was a celebration of life service for him. The event brought siblings together: Myself, my two sisters, and our one brother whom none of us have seen for years. It was a special time reconnecting even though the circumstance was not what we would have wanted to bring us together.



Top left: Tomlin
Bottom: Josiah, Toby, Chi

Top center: Nehemiah

Top right: Ari, Brenda, Ava
Jan, Judy, Brenda, Mark

Missions Moment—Jack & Brenda Rushing—Wycliffe



We continue to be in touch with Donghyun Yum and his wife Hyojung Kim, the young Korean couple who have taken on the Serudung Murut translation project. We occasionally get to have a video chat. We enjoy those online visits. They enable us to share with one another and learn all that's happening with the project, answering any questions they might have. But mostly it's to encourage them and pray together.

They have been able to expand the project and involve more members of Murut community and clergy. In addition to their work on the written translation of the Scriptures they have a group working on translating using a method known as Oral Bible Translation (OBT). So that you may better understand their progress and challenges, here is an excerpt from their July newsletter:

It has already been nearly two full years since the OBT team began its ministry. On the surface, everything appears to be going smoothly and there seems to be no major issues. However, from the perspective that our ultimate goal is not merely to produce a "translation as a result," but to create "good translations," there are still many shortcomings. In particular, the Serudung people culturally regard it as a virtue not to speak directly to others about things that are uncomfortable. On the other hand, the translation process requires endless questioning, critique, and revision. However, because both team members and those receiving criticism feel uncomfortable pointing out errors, there has been a tendency to adopt a stance of "let's not criticize at all." Furthermore, despite having a manual outline the processes that translators must strictly adhere to, we have frequently observed instances where these processes were bypassed due to the pressure of deadlines.

We, too, saw this reluctance to criticize during our work with the Serudung people. This is a challenge common to many translation projects. Donghyun and Hyojung are planning continued training for the team leaders and request prayer that the translators "may first come to appreciate the true flavor of the Word." That would be a good prayer for all of us, wouldn't it?

Missions Moment – Native Missions

During the past year, the LWC has invested in a Bull Riding Clinic held at Potato Creek (between Kyle and Wamblee on the Pine Ridge Reservation). That event happened July 23-24, 2026, and required renting and moving an arena from 3 Mile CK Rodeo Co at Kyle. We had 29 students and had good ministry time with them behind the chutes prior to the start of Friday's rodeo. Rol Bradford, Venerito Rosales and myself all spoke to the students. Venerito shared his testimony in a bold way and challenged the students to follow Christ. Venerito and I also spoke at a church service at Red Shirt in August.

The previous fall, October 26th we helped sponsor the 5th Annual Bible Youth Rodeo at Kyle. At both events we set up the Senior Centers big yellow and green tent and fixed and served lunch under it. At the October rodeo we also had a small Cowboy Church prior to the event.

The 6th Annual Bible Youth Rodeo is scheduled for October 26th at the 3-Mile Creek Rodeo Company at Kyle.

We'll be planning on how to recontact the students and participants of these events. As in the past, I've worked with and supported Venerito in his missionary efforts. He visited the LWC November 22-23, 2025. He's also planning a visit on October 11, 2026.

Ron Walker



Plymouth's Rock

By Janet & Geoff Bengé

William Bradford
(1590-1657)

"William shivered and his teeth chattered. Out on the water it was bone-chillingly cold. He could no longer feel his toes, and the spray splashing over the side of the shallop left a glaze of ice on his jacket. If the cold kept up much longer, William feared that the weather might accomplish what the Indians had tried to—kill them all.

Growing up in a small town in England, William Bradford lived during a time of upheaval and opportunity. Together with a group of Separatists, William escaped England to establish a new life in Holland and finally set out on the *Mayflower* on a perilous voyage across the Atlantic Ocean.

The New World beckoned as a land of freedom and possibility. Yet wild waters, icy winters, Indian attacks, starvation, and treason threatened the European settlers' very existence. Through William's vision and steadfast leadership, the people of Plymouth Colony would endure, their future descendants forming the cornerstone of a great nation."

This book is available in the Little White Church library in the junior section.

With Halloween at the end of the month, there are two books we have about Halloween:

Halloween, What's a Christian to Do? by Steve Russo

Halloween and Satanism by Phil Phillips and Joan Hake Robie

***"Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him
And He shall direct your paths."
Proverbs 3:5-6***

October Librarians: Cindy Dusing and Georgie Neff

HOW WILL **YOU** CHOOSE?

I cannot deny the fact that we live in a marvelous age of information. Anything we want to know is, literally, at our finger tips almost instantly. I also know it wasn't ***always*** like this. Just during the years I have been an adult, I have seen huge changes in the way we gather and share information.

When I was a young adult, in the 1970s, research was very different. Finding what we needed for a report or an article meant hours of pouring through the Encyclopedia. Or, if your family didn't possess that useful tool, you spent hours in the research section at the local library. This was still true, for the most part, when my sons were in school during the 1980s and early 1990s.

There came a time when their schools ***did*** have internet, but access to it was strictly limited . . . and there were lots of students waiting to use one of the few computers available. Because of that, the library was still the best way to find what you needed to know. Today's students enjoy a vastly different reality. All of us do.

All we have to do is type our question into our favorite search engine's inquiry window. In a matter of seconds, we have a multitude of answers to those questions. And we don't have to wait for access to a ***computer*** to get it! It's available to us right on our phones!

Today's information highway moves faster and faster with every passing day. And, because we can access it from our phones, we can DO our research anywhere, at any time we want. This amazing technology makes it possible for us to make ***phone calls*** from anywhere, too. No more missed calls because we weren't home to receive them!

Please remember: this was all the stuff of fantasy or science fiction . . . less than 40 years ago!

But, I have noticed a sad reality in the middle of all this amazing technology. Many people don't actually use there phones to ***TALK*** to people. They search the internet for answers to questions they have. They chat on Social media, or scroll through endless posts on their feeds. And, they send text messages to their friends. But, even with a perfectly functional phone ***right there*** in their hands, phone calls are rapidly becoming a rarity.

Our wondrous, instant age of information is creating one glaring flaw: it is effectively ***replacing*** personal, face-to-face communication.

Keeping the Family Strong

By: BJ Reese

Consequently, we've come to expect people to use OUR favorite form of sending information whenever they have something they want to tell us. "*Send me a text,*" is becoming our go-to request. We are becoming unwilling to accept **any** other forms of communication.

Letters, phone calls --- even emails --- are all being abandoned in favor of something we see as quicker and easier. Less "*in our face*". Unfortunately, that "*something easier*" is also much less personal. Less involved with humanity.

Having said all that, I concede that there **are** times when a text message **IS** quicker and easier. But, what if the person with the message to deliver needs to get that message to three or four hundred people at **one** time? For instance, when a committee at church has a progress report to deliver to the congregation?

Should we REALLY expect that committee chair to reach out to EACH and EVERY one of us with a personal text message?!?

My friends, we average 250-300 people in attendance at the Little White Church on any given Sunday. Some special occasions have seen 400 people show up for church services! That adds up to a LOT of individual text messages, don't ya' think?

The fastest, most efficient way to reach 300 people with a message you have for **ALL** of them is to **gather** them together! While they're together, you can deliver the information you have for them, getting it to **all** of them at the same time.

In our case, there were a lot of people who showed up at church Sunday morning, the 20th of September. They had already made the effort to be **in the building** for Sunday services. **And**, the committee had given us **plenty** of notice about that meeting! They made sure it was in the **written** bulletin . . . in the **slideshow** announcements . . . AND during the **verbally** presented announcements --- for TWO Sundays in a row, so that we were informed prior to the meeting.

We all **KNEW** that meeting was coming up. And, in an effort to make it extra easy for us to attend, they scheduled it for immediately after church services were over. Anyone who wanted to hear the committee's report knew when and where they could do so. Once started, the meeting only took about a half hour.

Keeping the Family Strong

By: BJ Reese

Still . . . there were barely 60-70 people AT THAT MEETING! That means that, of the 250 (+/-) people who are AT CHURCH every single Sunday, over 180 of them WERE NOT at that informational meeting! The meeting designed to address the very issues this congregation brought up at this year's annual meeting was sadly under-attended.

I tell you all of this to invite some honest self-examination in every single member of this congregation. Are there times when you feel left out of what's going on at the Little White Church? Do you often feel like you've been left in the dark? Do you frequently feel un-informed . . . or under-informed?

If so, ask yourself the next question: "*Did I attend the meeting?*" If your answer to **that** question is "no", you CAN do something about feeling left out. The **next** time a meeting is announced, make sure you **deliberately** plan on being there. It IS your choice!

Lunch plans, hikes in the Hills, gathering with friends (or my favorite: putting on my pajamas) . . . whatever YOUR typical Sunday thing is, it **could** be delayed for an extra half hour, don't you think? Wouldn't it be worth that delay in order to keep informed about what is going on?

The steering committee that WE, as a congregation, elected is reaching out to us once a month. They're doing that to make sure they keep us informed of their progress and about what is happening in our church. Our congregation **asked** them to do this work. Don't you want to know how it's going?

Surely, we can each spare one half hour, out of the 720 hours that exist in the month. We spend more than that, nearly every day, scrolling through our social media feeds!

One half hour doesn't seem like too much to ask. And, if any of us DOES think it's too much to ask, the consequences are on us. If we CHOOSE to avoid being informed, we have no room to complain when we don't know what's going on at the Little White Church.

My friends, we go out of our way to find out what our spouses and family members are up to. We care about them; we want to know they are safe, and making good choices. The Little White Church is our Family --- the Family God formed for us as members of His Kingdom. Shouldn't we care what **that** Family is doing, also? To be certain that our church Family is safe and is making wise decisions? Shouldn't we each make the effort to find out?

The choice belongs to EACH of us. Search your heart . . . choose wisely . . .

To His Glory . . .

Reflections from Psalm 96:5b,6,10-13

“...the LORD made the heavens! Honor and majesty surround Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary. Tell all the nations that the LORD is King. The world is firmly established and cannot be shaken. He will judge all peoples fairly.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice!

Let the sea and everything in it shout His praise!

Let the fields and their crops burst forth with joy!

Let the trees of the forest rustle with praise before the LORD!

For the LORD is coming! He is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the earth with righteousness and all the nations with His truth.”

NLT 1997

Why all this rejoicing, praise and joy coming from the heavens, the earth, the sea and all it contains, the fields and their crops, and the trees of the forest?

It is because, according to the apostle Paul in writing to the Romans, [8:21]

“all creation anticipates the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay.”

It is also because the LORD is coming to judge the earth. Why would this be a cause of joy?

Because according to the psalm, He will judge the earth with *righteousness* and *truth*.

There will be no injustice in His judgments. Reason for rejoicing!

Let the trees of the forest rustle with praise!



My Story

Jack Jewett

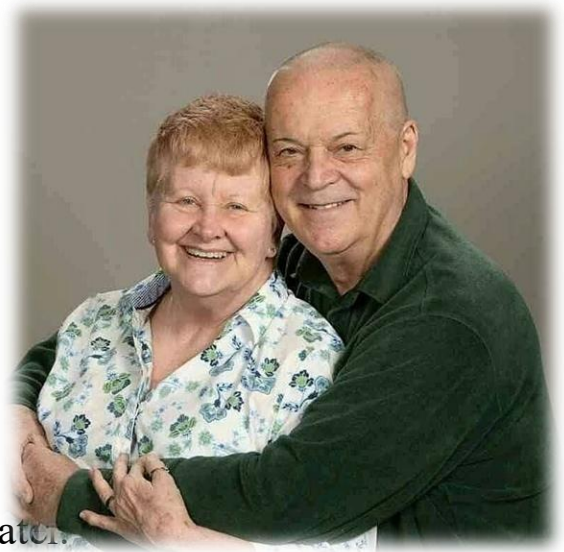
I was raised in a middle class family of good parents, a younger brother and sister. Parents made sure I attended church and many of the weekly activities there. Was baptized as a child in the baptism pool after attending a confirmation class with other youth.

Lived in Massachusetts until age 13 and then Texas when my Dad was transferred to Fort Worth.

Attended the University of Texas and majored in Business. Married in 1961, too young,

have two sons Jeff and Jason, and divorced 17 years later.

Met my current and last Bride Mary in 1976. Starting in 1979, lived with her for 8 years before we recorded our marriage. Moved to South Dakota in 1988 with Bride Mary.



Career starting at the age of 20 in the life insurance business, then added other types of businesses. I did have a fun job as a commercial pilot flying a fleet of Hot Air Balloons for the Coca-Cola Bottling Company. Met my Bride Mary as a result of her obtaining a private pilot's license from me. Years later, I evolved into the mortgage and real estate businesses in South Dakota at the age of 47. I was raised in a secure, encouraging way by my parents and thought I was okay. In business I came to believe more money and things were evidence I was successful. I thought I could achieve all that I could perceive. I was the founder of a group of 24 companies and became a multi-millionaire at the age of 33 and thought I had accomplished all that I was supposed to do.

You see I did not know that God had a plan for me. I did not know that "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall." Proverbs 16:18 NKJV You see seven years later I was a million dollars in debt and all had collapsed. My marriage to my first wife was not good and my family was a wreck! From this point I had ups and downs. Later my current wife Mary witnessed to me about God and His Son Jesus.

Ten years later, one night in Nemo, SD at the Nemo Community Church in bible study, I heard bible verses from Romans 9:16-18 for the first time.

16 It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy. 17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth. 18 Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.

(from New International Version)

WAIT! I thought it did depend on me! I had never heard this before.

If it was not up to me then how?

Then I heard Romans 10:9-13.

9 That if you confess (agree with God) with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. 11 As the Scripture says, Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame. 12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile-the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. (New International Version)

Well, I knew I had never done this. I had felt for some time worthless and empty and I could not do this anymore. There was a hole or void in me that nothing before had ever filled. Not money, toys, alcohol, women, etc.

You see I came to understand that SIN was anything I did other than GOD'S WAY. To believe that God had sent HIS SON JESUS for me like I was the only one on earth.

That night I believed HE (Jesus) died, was buried, and arose again so I could be forgiven.

My life as a Christian was not all at once perfect. I had a NEW Priority to build relationships with people rather than money and toys. I did desire to develop opportunities to share Jesus Christ with other men and disciple them to the point they can share in the same desire I have.

As I have grown in my life with Jesus and I have also grown in my relationship with my Bride Mary. God has given me the blessing of seeing her as a most precious gift. Brother Jack

Announcements

Monday Morning School Prayer Walk . All are welcome to join us beginning, Monday, Oct. 5th at 7 am. Meet in front of the Boys and Girls Club.

Middle School Sunday School will begin Sunday, October 4th and will be held in-between services (9:35-10:15 am) in the Youth Room.

Newcomers Lunch will be held on Sunday, October 4th at Noon.

If you are new to the LWC, plan on attending!!

Please sign up in the foyer, so we know how much food to plan for!

Connections Class will be held on Sundays in October at 10:15 am in the library. Come and learn more about the LWC!

Wednesday morning Women's Life Group will be starting October 7th and meet at 10 am in the library.

Study will be "Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table" by Louie Giglio.

Sign up in the foyer!

Kidzlife will begin on Wednesday, October 7th from 3:15-5:15 pm (volunteers walk kids over from school). This is open to kids K-5th grade.

Register today at www.thelittlewhitechurch.net/kidzlife.

Celebration of Life for Matthew McCaskell will be held October 11th at 11 am at Mickelson Trail Lodge (12165 Ray Smith Dr.).

Behrenswilson.com/obituaries/matthew-minor-mccaskell.

Thank you to my LWC family for all the caring cards and prayers during this time. Bonnie McCaskell

Food Pantry will be closed Monday, October 12th.

Veteran's Christmas Giftbox Drop Off Tub is located in the Fellowship Hall. Donations are due by October 16th.

Women's Retreat - Hospitality: An Overlooked Ministry, Nov. 6-8 at Camp Judson.

Help make the Kid's Christmas Program Happen! We are looking for volunteers to help with the Christmas Program on Dec. 20th. Interested? Contact Marci King at 605-390-7311 or marci.eben.king@gmail.com.

A Peas-ful Departure

A funeral director once shared a lighthearted epitaph he found on an old tombstone. It read:



*Here lies the body of Solomon Peas,
Under the sod and under the trees.
Peas is not here, 'tis only the pod;
Peas has shelled out and gone to God.*

You'rx nxxdxd!

Evxn though my typxwritxr is an old modxl, it works quitx wxll—
xxcxpt for onx kxy. I havx many timxs wishxd it workxd prxfxtly.
It's trux that thx othxr kxys work grxat, but just onx kxy not
working makxs a hugx diffrxncx.

Somxtimxs our church sxxms likx my typxwritxr — not all thx kxy
pxoplx work. You may say to yoursxlf, "Wxll, I'm just onx pxrson.
I don't makx or brxak thx church." But it doxs makx a big
diffrxncx bxcausx a church, to bx xffxctivx, nxxds thx activx
participation of vxry pxrson.

So, thx nxxt timx you think your xfforts arxn't nxcxssary,
rxmxmbxr my typxwritxr and say to yoursxlf, "I'm a kxy pxrson in
thx congrxgation, and I'm nxxdxd vxry much."



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