



# CALVARY COURIER

Mar-Apr 2010

## Letter from the Pastor

I asked Emily for a topic to write about for this Calvary Courier edition, seeing that my usual fare leans a little on the negative and/or philosophically corrective side. Emily said I should write about wood paneling, being visually prompted by the paneling in the classroom we were sitting in at the time. So Emily, here goes!

As I look at the wood paneling that currently sits to my left and right (white-painted cinder block occupies the fore and background), I find the grain in the light brown wood laminations to be a continued source of fascination. The three inch wide vertical boards to my right are the most natural looking. Each of the vertical boards is made of the exact same material, wood, but like fingerprints, no two look the same, which is the source of their beauty. Some of the boards exhibit vertical grain, and some more horizontal, while others show hyperbolic patterns. All of this beauty can easily be disregarded, unless you are specifically looking for it. The longer you peruse, the deeper the beauty that has taken decades to produce becomes.

If you look at two guitars whose finish allows the grains to be seen, you will find a natural beauty that differs greatly from instrument to instrument. Glenn's ash bass and my spruce-tops enhance the differences by using diverse source trees and well applied finishes. No two can ever look the same by nature.

The grain's beauty develops as each tree grows under its genetic instructions and environmental conditions. Wood that is greatly stressed produces beautiful patterns and grains, making it valuable for use in instruments and furniture; the greater the stress, the greater the beauty that grows.

There are some woods which gain most of their beauty after they are dead. Certain fungi and other decomposers can actually add streaks of color and patterns to the old logs, sometimes taken deeply into the wood by tiny wood boring insects.

Perhaps the parallels to life in Christ are already obvious:

- Each of us is a unique creation of God. No two of us are the same; there is beauty in each. In fact, it is the very diversity that allows us to see the variance in the wonder of how God is remaking us.
- Each one of us needs to be connected to the others. When is the last time you saw a house built out of one 2x4?
- Life without stress doesn't build strong trees or people. The most stable, beautiful folks you know have probably been through a lot of God allowed and/or directed adversity.

**Steve Hugo** has been the Pastor of Calvary Church since 2002. He has been "in the ministry" since 1980 in various roles, including youth, music, and solo pastoral positions.

Education:

Pastoral Studies graduate  
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- Sometimes, when everything seems dead, deeper beauty is developing.
  - A lot has to be cut away for the beauty to be revealed.
  - Most folks won't bother to stop and see the creation of God in you.
- ~ Selah

There were once some pieces of wood that became the most beautiful wood ever “produced,” although they are long gone. Initially, they really had no special value, and were more than likely some pieces of scrap lumber, or leftovers from a torn down building. With multiple nail scars and colored with the dried blood of its victims, these beams were used by the Romans to terrorize the unruly into submission via their use in crucifixion. Were these beams still intact, they would be beyond price, representing the value of every person who has or ever will ever exist. The grain of the wood here had no meaning, only the life-blood shed for our sins upon it, the stains of the grace of God.

To this day, and perhaps now more than ever, folks glance over the crosses that we wear and display without ever considering the savagery committed once upon the Original. To connect the Atrocity with these mere representations is no longer in vogue and would sting the sensibilities of many. To wear a cross that actually reminds one of the completed work, rather than just being a fashion statement, is not in vogue nor politically correct. The cross means that all have sinned and need to experience the

forgiveness offered there; without it, there is only terminal depravity to long for. Those beams would testify that a Savior once hung there, was buried, and on the third day returned to the living, forever victorious over death. Those beams declare there is only one way to the Father and life that extends into eternity. This has never been the popular understanding.

We must seek to grasp that the One who created trees, from Balsa to the mighty Oak, died willingly upon his creation to redeem that aspect of his creation responsible for all of its bondage to decay. That aspect is you and me, and all who have ever sinned. Whenever you see real wood, rather than particle board imitations, remember its wonderful designer, your redeemer, and live fully according to the grain of his grace to us.

Selah

Some of the paneling that you can purchase isn't really wood at all. It is merely thin sheets of particle board with a thin veneer of paper or colored plastic over it. It isn't real, just a pretense of what the reality would seem like. If you look at it closely, you can see that it is just an image, an artist's conception of what reality might be. The fake wood is much cheaper and made artificially in factories, without sunlight, soil and time. It might look good from a distance, but proximity reveals its false nature. Being real takes time and effort and usually some decent expense, but it is real and has value and a deep, lasting beauty. The real also holds up much better under the various stresses and adverse conditions that it will encounter.

--Pastor Steve

## JESUS IS ALIVE!

*Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood. (Rev 1:4-5 ESV)*

## Holy, Holy, Holy!



Thanks to Ben Gallagher (See John 20:1-18)

04-01-2002

## MISSIONS NEWS

o Dov and Lyndee ask prayer for Rafi's continued recovery. Rafi's son writes: "Raphael is still in pain, especially when sitting. Physio is also hard on him and requires a huge effort, but everything seems to show that he is on the way to recovery, so we can praise our Father for the miracle of saving Raphael's life. Thank you for your prayers." MBKI new programs in addition to regular: New kindergarten; Hot lunch program benefit in March in Nashville; Dov is recruiting five young high school guys to join a mentorship program - teaching them leadership skills, character building, responsibility, integrity - how to have a vision for the future. Dov and these five will then volunteer as a team with local Community Center working with at-risk elementary school children.

o From Bowers: Please keep them in prayer for traveling safety in their country -- ministry traveling and to see their children in early March. "Please pray for God's provision" of funds for traveling to the States with Benjamin for college and for a place to stay. Also for summer jobs for Ruthanne and Benjamin.

o Tim and Susana are encouraged! At the Saturday coffee outreach there were 19 workers and 43 people came. Each Sunday new people come to the church service -- many as a result of coming for coffee. "The Gospel is preached each Sunday, so pray for the Holy Spirit to move hearts." Especially pray for John and two ladies, Belen and Silvia.

o Brian writes: "The biggest news is that Roger does give much testimony of being a Christian now." Ormondo is slowly improving after the auto accident. Even after he enjoyed doing everything by bus, taxi and on foot (and lost over 10 pounds), Brian continues to look for a vehicle. "Thanks for praying with us." Their residency visas have been renewed for another five years! They "ask your prayers for God to guide us in ways that will have the most influence on Nicaraguan Christians and their obligation to fulfill the great commission."

o From Andrew: "I certainly need your prayers for God's protection as I travel, power in proclaiming the Gospel, wisdom in decisions, and much blessing in ministry." In March he will attend the Shepherd's Conference at Master's Seminary, Slavic Youth Conference in Sacramento, Missions Conference in Florida, plus a teaching ministry in Miami. In April, SGA office in Illinois, Missions Conference in Michigan, then meetings in Ontario and New York.

o Rick and Susan are encouraged concerning their financial challenges. Susan writes: "I am given courage and feel confident God will provide for the material needs we have and that must be taken care of before we are allowed to return to Asia in June." A summary of prayer needs: financial and material needs; sons living and employment situations established; upcoming new partnership with local church; housing that would be a place of real rest and ministry; new prayer and financial partners. "Thanks for

listening and for taking these needs before our Great God together with us."

o From Bob and Dottie: "We are excited to let you know that JAARS has been able to send a crew of pilots and aircraft mechanics to Haiti to assist in the relief efforts there. The Kodiak is flying 2-3 times a day delivering relief personnel, equipment, and supplies to about a dozen small, remote towns that are otherwise practically unreachable. We would appreciate your prayer for God to use this work to bring Him honor and to show His love to the people of Haiti."

o Elva writes: "The past year again was very trying for me, so many up and downs, but He is still the Master of the storms... I am still living alone, have a lady help clean two hours a week, and each morning a nurse comes in to check... I wish to thank all those who have stood behind us and continued with me all these years, and for all those who write and send greeting cards. Love and prayers." More family news in letter on the board.

o Tom and Nancy are "greatly encouraged." The interviews that Tom was a part of went well. "Thank you for praying." Also for several situations in Member Care. They have released the PA house so the builder can sell it, and the SC house is still on the market. "Please pray with us that we will keep trusting the Lord with our future. Thank you so much."

*(Continued next page)*

o Lots of news from Sergio and Susan (letter on the board). An update of their activities in Trujillo. March 20, they will celebrate the first anniversary of John Boice Memorial Library. They will celebrate with the "John Boice Lectures." This first one will be "The Jewish Roots of the Christian Faith." More info in their letter on the board. "Jessica is doing well at John Brown University and David is trying to find his "niche and purpose" living and working part-time in Colorado. "Thank you for your prayers and support."

o Leadership Resources has begun a new TNT group in Far East Russia. Craig writes: "What a joy to launch a pastoral training movement here with 20 men of God." Comments from the pastors: "The emphasis on the heart of God has been so precious. Now I see that the heart of God is central to the Scriptures, to relationships and to ministry. I now want more of His heart."... "One of my prayers for this seminar was to come away with simple and useful tools... God has answered my prayers!"

**INFANT DEDICATION**

**March 7, 2010  
Brayden Long**

*Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.*

*Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. (Deut 6:5-9 NIV)*

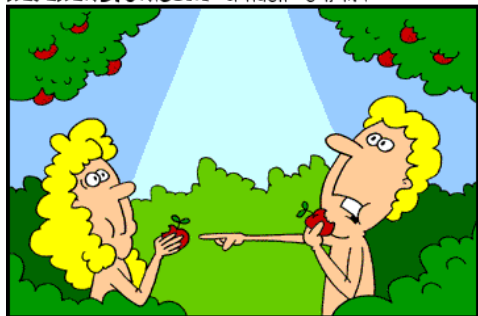
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Thanks to Mikel Rice 08-04-2003

YOU'RE OUR WITTLE ANGEL ... YES YOU ARE

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Thanks to Uncle Nick & Aunt Leona (See Genesis 3) 08-19-1999

SHE STARTED IT

**SERMON SERIES**  
**On Genesis begins**  
**April 11<sup>th</sup>**

**WEEKLY EVENTS**

**Sundays**

9:30 a - Sunday School  
10:45 a – Worship

**Tuesdays**

10:00 a – Ladies Bible Study

**Wednesdays**

7:00 pm – Prayer Meeting

**COMING EVENTS**

**SMALL GROUP**

**Study of Daniel**  
at Glenn & Deanna's  
Saturdays at 7:00 pm

**COMING SOON**

**April 19**  
**Bible League Sunday**

**April 2**  
**Good Friday Service**

**April 4**  
**Resurrection Sunday**  
**Breakfast at 9:30**