



Letter from the Pastor

We haven't got a lot of time.

I was driving the girl's tennis team to Andrew High School recently through the on-again off-again rain pattern that has dominated the weather this past week. Just to the north and east, we noticed a spectacular full rainbow with a dimmer one behind it. The girls took out their cell phones and started taking pictures of this intense, colorful display. Then suddenly, the prismatic display vanished like it had never even been there, like the mist of James 4:13-16.

As I try to reflect back on my life, it bothers me that I cannot remember a lot of it. Having lived over 19,500 days at this point in my life, one would think that I could spend many days recalling my past goings on, but I cannot. I have noticed that certain occurrences will trigger memories that I could not otherwise recall, but I cannot simply sit down and remember. 19,500 days seems like a long time, but as I try to look back, it doesn't seem like much of a journey at all.

In reality, what is 19,500 days compared with eternity? It is not even an eye-blink amount of time when time becomes irrelevant. Still, what we do somehow ends up mattering in eternity. How we respond to the grace of God in these few days determines in which realm we spend that eternity, whether it be the Kingdom of God or the Lake of Fire.

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CHURCH MINISTRY

Sundays
 9:30 am - Sunday School
 10:45 am - Morning Worship

Tuesdays
 10:00 am - Ladies Bible Study

Wednesdays
 7:00 pm - Church Prayer Fellowship

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)



Our “irrelevant” multitude of days also contain multiple “chance” encounters in which we are able to experience and share the grace of God in relationship with others. We hear of the message of Jesus, God-come-in-the-flesh, and choose to respond or not. We are placed in positions where we are the heralds, presenting Truth to be rejected or received. These days also contain abundant opportunities to get involved with those good workings that God has prepared in advance for us be involved in (see Eph 2:1-10)

If we consider Jesus’ time walking the earth, we come up with about 13,000 days and only 1,000 that we know much about at all. That is a pretty small slice of time, but what a slice. In such a short amount of time, Jesus’ life has changed billions of people, calling them from the darkness and into his wonderful light. If we think about it, we might see that Jesus days here get multiplied in all who have surrendered to him -- which geometrically increases the effect of his days. If we regard only the time from his arrest to his resurrection, we are dealing with a relatively minute splinter of time with infinite and eternal impact.

Maybe I am totally wrong then, to look at my current 19,500 as being trivial. What if the hours that I spend here, there and everywhere might actually have eternal impact as I seek to represent Jesus to a lost world in my peripateo? What if each moment does have eternal impact?

--Pastor Steve

How to Be a Thankful People



*“O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever.”
Psalm 106:1.*

The Bible tells us time and again to be thankful. Gratitude is a trait of the twice-born. I think you will agree that grace and gratitude are inextricable interwoven. It seems unlikely that one can know God and not be grateful!

So for us as believers, Thanksgiving is far above being a day of hearty feasting and being entertained by sports. It is a very wonderful opportunity to exercise our sacred duty and high privilege of praising God for His goodness and mercy to us.

*We are commanded to be thankful.
And we know that God delights in the praises of His people.*

--Adrian Rogers, Love Worth Finding

Great Commission NEWS

from Carol

- **Rick and Susan** are thankful for answered prayers! There were some not so fun times during travel, but all went well in the end. "We do need to keep praying for the people to get excited about these things in their own language... For the pastors in these villages to encourage the people to use the scriptures... For God's spirit to move the people as they hear the truth in their language, and will take the time to reflect on it." They now have DSL internet connection!
- "James Family and Global Teams/Trainers... We are still in the Midst of our training the trainers and Sending the 70 into the work. We are by faith Claiming that this will be our best "by faith" victory year yet... for our family, our teams (both here and abroad since you all are part of these teams too)."
- **MBKI** has been able to help nearly 60 children to purchase books and school supplies with their Strong Beginnings Program. "We would like to thank all of you involved in our Family Sponsorship Program and our Strong Beginnings Program. We are announcing the launch of a new initiative, Thank G-d Its Shabbat (T.G.I.S.), to further meet the needs and strengthen the families we serve..."
- From **Jennifer and Jim**: It is very hot and humid in Mali, without much rain. Not too late to save crops "if it would rain hard or long a couple times a week for the next month or so." Pray for rain! An answer to prayer: two young men have arrived and will be working as "God's Servants" in the local language. "PRAY for them and their seven teammates for their adjustment to the culture, language acquisition, and eventual sharing of the Gospel." Pray that more water will be found soon (Duduya well project).
- For all you Facebook fans, check out **BLI** and "Like" this <http://www.facebook.com/#!/BibleLeagueInternational>
- **Bob and Dottie** "both celebrated 50 years in Wycliffe as of August first! We also officially retired from Wycliffe at the same time." Bob is planning to volunteer at JAARS beginning in October. They "are still involved with Bible translation because we believe that Bible translation is fundamentally a Kingdom activity.... We are seeing God at work in Brazil. The Indigenous people are taking leadership in sharing the Gospel with their neighbors. As we look back over these 50 years in Wycliffe, we praise the Lord for the privilege we have had to serve Him, both in Brazil and here at JAARS." More news to be read in The Wright Data, on the board.
- From **Brian**: "The Lord is good... never lets boredom be a problem for long. There is much to do and few willing and capable workers." Their emphasis is on the preparation of leaders for church growth, spiritual and numerical. "We do covet your prayers for the students." This year Brian is teaching all the books of the Old Testament except for Daniel and all of the New Testament except for Revelation... Please keep Roger, Harvey, Julio and Sergio, Jesenia and Sucre in prayer. They expect to see Samuel (taking first steps to join UWM family) and Ana-Lucia (college in VA) in December.
- Much news from **Mark Royce and Nancy** in July ECua-Marks, on the board. ACCION ECUADOR is a missionary agency whose main purpose is training. Mark and Nancy are working in three ministries: the Biblical and Missionary Center, Paquisha's Children Club, and administrating the ACCION office in Ecuador. In July 2007, the Lord provided the opportunity to purchase and pay for a piece of property in a prime location. Their desire is to build a ministry home on the plot. "Studying the situation as it presently appears, the Summers are crying out to God, our provider, for His miraculous and generous provision..." Please pray with them!



COMING SOON

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23

Anniversary Sunday ☺

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29

5-8:00 pm – Harvest Party

NOVEMBER 13

Calvary Christmas Project

NOVEMBER 24

Happy Thanksgiving ☺

NOVEMBER 13

Operation Christmas Child - Bring your donations on or before the 13th. Donate online and you can follow your box:

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/index.php/OCC/followyourbox/>

If you have any questions, connect with Sarah

