



CALVARY COURIER

February 2012

Letter from the Pastor

The last couple of winters have been pretty cold. I recall that a couple of years ago, school was cancelled for a day or two because it was 20 degrees below zero and the administration was concerned about students getting frostbite waiting for busses. (I do not recall them being all that concerned about the drivers getting too cold, though.)

This winter has been relatively warm which makes my “climate change” friends cry. “Aha! There it is! I told you so!” I get these folks very angry with me sometimes as I point out that the current warm trend is actually caused because something called the “jet stream” is staying to the north this season instead of taking its usual southern excursion. If the polar jet stream dips to the south, we are cold. When it stays north, we stay warmer, like this winter. We cannot see the jet stream, being that it is made out of air, but we can definitely feel its affects. If we add in the El Nino and La Nina factors, our weather can change a lot from climatic factors that we cannot see. There is a lot going on that we cannot see, but that we can be effected by.

Even more, I find it fascinating that those who have us so worried about the environment seem to ignore two key huge factors: water vapor and the Sun. The folks who are convinced about human-caused climate change look at current and recent temperature data and a few speculative causes and conclude that unless we radically alter our societal energy use, doom is around the corner. I think that sometimes what we think is going on really isn't what is going on at all. Water vapor is the most abundant “greenhouse gas” and Mr. Sun does not always put out the same amount of heat. However, these factors are just too big to put into the computer models that the warming advocates use, as they would mess up the data that they want to produce. We see some pieces, add a good dose of conjecture and then come to conclusions that don't have much of a solid basis. We do this with God all of the time.

We see this or that negative event going on in our lives or in the world around us and we conclude that things are spinning out of control; that we are hurtling toward ultimate earthly disaster.

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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

1 Corinthians 13:4- 9 ESV

*Love is patient and kind;
love does not envy or boast;
it is not arrogant or rude.
It does not insist on its own way;
it is not irritable or resentful;
it does not rejoice at wrongdoing,
but rejoices with the truth.*

*Love bears all things,
believes all things,
hopes all things,
endures all things.*

Love never ends.

*As for prophecies, they will pass away;
as for tongues, they will cease;
as for knowledge, it will pass away.
For we know in part and we prophesy
in part, but when the perfect comes,
the partial will pass away.*

(Emphasis by editor)

CALVARY MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

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Letter from the Pastor - continued from page 1

Recall the Israelites in ancient Egypt, suffering underneath generational slavery. Hundreds of years back in their history, their ancestors were led by and specially blessed of God. The picture under bondage sure didn't give anyone much confidence that any god other than Ra was doing much, and his doings benefitted the slave masters. What about the God of the Patriarchs? Was he having any real affect?

Reflection on ancestor Joseph should have given them some indication that God could be at work even in the adversity of individuals and nations. Wasn't it the jealousy of the brothers and the unfairness of Joseph's Egyptian circumstance that ended up saving the lives of Jacob's group, and eventually all of the Israelites who were under Egypt's thumb? Didn't God make use of "climate change" to save them? Recall that Pharaoh's dreams dealt with excellent weather and debilitating drought. In their situation of bondage, perhaps they could have reflected upon the God who moves in such huge and "unique" ways to accomplish his plans.

If they had paused to think about it, they could have remembered God's total control of the climate in Noah's day, how that God will not allow evil to finish us. As they would soon learn as they departed Egypt, God is the total master of the environment, manipulating everything from frog populations to solar output as he saw fit. There is a larger Force at work, so large that it can be easily overlooked like the effect of the sun on the climate.

(I am not trying to say that God is using the current climatic trends, whatever they may really be, to bless or punish the world populace, but merely that we ought not to spend a lot of time fretting about it. I am not saying that pollution is good or that its consequences be ignored. God has given us a great stewardship of a great planet and we need to respect it as such.)

What if God's provision for us is so massive and complete that we forget to notice it, or even worse, that we *neglect* to?

Elijah, even after seeing the fire fall up close and personal, runs away from the mission God had given him that he might die under the broom tree. Had he not just seen the power of God? Did not his prayer include a request for personal validation before the people? At Horeb, God wows him with the displays of earthquake, wind, and fire. Yet, in a still small voice, God tells him to get back with the plan which was actually The Plan that constantly moves individuals, nations and events to the time when every knee shall bow and every tongue confess.

The events at Carmel were an anomaly, a mere wave in the massive current of the plan of God, which can be overlooked in the excitement of the exception. The wave that Elijah saw was only a ripple when compared with the Current. In his despair at the broom tree, he was disappointed that Carmel happened once and only locally at that. He desired to see anomaly become normal. On Horeb, God directs him back into the Current, huge and often unnoticed.

Then there are the storms, those events that seem to be sweeping us away, heedless of the grace of God. We forget that adversity is to be expected every bit as much as the pleasant and joyful. We forget that the unseen Current is far greater than the storm that inflicts temporary fury and is unmoved by it.

-- Pastor Steve

*"And when You take me by the hand
And You love me, Lord, You love me
And I should have realized
I had no reasons to be frightened" ~ Rich Mullins*

Great Commission NEWS from Carol's Desk

- **Rick and Susan** received encouraging news: reports about things they have been working on. Village people memorized and did a Christmas service using Scriptures in their own language. After a week with team members working with Sunday School kids and two of their Sunday School teachers, the program was successfully done. Their family was able to be together for a few days... the first time in two years. Praise! They had a safe return to their home field.
- **Brian and Tita** worshiped at their annual church's Christmas concert in the national theater. "The five choirs participated together with a special pianist from Japan, and a Nicaraguan Youth orchestra." The chorus repeated much of the concert Sunday before Christmas. There was a Christmas drama at church on Friday, a Christmas Eve service, and a special service Christmas Day. Brian had cataract surgery and he reports: "The Lord gave me another gift this year...clear vision. Greetings and blessings to the church."
- **Fabio, Elizabeth, and family** plan to travel to the US in February. They write: "Please pray for us during this time of travel and transition, especially during my advancing pregnancy. Please pray for the health of the baby and myself during our travels and birth... Thank you so very much for your encouragement, prayers and support... We have so much to be thankful for!"
- Please keep **Roy and Ethel** in your prayers, and their two sons and grandson in Guatemala. For Roy's health, and patience and strength for both of them. They send thanks to "dear friends at Calvary Memorial for faithful prayers and support."
- **Dan and Nancy** wrote: "Dear friends, with as much enthusiasm as we can muster in a form letter, we wish you a Happy New Year... Please praise God with us for the blessings our Protector and Provider gave us this year." Please see their 2011 Annual Report on the board for much news, photos, and family updates.
- **Tim and Susana** have some prayer requests: For Lisa who is having some health issues; for Godwin to find work, and for his family- he lost a brother in an accident a few months ago; Maurene for health - as she recovers from a major stroke, and for her growth in Christ. "Tim has started a sermon series on Discipleship. We are promoting a series of videos on the subject and encouraging people to think seriously about the direction their ministries are going in relation to what Christ has called us to do. Pray for a good response."
- Happy New Year from **Jim and Jennifer!** They are looking forward to a year of Home Ministry in June.
- Prayer requests: that the Brick Machine is used effectively for the advancement of the Gospel; for **Danielle and Susanna** as they both began their last semester at DA. For Dakar Academy School Board meetings, and for the recruitment needs of next year. This is **Ruthanne's** senior year -- pray for her to finish well and for guidance for her future. Pray for a full recovery for **Benjamen** so he can run track again. Also please pray that their car keeps running until June.
- From **Dov**: "...my deepest thanks and affection to the entire body of Calvary as well as our blessing for an amazing new year!"
- A letter is on the board from **Sam and Denise** in Belgium.
- Craig's January letter and **Leadership Resources** Spring 2012 Ministry Schedule are on the board.
- **Bible League International** [MicroSD Card to be used to bring Bible, Christian literature, and media into oppressive places](http://au.christiantoday.com) au.christiantoday.com > Bible League International has announced a partnership with the Digital Bible Society to create a microSD card filled with Christian literature, which can be offered to persecuted people.

What's Happening

SUNDAY - MARCH 18

Morning Fast, Prayer, and Worship – Noon Break-the-fast Potluck
10:20 am Contemporary Music Worship to lead into the morning service

FRIDAY-SUNDAY – MARCH 23-25

MAN CAMP – Taking Men's Ministry to a New Level
Tom Harmon – Key Note Speaker
Important Calvary Church men's retreat in Lawton, Michigan
Please try to adjust your schedule so you can attend
\$110 includes weekend event and standard lodging
<http://www.miraclecamp.com/node/14>



Bi-Monthly Bible Study at Glenn & Deanna's

CHASING DAYLIGHT – A 10-week Bible study on the life of Jonathan
Led through DVD teaching by Author, Erwin McManus

"In his inspiring book, Chasing Daylight, Erwin McManus uses the biblical account of Israel's war with the Philistines (1 Samuel 13-14) and the characters of Jonathan and Saul to demonstrate the difference between living a life of purpose and adventure, and living one of apathy and missed opportunity.

(Saturday or Sunday evenings 7-8:30 pm – contact Glenn or Deanna if you are interested)

Book and workbook can be purchased for less than \$10 from amazon.com

COMING CONCERT EVENTS

date	event	headliner	venue	city
02/06 - 02/10/12	Founder's Week		Moody Bible Institute	Chicago
02/09/2012 7:00	The Songs & Stories Tour	Steven Curtis Chapman w/ Andrew Peterson	North Central College, Pfeiffer Hall	Naperville
02/10/2012	Mitch McVicker	Mitch McVicker	Deer Run Church Of Christ	South Bend
02/17/2012	Open Heavens: A Worship Encounter	Daniel Thornton	Morning Star Church	Huntley
02/18/2012 4:00	Chamber Singer's Concert		Judson University	Elgin
02/18/2012 6:30	Praise Jesus Coffeehouse	James Veatch	Praise Jesus Coffeehouse	Elgin
02/24/2012 7:30	We Cry Out	Jeremy Camp w/ Adam Cappa	The Compass Church	Naperville
02/25/2012	We Cry Out	Jeremy Camp w/ Francesca Battistelli	Valparaiso Nazarene	Valparaiso
02/25/2012 6:30	Booth Brothers	Booth Brothers	River Valley Christian Fellowship	Bourbonnais
02/25/2012 7:00	John Branyan, Comedian	John Branyan	Liberty Bible Church	Chesterton
03/01/2012 7:00	This Life Is... LOUD	Kutless w/ Hawk Nelson	Olivet Nazarene University	Bourbonnais
03/02/2012 7:00	Mark Schultz	Mark Schultz	Ozinga Chapel Auditorium, Trinity	Palos Heights
03/02/2012 7:00	Kingdom Heirs and Freedom	Kingdom Heirs w/ Freedom	River Valley Christian Fellowship	Bourbonnais
03/09/2012	Bebo Norman	Bebo Norman w/ Point of Grace	Medinah Baptist Church	Medinah
03/15/2012	VeggieTales Live! God Made You Special	VeggieTales	Valparaiso Nazarene	Valparaiso
03/16/2012	God's Not Dead Tour	Newsboys w/ The City Harmonic	Christ Community Church	St Charles
03/16/2012	The Hoppers	The Hoppers	Christ Community Church	Zion