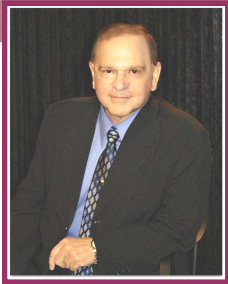


the Informer newsletter

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | PCAI & PCAI CLERGY
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PARAGON CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL
MAY 2018 – ISSUE 5



WHERE DOES YOUR MIND DWELL?

*By Dr. Henry A. Harbuck / PCAI General
President and Int'l Overseer*

As we go down this journey called “life” we face many joys, sorrows, and trials. I have found it is important on how we deal with the things we experience, especially the sorrows and trials. Surely we all love the mountain top but it is in the valley where He restores our sole.

I am reminded of that moving hymn, “It is Well with My Soul,” written by a Presbyterian lawyer, Horatio G. Spafford (1828-1888) and composed by Philip P. Bliss (1838-1876). Without doubt, it’s a matchless and deeply moving hymn that has long been cherished by people everywhere. As you may know, the story began when Spafford received news that his four daughters had drowned on a voyage to Europe when the ship went down (he later learned that not all had perished in the sea and were safe). After boarding a ship himself, he made the voyage to the exact spot where his family had endured shipwreck. Once there, Spafford

looked over the waters where the tragedy occurred. Moved to tears by the sight, he sat down and wrote this poignant text that so accurately described his own personal grief -- “When sorrows like sea billows roll ...” From that beginning sprang the words of the hymn, “It is Well with My Soul.” We should remember that Horatio Spafford did not dwell on the theme of “life’s sorrows and trials.” Instead, he focused on the third stanza which spoke of “the redemptive work of Christ” and also on the fourth verse which anticipates “His Glorious Second Coming.”

When the difficult *storms* of life come our way (whether they are natural, emotional, or financial disasters), God will give us the strength to endure them and the ability to look beyond the tragedies of life to that blessed hope we have in Him of eternal life.

*“Where does your mind
dwell???”*



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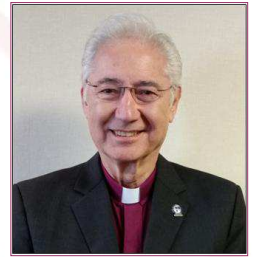
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OFFICE HOURS :
9:00AM to 4:00PM

I Hear a Sound NOW!

By Pastor Lynn Burling /Christian Faith Church Senior Pastor



We are living in an accelerated time, with respect to the sense and meaning of God’s Word made available, understandable, and revealed for our time. In the days of Elijah there was a school of prophets that KNEW that an event of significant proportion was eminent...an incredible event. This event would change the level of God’s input to them to a more intensive STATE of activity among His handpicked servants/prophets. Those who were “listening and following” the teaching of the prophet, had heavenly insight of events...especially a sense of one in particular that was about to dawn upon them and impact Elisha personally. Then, one day BAM, it happened...First there was an expectancy planted by God in them, the sound of a shift in governmental change.

I believe as the event came closer and closer there was a

rate of change of velocity with respect of time, there was a notable shift in their spirits. Remember Abraham (was told by God), “How can I not share with him what I’m about to do?” (In regard to Sodom) It put Abraham in a “current status mode.” Knowing that this was NOT destined for years down the road but NOW... Abraham began to intercede for SODOM...50 righteous, 40 righteous, 30 righteous and so on till if just ten righteous were found, that God would not destroy Sodom. Ten righteous were NOT found, but never forget that one of those was his nephew of his own household. With this expedited sense of what God is “about to do,” I believe the Lord is delegating immense authority to speak into nations and peoples. The same expectancy is evident among His servants today. God has placed many ministers, “ahead of the curve” so to speak to shape and call His church to

purpose and potential. God has shared “Top Secret, For Your Eyes Only,” information with His servants of just where we are and what is coming next by blueprints from the ‘Board Room of Heaven.’ God is accentuating strategies and timelines. The wisdom to know the “when and where and how” is being revealed in real-time to those He loves and trusts.

The remainder of this year will trigger more and more “greater” signs. Now is the time to hear, observe, and move quickly and decisively to release His updates of instructions to His Saints. “Incoming” in times of war was a warning to keep your head low, but incoming is His information. It will fly to us so that we will not be caught off guard and we will be well equipped. When the 50 prophets told Elisha, “our master will be taken away.” Elisha said, “I know it!”

After he ascended the 50 prophets still wanted to go back and look for Elijah. Here’s the difference between them and Elisha who was involved first hand. They just thought they had the “whole picture.” “All prophets were not created equal...Ha! Ha!” He was not to ever be found again. Only those who are intimately involved will hear the true sound. Those are the ones God will share His secrets with. Let us listen and communicate it carefully to His church.

God has placed many ministers, “ahead of the curve” so to speak to shape and call His church to purpose and potential.

Compassionate Shepherd



By Pastor Mark Awa-ao / JRM, HI Senior Pastor

Matthew 9:36

But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.



Jesus Christ our Great Shepherd is very compassionate. He gathers the weary, the scattered, the wounded, the less fortunate, and the sinners. He loves us unconditionally. Every time we fall, He upholds us. When we are wounded, He heals us. When we are broken, He restores us! When we are lost, He looks for and finds us. When we are down, He lifts us up. We are blind, He opens our eyes. When we are alone, He em-

braces us. When we are sinners, He saves us. My friend, Always remember the goodness of God in your life instead of living in rebellion, bitterness, hatred, anger, discouragement, worry or sinful life. He is your compassionate Shepherd always understanding, always caring, always forgiving and always loving. You are loved by Him. Have a great day! You are blessed! (mpa)

Restoration of Love and Joy

By Dr. Daniel O.C./ Deeper Life Christian Centre, Singapore Senior Pastor



Love begins at home but it does not end there. Love looks through a telescope, but envy looks through a microscope. The sunlight of love will kill all the germs of jealousy and hate.

John 15:11-13

The craving of humanity has not changed with the passage of time. We all seek joy and will always do so. Sometimes we resort to various means to find joy.

Some people will resort to drinking alcohol, some smoking cigars and some immoral behavior. But all these do not help. The joys that you find in all these are temporal and deceiving.

But the real joy that we need to seek is nearby. We can in fact find it and enjoy its companionship always if we choose to.

HOW CAN WE FIND THIS JOY?

Joy comes by loving and helping others. You will find real joy by loving and helping others without counting the cost. Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord demonstrated love through His loving, caring and sacrificial life. In just 3½ years of Jesus earthly ministry, He not only made a resounding success of His short life, but also left joy with us after He ascended to heaven.

Would you love somebody today? Would you show kindness to somebody today?

Would you show compassion and care to somebody today?

1 Corinthians 13:1-8, 13

Remember you cannot love someone without a cost. To get or give love, you must pay for it, and that is where the joy comes from. To be gentle on others, you must forgive their offences against you. To be kind to others you must forgive their wrongdoings. To meet the needs of others, you must be sacrificial.

This is why you cannot be gentle, kind or caring towards others without first loving them truly (Psalm 30:5 / Isaiah 12:2-6).

We invite you to be part of this special life of Jesus Christ. Learn to give others joy. The joy that you share is the joy you get. Remember, happiness comes from happenings but joy comes from Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ten Things VBS IS and IS NOT

SOURCE: Share Faith Ministries

VBS started out as simple week of Bible training for children that over time has become a carnival ride theme and live interactive learning; but let's strip away method long enough to consider bare bones objectives that will help us stay on course with the purpose for which we have been called. People in the community may see it as a chance for free babysitting, but we have been given the directive to provide substantive and truthful answers to little minds that inquire, and the sobering reality is that we are accountable for every moment given and every resource afforded. As you make plans for your church's Vacation Bible School, please take the time to do a little soul searching and consider VBS: What It is and What It Isn't.

1. **It is not entertainment.** Throughout the years many VBS programs have made flashy graphic, eye-popping decorations and silly games the focus. While none of these things in and of themselves are bad, they are definitely not the focus of VBS. VBS is about revealing God to children, not 5 days of entertainment.

VBS is an opportunity to reveal God. Deut. 29:29 says that "the secret things belong to God but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children..." We are entirely missing the point of the VBS exercise if the children put in our care walk away without taking home at least one revelation of who God is. We have all of creation and His written word to work with, so there is no excuse.

2. **VBS is not just a theme.** Every VBS comes with an overarching theme. This helps bring continuity to each day, teaching, and activity. But the point of a VBS theme is to build a bridge to sharing the Gospel with your kids. It is always important to remember that your VBS theme is a tool to accomplish your ultimate goal which is sharing the Gospel.

VBS is an opportunity to present the Gospel. Matt. 19:14 says, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Children love to ask questions, and the more they learn, the more they desire to learn. Statistics show that an overwhelming majority of Christian first became followers of Jesus between the ages of 4 and 14; after that, numbers drop off exponentially. Behold, today is the day of salvation.

3. **VBS Does Not Hide Scripture.** One way to view VBS is like the spoonful of sugar that helps the medicine of Scripture go down. But Scripture is not something that needs to be hidden. Instead, the truth of God's Word should be the centerpiece of every VBS activity, craft and teaching. The surest way to drain your VBS of life is to hide Scripture behind the spectacle of skits, graphics and decorations. The key is finding a way to teach Scripture in a way that brings God's Word to life in new and exciting ways!

VBS is an opportunity for children to memorize Scripture. Only good things can come from hiding God's Word in these little hearts. The Bible teaches that His Word protects against sin and provides the moral compass to guard against destructive habits. It is God's Word that sustains us and breathes true life beyond just mere physical survival and it is God's Word that reveals the secret to true and lasting success. Don't let them walk away without tucking away in their minds as many essentials as possible.

4. **VBS is Not a Cotton Candy Event.** Cotton candy looks amazing, but the moment it touches your mouth, it disappears. Instead, VBS should be like a juicy steak where kids are presented with life-changing Biblical truth that they chew on for the whole of VBS week and take with them long after VBS is over.

Continued on page 4

Ten Things VBS IS and IS NOT *continued from page 3*

VBS is an Opportunity to Lay a Foundation of Truth. A structure built on faulty presuppositions will crack and eventually collapse, so too, a child may receive the good news with gladness, only to fall away when trials come. Here is your chance to help build a framework that will aid these kids in interpreting the world around them; something sturdy enough to build everything else in their lives upon. It is a battle for the mind that we should do everything we can to protect them from losing.

- VBS is not About You.** With the spectacle that is VBS, it can be easy to focus on those hosting the event rather than on those the event is actually for. VBS is not about showing how well we can decorate, organize games or perform skits. VBS is all about reaching children with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

VBS is Outreach to Children. There should always be a clear intent to share the Word of God to our children and make impacts in their lives. But parents ARE looking for safe places to drop off their kids during the summer months for work or a break, so the set of objectives carefully crafted by VBS leaders might look completely different than the parents, but both perspectives are worthy of consideration. After all, the position held by both parties essentially achieves the same thing; they bring a young audience for instruction, modeling and care.

- VBS Does Not Replace Parents.** The primary teachers of children are their parents. Too often, children's ministry sees parents as competition rather than partners. The very best VBS program intentionally creates opportunities to connect parents with the content of VBS.

VBS is Outreach to Parents. Keep the parents involved and this isn't just about utilizing skills, gifts and abilities either. It is about encouraging them in their call to be ministers in their children's lives. To encourage parents to reinforce the biblical truths presented throughout the week. Consider having a kick-off meeting at the start of VBS and invite the parents to attend. You can also host a party at the ten celebrating the week and reviewing all that was learned. Make an effort to let parents know you are there for them as a church, through kids and family ministries and events, as well as extending any other family resources you have available.

- VBS is Not Behavior Modification.** It's important that the application of your VBS is always Gospel-centered. So rather than teaching kids they need to try harder and do better, the practical teaching of VBS should always lead children to the forgiveness, redemption and salvation found in Christ alone.

VBS is an Opportunity to Teach Ministry. Here's where you help kids convert the things they learned about God into good practical use. It is the "How to be God's hands and feet" portion of the week. Help them realize a greater understanding and appreciation of what others are going through to open their eyes to act in compassion and love. Nurture the inherent concern that children have and help them find ways to serve. Perhaps you could schedule some kind of outreach during the week or share practical ways they can take home what they've learned in order to serve the people in their own lives.

- VBS is not a Performance.** VBS is not a show where leaders pretend to be perfect Christians and Encourage kids to become like them. Rather, VBS is a time for leaders to be real and open with the kids. The more leaders share their struggles and God's triumphs, the more kids will be drawn to the Gospel. Never underestimate the power of testimony. The Bible tells us that we overcome "by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of our testimony."

VBS is an Opportunity to demonstrate Christian life. Share what God has done in your life and what you've seen God do in the lives of those around you. Give kids the opportunity to share what God has done for them. Be living examples throughout the week of service, love, discipline, preparation, and organization. We need to lead by example so these children can also grow up to see the value of being good role models to others. The Apostle Paul was able to encourage Timothy to follow...my teachings, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, steadfastness, persecutions, and sufferings because he was, himself, devoted to live Godly in Christ Jesus.

- VBS is Not Mechanical.** There are two ways you can look at VBS: 1) it is a big machine that you need to keep running at the expense of personal relationships, 2) it is an organic time of family and friends that needs to adapt so that relationship building always comes first. The latter is the only way to look at VBS. If the focus of VBS is not growing in our relationship with God and each other then we have missed the point.

VBS is an Opportunity to Build Relationships. Fellowship is as important for the little guys as it is for us. It is in childhood that many habits are formed, both good and bad. Teach them to contribute to each other's lives, to encourage each other, and to help each other grow. VBS week is a great time for teachers and leaders to form friendships too.

- VBS is not a 5-Day Lecture.** While teaching is an important part of VBS, so is the reality of what you are teaching. If you are teaching your kids about the joy of the Gospel, then that joy should be evident throughout VBS week. If you are discussing the excitement of following God, then that excitement should permeate every game, craft and activity. Instead of a theological lecture, VBS should be an interactive and immersive event where the Gospel is taught and experience.

VBS is a Great Time for Fun. Children learn best by actively doing, versus just sitting and listening the whole time, especially if the activity is fun. Put extra care into creating an environment where kids can enjoy learning and making life applications. Whether you use games, puzzles, acting out stories, dressing up or singing relevant songs to reinforce the lessons, the experience will be more memorable when there is participation and interaction. And the leaders should have fun too! Joy is contagious and it's a great way to let the kids know you love God and love ministering to them.

MINISTRY/CHURCH TAX & LAW DATE TO REMEMBER

May 15th

If you are required too file a 990, 990-EZ, 990-N, 990-T it is due by this date.

Keep good records!
Dr. Jan Harbuck - PCAI Office
Need Help? Call 1-866-268-5600