

The FBC Family

CONNECTION

November 2011



Notes from the Pastor

The following article addressing the conversion of children (and adults, too) was written by Jim Elliff, founder and President of Christian Communicators Worldwide. Pastor Jim has also authored several books, pastored multiple churches and speaks frequently at seminaries, Bible Colleges, and para-church ministry functions throughout the world. At the time this article was written, he was featured in a seven-part interview called How Children Come to Faith in Christ with Family Life Today hosted by Dennis Rainey. We will examine this article over the course of two months.

A woman came to humorist Will Rogers, saying, "I struggle with this problem. Every time I look at myself in the mirror, I'm proud." He said, "Ma'am, that's not pride, that's a mistake!" Now I know that you are proud of your children, but you have never been as proud of a child as a woman I met who claimed that her five-year old daughter had never sinned! She was serious. I realize that this woman was not doctrinally savvy, or even a believer, but how can she miss the obvious? That's not pride, that's a mistake!

God says children are born sinners. They are, sadly, not born in Christ, but in Adam. "As in Adam all die..." 1 Cor. 15: 22. When David said that he was born in iniquity and in sin his mother conceived him, he was not describing an illegitimacy of his parent's, but the true nature of every child. He was speaking of what we call "original sin." Original sin is something that we should be able to see by mere observation. One police study on juvenile delinquency stated:

Every baby starts life as a little savage. He is completely selfish and self-centered: he wants what he wants: his bottle, his mother's attention, his playmate's toys, his uncle's watch, or whatever. Deny him these and he seethes with rage and aggressiveness, which would be murderous, were he not so helpless. He is dirty; he has no morals, no knowledge and no developed skills. This means that all children, not just certain children, but all children are born delinquent. If permitted to continue in their self-centered world of infancy, given free reign to their impulsive actions to satisfy each want, every child would grow up a criminal, a killer, a thief, and a rapist. (Quoted from Reb

Bradley, "Biblical Insights into Child Training.") If it is true, and it is, that there are "none righteous, no not one," (Rom. 3:10) then my children are among those without inherent righteousness. And if they are without inherent righteousness, then they are in need of Christ and the salvation, which He provides. This fact drives me. Though I believe in a growing moral awareness, but not an age of accountability, I am pressed with the weight of my children's need of salvation. Surely you who are Christian parents feel what I feel.

Imagine this scenario. It is late at night when your seven-year-old daughter arrives home from her children's meeting, announcing that she has "prayed the prayer" and is now a Christian. She produces a card, which says that she has "invited Jesus into her heart," complete with date and signature of an adult sponsor. What do you do? Have you ever asked the question, "Just how do I know if my child is ready to become a Christian, or really even understands what it means?" Or maybe we should be less dramatic and say that your child is now beginning to ask thoughtful questions about God. What are you supposed to think? How should you respond?

First note that your child's questions about God should not necessarily be taken as an indication that God is at work in his or her life in any special way. It does prove that your child has normal intelligence. There is nothing at all unusual about his query; it is good to take advantage of that openness, but it is generally nothing more than normal inquisitiveness. Let me suggest that you prepare yourself by focusing now on three major aspects of God's work in bringing children (or anyone) to Christ. Knowing what God is doing (and He alone makes Christians, after all) allows the parent to help his child avoid deception, and will give you much added confidence in "reading" the situation. The three activities of God are conviction, revelation, and regeneration.

Conviction

Conviction is the work of the Spirit in bringing sin and the necessity of Christ home to the child's conscience. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit convicts of sin, righteousness (that is, that

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Church Happenin's

- Wednesday, Nov. 2 Upward Bound Share-A-Dish Lunch. 11:30 at the home of Gary & Dee Dillon.
- Saturday, Nov. 5 Prayer Gathering - 6:30-8 PM, Hood River Nazarene
- Sunday, Nov. 6 Daylight Savings Time Ends, set your clocks back one hour
- Monday, Nov. 7 Council Meetings, 7 PM—If you would like to participate in the ministries at FBC, please join us. Elders & Deacons meet at 6:30.
- Tuesday, Nov. 8 Search Committee Meeting, 6 PM
- Saturday, Nov. 19 Men's Breakfast, 8 AM in the FBC Fellowship Hall.
- Sunday, Nov. 20 Church Thanksgiving Dinner, following the morning service.
- Monday, Nov. 21 Elder & Deacon Meeting, 6:30 PM
- Tuesday, Nov. 22 Thanksgiving Appreciation Baskets Assembled, see Brenda Thompson for details.
- Wednesday, Nov. 23 Thanksgiving Eve Service, 7 PM
- November 24 to 25 Church Office Closed



BIRTHDAYS!

Ivone Delepine	November 3
Deanna Ryan	November 4
Martha Fitzgerald	November 7
Dale Johnston	November 9
Ray Kulper	November 10
Dennis Olsen	November 10
Djen Su	November 10
Clyde Rowan	November 12
Walt Heacock	November 12
Larry Baker	November 13
Leah Hodson	November 25
Hazel Pearson	November 26
Kay Chestnut	November 30



** If your birthday doesn't appear on the list, that means we have no record of it. Please let Lora know in the Church Office, and we will add you to our lists.

Help for the Needy

Our Church Deacon fund is a means of ministering to people in our church family and community who are in financial distress. The Deacon fund is not a part of our general budget, but is funded by special offerings. The fund has seen a great deal of use this year, and needs your support to continue ministering to the needy. Please prayerfully consider how you may be able to help those in distress. There are small envelopes in the church pews which can be used for this purpose, or checks may be marked for the Deacon fund and submitted in the Sunday morning offering.



Church Library

Our Church Library has books available in fiction, children's, biographies, Christian Living, and Bible Studies and Devotionals. Have you checked out the library lately?. The display on the table in the foyer also has some of Pastor Bruce's recommended books. Please sign the card on the back page of the book and place it in the blue box in the library, which is in the back half of the classroom at the end of the upstairs hall. See Marian Warrenka for more information.



Thanksgiving

Fellowship Meal

Sunday, November 20th
Following the Morning Service

Sign-up sheets are available in the foyer. Please help us plan by letting us know how many to expect and how you might help.

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, November 23rd, 7 PM



Notes from the Pastor

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there is only one righteousness and it is found in Christ), and judgment (see Jn. 16:8-11). In looking for conviction, we should avoid any preconceived ideas about how many tears or how much agony is appropriate and keep in mind that conviction is God's tool to bring your child to a hatred of sin. God alone knows what it takes. That there must be conviction in the preparation for salvation is, however, a bedrock truth. It is in the development of conviction that the parent can play a most significant part. By carefully laying out the law (the demands of God on the conscience), by explaining the consequences of breaking that law, and by continually emphasizing the exclusivity of Christ in delivering the child from those consequences, the parent cooperates with the Spirit in this special preparation of the heart.

Sin is, after all, lawlessness (1 Jn. 3:4). It is necessary to know the law in order to know sin. However, it is the weight on the conscience in his breaking of the law that is true conviction. Paul thought of himself as blameless in relationship to the law for some time (Phil. 3:6), but when the Spirit brought home the nature of true covetousness (the most internal of the ten commands) something powerful happened to Paul, which we could all hope will happen to our children. Note his narrative:

...I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law has said, "You shall not covet." But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead. I was alive once without the law [that is, he perceived himself to be alive], but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. Rom. 7:7b-9

One of the most striking features of the teachings on children in the Bible, both Old Testament and New, is the emphasis on commandment and obedience. These admonitions to teach the commands to our children bring to the forefront the importance of conviction. It is through the law that our knowledge of sin is made lucid. Our forebears realized this need by their use of catechisms, almost all of which included the memorization of the ten commandments, plus a great deal of other vital material on the nature of God's expectations. I'll never forget the pain I saw in my oldest child some years ago as he cried softly in a well of true frustration about his inability to do what God commands. Sin was coming home to the conscience. And by disciplining them we augment that sense of sorrow for sin and may "deliver his soul from hell." (see Prov. 23:13-14)

We can cooperate in the Holy Spirit's convicting process by teaching our children the awful consequences of sin as well. Many leaders refuse to talk straightforwardly about hell with children, but I disagree with trying to soft-peddle on the subject of eternal judgment. My children began to learn about hell as soon as I thought they could comprehend the most elementary truths. How many times more important is it for them to

fear an eternity in hell than being hit by a car in the road? If we go to great efforts to keep them out of the street, should we not go to even more pains to keep them out of hell? Hell is worse than being hit by a car, worse than poison, worse than rape, worse than abduction, worse than anything you can imagine. You say, "I fear causing my child to have nightmares!" I hope you understand that I too love my children and wouldn't want them to unnecessarily experience mental trauma, but really, wouldn't a week of nightmares be worth it if it delivered your child from the eternal nightmare of hell?

There is a very real sense in which there is no one or no thing to fear other than the God who can deliver both body and soul to hell (Mt. 10:28). May I suggest as well that you take all unnecessary horrors away from them by carefully monitoring what they see. I have great suspicions that the enemy of our souls would love to dull the acuteness of hell by images of violence and fear on television. Labor in cooperation with the Spirit for the depth of conviction which "produces repentance, without regret, leading to salvation." (2 Cor. 7:10) For an illustration of this conviction, rarely seen in our day, look at young Spurgeon, who became the best-known preacher of the nineteenth century:

For five years as a child there was nothing before my eyes but my guilt...Wherever I went, the law had a demand upon my thoughts, upon my words, upon my rising, upon my resting. What I did, and what I did not do, all came under the cognizance of the law. I seemed as if I was a sinner, and nothing else but a sinner...Was there ever a bond-slave who had more bitterness of soul than I, five years a captive in the dungeons of the law, till my youth seemed as if it would turn into premature old age?...When God the Holy Ghost first quickened me, little did I know of the precious blood which has put my sins away, and drowned them in the depths for ever. But I did know this, that I could not remain as I was; that I could not rest happy unless I became something better, something purer than I was; and, oh, how my spirit cried to God with groanings - I say without any exaggeration-groanings that could not be uttered!

I tried a long time to improve myself, but I never did make much of it; I found I had a devil within me when I began, and I had ten devils when I left off. Instead of becoming better, I became worse...Then I laboured to believe. It is a strange way of putting it, yet so it was. When I wished to believe, I found I could not. It seemed to me that the way to Heaven by Christ's righteousness was as difficult as by my own, and that I could as soon get to Heaven by Sinai as by Calvary. I could do nothing; I could neither repent nor believe. I fainted with despair, feeling as if I must be lost despite the gospel, and be forever driven from Jehovah's presence, even though Christ had died. (Autobiography, Vol. 1, 'The Early Years', 1973, pp. 56-71)

In another place he said this about conviction:

I used to hear a minister whose preaching was, as far as I could make it out, 'Do this, and do that, and do the other, and you will be saved'. According to his theory, to pray was a very easy thing; to make yourself a new heart, was a

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Spotlight on Missions

By Marian Warrenka



Ellie
& Lila
Quezada

Working in translation, lay training, and medical ministries in Oaxaca, Mexico in partnership with Missionary Ventures.

From their recent Prayer Letter:

Dear Friends,

We would appreciate your fervent prayers for us at Casa Compasiva [birth center]! This last week has been a nightmare of one kind of trial after another, and we are needing a strong Redeemer to come to our defense.

Sweet baby Iyari, who was born one month ago, presented last week with cerebral hemorrhage and was operated on on Sunday night. She is still alive, and was taken off the ventilator today and is now breathing on her own, PTL! But she is by no means out of the woods yet, and the danger of infection at that hospital is grave. She needs a miracle of God just to survive her hospital stay as well as to recover without any neurological damage.

Her birth at Casa Compasiva was beautiful, smooth, normal, short, without any trauma of any kind. But cerebral hemorrhage is often linked to trauma, and the hospital is now apparently trying to pin blame on Casa Compasiva. Iyari's parents are worried for us, since the hospital is questioning them extensively about the birth and what kind of treatment Iyari received. There could be an investigation, and although the birth and her care were ideal, Mexican law assumes guilt until innocence is proven. Although we are innocent, we would be hard-pressed to *prove* innocence on issues that are controversial, i.e. bio-technical medical practices vs. less invasive midwifery practices, etc. Our beloved Mexican attending physician and medical supervisor is at particular risk for prosecution since the buck stops with her. She has been just on the brink of putting her faith and trust fully in the Lord, and of course Satan would love to squelch

that inclination.

Other things are also conspiring to make this a very trying week for our staff. One of our patients unexpectedly miscarried and one of our doulas (attendants) is out of commission and was taken to the hospital with an asthma attack. Our Casa secretary's mother was hit (in her car) by another vehicle, and another of our staff members received a scary health test result. Trials have to come, we know... *"that the testing of (our) faith, being more precious than of gold, which perishes even through refine by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed."* (1 Peter 1:7) We accept necessary trials as from God's sovereign hand, but we also stand against any strategy of destruction against Baby Iyari and her family or against Casa Compasiva. Will you please join us in fighting back in Jesus' name? We need you!

Ministry Updates

Nadine House—Many of you have asked for address information on Nadine. We know that she would be greatly encouraged to hear from her church family and friends back home. Please uphold her in prayer as she struggles to learn the Chinese language and pass her language school tests.

Nadine House
NO 51-1, Alley.1, Dongyuan Ln.
Taichung Port RD.
Longjing District,
Taichung County 434
Taiwan (R.O.C.)

Callie Yates—Please continue to pray for Callie's support as she prepares for missions in Indonesia. She hopes to leave in March of 2012 to serve as a nurse-midwife. For details on how you can help, please contact Callie at calistay@gmail.com.

Ben & Libby Spotts—The Spotts are now home in Portland. There will be a reception for Ben and Libby and their supporters on Sunday, November 6th from 5:30 to 7:30 PM at Village Baptist Church in Beaverton, OR.

FIDELIS

NOTES

By Doris Kahler

Fidelis Missionary/Pastoral Supply is a designated fund in our Church budget, totally dependent on free-will offerings. Our group makes items requested by mission hospitals and our local nursing homes, and collects various items needed by missionaries, Christian schools, and other Christian organizations. We also raise funds and collect items to assist with local area ministries such as the Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC), Child Evangelism, and Columbia Gorge Young Life.

We use:

- Lots of old, part-cotton sheets of any color or design for roller bandages and wipes for mission hospitals.
- New or good used baby clothing and blankets for the PRC and mission hospitals.
- Fabrics for making clothing protectors, neck pillows, and walker bags for nursing homes.
- Health care items such as cotton balls or rolls, sterile and non-sterile exam gloves, 4"x4" gauze pads, and adhesive tape for mission hospitals.
- Cancelled stamps, which will be sent where they can be sold to collectors to raise funds for missions.
- Christian literature, such as daily devotionals, magazines (please no *Guide Posts*), biographies, books, teaching materials, Bibles and Concordance. These will be sent to Christian Resources International, which will distribute them to missionaries all over the world.
- Monetary Donations. (Please make any checks out to First Baptist Church, and mark any funds for Fidelis.)

Praise! - We were able to send funds with the boxes of literature to Christian Resources International to aid them in sending these materials to needy Christian workers around the world. This month we were also able to provide felt wordless books for Child Evangelism to send to Nepal.

Thank you! - Thanks for bringing in fabric, yarn, sewing supplies and sheets for ongoing projects.

If you have any questions about our work, or would like to find out how you can help, please contact Doris Kahler at 541-386-4406.



Notes from the Pastor

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thing of a few instants, and could be done at almost any time; and I really thought that I could turn to Christ when I pleased...But when the Lord gave my soul its first shakings in conviction, I soon knew better... (ibid, p. 49)

Do we see such conviction today? I don't think that most of our leaders or parents even consider at all the issue of conviction or the tilling up of the soil of the soul for the gospel seed. Unfortunately, some of our methodology prematurely "reaps" children and adults before conviction has a hold and makes many false converts.

Next month Jim Elliff will discuss how Christ is revealed to the heart of the child, what true regeneration looks like, and ways we can aid a child's conversion without inadvertently forcing them to a "decision."

Thanksgiving Appreciation Baskets

This year for Thanksgiving, we would like to show our appreciation to emergency responders in the police and fire departments. We will be preparing goody baskets, with special treats and home-made items, to express our gratitude for their service to our community.

Baskets will be assembled on Tuesday, November 22nd and delivered Wednesday, November 23rd. Please see Brenda Thompson or Tom Yates for details or to find out how you can help.



Upward Bound

Share-A-Dish Lunch • Nov. 2thnd



Meeting at 11:30 AM the home of Gary & Dee Dillon (1404 Dillon Road). Lunch will be served at noon.

For more information on Senior Ministry activities, please contact Gary & Dee Dillon at 541-490-4602.

First Baptist Church

1889 Belmont Dr.
Hood River, OR 97031

Monthly Prayer Gatherings with the Mid-Columbia Churches

Saturday, Nov. 5th, 6:30-8 PM

At Hood River Nazarene
(2168 Belmont Drive)

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but
in everything, by
prayer and petition,
with thanksgiving,
present your
requests to God."*



~ Philippians 4:6

Home Groups in Progress this Fall

If you aren't already participating with one of our home Bible Study groups, please consider joining one this fall. Below is a list of the groups we have now, but we would love to see more started.

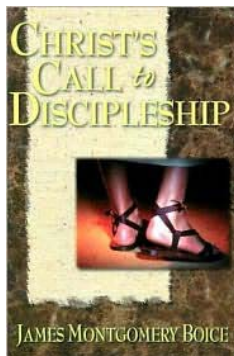
Please see Hal Ueland for more details.

Tuesday, 6:30 PM • Hood River
Led by Joe Murphy (541-490-6098)

Wednesday, 7 PM • Hood River
Led by Jim Brown (541-386-6340)

Thursday, 7 PM • Hood River
Led by Hal Ueland (541-806-2101)

Thursday, 7 PM • White Salmon
Led by Ray Kulper (509-493-3901)



Men's Breakfast
Saturday, November 19, 8 AM
Meeting in the FBC Fellowship Hall.



Book of the Month

by Dan Phillips

In *The World-Tilting Gospel*, Dan Phillips explains how the gospel is antithetical to the natural world and actually changes (or should change) the way Christians live in and view the world. Essentially, he explains how the gospel turns the world upside down. The book explains the nuts and bolts of Jesus' work in salvation including how His work changes the believer and how those changes work out in one's life. Phillips offers nothing new or novel in *The World-Tilting Gospel*, which is a good thing since the gospel truths have not changed since the first letter of Scripture was written. Phillips does, however, provide clarity of these gospel truths.

