

MOVING SPIRIT

May, 2007

Eskaton Village Community Church

Pastor's Parcel

I appreciate art. When I came to Eskaton 11 years ago, I was impressed by the art gallery and by how many residents were artists. EVCC's assistant pastor, Terry Brown, is an artist, and now I'm taking art classes. Seen at the side is one assignment from my Design class. It uses the same color of paint for the receding word FEAR and the coming word FAITH, so that the lettering seems to change from dark to lighter, as it moves from a light to dark background. It is meant to be an optical illusion, but my intended message is not an illusion.

Faith and *fear* are actions from the same "belief muscle" in the human heart. Fear, in the midst of the bright promises of God, believes in dark prospects. Faith believes in those bright promises in the midst of dark circumstances. Worry is just like fear. To change from *worrying* to *trusting*, we need our "belief muscle" to hold on to something more powerful than life's threatening circumstances.

In my painting, I made the "T" in FAITH in lower case to represent the Cross. Its message is one of bright hope in the midst of sin's dark effect on this world. I love the words of Jesus in John 16:33, "*These things I have spoken to*



you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." Christ's victory over sin and death by His Cross and Resurrection, pushes *fear* away into the darkness it tries to create, while *faith* emerges from that darkness with the light of God's grace! -- Pastor David Hatton

Parish Proclamations

NEW SONGBOOK PROJECT

EVCC is working with the Wed. night Bible Study to compile a new song book for use by both groups. It will be larger, and many well-known songs will now be included, based on the input from residents who attend. If you have a song that you feel should be in the book, please contact Sylvia Anderson or June Benidt who are directly involved in this

project. If the final list of songs is too large, we may have to make some hard choices in selection, so give your input.

Personal Pulpit

DANCING WITH GOD

When I meditated on the word Guidance, I kept seeing "dance" at the end of the word. I remember reading that doing God's will is a lot like dancing. When two people try to lead, nothing feels right. The movement doesn't flow with the music, and everything is quite uncomfortable and jerky. When one person realizes that, and lets the other lead, both bodies begin to flow with the music. One gives gentle cues, perhaps with a nudge to the back or by pressing lightly in one direction or another. It's as if two become one body, moving beautifully. The dance takes surrender, willingness, attentiveness from one person and gentle guidance and skill from the other.

My eyes drew back to the word Guidance. When I saw "G," I thought of God, followed by "U" and "I".

God, "U" and "I" dance.

As I lowered my head, I became willing to trust that I would get guidance about my life. Once again, I became willing to let God lead.

(unknown, contributed by T. Brown)

Pithy Pieces

THE CENTER OF HIS WILL

Q: What's the Bible's shortest chapter?

A: Psalms 117

Q: What's the Bible's longest chapter?

A: Psalms 119

Q: What chapter's in the center?

A: Psalms 118

Fact: 594 chapters come before Psa. 118.

Fact: 594 chapters come after Psa. 118.

Add these 2 numbers and you get **1188**.

Q: What's the center verse in the Bible?

A: Psalms **118:8**

Q: Does this verse say anything about God's perfect will for our lives?

A: Psa. 118:8, "*It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.*"

The next time you want to find and be in the center of God's perfect will, just go to the center of His Word! (author unk.)

Praise's Portion

A sacrifice of praise will always cost you something. It will be a difficult thing to do. It requires trading in our pride, our anger, and most valued of all, our human logic. We will be compelled to voice our words of praise firmly and precisely, even as our logic screams that God has no idea what he's doing. Most of the verses written about praise in God's Word were penned by men and women who faced crushing heartaches, injustice, treachery, slander, and scores of other intolerable situations.

-- Joni Eareckson Tada (paraplegic)

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"COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS!"

That is excellent counsel, but sometimes we have to recognize them first!

A man who owned a small estate wished to sell it. Sending for a real estate agent, he asked him to write an advertisement describing the house and

land. When the ad was ready, the agent took it to the owner and read it to him.

"Read that again," said the owner. The agent read the description of the estate once more.

"I don't think I will sell after all," said the owner. "I have been looking for an estate like that all my life, and I did not know that I owned it!"

Count your blessings -- yes, but start by asking God to open your eyes to see your possessions in Christ. Begin by recognizing all that you have in Christ. That will change your entire perspective and enable you to praise God for what you have. (author unknown)

Prayer's Priority

ASAP

There's work to do, deadlines to meet:
You've got no time to spare,
But as you hurry and scurry--
ASAP - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER

In the midst of family chaos,
"Quality time" is rare.
Do your best; let God do the rest--
ASAP - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER

It may seem like your worries
Are more than you can bear.
Slow down and take a breather--
ASAP - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER

God knows how stressful life is;
He wants to ease our cares,
And He'll respond to all your needs
ASAP - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER

GOOD MORNING GOD

You are ushering in another day
untouched and freshly new,
So here I come to ask You God if
You'll renew me too?

Forgive the many errors that
I made yesterday,
And let me try again dear God,
to walk closer in Thy way.

But Father, I am well aware
I can't make it on my own.
So take my hand and hold it tight
for I can't walk alone.

--Helen Steiner Rice

Poetry's Place

A Vacation Bible School for Seniors
sang version of "Jesus Loves Me"

1. Jesus loves me, this I know
Though my hair is white as snow;
Though my sight is growing dim
Still He bids me trust in him.

chorus:

YES, JESUS LOVES ME, (3x)
THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO.

2. Though my steps are oh, so slow,
With my hand in His I'll go.
On through life let come what may,
He'll be there to lead the way.

3. Though I am no longer young,
I have much which He's begun;
Let me serve Christ with a smile,
Go with other's the extra mile.

4. When the nights are dark and long,

In my heart He puts a song,
Telling me in words so clear,
"Have no fear for I am near".

5. When my work on earth is done,
And life's victories have been won;
He will take me home above,
Then I'll understand His love.

6. I love Jesus, does He know?
Have I ever told Him so?
Jesus loves to hear me say,
That I love Him every day.

(Author unknown)

Pearls of Prudence

Trust in the Lord
for His promise is true.
Delight in the Lord,
it will bring joy to you.
Commit yourself,
do His will every day.
Wait on the Lord,
hear what He has to say.

-- Ivan Seger

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The Four Blessings

Health is the greatest gain.
Contentment is the greatest wealth.
Trust is the greatest friendship.
Enlightenment is the greatest happiness.

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I believe in an open mind, but not so
open that your brains fall out.

-- Arthur Hayes Schielberge

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A smile is a facelife that is
in everyone's price range.

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Pleasurable Pastime

WHO'S IN HEAVEN?

I was shocked, confused, bewildered
as I entered Heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all,
by the lights, or its decor.

But it was the folks in Heaven
who made me sputter and gasp--
the thieves, the liars, the sinners,
the alcoholics, the trash.

There stood the kid from seventh grade
who swiped my lunch money twice.
Next to him was my old neighbor
who never said anything nice.

Herb, who I always thought
was rotting away in hell,
was sitting pretty on cloud nine,
looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, "What's the deal?
I would love to hear Your take.
How'd all these sinners get up here?
God must've made a mistake.

And why's everyone so quiet,
so somber? Give me a clue."
"Hush, child" said He. "They're all in shock.
No one ever thought they'd see you."

(author unknown)

Priceless Prose

The evolutionary worldview can
provide only three explanations for the
existence of the universe. First, the

universe is merely an illusion. Second, the universe sprang from nothing, and third, the universe eternally existed.

In today's age of scientific enlightenment, the possibility of the world being merely an illusion is difficult to swallow. The second option, that the universe sprang from nothing, flies in the face of both the laws of cause and effect and of energy conservation. Existence cannot come from non-existence, and the physical laws that govern this universe prevent any possibility of matter springing up out of nothing. The third option, that the universe eternally existed, denies the law of entropy, which predicts that a universe that has existed eternally would have died an "eternity ago" of heat loss.

The final possibility is found in the first chapter of the Bible: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Noting could be more certain, clear, or correct. (author unknown)

Precious Principles

YOU SAY -- GOD SAYS

You say, "It's impossible"
God says, **All things are possible**
(Luke 18:27)
You say, "I'm too tired"
God says, **I will give you rest**
(Matthew 11:28-30)
You say, "Nobody really loves me"
God says, **I love you**
(John 3:16 & John 3:34)
You say, "I can't go on"
God says, **My grace is sufficient**
(2 Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)

You say, "I can't figure things out"
God says, **I will direct your steps**
(Proverbs 3:5-6)
You say, "I can't do it"
God says, **You can do all things**
(Philippians 4:13)
You say, "I'm not able"
God says, **I am able**
(2 Corinthians 9:8)
You say, "It's not worth it"
God says, **It will be worth it**
(Roman 8:28)
You say, "I can't forgive myself"
God says, **I forgive you**
(1 John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)
You say, "I can't manage"
God says, **I will supply all your needs**
(Philippians 4:19)
You say, "I'm afraid"
God says, **I have not given you a Spirit of fear**
(2 Timothy 1:7)
You say, "I'm worried and frustrated"
God says, **Cast all your cares on Me**
(1 Peter 5:7)
You say, "I don't have enough faith"
God says, **I've given everyone a measure of faith**
(Romans 12:3)
You say, "I'm not smart enough"
God says, **I give you wisdom**
(1 Corinthians 1:30)
You say, "I feel all alone"
God says, **I will never leave you or forsake you**
(Hebrews 13:5)

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Be a lamp in the chamber if you cannot
be a light in the sky. -- George Eliot

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To love someone means to see him as
God intended him. -- F. Dostoyevski

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Past Pathways

I Can Sleep When the Wind Blows

Years ago a farmer owned land along the Atlantic sea coast. He constantly advertised for hired hands. Most people were reluctant to work on farms along the Atlantic. They dreaded the awful storms that raged, wreaking havoc on the buildings and crops. As the farmer interviewed applicants for the job, he received a steady stream of refusals. Finally, a short, thin man, well past middle age, approached the farmer.

"Are you a good farmhand?" the farmer asked him.

"Well, I can sleep when the wind blows," answered the little man.

Although puzzled by this answer, the farmer, desperate for help, hired him. The little man worked well around the farm, busy from dawn to dusk, and the farmer felt satisfied with the man's work.

Then one night the wind howled loudly in from offshore. Jumping out of bed, the farmer grabbed a lantern and rushed next door to the hired hand's sleeping quarters. He shook the little man and yelled, "Get up! A storm is coming! Tie things down before they blow away!"

The little man rolled over in bed and said firmly, "No sir. I told you, I can sleep when the wind blows."

Enraged by the old man's response, the farmer was tempted to fire him on the

spot. Instead, he hurried outside to prepare for the storm. To his amazement, he discovered that all of the haystacks had been covered with tarpaulins. The cows were in the barn, the chickens were in the coops, and the doors were barred. The shutters were tightly secured. Everything was tied down. Nothing could blow away.

The farmer then understood what his hired hand meant, and he returned to bed to also sleep while the wind blew.

When you're prepared, you have nothing to fear. Can you sleep when the wind blows through your life? The hired hand in the story was able to sleep because he had secured the farm against the storm. We secure ourselves against the storms of life by grounding ourselves firmly in the Word of God.

(from Uncle Arthur's Bedtime Stories)