

Journey Together

Journey Together
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From The Desk of Pastor Barry

BEEN THINKING ABOUT: How God Works

The date we moved into our home is not significant other than the fact that it was the start of a very intricate dance choreographed by Almighty God himself. As we looked for a home it was of importance to us that we could play a role in the lives of our neighbours. Now looking back it was obvious just how significant that role was over the years.

It did not take long for us to meet the people in our new neighbourhood. On one side of us was a widow with one son living at home. Across the street was a couple living together with two teenage children. On the other side was a retired couple, cranky people, angry with life and ready to take it out on anyone who dared conduct themselves in a way contrary to their liking. My son and I found this out the day we began to make preparations to put up a basketball backboard. "You're not putting that up next to my driveway," we were told, "I'll not have the sound of a bouncing ball until all hours of the night next to my house and further, if a ball ever comes on my yard you will never get it back!"

One spring, as the birds arrived and the trees blossomed, came another conflict. I arrived home from the office to be met by my neighbour. He was carrying a broom and he greeted me with angry words. He thrust the broom in my direction and told me that the blossoms from my apple trees were ending up on his driveway. I was to take the broom sweep the blossoms up and make sure that any subsequent blooms that fell from the tree did not end up on his yard. This was impossible as a stiff breeze was

blowing across our yard directly into his.

Other such situations occurred over the years. Unreasonable demands about things over which I had no control and yet was expected to take responsibility. I admit there were a number of times I was tempted to stop praying for my neighbour and just write him off. I thank God however, that it never happened and my wife and I continued to pray. At the same time I took on, intentionally and purposefully more and more of their yard duties; snow blowing and shovelling in the winter and cutting grass in the summer. This too carried its own share of negative interaction and unrealistic expectations but we carried on trusting that God would intervene in his time.

After fourteen and a half years of prayer and years of manual labour in their yard I had the opportunity to share the gospel. It came when he asked me; "How does one ask for forgiveness when those who I need to talk to have had already passed on?" I answered his question and as we continued our conversation I shared my concern that there was a greater need for forgiveness from our heavenly Father and shared the gospel with him. He made some noise that I would consider a snort, and walked away. The next day he was outside again and the conversation continued. Again it ended with a snort as he walked away.

A few weeks later he called stating that his wife was in some difficulty and could my wife come and help. My wife hurried over to their home and called the appropriate authorities and the

family as my neighbour's wife was rushed to the hospital suffering a stroke. In the intervening hours, from the time his wife was taken to the hospital and the arrival of family members, my wife had the opportunity to share the gospel with him again. His statement shocked her. "Oh, I made that decision after Barry talked to me a couple of weeks ago. I haven't told anyone as I thought they may get upset."

To my shame I didn't expect much change in his attitude or behaviour after his decision. I thought that a man in his eighties wouldn't have much time to grow and would God even expect change from him. Less than a year now since that day. He has not only shared his failures and misgivings with me concerning things he regretted doing in his life. He has also shared his plans of correcting then and began to follow through with those plans. He often comes outside now when I arrive from the office and our conversations are salted with humour and a life that was totally absent just a few months ago. This has been such a great reminder to me of how wonderful God is and of how little my faith can be at times. We continue to pray for his wife as God is at work there as well.

My neighbour's health has deteriorated in the last months. I don't know how long God will keep him on the earth but of this I am certain. I will miss him when God calls. I couldn't always say that. God choreographed this dance when he put us on the street and he knows when the dance will end.

Think about it!

Ever since Herb suggested I write this article and I had no good excuse not to, I have been dreading writing it. I dread it because I know children are the most precious thing/person in the hearts of parents and I have been afraid of offending parents whom I love and count as friends. But I have such a burden on my heart to see kids connected to God and loving Him and being used by Him, that I have to tell you about it and invite you to be part of it.

I read and hear stories of children and their interactions with God. I hear of their love for Jesus and how it overflows all the time – wanting to talk to and about Him, telling others about Him, and serving others. I hear of their connections with God – how He speaks to them, visits them, and they feel His Spirit. I hear of how God uses them – by speaking prophetic words through them to adults (i.e. Samuel), healing people, and slaying Goliaths. I know that some of these things are happening in the homes of the children of our church and occasionally have happened on Sunday mornings. But I am convinced that they can happen more and more consistently on Sunday mornings.

Sunday mornings are important for kids to encounter God in the Bible and learn from the Bible and learn to value the Bible.

They are also important times for kids to make friends with each other and with adults. However, if that is all Sunday morning is about, what is the difference from a kids club? Kids clubs are places where they find friends, meet adult mentors and learn moral behaviour. It is God Himself who is far more compelling than the best kids club. If God is so beautiful and desirable that it is better to have Him than anything else in the world, shouldn't kids be discovering that on Sunday mornings? And how can they discover that, if they are not hearing from Him, connecting to Him and being used by Him on Sunday mornings?

I long to see kids encountering God on Sunday morning through His word and His Spirit. As they hear the truths of the Bible, they hear from the Holy Spirit how to apply them in their lives to become more like Jesus. As they worship and pray, the Holy Spirit interacting with them makes those times full of life and the presence of God. I long to see kids as part of a community where they develop great friendships with other kids and meet adults who take the time to care about them and build into their lives. I long to see kids pray for those in their community and see their prayers answered before their very eyes. I long to see ministry to children upstairs and

downstairs led by the Holy Spirit. So that what we teach is what kids need to hear right now and when we pray for them and interact with them it is with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. All of these things have happened in our church, but I long to see them happen more consistently and with greater abundance.

How do we get there?

Pray. While programs and styles and structures could be important, fundamentally this is a work of the heart and spirit and therefore, only God can do it. Also He also knows every kid and what is perfect for them, so we need His direction.

Experiment. Trying slightly different things, might open our hearts to God in new ways or put us in uncomfortable situations that force us to pursue Him more.

Communicate. I'm sorry, I haven't been the best at this, but we need to be sharing what we are hearing from God to figure out how to put it together. We also need to hear about each other's experiences to learn from each other.

Trust. God clearly loves kids immensely and has promised our church that He would bring 1000 kids in 10 years. He wants to do amazing things in children in our church and will.

Coming Events at FRBC

November

- 1 - Y-Neighbors Exec.
- 1 - Bush League Boyz
- 2 - Prayer Meeting
- 4 - Elder Meeting
- 5 - Y-Neighbors
- 5 - Soul Sanctuary Kid's Program
- 6 - Youth - UGM
- 8 - Bush League Boyz
- 12 - Y-Neighbors
- 12 - Soul Sanctuary Kid's Program
- 13 - Youth Balloon Night
- 15 - Bush League Boyz
- 15 - Chocolate Talk
- 18 - Semi-Annual Meeting
- 19 - Y-Neighbors
- 19 - Soul Sanctuary Kid's Program
- 20 - Youth - Scavenger Event
- 21 - Communion
- 22 - MBFOM New Parent's Night
- 23 - YWCA Girl's Jam
- 25 - Harvest
- 26 - Y-Neighbors
- 26 - Soul Sanctuary Kid's Program
- 27 - Youth - Amazing Race
- 28 - 1st Advent
- 29 - Bush League Boyz

December

- 3 - Soul Sanctuary Kid's Program
- 3 - Y-Neighbors
- 4 - Youth - UGM
- 5 - 2nd Advent
- 6 - Y-Neighbors Exec.
- 6 - Bush League Boyz
- 7 - Prayer Meeting
- 9 - Winnipeg Harvest
- 9 - Elder Meeting
- 10 - Soul Sanctuary Kid's Program
- 10 - Y-Neighbors
- 11 - Youth - Dark Games
- 12 - 3rd Advent
- 13 - Bush League Boyz
- 15 - Chocolate Talk
- 17 - Y-Neighbors
- 18 - Youth - Christmas Party
- 19 - 4th Advent
- 20 - Bush League Boyz
- 23 - Winnipeg Harvest
- 26 - Boxing day
- 27 - Bush League Boyz

January

- 4 - Prayer Meeting
- 6 - Winnipeg Harvest
- 7 - Y-Neighbors
- 7 - Soul Sanctuary Kid's Program
- 8 - Youth - UGM
- 9 - One Heart One Lord Service
- 10 - Y-Neighbors Exec.
- 14 - Y-Neighbors
- 14 - Soul Sanctuary Kid's Program
- 15 - Youth - RC Night
- 15 - Chocolate Talk
- 20 - Winnipeg Harvest
- 21 - Y- Neighbors
- 21 - Soul Sanctuary Kid's Program
- 21-13 - MBYM Youth Retreat
- 28 - Y- Neighbors
- 28 - Soul Sanctuary Kid's Program
- 30 Chocolate Talk

Fall Fun Puzzles

Fall Crossword

Fit all the words into this puzzle below.

RED
RAKE
ACORN
LEAVES
AUTUMN
SCARECROW

<http://printables.kaboose.com>

Fall Word Jumble

COFFIN: Several fall-related words got mixed up in these piles of letters. Help us to unscramble the words, and assemble the numbered letters to solve the puzzle.

FEAL	THE RAVS	LIC LYH
KARE	NERB MOVE	UMA NUT

What does a bear do in the woods?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100



Fort Richmond Baptist Church

10 Radcliffe Road
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3T 3Y9

Phone: 204-275-7775
Fax: 204-275-7757
Email: admin@frbc.ca

We're on the Web!
www.frbc.ca

*Our mission is to assist
people to become God's active
servants in our community and
around the world*

God's Word to FRBC:

By Herb Adam

The word that Jesus has been speaking to FRBC for over 10 years is 2 Ch 7:14, "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." (NKJV).

This is for My people, His people, the ones who belong to God, therefore this means FRBC, this means me. What is humility? It is recognizing that I cannot do this myself, that He is God and I am not. Once we are His people we need humility. Recognize that I am not first, I do not have the answers, I need Him. (As elders and different teams at FRBC are taking more and more time to stop and ask God for His direction during our meetings. We do not just pray, but we ask Him what He wants done in specific situations. We are seeking to let Him be God and direct our paths, because we do not have the answers, but He does.) One does not truly pray without humility, which explains why in the parable of the Pharisee and Tax collector who were praying the Tax collector went home justified.

"Pray and seek my face", He is not just calling me/us to prayer but to also seeking His face. One aspect of this is relationship. This eliminates rote prayer. It means we are waiting for an answer, we are expecting Him to speak. It also means that we want to see

His face. If we seek His face then we will find His face. Does it not say, "no one can see God and live?" But Moses saw God, and God spoke to Moses face to face as with a friend? God does not call us to do something that He will not help us to accomplish. Isaiah saw the Lord. John in Revelation saw the Lord as well, and there are many others listed in Scripture as well. So this is possible for each of us individually and corporately.

No one can see God and live. When we see Him then our wickedness is revealed, it cannot hide. When we see Him we must die. We must turn from our wicked ways. The sin and whatever is wicked or/and evil in us must die. When Isaiah saw the Lord he said, "Woe is me, for I am a man of unclean lips." When Isaiah left he was no longer the same Isaiah that came to the Lord, that Isaiah was dead, there was a new Isaiah. Our encounter with God necessitates a turning from our wicked ways, it is a natural consequence, if it isn't then we will die. God was powerfully present in the early church. Ananias and Saphira came into His presence refusing to turn from their wicked ways and they died. There is great danger in coming to God's presence and refusing to die, refusing to turn from our wicked ways.

The promise though is amazing and awesome, our God will hear from Heaven and He will heal our land. That means fruit,

abundance, prosperity, all that we need and more. No more desert and barrenness. This depends on me individually and corporately. I must believe and act because what He says He will do. I must be changed. FRBC needs this.

We ask, "Why are people leaving?" God is calling to us to ask, "Will I/we be obedient to what He is saying" or "Why are we not obedient?" We need His face, because when we have His face we will see that His face is shining, that He is smiling at us. It is His face turned away from us that is dangerous and scary.

So Father we pray, "Forgive us, turn Your face toward us, we need Your face, we need You, we need to see You, we need You in our lives, not just a bit but totally. We humble ourselves, we can not do things on our own, and whatever happens is because of You, we cannot take credit, we will not boast. We will give You the honour and the glory. We repent of all our pride, we repent of all our wickedness, cleanse us like You cleansed Isaiah. Fulfill Your promises in us and for us. We need You. Be our vision, Oh High King of Heaven." So be it!