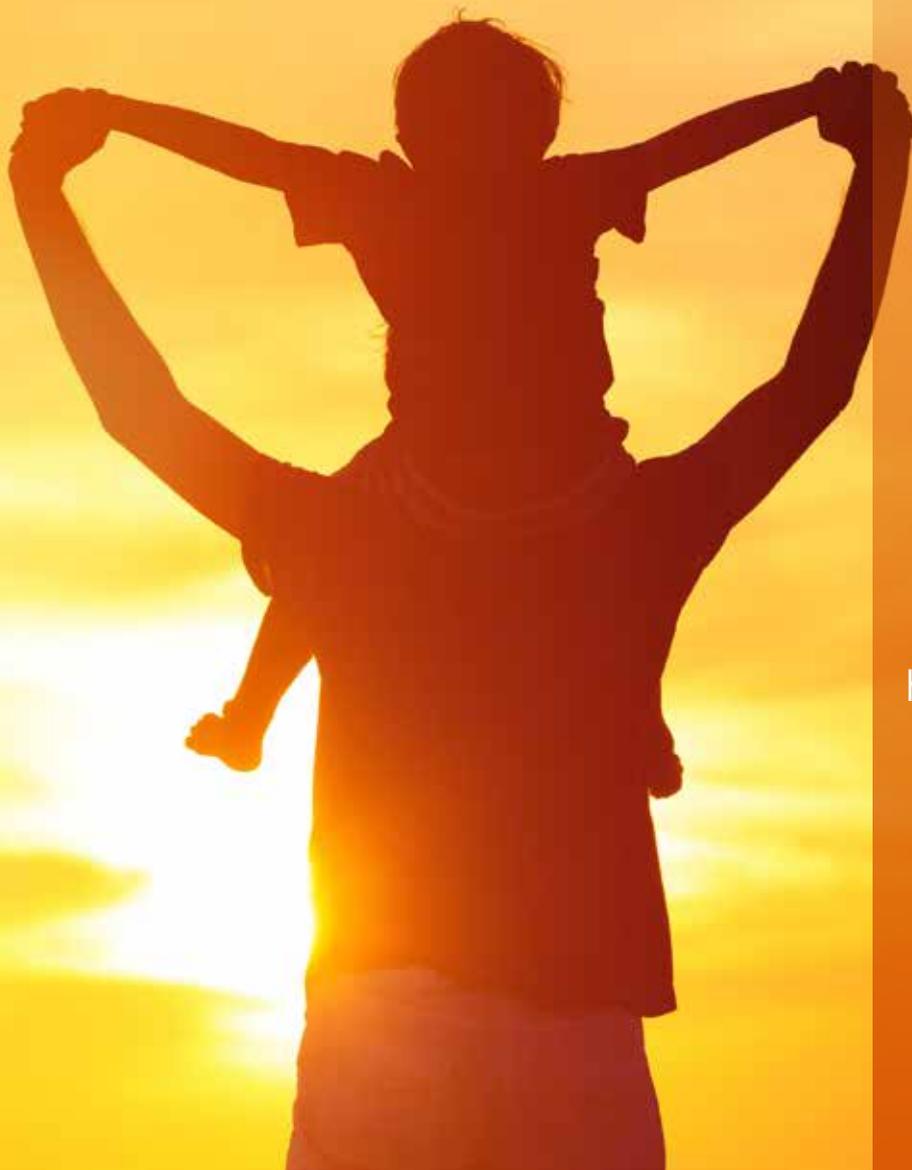


The Messenger

A Publication of Community Bible Fellowship

June 2018



The *one*
who lives with
integrity
is righteous;
his *children*
who come after
him will be
happy.

Proverbs 20:7

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



A BIG THANK YOU

Thank you for the prayers, love and financial support our church family has given to our homegrown missionaries. Because of your efforts, the Haiti trip was fully-funded, and the Chad trip had a nice donation to offset costs. Both groups had love offerings to present to their respective missions. It is such a privilege to be a part of God's work!

CBF VOLUNTEER DAYS @ Mercer County Food Pantry

May 29 & June 1

It's our turn to help at the Mercer County Food Pantry. If you'd like to serve, we need volunteers on Tuesday, May 29, from 5:30 – 7:30 PM and on Friday, June 1, from 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

CBF RUMMAGE / PIE SALE

June 1 & 2

Our CBF Rummage and Pie Sale is here! Come and browse our donations on June 1 and 2 in the chapel. There's sure to be much to see. Proceeds from this year's pie sales will go to Royal Family Kids' Camps. Watch for the time of the sale to be advertised.

FISHING DERBY

June 16

Join us on Saturday, June 16, for a FISHING DERBY from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM as we celebrate our fathers and families. There's no age limit and all are welcome. We'll gather around the pond located at the home of Don and Jinnie Johnson. If you don't want to fish, that's okay! Just come and hang out! Prizes will be given for the first fish, the smallest fish, the biggest fish and the most fish. That's a lot

of fish! Be sure to bring fishing gear, favorite lures and bait (no minnows, please) and lawn chairs. Extra bait will be available. If you're able and don't mind sharing with city slickers, please bring an extra pole or two that may be borrowed. Because it's free fishing weekend in Illinois, you won't need a fishing license! As a special bonus, lunch will be provided as Chef Angie will be rustling up some of those fine hot dogs, chips and drinks. Be sure to put it on your calendar!

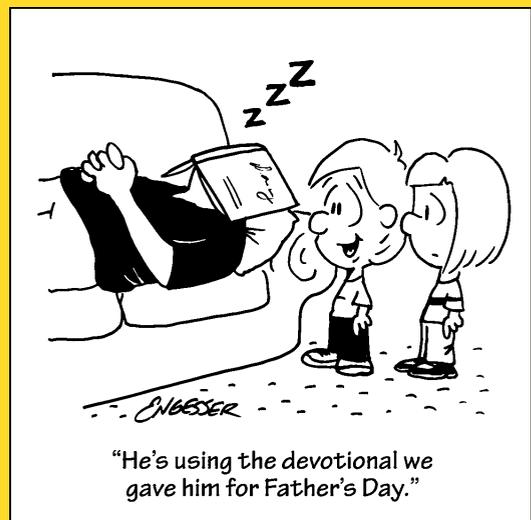
MOTHER/SON PICNIC

June 23

Be watching for coming details about our mother/son picnic. This special event will be held at CBF on June 23 from 5:00 – 7:00 PM.

COMING THIS SUMMER @ CBF...

RIVER BEND MOBILE FOOD PANTRY





A Flash of Perspective

-based on "I'm Afraid of Thunder and Lighting," Family Time Story Devotions

If summer storms make you or a loved one nervous, the perspective one mom offered her young son might help.

"Though lightning can be harmful, God created it for good: The powerful electricity converts unusable nitrogen to nitrate, which plants need for growth and human bodies use to produce proteins."

The boy was still uncertain, so Mom continued. "Did you know there's lightning in heaven?" (See the description of John's vision in Revelation 4:5.)

Mom added, "Plus, lightning reminds me that Jesus is coming. Matthew (24:27) says, 'As lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.'"

This summer, as lightning brightens the sky, reassure yourself – or a child – of lightning's purpose and wonder.



Ten Challenges to Being a Tzaddik (Part One)

by Cajun Pauley

Being good is tough! It's sometimes hard to know what being good means. It's like the old saying, "Silence is generally golden – but sometimes it's just plain yellow." How do you discern when "discretion is the better part of valor" or when it's merely cowardice disguised as judiciousness?

Our spiritual ancestor Abraham apparently struggled with this (**Genesis 12:10-20**). This same man was willing to face down five kings in order to recapture his kidnapped nephew. Yet here, he asks his wife to lie and put herself at risk, lest he might endanger himself!

Apparently, even the Apostle Paul wrestled with the meaning and application of goodness from time to time! (**Romans 7:14-19**)

I have publicly stated on numerous times that I am working toward becoming a tzaddik (a righteous and holy person who dedicates themselves to establishing peace between God and man and between men). I know that in Christ, my "righteousness exceeds that of the Pharisees" but I want to experience not only the grace of imputed righteousness, but the joy of personal and practical righteousness as well. Color me ambitious perhaps, but there you have it.

In my attempts at practical holiness, I have often stumbled. Sometimes it was because I struggled with and lost to my yetzer hara. Just as often, I seriously did not know what “the right thing” was!

I’d like to share with you ten things that I have found to be particularly pernicious problems in my path toward becoming a tzaddik. I’m going to begin with the ones I seem to struggle with the least, and work my way toward those things I find the most difficult.

[1.] Standing up against violence. (Proverbs 24:11-12) Though, I confess to some residual fear in the face of pain and physical confrontation, I have been through enough of it to know that in the moment of crisis I can rise to the occasion and do what must be done regardless of the cost. Still, I have to push myself to say those things that might not be well received; to correct those behaviors that while unhealthy for the congregation are still beloved by the individual and will more than likely earn me a place in this person’s black list for years.

[2.] Not coveting. (Deuteronomy 5:21; James 3:16; 4:1-3) I rarely, if ever, covet things; so, as far as I’m concerned, your donkeys and houses are safe with me. I tend to covet knowledge, skill, and talents. So, James’ warning against envy and ambition are more along my lines of sinfulness. Still, like my dad always told me, “Son – you can’t help but be ugly, but you can always borrow brains.” As long as I can find ways to enlist the aid of those who have talents and skills that I lack, I can beat back my covetous spirit.

[3.] Exercising common sense. (Proverbs 8:5; 15:32-33; 19:8) The problem I have is that “common sense” is defined as sound practical judgment that is independent of specialized knowledge, training, or the like; normal native intelligence. “Normal NATIVE intelligence”, though not intended to mean native in

the sense of local to a geographic area, is nevertheless true enough. I have found that common sense is different in Africa than it is in Canada. The southern construction worker identifies common sense in a different way than the Midwestern farmer does. Therein lays the difficulty. Common sense, as often as not, involves unwritten rules that have developed over such a long period of time that they no longer need defining to the locals. However, when the outsider comes along? Ah – now that’s trouble just waiting. I can’t tell you how many times I’ve heard “Why didn’t you know that? Surely you could see that? That’s just common sense!” Faced with other’s frustration over my apparent ignorance, I have to humbly apologize, try to determine where the problem lies, and adjust. The solution seems to me to be James’ exhortation to be slow to speak and swift to listen.

[4.] Following the ways of peace. (Proverbs 3:17; Matthew 5:9; Romans 12:17-21) Now we’re starting to get into my real problems. My problem is not so much the DESIRE to follow the ways of peace as it is the ability to PERCEIVE the ways of peace. I would love to be a peace maker. I just don’t always know what steps are appropriate. When do I speak out? When do I let things go? If I let things go, at what point will I cross the line over from “Let sleeping dogs lie” into cowardice?

[5.] Being my brother’s keeper. (Genesis 4:9; Galatians 6:1-5; Philippians 2:3-4) Being an independent cuss myself, I have a hard time WANTING to be my brother’s keeper. I don’t want all your problems. I can barely take all your joys! It’s emotionally exhausting. It’s physically draining. And frankly, in my flesh, I’m a solitary person. However, I know the call and I recognize the need and I step up to it; but it’s tough.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH...

To Great Things That Never Came

article by Greg Morse, content strategist, desiringGod.org

He went to see *My Little Pony* recently. I suppose that a little boy can enjoy *My Little Pony*, but a 19-year-old in the theater stands out.

My brother is a joy to our family. He shares jokes he doesn't know he is telling, sings, laughs, and dances as if no one was watching. Even though we know each other deeply, I have never had the pleasure of having a genuine conversation with him.

For a time, we wondered if he was ever going to speak. He was further along on the autism scale than most, and the disability created a wall around him that has been hard for his mother, father, sister, grandfather, and brother to scale. Like a sun blocked by chemical clouds, we have never fully experienced the full warmth of his spirit. Much has been lost in translation.

On days when I remember that, unless a miracle occurs, he will never marry, never have a career, never drive a car, never live alone, never participate in a Bible study, never hold a sustained conversation with his family, I wonder, where is God? Our God is in the heavens and he does all that he pleases (**Psalm 115:3**). Is the healing of my brother not pleasing to him? I know that if God were only to speak the word, lame speech would rise, clouds in his mind would part, and the Jericho wall that is autism would come crashing down. Our spirits would finally commune together.

But nineteen years have passed. Although I've waited with face pressed against the windowsill, I haven't seen anything appear upon the gravel road. Spring turned to fall, and fall to winter. Questions came, but the healing has not. The ache turns numb. The persistent widow becomes just a widow. That great thing — my brother's healing — has not come.

Not Supposed to End This Way

Although we serve an all-powerful, all-good God, some great things never come. Maybe a naked ring finger reminds you of this; you've sought the Lord patiently for decades waiting for a spouse that never

came. Maybe a new cradle lies in the middle of a freshly painted room, empty. With every new day picking at the wound, how can we begin to hope again?

I was reminded of a way recently as I watched *The Return of the King*. Pippin and Gandalf sat barricaded in their chamber, as death barraged their door. As the enemy began to break through, Pippin grieved in the way I was lamenting over my brother that week:

"I didn't think it would end this way."

Gandalf looked at him curiously, "End? No, the journey doesn't end here. Death is just another path, one that we all must take. The grey rain-curtain of this world rolls back, and all turns to silver glass, and then you see it."

"What? Gandalf? See what?"

"White shores, and beyond, a far green country under a swift sunrise."

"Well, that isn't so bad."

"No. No, it isn't."

Although the orcs were on the doorstep and much remained unrealized, Gandalf had hope because he knew that there was more to the story. He made sense of his fear, horror, disappointment, even death by remembering that there were more pages yet to come. He, unlike Pippin, knew that this was not the end. The difference between a tragedy and a comedy depends not on how it begins, nor on what surprising turn it takes in the middle, but on how the story ends. And Gandalf knew that their story would end with real joy despite all the bad closing in on them.

Despair forgets that there are more pages. It gazes at the brief span of our lives and complains that all should be fulfilled before the page is turned. But hope loves the whole story. Hope breathes, laughs, and

draws courage from gazing upon something grander than self. It grows in an epic tale, a tale with joys that cannot be abridged within one hundred years on earth. What we, like Pippin, mistake as the end, is merely leaving the preface for the first chapter.

They Sought the Next Pages

This literate hope that delights in the story is not a psychological crutch or wishful thinking. It is waiting for reality, a reality as tangible as a baby born in Bethlehem and as sure as the empty tomb. It is the conviction of things unseen that we call “faith” (**Hebrews 11:1**). Faith believes God when He says there is so much more than what we currently see.

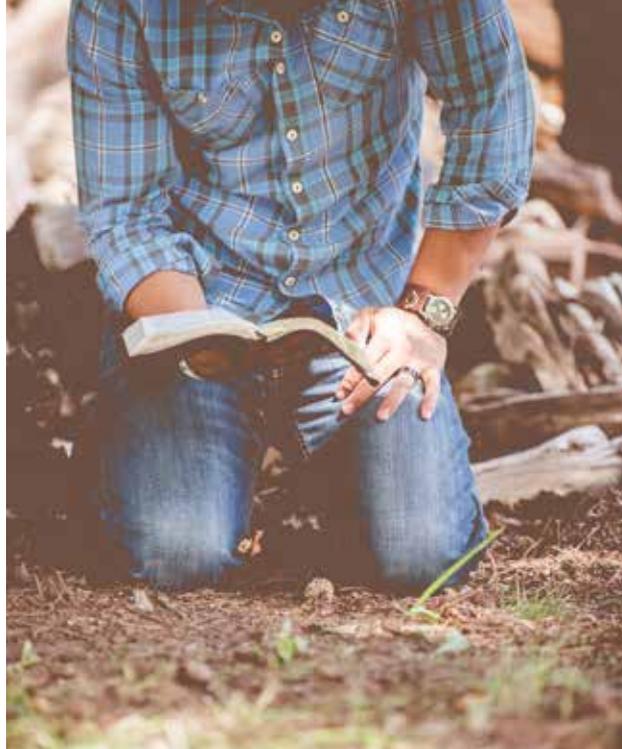
Those who went before us believed like this – even when their pages ended with a perilous last sentence:

Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated – of whom the world was not worthy – wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth (**Hebrews 11:35–38**).

Although their lives seemed to end in disappointment, they staked their souls on the fact that there was more to the story:

These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared for them a city (**Hebrews 11:13–16**).

They were promised, but did not receive; sat at the window, and only saw bits and pieces of gravel on the road. But they took heart, trusting God with



wandering lives, unrealized guarantees, and painful deaths – and they entered into the next chapters that God prepared for them.

Greater Things Will Surely Come

In this life, we join them. We wait and die mid-story. But soon and very soon, the grey curtain of the world will roll back, and we will see Him. We wait for the greatest thing that will surely come: our blessed hope, the appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ (**Titus 2:13**). And with His coming, He will wipe away every tear from our eyes, and death, crying, and pain will be banished forever (**Revelation 21:3–4**).

The story is incomplete, but disappointment, autism, and heartbreak only last for a page or two. The healing may not come in this life, but the healer does. The spouse may never come around the corner, but our heavenly spouse is mounting His chariot. The tears will not bring your loved one back, but the Resurrection and the Life is coming. There is more to the story.

As we sense the Spirit of God Himself inside us groaning, urging us, we keep our faces pressed against the windowsill. Jesus will appear on the gravel road, and when He does, our lives that feel over now will freshly begin. The greatest things are sure to come because He is sure to come.

DADS are a BLESSING

Surprise your dad or another special man with this Father's Day gift.



What you need:

- Photos of you and your loved one (together, if possible)
- Scissors
- 8.5" x 11" paper
- Glue stick
- Marker
- 8.5" x 11" photo frame



What you do:

1. Cut photos into shapes (hearts, circles, etc.).
2. Arrange photos on the paper, leaving room for a message, and glue them down.
3. Write: "I'm blessed as can be. My heavenly Father has given me the best _____ [dad, uncle, friend] in the world, and he belongs to me!"
4. Place your picture message in the frame.
5. Give your gift to show love and appreciation.

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

6/2	Debbie Norton	6/12	Keegan Rourke
6/4	Ben & Brittany Dowd	6/13	Rod & Joan Link
6/5	Nick & Debbie Norton	6/15	Griz & Pam Hoffman
6/5	Eric & Lindy Shaw	6/16	David & Eileen Sipes
6/6	Mike & Robin Barnhouse	6/22	Alexa Keller
6/7	Pam Hoffman	6/24	Kay Hucke
6/10	Roy & Pam Langley	6/25	Keegan Bryant
6/11	John Chapman	6/26	Roy Langley
6/11	Marvin & Florence Reddick	6/26	Eric Shaw
6/12	Jase Konie	6/28	Travis Canaday
		6/29	Ray & Dawn Lee

Mark Your Calendar

*Mondays & Thursdays: HIIT workout, led by Brittany Dowd; Sanctuary; 6:15 – 7:00 PM

- 6/01 CBF Rummage Sale; Chapel; 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- 6/01 CBF Volunteer Day; Mercer County Food Pantry; 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- 6/02 CBF Rummage Sale; Chapel; 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- 6/06 "The Book of Daniel" Bible Study, led by Bob Hoffman; Room N2; 7:00 PM
- 6/09 Youth Movie Night @ CBF; Room TBD; 6:00 – 8:30 PM
- 6/10 YA Bible Study, led by Nathan & Jeanette; Sipes' Residence; 2:00 PM
- 6/10 High School Youth Group; Activity Room; 4:00 – 5:30 PM
- 6/13 "The Book of Daniel" Bible Study, led by Bob Hoffman; Room N2; 7:00 PM
- 6/16 Fishing Derby; Don & Jinnie Johnson's Pond; 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- 6/20 "The Book of Daniel" Bible Study, led by Bob Hoffman; Room N2; 7:00 PM
- 6/23 Mother/Son Picnic; Location TBD; 5:00 - 7:00 PM
- 6/24 YA Bible Study, led by Nathan & Jeanette; Sipes' Residence; 2:00 PM
- 6/24 Jr. High Youth Group; Activity Room; 5:00 – 6:00 PM
- 6/27 "The Book of Daniel" Bible Study, led by Bob Hoffman; Room N2; 7:00 PM

CBF Financial Report - April

	MONTHLY	YEAR TO DATE
Total Income	\$20,093.86	\$69,254.59
Total Expenses	\$17,208.44	\$66,139.89
Net Operating Income	\$2,885.42	\$3,114.70



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