



November 2011

From the Pastor's Desk

Mormonism and Christianity

By Rev. Freddy Fritz

Our Mission

To bring people to Jesus Christ and **membership** in his church family, develop them to Christlike **maturity**, equip them for their **ministry** in the church and life **mission** in the world, in order to **magnify** God's name.

Special Events:

- ◆ November 5—Airsoft Event
- ◆ November 6—Quarterly Meeting
- ◆ November 10—Men's Bowling Event
- ◆ November 20—Thanksgiving Dinner & Service

Recently, the pastor of one the largest churches in America said in an interview with the media that **"Mormonism is just another form of Christianity."** He seemed to indicate that Mormonism is in the Christian camp of Baptists and Methodists and Catholics.

So, is Mormonism just another Christian denomination?

We are hearing a lot about Mormonism in the news these days. I want to be sure that we understand what Mormonism is. There is a lot of misunderstanding in the media about Mormonism. It would be unwise to believe that the media has a correct understanding about Mormonism—or any other theological issue, for that matter.

Mormonism does not claim to be just another denomination of Christianity. In fact, the central claim of Mormonism is that Christianity was corrupted from the time of the Apostles until Joseph Smith established what later become known as **"The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints"** in 1830. In Mormon thinking, the rise of Mormonism was not merely a reformation or renewal of the

church. It was complete restoration.

Mormonism is a new religion. It has its own scripture, ***The Book of Mormon***. While Mormons accept the Bible, they do not believe it is inerrant or complete. They believe in continuing revelation sustained through prophets.

Mormon theology is completely incompatible with orthodox Christian theology. Mormonism rejects the Christian understanding of a Trinitarian God, and accepts a view that includes many gods, not just one. Furthermore, Mormonism teaches that we are now what God once was and we are becoming what God now is.

By Mormonism's own admission, it is not historic Christianity. Furthermore, their teaching is self-consciously opposed to historic Christianity. Many in our culture may be confused about this, but biblical Christians must know better. We must understand that Mormonism is not just another form of Christianity. It is, in fact, anti-Christian.

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It is the goal of the Trumpet staff to provide articles for learning and growing, news for connecting with our church family, and information on opportunities for service and participation.

The views and opinions expressed in the Trumpet have not been reviewed or endorsed by the Session.

Please forward articles, ministry reports and calendar items for the next edition of the *Trumpet* to sd_knox@yahoo.com by November 15, 2011.

Session News

By Rev. Freddy Fritz

Please make every effort to attend the Congregation Information Meeting on Sunday, November 6 at 8:45 a.m. We plan to share with you some of the input we have received regarding the Master Site Plan, particularly as it relates to what should be the first addition to our current facility. The Session and Diaconate have discussed at some length various options, and we would like to share that with the congregation.

Thoughts From the Intern

By James Nichols

Last month, I talked about being salt and light in the world, as Jesus instructs in the Beatitudes. Our lives should be so filled with the Holy Spirit and the word of God that we literally stand out in the world. I mentioned that in some ways, our actions are just as important, if not more so sometimes, to our witness. Finally, I talked about being around nonbelievers and how important it is that we do this. This month, we are going to talk about living this life of love as salt and light in the context of the world, specifically at our jobs.

The two biggest places that we will spend our time is home and work. These are the front lines of **evangelism. Let's draw our focus to life outside the home first.** For most nonbelievers, the workplace is **the place** where they will have contact with Christians. Think about the amount of time that you spend around coworkers: on average 8-10 hours a day. That is a lot of time for them to see how you respond to difficult situations as well as good ones. They watch how you take criticism and praise, how you relate to bosses and coworkers, and how you live out what you believe.

So how do we live in a way that is an example in our workplaces? It starts with the Great Commandment: Matthew 22:34-40. This commandment that Jesus gives is a summary of the Ten Commandments, which deal with loving God and loving our neighbor. Loving our neighbor like we love ourselves will cause us to be unselfish and giving towards everyone; after all, when asked about who our neighbor is in Luke 10, Jesus gives the parable of the Good Samaritan.

Finally, it is important to see that each and every job is an opportunity to glorify God. God created Adam in his image. He then placed him in the garden to work. Work is a significant thing in our lives and in the Bible. God delights in raising up people to serve him in every position. As Jerram Barrs says in *The Heart of Evangelism*, **"We are to regard every kind of work as a sacred calling, and we are to teach all of God's people to work as those who are working for the Lord."** Think about the diverse and important jobs that are seen throughout the Old Testament: the many different crafts required to make the tabernacle (woodworkers, weavers, and blacksmiths to name a few), and the many jobs given to the people of God after they returned from exile and the rebuilding of the temple and walls of Jerusalem. Work is important to the Lord, no matter what type of work that God designed you for. We just have to remember what Paul said in Colossians 3:23-24: **"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."**

So it is important for us to remember that, no matter how monotonous or boring, how exciting or thrilling, or how simple or complex our jobs are: they are places that the Lord has put us to be his witnesses and we are to live out the Gospel in front of people everyday at work. Until next month, God bless!

TBPC

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God's Extraordinary Grace

By Rita Riggs

What are the outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption?

The outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of redemption are, his ordinances, especially the Word, sacraments, and prayer; all which are made effectual to the elect for salvation [Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q/A 88].

God, in his ordinary providence, maketh use of means, yet he is free to work without, above, and against them, at his pleasure [Westminster Confession of Faith, 5.3].

On November 15, 1985, my husband John Bryan Gore was killed in a military plane crash. John and I had been married six wonderful years. At that time we were 30-year-old parents of a beautiful two-year-old son we had named Matthew. We lived in Centreville, Virginia, and John was a Navy pilot flying the C-131 transport plane out of Andrews Air Force Base. He was a dedicated Christian and an elder in our church. In the weeks before his death, I had a series of three dreams that **would deepen my understanding of God and his grace. At the time I didn't see them** as a provision of grace, but as I have reflected on the events and how they unfolded in my life I have come to see how God went to extraordinary measures to care for me. It is my hope that by reading my story, you will realize that God will stop at nothing to surround you with his love and mercy, as he did me.

I had the first dream in late October. When I awoke in the morning, my memory of it was not the fuzzy, fading memory of an ordinary dream but was as vivid as if I had just watched it on a movie screen. Certain details were imprinted unmistakably in my mind. In my dream, I was getting married again in my home town of Pensacola, Florida. The groom in my dream was younger than me and had never been **married. Although I couldn't see his face, I saw an image of the house where he lived.** I was driving south on a paved street with tall pine trees on both sides, and his house was near the end of the street on the left. It was red brick and L-shaped with the garage on the right. In my dream I saw myself walking to the left from the driveway, past the garage and up to the front door.

What could I do but tell my husband about the dream? When I did, we both laughed about it. John teased me that it was proof I was looking for someone new. That was a wonderful part of our marriage; we always laughed and had fun together. **John's delightful sense of humor eased the tension of life's most stressful situations, and I loved him for it.** Despite his teasing, however, the dream remained in my thoughts all day.

The second dream came about a week later and was just as vivid as the first one. In this dream I was moving back to Pensacola, looking for a place to live. **Pensacola sits on the Gulf of Mexico in Florida's panhandle and is bounded on the east by Escambia Bay.** Most people who are familiar with Pensacola know about its beautiful, white sand beaches. The cliffs overlooking Escambia Bay are another beautiful

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Women's Ministry

By Ginny Bremer



(left to right) Marianne Cali, Bonnie Hutton, Nancy Kirkpatrick and Sheri Nies enjoy fellowship at the fall "Ladies on the Lawn" event.

Thank you

Many thanks to everyone who participated in our fall Sister-to-Sister "Ladies on the Lawn" event, and a very special thank you to Sheri Nies, who graciously opened her home for us all to enjoy. The fall décor put us in the mood for all the outdoor fun. There were 18 ladies present, many of whom enjoyed the croquet games, while others preferred to fellowship and watch the activities.

Thank you, too, to Marianne Cali for her thoughtful devotion. We will think about the joy that is felt by both the giver and the receiver when help is offered.

Thank you, too, to Nancy Kirkpatrick for placing the fall arrangements and paintings in the ladies room for everyone to enjoy. They are beautiful!

**November Events
Memorial Poinsettias**

During the month of November you will have the opportunity to brighten the church, then brighten your home through the purchase of a memorial poinsettia! Poinsettias may be purchased for \$7.00 each. They will be placed in the sanctuary and narthex on December 2nd and can be taken home after the service on Christmas Eve. Look for the poinsettia order form in the church bulletin to designate your name and the name of the person for whom the memorial or dedication is being made. Then place the form along with a check in the offering plate (please mark "poinsettia" on the memo line of your check). A listing of memorials will be in the church bulletin for Christmas Eve.



(left to right) Barbara Heil, Ginny Bremer, Jan Ousnamer, Delaine Holsopple, Mary Lou (a friend of Sheri Nies), and Nancy Jo warm up for a round of croquet.

Adult Christian Education & Fellowship

Bob Guest

Children

Eileen Fritz

Emptynesters

Jan Ousnamer

Greeters & Welcome Table

Bob Koryous

Growth Groups

Session

Hospitality

LeeAnn DeStefano

Men's Bible Study

Jeff Beams

Men's Ministry

Brian Carrier

Missions

Jim Aldrich

Music

Debi Hensley

New Tampa Christian Academy

Cheryl Barber

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Pacesetters

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Rev. Freddy Fritz

Ushers

Richard Hunter

Women's Bible Study

Betty Pothoven

Women in the Church

Ginny Bremer

Youth

James Barber

Outreach

Bert Barber

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Women's Ministry

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Hanging of the Greens

On Saturday, November 26, Lillian Barquin will lead us in our annual "Hanging of the Greens" from 9:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. Everyone is welcome to participate in this ministry. If you have helped in the past, we welcome your expertise again to decorate the sanctuary and building for the upcoming Christmas season. If you have not helped in the past, please consider serving in this ministry to bring glory to God through beautifying our church building.

Looking Ahead

Christmas Brunch

Mark your calendars for the 23rd Annual Christmas Brunch, which will be held on December 10, from 9:00 A.M. to 11:15 A.M. Please accept our invitation to attend and focus on the Advent season with this ministry for fun, fellowship, and preparing your heart and mind for **the true meaning of Christmas.** Our theme, "I'll Be Home for Christmas," will lead us through the joy we find in our earthly lives, to the realization of the unspeakable joy we will have one day in our eternal home with Jesus Christ. Invitations with complete information are in the narthex. Ticket sales will continue through December 4. We welcome guests, so please invite family and friends to share in the celebration.

Women's Ministry Meeting

We will have our regular WM 15 the second Sunday, December 11, and will have an additional Christmas Brunch meeting immediately thereafter. So if you are on a Christmas Brunch committee or just want to participate in the final planning details, plan to stay for 30 - 45 minutes more.



(left to right) Melissa Nichols, Marriane Cali, Lauren Fritz and Molly Knox enjoy tea and fellowship at the "Ladies on the Lawn" event.



Ginny Bremmer shows the ladies how to swing the mallet.

Truth Matters Today

By Joe Burns, TruthMattersToday@tampabay.rr.com

How Can we Fix this World?

If you want to know how to solve the world's problems, there's nothing like a good dose of the evening news during an election season. And although our presidential election is still more than a year away, the candidates seeking to unseat President Obama have already been on the campaign trail for months. Each of them has a vision for how to fix America's ills, like the economy that's been struggling for so long. All the while, the President emphatically proclaims that the singular solution to the crisis and its attendant consequences is to pass his jobs bill. The Senate hasn't passed it, and the debate continues.

Angry protestors welling up on Wall Street and in other cities around the country are clearly unhappy with the shape America is in and want everyone to know it. What's their recipe for positive change? It's pretty hard to tell at this point, but it seems to revolve around a transfer of resources from the have-lots to the want-mores. One network anchor reported that the movement has gone global and is impacting societies on every continent save Antarctica. It seems the United States isn't the only country on the surface of this spinning orb that can't satisfy the desires of all within its borders.

Beyond personal and national balance sheets, nations scramble daily to fight global networks of terrorists while simultaneously seeking to resolve domestic tensions and crises—floods and famine, crime and corruption, homelessness and poverty, hunger and disease. The question nags, even taunts us: why have we utterly failed at resolving the persistent problems that have plagued us throughout history?

Go to the Source

Well, to correct a problem you must first discover its origin. There are definitely loads of theories on that one. And, as we learned in this space a few months ago¹, most of them—such as communism's claim that capitalism caused all the world's problems—have been tested rigorously in practice and found to not only be wanting but also injurious. Only one theory has the vast empirical evidence to match its doctrinal claims about what went wrong with the world.

Christianity teaches that at its origin, earth was free from the strife and turmoil that plagues it so tenaciously today. There were no wars or rumors of war, food was abundant and delectable, nature was pristine and unspoiled, and toil was as simple as picking out names for the captivating variety of creatures with which you peacefully coexisted. Pretty idyllic, wasn't it?

How did we lose that life of joy and contentment? We didn't lose it; we abandoned it. We left it behind without a farewell for something we thought was better by far. Each of us repeated what Adam started. We chose sin over God and thus reaped the tares, toil and death of a fallen world. Or, to paraphrase one church marquee, we wanted the worm but had no idea there was a hook.

The Source Yields the Solution

Yet there is an antidote to sin and sin's consequences: the man, Christ Jesus—the Son of God. Once hooked by sin (and everyone on earth except Jesus has been²), He's the only way to freedom. Sin brings death³; God's gift—Jesus—offers life⁴, eternal life through His free payment of our sins' penalty.⁵ He comes to you and beckons you to invite Him in.⁶ And when you do, when you commit your life to Him, God adopts you at that moment⁷ and transforms you into a new creation.⁸

The world and the world's history speak centuries of evidence on the impact of

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Wilberforce⁸

Truth Matters Today

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that transforming power in the lives of those who have received Christ's freedom from sin's death-penalty. It's evident in early church martyrs like Ignatius and Polycarp who lived for Christ and chose to die terrifying deaths rather than deny Him. We see it as well in more modern-day believers such as William Wilberforce whose devotion to Christ prompted him to spend decades in 18th- and 19th-century England fighting and ultimately defeating the slave trade and then slavery itself. In so doing, he confronted an empire with its conscience and released a race from inhuman and interminable suffering. He thanked God for the final victory then died three days later. His burial within London's Westminster Abbey along with his country's kings and queens testifies to the impact he had on his world.⁹

Once you know that sin caused all the world's problems, you know too that defeating sin is the world's only hope. Christ has already won that victory. Redemption through Him yields transformed lives, and lives truly transformed into His image make the world a better place.

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1. Burns, Joseph M. "What Went Wrong with the World?" September 2011. Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church Trumpet. 25 October 2011: 6 <<http://www.tampabaypresbyterian.org/Resources/Trumpet/09.01.11%20Trumpet.pdf>>.
2. Reference Isaiah 53:6, Romans 3:23
3. Reference Romans 6:23
4. Reference 1 John 5:11-13
5. Reference 1 Peter 3:18
6. Reference Rev 3:20
7. Reference John 1:12
8. Reference 2 Corinthians 5:17
9. Carey, Brycchan. "William Wilberforce (1759-1833)." 2000. [Brycchan Carey](http://www.brycchan.org). 29 October 2011

International Day of Prayer For the Persecuted Church*

"Remember the prisoners as if chained with them - those who are mistreated - since you yourselves are in the body also." Hebrews 13:3.

November 13, 2011, is the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. Every year, an average of 160,000 Christians worldwide die as martyrs for Christ.

This year Christian brothers and sisters have been persecuted for their faith in Christ: in Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bhutan, Burma, Red China, Cuba, Egypt, Eritrea, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Laos, Malaysia, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Palestinian Territories, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Philippines, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

"All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution." 2 Timothy 3:12.

What Can We Do?

Be informed . *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge..."* Hosea 4:6.

Be interceding. *"Remember the prisoners as if chained with them..."* Hebrews 13:3.

Be involved . *"Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me."* Matthew 25:40.

Read books on the persecuted ; such as: *Foxes's Book of Martyrs; Tortured for Christ; Going Through - Even If the Door is Closed; Faith Under Fire in Sudan; In the Killing Fields of Mozambique; Holocaust in Rwanda; Slavery, Terrorism and Islam.*

View, or screen, films on the persecuted ; such as: *The End of the Spear; Sudan-The Hidden Holocaust; Terrorism and Persecution- Understanding Islamic Jihad; Behind the Sun*; etc.

Mobilize your family, friends and congregation to pray for the persecuted.

Write letters to the editor of your local newspapers or magazines. Write to your elected representative, urging pressure on the persecutors and assistance to the persecuted.

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves..." Proverbs 31:8.

* Excerpted from <http://www.frontline.org.za/articles/prayforthepersecuted.htm>. For more information on the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, visit <http://www.idop.org/>.

Missions Committee Updates

By Jim Aldrich

Check Out the Missions Committee Page on our Website!

The Missions Committee page of our Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church's website has some really good info about our TBPC Missions Program. On the Missions page, you'll find a list of all of our supported missionaries and where they are serving.

You'll also find general information about our Missions Ministry, along with PowerPoint presentations showing information about our 2010 Missions Trip to Mexico, and our 2011 Missions Trip to Cherokee.

The webpage also contains missions-related resources, along with a listing of books and DVDs that are in our Church's Missions Library.

To get to the Missions page, go to our Church's web site, www.tampabaypresbyterian.org, put your mouse over the word "Missions" on the left side of the Homepage, and then slide your mouse over and down to the word "Missions Committee," and click! Or you can go directly there by putting <http://www.tampabaypresbyterian.org/Missions/Missions.htm> in your browser's address window.

TBPC To Send 2 Missions Teams

The Session approved the Missions Committee's recommendation to send two missions teams this coming summer, as follows: One Missions Team will go to Cherokee, NC; this project will build on last summer's experience, and the lessons learned. John Ausmus has volunteered to lead the Missions Trip to Cherokee.

The second Missions Team will go to Ciudad Victoria; this will probably be a small team, and be subject to following restrictions -

- a) No children younger than 13 years old will be allowed on Team.
- b) If the Team has youth, the Team must be comprised of at least 30% adults.
- c) The size of the Team cannot exceed 15 people.
- d) Missions Trip Teams will be limited to visits to partner churches only.
- e) Missions Trip Teams will only use a couple of very specific hotels in the city. This will most likely increase the cost of the trip.

The dates and the specific details for these 2 Missions Trips are being developed now. If you have any interest whatsoever in supporting these Missions Trips, or participating in them, see John Ausmus or Jim Aldrich, or indicate your interest using the Friendship Registration form at Church. More info will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead.

Mark Your Calendars

TBPC's next Missions Conference will be Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, February 10-12, 2012. Dr. Paul Kooistra, Coordinator of Mission to the World, our denomination's missions organization, will be our Keynote Speaker. More details will be published in the months ahead about this exciting weekend at TBPC!

Missionaries Supported by TBPC

Mission to the World

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Alvarez

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Pam Johnston

TBPC Able to Assist Missionary Family

As many of you know, Pastor Gama is Pastor of Puerta de Salvación (Door of Salvation), one of the three Presbyterian Churches in Ciudad Victoria, with which TBPC has close ties. This year, Pastor Gama's two children were scheduled to enter the city's Christian School, but the initial fees for uniforms and books were an obstacle. TBPC, through the Missions Fund, was able to meet this need, and Sammy and Abi entered school!

Here is the note of thanks from Pastor Gama, along with a picture of Sammy and Abi:

I just want to write this quick note to thank you and the Church for the money you sent. I got it last Saturday and on Monday I went ahead to pay for the kid's school and uniforms.

We really don't have enough words to express our gratitude.

May our wonderful Savior continue to be with you and Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church.

In His service,

Gama.



"The motive is this, 'Oh! that God could be glorified, that Jesus might see the reward of his sufferings! Oh! that sinners might be saved, so that God might have new tongues to praise him, new hearts to love him! Oh! that sin were put an end to, that the holiness, righteousness, mercy, and power of God might be magnified!' This is the way to pray; when thy prayers seek God's glory, it is God's glory to answer thy prayers."

—C. H. Spurgeon

God's Extraordinary Grace

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feature. In my dream I was aware that my son was nearby but my husband was not. I was with a realtor looking for a house. As we looked at one home, the realtor looked at me and said, **Rita, from here you'll be able to see the bay. In my first dream, the main image impressed on my memory was the house of the man I was about to marry.** In this dream it was the words of the person helping me find a house in which to raise my son.

On Thursday, November 14, John and two others from his squadron flew to Dothan, Alabama. The next day they were to conduct an inflight test of a Navy C-131 that had been overhauled by a civilian contractor and then fly it back to Andrews. At least, that was the plan.

That night, I had another dream--a nightmare, actually. When I awoke in the morning, I was exhausted and felt I had not slept at all. I had dreamed the same dream again and again all night. In my dream I was an ambulance driver, constantly being called on the radio to pick up someone who had been injured. When I would get to the house where I had been sent, the injured person would be dead. The ambulance would then become a hearse. After each call, I would beg not to go **on another one. I tried to explain over the radio that I wasn't an ambulance driver and I really didn't want to be there.** The dream seemed to repeat itself all night long. **On the morning of November 15, I felt emotionally drained and utterly exhausted. I couldn't fathom why I had dreamed the same horrible dream all night.**

Shortly after ten o'clock that Friday morning, John and the other two men took off in their airplane to conduct the inflight test. They could not have anticipated what awaited them. The minute they were airborne, John radioed the tower that the flight controls had locked in place and couldn't be moved. They tried to control the plane using the trim tabs, but it was not enough. The plane crashed into a farmer's field near the airport in Dothan, killing all three men.

My parents were visiting from Pensacola that week. On Friday morning, we left for the commissary at Vint Hill Farms Station, a small Army post west of Centreville, to buy food for the weekend. On the way we stopped at Manassas National Battlefield Park to see the site of two famous Civil War battles. At about 10:15 a.m., I remember standing on a stone bridge overlooking the battlefield and suddenly feeling John was very close to me. It made me feel safe and secure. At the commissary I bought all his favorite foods.

I expected him home late Friday and knew he would call as soon as he landed at Andrews. Early in the afternoon, I called the duty officer at his squadron to see when he was expected to arrive. **The officer told me he didn't know. Late that afternoon, John's Commanding Officer and a chaplain arrived at my home to tell me he had been killed in a crash in Alabama. I remember asking if John's parents had been notified. John's CO told me another chaplain had been sent to their home in nearby McLean, Virginia, to give them the sad news. I called them on the phone and spoke to them briefly. They called John's three sisters and then came over to my house.**

As I sat with the chaplain and John's CO in my living room, I told them what I had dreamed all night. I was not thinking of the first two dreams but only the one I'd had the previous night. I was too devastated to make any sense of it but somehow felt I should have known what was about to happen. I wondered to myself if I should have tried to call John to warn him. I thought there must have been some reason for the dream.

The next few months were very difficult. After John's funeral at Arlington, I packed up our home in Centreville, put it up for sale and moved back to Pensacola with Matthew. Initially, we stayed with my parents. I needed to be close to my family until I could decide what to do next. I was in the middle of grief and confused about how this could have happened to my husband. He was one of the good guys--an elder at church and a wonderful husband and father. Why would

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God's Extraordinary Grace

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God take him away from me? Why would God deprive our son of a godly role model? I never stopped believing God was real, but I struggled to believe I could trust him to be good to me. I felt unsafe and unprotected. I wondered what good it did to pray for safety when I knew tragedy might **be around the next corner. I felt I could no longer place my hope in God's care. Having been raised** in the church from my earliest childhood, it was the first time in my life when I had no answers to **life's hard questions.**

In February 1986, I decided it was time to build a home in Pensacola for Matthew and me. Designing homes had always been a passion of mine. My college degree was in housing, and in Virginia I worked with a design team remodeling kitchens. Since I loved to draw floor plans for homes, I thought it would be very good therapy to design a home in which to raise my son. I hoped to give him the kind of home John would have wanted him to have. I really thought it would be just the two of us from that time onward.

One of my closest friends from high school and college was a custom home builder in Pensacola. I called to ask if he would build me a house that I would design. He agreed to show me some of the lots he owned that might be suitable for the home I imagined. After we had driven around most of the city, he took me to one of his lots east of the airport, near the cliffs that overlooked Escambia Bay. **He stopped his truck in front of the vacant lot, turned to me and said, Rita, from here you'll be** able to see the bay.

I was completely stunned! I had not given a single thought to the dream since the previous November. I was so shocked, I had to get out of the truck to collect my thoughts. My friend had no idea what had come over me, but I knew God had just performed an extraordinary work in my heart. Never before had I been so aware of his presence in my life. Immediately I realized he had **sent me the dream to prepare me for John's death and strengthen my faith.**

In that moment, I understood in a deeper way two wonderful truths about God. First, I knew beyond any doubt that God was present with me. No matter what happens in life, he will never leave me. He is near to me and listens to me when I call to him, not distant and uncaring as I had allowed myself to believe. Second, he sovereignly directs everything that happens. However evil something may appear God is able to use it for my good. He knows my every weakness and will supply his grace when I need it. Immediately I felt safe and protected again.

In the next few days after I understood the meaning of my second dream, I began to remember **the first one about getting remarried. Although I wasn't yet ready for another marriage, I began to** hope it might be possible. In college I had prayed for a husband, so I decided to begin praying again for God to provide a husband when the time was right. I prayed for a godly man, one who would be a good father for Matthew and possess the attributes I admired—a sense of humor, a love of music and a few other things. I also prayed for a well-dressed man. It was fun to imagine who this person might be. For three years I prayed daily.

During that time, I attended a small church in Pensacola. Since the congregation was no larger than a hundred people, it was easy to spot visitors. One Sunday in February 1989, I was in my seat before the service began when I noticed a very well-dressed, younger man on the opposite side of the sanctuary. I literally did a double take. He had such a peaceful presence about him, I knew I had **to meet him. Following the service, I introduced myself and learned his name was Jason. I couldn't** have made much of an impression on him, however, because today he doesn't remember meeting me that Sunday. Nonetheless, I was sufficiently impressed and decided to get to know him if I could.

The church's annual missions conference was soon approaching, and I had volunteered to host a dinner in my home. I arranged with our pastor's wife to put Jason's name on my guest list. During the dinner I learned he was a Navy pilot who had moved to Pensacola from San Diego to be a flight

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God's Extraordinary Grace

(Continued from page 11)

instructor. This second meeting was closer to what I had in mind because the next week he called to invite Matthew and me to dinner. Although I had recently begun to date a few men, Jason was the first to extend an invitation to both of us. I accepted but arranged for a sitter to stay with Matthew. As I looked ahead to our dinner date, I was pleased Jason had wanted to include my five-year-old son.

After church one Sunday following our first date, I invited Jason to lunch. He explained that he was the duty officer for the training wing that day and needed to be at home. He was permitted to go to church but otherwise had to be near his telephone. I offered to get some carry-out and meet him at his house. He agreed and gave me directions. As I approached his house, it was as though I had re-entered my first dream. I was driving south on a paved street surrounded by tall pine trees. His house was near the end of the street on the left. It was red brick and L-shaped with the garage on the right.

When I pulled into the driveway I was overwhelmed! Jason was younger than me and had never been married. The house he lived in was the house I had seen in a dream more than three years earlier. I knew at that moment he was the man I was going to marry. I sat in his driveway and tried to decide what to do. I prayed, thanking God for such direct guidance and asking for wisdom to know what I should say to Jason when I went inside. I realized if **God was in this, then I didn't have to say or do anything. Since God had planned it, he would work it out in the ordinary way.** But my heart was beating a hundred miles an hour as I walked to the left from the driveway, past the garage and up to the front door.

Jason proposed to me in June, and in October we were married in that little church in Pensacola, Florida. God had answered my prayers for a godly husband and a good father for Matthew. In fact, he exceeded my prayers and gave me someone with more talents than I thought one man could possess. Eventually, I told Jason the story about the dreams. He told me that if I had told him about them that Sunday afternoon, then he would have stopped seeing me. It simply would have been too much for him to believe. What kind of lunatic goes **around saying, "God told me in a dream that we're going to get married"?** I was certainly glad I had kept it to myself.

More than 25 years have passed since I had those dreams. I've told the story on a couple of occasions to a few people, but I haven't written it down until now. Throughout life, God provides his grace in the ordinary ways of the Word, sacraments and prayer, and I've always thought they are marvelous. Sometimes, however, God does something extraordinary for us. And when he does, it too is marvelous.

In my life I have suffered in other ways besides losing my first husband in a plane crash. **Because of sin in the world, life is filled with sorrows. And because of God's redeeming grace, it is also filled with joys. God's grace to me during that time was minor compared to the lifetime of grace I've received. But it was in that terrible experience of my life that God revealed himself to me as the One who loves me beyond measure and will always keep me close to him. I still struggle with worry and get anxious over life's troubles, but since that time I have known to give everything to God in prayer. Whether today brings sorrow or joy, I have learned that God is near.**

How to Get Rid of Your Pastor

by John Roberts Journal-Advocate Religion Columnist*

Author's note: I find it ironic that this article is the one about which I've received the most positive feed-back. Wondering why that's so, I offer it to you again.

Some time back, I heard about a church that had been trying to "get rid" of their pastor. Sadly, this is something that happens a lot in the American church scene. We get unhappy with the pastor or with something the church is doing; and then, instead of doing the biblical thing and prayerfully seeking to work out the differences, we choose up sides. Then, if there are enough votes to dismiss or enough people to make things really unpleasant, out the pastor goes.

It's tragic, not only because of what it does to that pastor, but because of the broken relationships and the slow-healing wounds left behind, which often remain long after the pastor departs. Frankly, there are simpler ways. If you ever want to get rid of your pastor, instead of looking for votes or choosing up sides, try one of these five ideas.

Idea No. 1: During the Sunday morning message, listen closely and take notes. Look your pastor straight in the eye, and occasionally nod your head and say, "Amen!" Begin to make serious efforts to apply the life lessons you learn from the sermons. In six months, he'll preach himself to death.

Idea No. 2: Pat your pastor on the back and brag on his good points two or three times a month. Make a bunch of phone calls to your friends and neighbors and tell them all the good things about your pastor. In a little while, so many more people will start coming to your church, you'll have to hire an associate pastor, and your senior pastor will be free to leave.

Idea No. 3: Next Sunday, in response to the sermon, go forward to the altar and rededicate your life to Christ. Then make an appointment with the pastor sometime next week. Ask him to give you some job you could do for the church, preferably some lost people you could go visit with a view to winning them to Christ. He'll likely die of heart failure on the spot.

Idea No. 4: Organize a ministry to call on the shut-ins and elderly members of the church, and encourage the pastor, as the early church did (see Acts 6:1-7), to devote more of his time to prayer, the study of God's Word and sermon preparation. Tell him you'll take care of the widows if he'll take care of the preaching. He'll think the whole congregation has gone completely crazy and start looking for another church immediately.

Idea No. 5: Get a whole bunch of the church members to unite in earnest intercessory prayer for the pastor, his ministry and his family. Organize prayer meetings in which you pray for the growth of the church and the blessing of the pastor. The pastor may become so effective in ministry that some larger church will gladly take him off your hands.

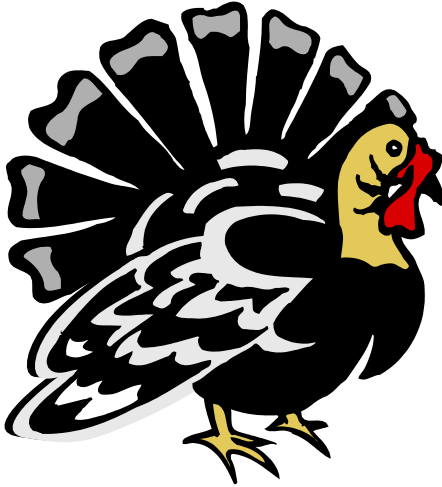
One note of caution, however: if you try one of these methods, you may find that you don't want to get rid of your pastor after all.

**John Roberts is the longtime pastor of First Baptist Church in Sterling, Colorado. This article first appeared online at <http://www.journal-advocate.com>.*



Thanks to Richard Germain

03-04-2011



November Birthdays

- 3—Brad Collier
- 3—Tatzia Iltis
- 3—Mary Tobar
- 4—Brian Carrier
- 4—Ryan Gawrych
- 4—Eric Isaac
- 8—Barbara Heil
- 11—Skye Campbell
- 11—Ethan Hayman
- 11—Carrol Josephs-Marshall
- 12—Penelope-Rose Atkinson
- 15—Alex Hensley
- 15—Molly Knox
- 15—Natalie Thomas
- 16—Justin Thomas
- 18—Freddy Fritz
- 21—Nora Jeffries
- 23—Jan Arthur
- 26—Roy Riley
- 28—Jama Dale
- 28—Jan Ousnamer
- 30—Jerel Tomasello



His Steadfast Love Endures Forever **A PSALM FOR GIVING THANKS.**

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
Serve the LORD with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the LORD, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his
pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!

For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

(Psalm 100 ESV)

November Anniversaries

- 12—Bill and Nora Jeffries
- 21—Rick and Deborah Donaldson
- 21—Bob and Randi Mallary
- 25—Wes and Mary Mollard

November 2011*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00p Pothoven Growth Group 7:00p Outreach Team Meeting	2 9:00a Women's Bible Study; 5:45p Family Dinner; 6:15p D2D Choir; 6:30p Pioneer Clubs Staff, KOTK Choir, Prayer Meeting; 7:15p Worship Choir	3 7:00p Worship Team Meeting	4	5 7:45a-9:00a Men's Bible Study; Men's Discipleship Group; 10:00a PHOS Youth Airsoft Event; 7:00p CMA Spanish Bible Study
6 9:00a -10:15a Children's Sunday School; Adult CE&F 10:30a Worship Service; 5:00p PHOS Youth Group; Nichols/Nobles/Knox Growth Group	7 10:00a-11:30a Staff Meeting	8 8:30a SW Florida Presbytery Meeting; 11:30a NTCA Lunch & Learn; 7:00p NTCA Board Meeting	9 9:00a Women's Bible Study; 5:45p Family Dinner; 6:15p D2D Choir; 6:30p Pioneer Clubs Staff, KOTK Choir, Prayer Meeting; 7:15p Worship Choir	10 12:30 NTCA Staff Meeting; 7:00 p Missions Committee Meeting; 7:00p Men's Bowl-ing Night	11 7:00p PHOS Youth Worldview Movie Night; 10:p PHOS Youth Girl's Sleep-over	12 7:45a-9:00a Men's Bible Study; Men's Discipleship Group; 7:00p CMA Spanish Bible Study; 12:00a PHOS Youth Girl's sleepover
13 9:00a -10:15a Children's Sunday School; Adult CE&F 10:30a Worship; 12:30p Emptynesters lunch; 5:00p PHOS Youth Group; Kirkpatrick/Aldrich/Nichols/Nobles/Knox Growth Group	14 10:00a-11:30a Staff Meeting	15 7:00p Pothoven Growth Group 7:00p Outreach Team Meeting	16 9:00a Women's Bible; 12:30p; Pacesetters lunch 5:45p Family Dinner; 6:15p D2D Choir; 6:30p Pioneer Clubs Staff, KOTK Choir, Prayer Meeting; 7:15p	17 7:00p Session & Diaconate Meeting	18	19 7:45a-9:00a Men's Bible Study; Men's Discipleship Group; 7:00p CMA Spanish Bible Study
20 9:00a -10:15a Children's Sunday School; Adult CE&F 10:30a Worship Service; 5:00p Thanksgiving Dinner and Service	21 10:00a Staff Meeting; NTCA Thanksgiv-ing Dinner	22	23	24 Church office closed Thanksgiving	25 Church office closed	26 7:45a-9:00a Men's Bible Study; Men's Discipleship Group; 9:45a Hanging of the Greens 7:00p CMA Spanish Bible Study
27 9:00a -10:15a Children's Sunday School; Adult CE&F 10:30a Worship Service; 5:00p Phos Youth Group; 6:00p Kirkpatrick/Aldrich Growth Group	28 10:00a-11:30a Staff Meeting	29 7:00p Outreach Team Meeting	30 9:00a Women's Bible Study; 5:45p Family Dinner; 6:15p D2D Choir; 6:30p KOTK Choir, Prayer Meeting ; 7:00p Pioneer Clubs; 7:15p Wor-ship Choir			

*Due to the number of events scheduled, we cannot fit all Sunday activities on the monthly newsletter calendar. Please consult the online calendar at <http://prem.calendars.net/tbpc> for the complete schedule of activities on Sundays in April.



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The Sunday Schedule

Time	Location	
8:45 AM	Classroom Wing	Sunday School for Children C E & F for Adults
10:30 AM	Sanctuary	Worship Service