

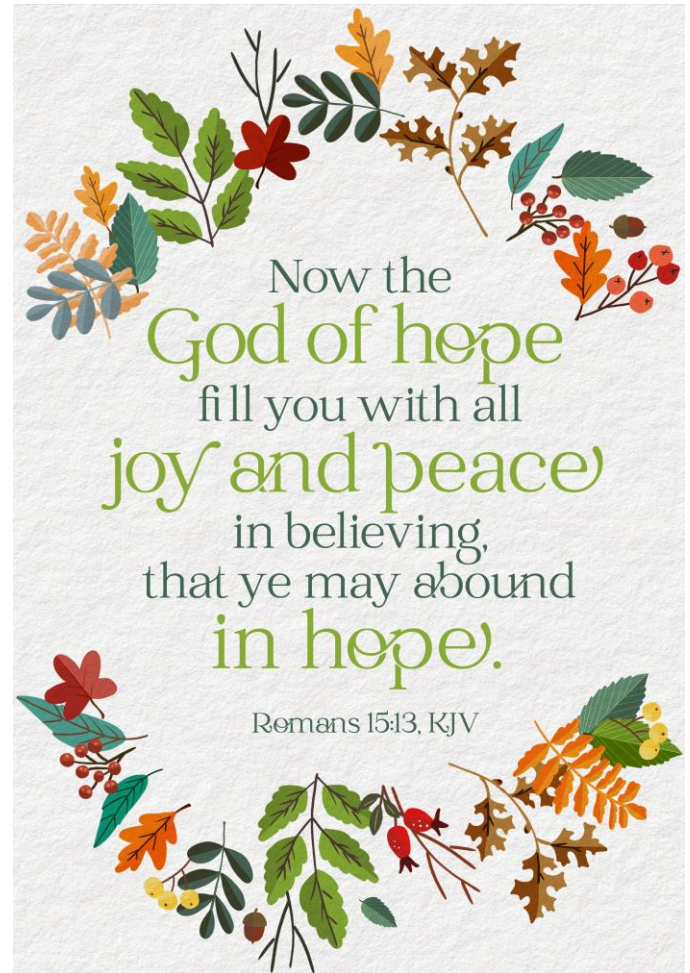
Coincidence, God's Sense Of Humor, Or What?

By Don Ober

A strange thing happened to a good friend of mine the other day, and I found it interesting, even though I cannot pinpoint if God was trying to say something to us, or if it was just an interesting set of circumstances. I'll let the reader come to any conclusion you wish.

My friend called me and told me he had a dilemma of sorts and requested my opinion. He told me he knew I was "spiritual," as he put it, and was wondering how God worked. He told me his dog had somehow gotten into their car, without their knowledge in the heat of the day and by the time he found the dog, the dog was past panting, completely rigid and near death. My friend whisked the dog out of the car crying and took the dog into the pool walking the dog around in the cool water for 45 minutes until he felt it was safe to transport the dog to the Vet. During this time, like we all do, he was crying out to God, making deals with him and all the things we should not do but do, because we are such fickle worshippers until we really need God, and then we will do anything for his intervention.

The dog was saved, and the Vet reported they avoided long term injury or even death. My friend asked me for my advice. He wanted to know if God sometimes expects us to return certain favors to his creation when we get answered prayers. I advised him that there is no way to ever pay God back. This is not how I believe God works, but He does accept good actions as thanksgiving, and it's a personal thing you need to work out with God yourself. He then went on to tell me a doctor friend of his had called and was in serious trouble and needed to borrow some money. My friend asked me if he was being silly to think he should help this man because of his answered



prayer for his dog. Again, I said, you can't make deals with God, but it's never wrong to do a good deed. He responded, "But I don't want to be foolish either." I agreed! So, I told him to consider giving him the money if he felt inclined, but maybe he should ask for an explanation of why he needed the money. I explained that his friend may need more help than just money. Maybe he needs a shoulder to lean on. How will he know what his needs are if he doesn't ask?

I almost forgot about this exchange until the other night when my friend called me again, all excited to tell me about the latest development on this situation. He told me he asked the man why he needed the money, and he wanted to give him help. So, he got his checkbook and started to leave the house intent on writing the

Continued on page 2...

“Coincidence,” continued...

man a check for his needs. I think I recall it was three thousand dollars. Whatever it was, as he was leaving the house to give the man his charity check, he decided to look in the mailbox before he left. In the mailbox he found a check for three thousand dollars. It was a commission check for some sale he made that he forgot about. There was the money he had planned on giving to his friend. My friend wanted to know my opinion. All I could tell him is God's ways are far above my comprehension and I can't begin to even try and explain Him, but I also believed God sometimes seems to have a sense of humor.

I am still scratching my head wondering what the lesson is. It is interesting what happened. By no means am I a “prosperity gospel” convert, so I get nervous with the thought of such things. On the other hand, I cannot help it. I do still believe in miracles. Christian life would be so much easier if everything was easy to figure out, but then again, maybe that's God's point.

ADULT

Sunday School

11th Hour

Our Adult Sunday School class for all adults will return to our study of Romans on October 6. Please plan to join us for this fascinating and challenging study. Class will be held downstairs during the 11th Hour.

**Happy Birthday!**

Blessings to all who celebrate a birthday this month. May you feel the love, joy and presence of the Lord as we all celebrate your special day with prayers and warmest wishes.

Elizabeth MacQueen	September 1
Dmitri Morozova	September 1
Yvonne Ritchie	September 10
Anna Yang	September 11
Jessie Yang	September 14
Jean Warner	September 15
Emily MacQueen	September 23
Elena Morozova	September 26

Perisseia

Our women's growth group will begin a six-week fall series on Thursday, September 19, 7:00-8:30 pm in the Chapel House. We will be considering the aspect of power in relationships, in the Bible and beyond.

All women are welcome, and no commitment or preparation is required. For more information please contact Cindy Bills (cynthialbills@gmail.com).

Elders' Corner

By Tom Taylor

My dear brothers and sisters, peace—oh how we need it. The peace of God. Paul tells us in Philippians 4:4-7, that this peace surpasses all comprehension. It goes beyond what we can understand. At times it does not make sense to us. How can this peace come to us? How can it guard our hearts and minds in these crazy days we are living in?

It comes in Christ. He has and is making the way. In Him we have been made right with the Father, and through Him we can walk rightly with one another. We can rejoice in the Lord again and again. He has released us to live by faith in Him above our circumstances. As God's people we have what others need. Let's be freely giving it in word and deed. Knowing Him causes us to cast our cares upon Him. We are free to be anxious about nothing, because we can trust Him. Freely lifting our hearts to Him in prayer, trusting He hears us, we thank Him. Knowing that He is in control, knowing His goodness, His faithfulness, and His power that is without end.

With that peace and in that peace let's serve the purposes of God in our generation, as it is said of David (Acts 13:36). Let's rebuild Windsor Chapel. Let's seek the Lord and see Him move. Let's believe in our hearts that nothing is too hard for Him. Let's see Him do a new thing in our midst, bring a new prophetic vision (Proverbs 29: 18). It is time to break up our fallow ground and seek the Lord (Hosea 10-12).

Please know as elders we are here for you. If you are struggling with anything we would love to talk and pray with you. He is worthy.



Financial Update

(Through July 30, 2024)

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want..."

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$73,376	\$103,833
Expense	\$83,329	\$103,833

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

Further Up and Further In

*Inviting dialogue to encourage growth in
and among us*



By Cindy Bills

He Has Made Everything Appropriate in Its Time Ecclesiastes 3:11

Human beings, by our very sin nature, have difficulty with transitions. The fear and shame that accompany our fallen nature urges us to seek security. Familiarity and predictability are often a priority. And yet research shows that there is real value in moving out of our comfort zone: Doing so empowers us as we are forced to exercise creativity and flexibility. It is often required if we are to experience real joy.

And here we are, looking at September, the month that most loudly signals change and transition. While there is excitement associated with a new school year, that excitement is often mixed with stress and/or anxiety. I believe our ability to make transitions in a confident and healthy manner can be improved if we consider some of the components involved.

One of the most significant factors in making a transition is our expectations. We often set ourselves up for failure as we view the transition as larger and our abilities as smaller. And while it is wise to be realistic, it is also wise to plant our feet on the solid ground of Scripture. We are called to trust in the Lord and depend upon Him to make our paths straight; we are called to put on the armor of God that will protect us from evil; and we are called to walk in faith, with the conviction that the Lord is working His good purposes in us and through us as we walk through our days. And while we long to succeed, it is often our failures that provide the Lord with the the opportunity to work for our good in the way we most need Him to.

Another factor that I often struggle with is the need for patience. We can be so eager to prove ourselves, become comfortable, and establish a new normal that we don't give ourselves an

opportunity to learn, make mistakes, and grow. Transitions, even those that we are fully invested in and enthused about, take time. And when a transition is not as appealing to us, an extra measure of patience is in order: It may take time to allow the Lord to give us His perspective and for us to see what He might have for us in our new situations and circumstances.

Earlier this summer, I had a wonderful time viewing a young bald eagle family in northern Iowa, courtesy of an eagle cam. As the two chicks grew into fledglings, I was surprised that the eagle personality that I have in my head—strong, bold, fearless—was not apparent in the two eaglets who sat comfortably in their nest and waited for their parents to deliver fresh food. Eventually, Eaglet #1 started to venture toward the end of the nest, and then a couple of weeks later, onto a branch that extended from the nest. Soon after, Eaglet #2 did the same. But even that step did not accelerate the transition toward flight and independence. The fledglings remained content to spend their days perched on branches. Eventually, according to the course of development that the Lord has set for this transition in eagle development, the eaglets began to use their wings for their intended purpose. I think we can learn something from eagles.

Transitions can be major or minor, exciting or anxiety-producing, energizing or exhausting; and sometimes they can be an unexpected combination of these characteristics. But as we walk through times of transition, securely held in the crook of His staff, we can manage expectations and bear the Spirit fruit of patience, which will enable us to grow more and more into who He has created us to be and to fulfill His purposes for us.

*Please feel free to contact Cindy (609-275-8557) or
cynthialbills@gmail.com to continue the dialogue....*

**If you have any items or information you would like
to share in the newsletter, please e-mail:**

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