

March 2019

Guardrails



Guardrails serve an important purpose. They keep a person from crashing in a dangerous place if they go off the road while traveling certain stretches. Have you ever been saved by one? Fortunately, I haven't, but I'm glad we have them. There weren't guardrails when we rode the motorcycle up Mt. Washington. I'm quite sure Jennifer would not go with me on that ride again!

The scene in *Matthew 15* makes me think of guardrails. It's one of the rare times Jesus is outside Israel proper, and a Canaanite woman comes up to Jesus crying out for mercy because her daughter is, "cruelly demon-possessed." Jesus doesn't even answer her, and the disciples finally tell Him to send her away because, "she keeps shouting at us." Then the shocking response, "But He answered and said, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.'" (*Matthew 15:24, NASB*). Jesus had healed the servant of the Roman centurion and offered water to the Samaritan woman at Sychar. Why such a cold response to this Gentile woman?

We know that the compassion of Jesus extended beyond the Jewish people, so it wasn't an issue of compassion. Jesus knew what He would do, He would heal the little girl. Was He testing the woman's faith? Was He testing her persistence? Did He want her to serve as a demonstration of faith or persistence, or both? Perhaps all the above is true. But what struck me the other morning is the bigger picture. Jesus is declaring the direction of His life-ministry (again). He is essentially showing that He has a clear understanding of the "guardrails" of His ministry set forth by the Father.

It wasn't that He didn't care about Gentile people or wouldn't minister to them, just that the sphere of ministry the Father assigned to Him was the Jewish people. It is seen even when He sent out the disciples – "These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: 'Do not go in *the way of the Gentiles*, and do not enter *any city of the Samaritans*;' ⁶ but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.'" (*Matthew 10:5-6*). Jesus still found His ministry to be fulfilling, even with this focus and limitation, "Jesus *said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work. (*John 4:34*). In fact, at the end of His life on earth He could say, "I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do." (*John 17:4*, underline added).

Oh, to know just what God wills us to do, the scope and the boundaries! I wish I was better at this. Taking on too much, or selfish ambition, causes problems (*James 3:16*), and not doing enough, laziness, is condemned as well (*Matthew 25:26, 30*).

I was visiting with an area pastor recently who said when such and such a sport begins, he doesn't see a number of families for several weeks because the games are on weekends. There is a plethora of good things today that we and our children can be involved in. Unfortunately, many of the events are on Sunday mornings. While I realize that being in church on the weekend, or not being there, doesn't make, or not make, a person a Christian, it does still communicate something. Parents, are you having spiritual conversations with your kids about what it means to be a Christ-follower and witness for Him, wherever you are? It has to be tough to be a parent today!

Maybe the example of Jesus here in *Matthew 15* can help. Do you know what the God-given direction is for your life? Can you recognize where some of the "guardrails" are to keep you going in that direction? When your time on earth is done, will you be able to say to the Lord, "I have accomplished the work which You have given me to do."?

Scraped but Striving,
Pastor Dan



in
this
issue

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March '19

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Visit the Library — Each Sunday after Services!					1	2 Men's Breakfast ~ 8 am, NC No Men's Study
3 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School ~ 9 am Pipeline ~ 9 am, NC Next Steps—Step 4, 6:30 pm, LL #102 (s.1) Ignite ~ 4—6 pm, LL #106 Fusion ~ 6—8 pm, LL #106	4 Prayer Mtg.~ 6:30 pm, LL #102	5 Library Hours: 10 am-Noon & 1-3 pm Primitimers Fellowship & Lunch with Missionary family ~ 10 am—1:30 pm, NC Women's Recovery Workshop ~ 7 - 9 pm, Monroe	6 NC in use 1 pm—3 pm Trek/Journey ~ 5:30 pm Awana ~ 6:15 pm	7 Good News Club at Parkside School concludes ~ 4 pm NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102	8	9 Men's Study ~ 9 am, NC
10 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School ~ 9 am Pipeline ~ 9 am, NC Next Steps—Step 4, 6:30 pm, LL #102 (s.2) Ignite ~ 4-6 pm, LL #106 Fusion ~ 6-8 pm, LL #106	11 Prayer Mtg.~ 6:30 pm, LL #102 Elder Board Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #106	12 Library Hours: 10 am-Noon & 1-3 pm Women's Recovery Workshop ~ 7 - 9 pm, Monroe	13 NC in use 1 pm—3 pm Trek/Journey ~ 5:30 pm Awana ~ 6:15 pm	14 NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102	15 Primitimers Pizza Hut Lunch ~ 11:15 am 	16 Men's Study ~ 9 am, NC
17 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School ~ 9 am Pipeline ~ 9 am, NC Ignite ~ 4-6 pm, LL #106 Fusion ~ 6-8 pm, LL #106	18 Prayer Mtg.~ 6:30 pm, LL #102	19 Library Hours: 10 am-Noon & 1-3 pm Women's Recovery Workshop ~ 7 - 9 pm, Monroe	20 NC in use 1 pm—3 pm Trek/Journey ~ 5:30 pm Awana ~ 6:15 pm 	21 NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102	22	23 Men's Study ~ 9 am, NC Sanctuary in Use — All Day
24 Worship Services: LORD'S TABLE The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School ~ 9 am Pipeline ~ 9 am, NC NO Ignite or Fusion	25 Prayer Mtg.~ 6:30 pm, LL #102	26 Library Hours: 10 am-Noon & 1-3 pm Deacon Board Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #106 Women's Recovery Workshop ~ 7 - 9 pm, Monroe	27 NC in use 1 pm—3 pm No Awana — Spring Break	28 NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102	29	30 Men's Study ~ 9 am, NC NC /K in use ~ 2-5 pm
31 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School ~ 9 am Pipeline ~ 9 am, NC Ignite ~ 4-6 pm, LL #106 Fusion ~ 6-8 pm, LL #106			PARENTS OF 2019 GRADUATES Do you see this calendar? Before you know it May will be here. We need you to let the Office know if you have a graduate! Please send a photo of your student and party information to the Office asap!			



MARCH Birthdays!

- 5 Ruth Joy Tuttle
- Laura White
- 7 Carol Botteron
- Brandt Schout
- 9 Kate Baer
- John Jordan
- Roger Krauss
- Joshua Skoumal
- 11 Roxanne Geisler
- Sarah Rische
- Sherry Thomas
- 13 Kadin Paske
- Duane Zimmerman
- 14 Karena Figi
- 16 Rylan Kelley
- 18 Jack Ferreri
- 22 Jezaniah Beernink
- Xylia Beernink

- 22 Tim Thomas
- 23 Heidi Rische
- 24 Dorothy Jensen
- Christina Tuttle
- 25 Marissa Hurlbert
- 26 Regan Bartelt
- Erik Haworth
- Craig Signer
- 27 Austin Zettle
- 28 Asher Kuenzi
- Libby Thoman
- 29 Dale Klitzke
- 30 Joan Coppes
- Haeven Kelley
- Amanda Ohlrich
- 31 Jenny LaRosh



- 6 Doug & Nancy Larson
- 8 Ron & Sharon Kubly
- 11 Ryan & Joni Proudfit
- Joey & Libby Thoman
- 21 Jacob & Brittney Whyte
- 23 Ray & Pauline Wyss
- 24 Jim & Deb Hurlbert
- 26 Jesse & Meranda Beernink



OneMeal Event

Monroe Bible Church will be holding our 4th annual OneMeal Event at the Monroe Middle School new gym on **Saturday, April 27 at 10 am.**



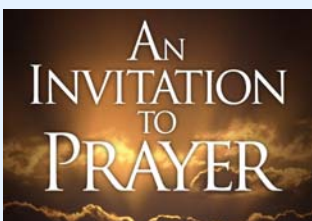
We need to raise \$5,400 to hold the event. These funds purchase ingredients through Kids Around the World for 20,000 meals and provides for shipment of the food. Tax deductible checks are to be made **PAYABLE to KIDS AROUND THE WORLD**, and placed in the OneMeal donation box in the foyer. The last day to donate is Sunday, April 21.



The ingredients are packaged in a family friendly, assembly line style. The food we package will be sent to hungry children in a 3rd world country (yet to be determined), who will also receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is a great family-friendly event where you can invite friends, neighbors, and co-workers to help pack. All ages are welcome! We will provide water and snacks, and the first 20 people to show up can receive a Thrivent T-shirt. Please sign up at the OneMeal table at the back of the church if you can help pack.

GUATEMALA MISSION TEAM

The 2019 Team includes: Bailey Gruber, Gabi IIs, Wendy Westcomb, Andrea Wilson, Jesse Petersen, Ruth Tuttle, Helen Tuttle, Kim Foesch, Ariel Foesch, Kim Markham, Adam Brunner, Jim Hurlbert, Chuck Chladil, Mike Westcomb, Rick Haworth, and Dan Krahenbuhl. The team will be leaving July 6 and returning July 13. YOU can be part of the team with your prayers and/or financial contribution. The team will be sending out support letters. Please note you will receive ONLY 1 support letter along with a support card. Financial donations will go towards the team's food, housing, transportation, Vacation Bible School supplies, translators, and the training center work project.



Prayer Ministry

On February 2nd I had the privilege of going to the *No Regrets* simulcast in Janesville. For those who didn't attend, I would encourage you to get the free *No Regrets* app on your phone and listen to the messages from the conference. Plan to attend next year!

Hebrews 11 is often called the "Faith Chapter" of the Bible. Prayer is the proper use of the tool called faith. In *Luke 17:5-6* faith as small as a mustard seed has great impact. This is because God is great. We need to pray and trust God. Exercise your faith. *Mark 11:22-24* commands us to have faith in God. God can't answer a prayer that we haven't prayed. Many times we don't have, because we didn't pray to our Heavenly Father. He wants us to come to Him in prayer. Set aside time daily to communicate with your Heavenly Father. You're invited to the prayer meetings on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. If you can't make it to the church, set aside time at home to pray with your family. Prayer is vital to the Christian.

NEXT STEPS

Next Steps—Step 4: “Our Equipping”
Learn about Spiritual Gifts.

Sunday, March 3rd & 10th (2 parts)
6:30 pm, LL #102

Sign up at the Welcome Center!

Men’s Breakfast: 8 am
Saturday, March 2nd, NC

Men’s Study:
9 am every Saturday
Nehemiah Center (with the exception of the
Men’s Breakfast Saturday’s)

Contact Kyle Ohlrich with questions,
719-439-1003

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER BREAKFAST

The 2019 National Day of Prayer theme is “Love One Another,” based upon the words of Jesus in John 13:34, which says, “Love one another. Just as I have loved you.”

“Love can change America,” said Dr. Ronnie Floyd, president of the National Day of Prayer. “We need a baptism of love by the Holy Spirit that will immerse the entire Church of Jesus Christ in America and a

baptism of love that will immerse all of America today,” he added later. “From the church house to the state house and all the way to the White House, we need to learn to love one another.

Even among the vast majority of America that “doesn’t look like us, believe like us, talk like us, and understand us,” Floyd said, “They understand that America’s broken. They may not understand why. But they understand America’s broken, and in their mindset, if there’s a God who exists, He’s about the only one who can fix it.”

Year after year we have seen God work through the relationships we build with community leaders who attend this event. Our outreach through prayer is making a difference, in the lives of those we pray for and in the lives of the youth who take a stand and pray. Please join us sharing the love of Christ at this special event!

Sign-up sheets for helping at the National Day of Prayer Breakfast will be at the Welcome Center beginning Sunday, March 24th. Volunteers are needed for prayer (ages 10-20), Table Hosts, Ushers, Greeters, Breakfast Casserole Servers, Registration Table, set-up and clean-up.

THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER | MAY 2, 2019

★ PRAY FOR AMERICA ★
LOVE ONE ANOTHER

LOVE ONE ANOTHER. JUST AS I HAVE LOVED YOU JOHN 13:34



NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG #LOVE1ANOTHER

Marriage Ministry – You and Me Forever; Marriage In Light of Eternity

In conjunction with National Marriage Week (Feb 7-14th), on February 10th we started a Pipeline group study on the book by Francis and Lisa Chan, *You and Me Forever; Marriage in Light of Eternity*.

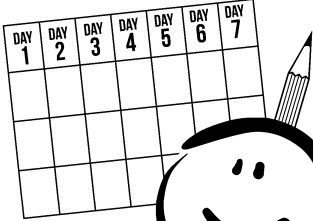
The emphasis of the book is creating a Christ-centered, eternity-minded marriage. The goal of the study is to have God do something powerful in our lives and in our marriages, all for His glory.

Helping couples to improve their communication and teaching them conflict resolution skills can be beneficial, but this is only treating the symptoms of the real problem. The true problem is only addressed when both spouses make their relationship with Jesus their top priority. The Chans tell us to “stare at God” and the fruits of our tender closeness with God will allow us to then reflect the light of Christ through our marriages.

You and Me Forever makes a great read for couples, and supplemental videos can be viewed for free on RightNowMedia.com. Another excellent book for better understanding and living a Christ-centered marriage is *Sacred Marriage* by Gary Thomas.

DAYS OF CREATION

Play this game to remember when God made each of his masterpieces.



What you need:

- Paper
- Rulers
- Pencils
- Markers or crayons
- Dice
- Bibles (open to Genesis 1:1-2:3 for reference)

What you do:

1. To make game boards, draw a grid with four rows and seven columns, totaling 28 squares.
2. Across the top row, write DAY 1 in the first square and continue through DAY 7.
3. Take turns rolling one die, or all players can roll at once. For the number rolled, draw something God created on that day (in the correct column).
4. When you fill an entire row, draw a smiley face in the DAY 7 square. The first player with two smileys wins.



Decode The days

At this time of year, God's creation "springs" to life.

Directions: After reading Genesis 1:1-2:3, write the correct Creation day number under each picture. Then add up each day's total and write it on the correct blank below.

Day 1 (light) ____ Day 2 (waters) ____ Day 3 (land and plants) ____ Day 4 (heavenly bodies) ____

Day 5 (birds and water animals) ____ Day 6 (land animals and people) ____ Day 7 (God rested) ____

Answers: Day 1 = 3, Day 2 = 3, Day 3 = 10, Day 4 = 6, Day 5 = 10, Day 6 = 15, Day 7 = 2



Color Time!