



BRANDON VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

July 2021

Editor Janelle Daum

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*“When I think on my ways, I turn my feet to your testimonies; I hasten and do not delay to keep your commandments”
Psalm 119:59-60*

Last month we talked about God’s sovereignty and what that means for us. The focus was placed on the fact that nothing comes into our lives that is outside of that sovereignty. That is the source of our hope as we go through our lives.

Right now sin reigns in this world. Paul tells us in Ephesians 6 that our battles seem to be against other people, but that misses the mark.

E-mail: jbvbeditor@hotmail.com your article.

We really are wrestling against the rulers, the authorities, the cosmic powers that have created this present darkness in the world, and spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. The current controllers of this world work hard to make it look like God has no control. The longer they can make people believe that the more they think that they can defeat God and replace Him, which was Lucifer's original sin.

The truth is that no matter what life looks like at any point in time it doesn't change the fact that God is sovereign. We have hope because He has a plan, and His plan cannot be changed.

Psalm 119:59-60 give us the simple answer to how we find that hope. This portion of the psalm begins in v.57 with a promise, "I promise to keep Your words." It continues with a plea for God's favor and grace in v.58, "I entreat Your favor with all my heart; be gracious to me according to Your promise." The psalmist had come to a turning point in his life, and it changed him. The psalmist thought about his ways and turned around and changed to live according to God's testimonies and commandments. The principle is that we look at what we are doing and where we are going and we change our direction. That moment of transparent reflection and determined change is how we align with God's sovereignty.

Alfred Nobel gives us an example of how effective that formula is for us. He made millions of dollars in his life from the invention and manufacturing of dynamite. One morning he got up and faced something that none of us ever wants to see. He opened the paper and found his obituary printed there. He was disturbed by the paper's mistake, but he was bothered more by the way that the writer implied that he had succeeded at the expense of others and their lives.

That was not his intention at all. It was a turning point in his life. He did not want to leave that legacy behind. His success would mean nothing if he was going to be remembered in such a negative way. So he changed the focus of his life. He put the bulk of his assets into a foundation so that future generations could benefit from his success. Each year the interest from his assets could be awarded to deserving people whose work is determined to be beneficial to society. He changed his ways and today Alfred Nobel is known for establishing what we still call the “Nobel Prize.”

What he did in a secular way is what we are called to do in a spiritual way. Transparent reflection is often difficult and painful, but if it leads to determined change then it is worth it. Walking according to God’s testimonies and commandments is just one way of saying that we choose to believe God’s sovereignty and live our lives accordingly. When we follow that path we find the wonder of hope.

Blessings,

Pastor Randy

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JULY AND BEYOND

EVENTS CALENDAR 2021:

Sunday's

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

10:30 a.m. Fellowship

10:45 a.m. Sunday School for the Whole Family

One Room Sunday School for Preschool (age 4) - 8th grade

Wednesday's

Awana Clubs resume in the Fall

6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. Middle School/High School Youth Group

Thursday's

12 p.m. Prayer & Women's Bible Study at BVBC

Women's Evening Bible Study will resume in the Fall

Saturday's

Men's Bible Study will resume in the Fall

Sunday, July 4, Independence Day

Saturday, July 10, 8 a.m. Leadership Team Meeting

Sunday, July 18, Newsletter Articles are Due

Sunday, July 18 - Thursday, July 22, Vacation Bible School for
Preschool (age 4) - 6th grade

MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

DARWIN & KAREN STOESZ - JAPAN



Darwin & Karen Stoesz, Anna (17) Clara (13)

Darwin's Role

- Serves as business manager to over 60 missionaries
- Serves as the housing manager and helps to arrange housing for our missionaries
- Build Relationships with Japanese people so that we can share Christ



Darwin is currently negotiating the financial requirements for the Japan missionaries.

Karen's Role

- Serves as Area Women's Representative (AWR) – caring for missionary women through prayer, bible study, fellowship and communicating training opportunities
- Serves as SEND's representative on the Board of Christian Academy in Japan (Anna and Clara are students)
- Build Relationships with Japanese people so we can share Christ



Karen is currently taking online classes through Moody Bible Institute.

Prayer Requests

- * Anna's transition to USA
- * Stoesz family trip to USA this summer
- * Continued health for our family and extended family
- * Wisdom for decisions that affect the SEND Japan missionaries and the missionary school CAJ
- * Salvation for some key Japanese friends we have

Contact information

Connect with us dstoesz@send.org

MISSIONARY UPDATES

AMANDA BENSON - PHILIPPINES



June 1, 2021

WE'RE DONE!

“Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.... Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell you what he has done for my soul.”

~ Psalm 66:5, 16

We've made it! We have reached the end of the most unique school year I've ever been a part of. Sometimes it seems like forever ago that I was sitting in my parents' basement, staying up all night trying to figure out distance learning from the US. And yet, it's hard to believe this year is already over.

When I get to the end of the school year, I like to reflect on what God has done or taught me throughout the year. God constantly reminds us to remember the things He has done and tell of them to others. So, here's a short list of things God has done this year:

- I had the technology I needed to be able to teach online, even though I was stuck in the US.
- God provided the exemptions Faith Academy needed in order to get new staff back into the country! And, a year ago, He allowed a bill to be passed that allowed us to get visas that made those exemptions possible in the first place.
- I was able to meet with four high school students for discipleship, which I normally don't get to do because of the schedule differences between high school and middle school.
- God provided me with a Bible study that has really challenged me to grow in my faith and to have deep spiritual conversations.
- I have been able to build some great relationships with students, even online.
- God has provided continued protection from Covid.
- God gave me strength to continue and persevere on this journey. As the year went on, it got easier and easier to manage my time, and I was able to have more and more time apart from work.
- God has shown me how some of my areas of struggle are spiritual battles that need to be actively fought.
- God worked out all the details and provided the funds for me to travel to the US for the summer!

This has been a year of growth in so many ways. I wish I could say this is the end of distance learning, but we are for sure online the first five weeks of the next school year, likely longer. But I have confidence that God is in control and He is working and will be working, even though the challenging, undesirable situations.

What has God been doing in your life lately? I would love to hear about it!

Thank you for your part in this journey and for being a part of what God is doing.

Praises

- The school year is over!
- All the paperwork and details have worked out so far for me to return to the US (I made it to LA, but I still have one more flight tomorrow to go to Idaho to visit my brother before I head to NE and SD).
- God is so faithful! I love thinking about all that He has done this year!

Prayer Requests

- Pray for a great time in the US. I'll be spending about 7 weeks here, being a part of my friend's wedding and celebrating my parents' 40th anniversary.
- Pray for continued protection from Covid (I'll be getting vaccinated as soon as possible but won't be fully vaccinated until the end of my time here), and for the transition from a country where we wear face masks and face shields almost everywhere and are still in lockdown to a country that is basically past covid.
- Pray for rest for the staff and students over the summer, so that we can be refreshed and ready to do this again next year.
- Pray that God would provide for the urgent staff needs we have for the upcoming school year.
- Pray that we would get the necessary endorsements or that the country would open up some so that our new staff and returning staff without visas will be able to get back into the country. Pray that the country would not impose another travel ban in July or August, as many staff and students who left for the summer will be trying to return then.

June 16, 2021

PowerUp! Prayer Update

PRAISES

- I had a wonderful time with my friends on the bachelorette trip for my friend who is getting married. The time was so relaxing and

encouraging and wonderful! I have now made it safely to my parents' house.

- To my knowledge, I have continued to stay healthy!
- I have had some great conversations that have really encouraged my heart and challenged me spiritually. It has been such a blessing to have these types of conversations!

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for continued health, particularly before the wedding on the 26th.
- Pray that I would continue to have great fellowship with those I am around, and that God would continue to provide conversations that will draw me closer to Himself.
- Pray that Faith Academy would get the approval we need to get our new and returning staff who don't currently have visas into the country soon. It will still be a process once the approval is granted before they can leave, so please pray that it happens quickly.
- Pray that some changes would be made in the Philippines soon. There is talk of not requiring face shields anymore as well as allowing foreigners who are fully vaccinated to only have to quarantine 7 days instead of 14 (all in a hotel for the 7 days, but still less than the current requirements). Pray that this would happen soon so that I will have less requirements when I get back (and less expenses!).

ONGOING PRAYER REQUESTS

- That God will give rest and refreshment to students during this summer.
- That God will provide the staff needed for the next school year, and that all staff will be able to get into the country this summer.
- That God will continue to draw me closer to Him and use me to further His kingdom.

RON & JEANNIE SECK - HUNGARY



“...In every situation, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” Philippians 4:6

HELLO, PRAYER PARTNERS!

We are so thankful for your concern and support in all ways. We have praises, thankfulness and requests...

Major Praise! WE JUST HEARD FROM OUR CO-LABORER FOR THE LORD, ENO DEMEROL!

~ He is greatly improved, his heart has not been damaged by his heart attack, he is back at home after being stabilized in Switzerland, and he is thankful for your prayers! Praise God!

PLEASE PRAY:

~ FOR major transportation problems: We have no car...our car has been in repair shops for 12 months with computer issues, limiting our ministry. The MEK van needs to be replaced. It is killing our team budget.

~ FOR Ron and me to have no Covid or travel complications as we fly to Albania and Ukraine to teach CHE from June 24 to July 8.

~ FOR continued progress with the water project in N. Macedonia; there are “roadblocks...” please pray for God to move the mountains!

~ FOR summer outreaches by CHE teams to touch and change

hearts in the Central European and Balkan countries.

Thank you so much for your concern and prayers. We all feel blessed by your loving care.

Jeannie and Ron

Missionary Contact Info.

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Tax-deductible donations can be sent to: SEND International
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Ron & Jeannie Seck:

Website: <https://justaseck.wordpress.com>

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Darwin & Karen Stoesz:

Address:

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Saitama Ken, 352-0032 JAPAN

How To Give to North American Baptist Missionaries:

Step 1: Go to the NAB's new missions webpage **nabonmission.org**.

Step 2: Click on the “missionaries” label.

Step 3: Click on the national missionary to whom you would like to designate your support.

Step 4: Click on the “give to..” button on the national workers page.

Step 5: Fill out the form. All gifts given through the NAB are tax deductible.

**BRANDON VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
PRESENTING A CHANGELESS CHRIST FOR A CHANGING WORLD**