



BRANDON VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

November 2020

Editor Janelle Daum

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PASTORAL MEDITATIONS



“In everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

1 Thessalonians 5:18

We all have a multitude of things we can be thankful for, don't we. Just list your possessions sometime and you will realize how blessed you are. Then add in all your family and friends, and all of those people who have made a significant impact on your life. Consider your salvation and all of the spiritual wealth that God has laid at our feet. Those blessings are indescribable. Next, think about the world

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

we live in, how it is perfectly suited to our needs and how it is filled with so much beauty. The blessings of God for which we can be thankful are overwhelming. He certainly does love us greatly.

There are other things we can be thankful for. We can be thankful for the things that others do for us even if, at times, it isn't exactly what we expect from them. I have shared the story before of a stockbroker who had made millions of dollars in investments for an Arab sheik. The sheik was so pleased that he offered the broker rubies, gold and a silver-plated Rolls Royce. The broker declined the gifts... he had merely been doing his job. But the sheik insisted.

The broker finally told him, "Well, I've recently taken up golf. A set of golf clubs would be a wonderful gift." Weeks went by. One morning the stockbroker received a note from the sheik. It read:

"So far I have bought you three golf clubs, but I hope you will not be disappointed. Pebble Beach Golf Club was not for sale, and of the three I bought for you only two have swimming pools."

We can also be thankful for what does not happen. How many times has the Lord kept us safe from accidents or disasters? How many times have we been in the position where we could make a big mistake and the Lord sent someone along to help us to avoid it? We can even be thankful for things that people don't do. One of Winston Churchill's colleagues once came up to him with a handful of pictures and opened the conversation by saying, "You know, Sir Winston, I've never told you about my grandchildren." Churchill clapped the man on the shoulder and replied, "I realize it, my dear fellow, and I can't tell you how grateful I am!"

That's how God blesses us. He goes far beyond anything we could ever imagine. So how do we say "thank you" to God for His blessings? His blessings are all around us. We can't escape them. Everywhere we turn we find God's blessings if we are looking for them. So, since His blessings are so pervasive, our thanks need to match them. It

isn't enough to just say "thank you." The measure of our thanks to God should match the measure of His blessings.

That's what Paul is saying in I Thessalonians 5:18 when he tells us, "In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." The giving of thanks isn't an event or a holiday; it's a style of life. To give thanks in all things means that we have developed an attitude, and a heart, and a lifestyle that is constantly overflowing with gratitude to God.

A lifestyle of thanksgiving celebrates God. It's overwhelmed with the goodness God has done, and it joyously celebrates Him.

A thankful life exalts God. It remembers only the good and lets gratitude for God's blessings overflow in celebration. It doesn't let self get in the way of giving God glory. A lifestyle of thanksgiving puts God on the throne and worships Him there.

Thanksgiving is a lifestyle that is overwhelmed with the goodness of God. Are you a thankful person? Then find ways to let others see that goodness of God through your life.

Blessings, Pastor Randy

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SPIRITUAL VISION TEAM REPORT

10/06/2020 Spiritual Vision Team Report

Present: Scott, Dave, Trevor, Pastor Randy, Eugene.

Devotion Scriptures: Consider what ideal cannot be destroyed by evil.

Ephesians 5:1-2 (NIV2011)

1 Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children
2 and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Matthew 7:12 (NIV2011)

12 So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV2011)

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. **The love of God cannot be destroyed by evil. The Holy Spirit in you produces a life that imitates God.**

Scott opened with prayer.

Business Items old

Youth ministry: Plan to try to have the middle school in the sanctuary and high school in the fellowship hall. We are still working on the leadership. The challenge of dealing with Covid 19 came up during this discussion. We need to have considerable prayer for our youth mission and those in our congregation dealing directly and indirectly with Covid 19.

Business Items new

Spiritual Vision Team Budget: We reviewed the 2020 Spiritual Vision Budget and where our expenses are to date. We then decided to discontinue working on the 2021 budget due to the wide separation between 2020 income and the 2020 Budget. This has been an extraordinary year. We thought we should have actual expense information from 2019 which was a more normal year.

Possible items to use as gift, advertising and community/neighbor witness: Good quality pen and note pads were discussed briefly. A magnet was also suggested as a possibility.

Our response and follow-up for visitors: Pastor Randy currently makes contacts by telephone due to Covid 19. A pamphlet/brochure has been discussed in the past and needs to be created.

Pastor Randy reported we are very close to live streaming.

Eugene closed with prayer. Submitted By Eugene

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER AND BEYOND

REMINDER:

Newsletter Articles are Due Sunday, November 15th

EVENTS CALENDAR 2020:

Sunday's

9:30 a.m., Worship Service

Re-Start Date TBD - Fellowship

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

Wednesday's

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., AWANA Clubs (Meet in Person)

7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., 6th-8th Grade Youth Group

7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., 9th-12th Grade Youth Group

Thursday's

2 p.m., Prayer & Women's Bible Study at BVBC
Women's Evening Bible Study held at various homes

Saturday's

November 7, 8 a.m., Men's Bible Study on ZOOM

November 21, 8 a.m., Men's Bible Study on ZOOM

Sunday, November 1, Daylight Saving Time Ends

Tuesday, November 3, Election Day

Wednesday, November 11, Veterans Day

**Saturday, November 14, Time TBD, Leadership meeting
at BVBC**

**Saturday, November 21, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., Great Plains
Association Meeting, Faith Baptist Church, Rock Rapids IA**

**Sunday, November 22, Time TBD, Annual Business
Meeting at BVBC**

**Monday, November 16 - Monday, November 23,
Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes are Due**

**Thursday, November 26, Thanksgiving Day, Church
Office Closed**

MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

BRAD SEIFERT



The Great Plains Association is made up of North American Baptist Churches in most of South Dakota and the Northwest corner of Iowa. There are currently 18 churches in the GPA.

Regional Minister, Brad Seifert, Kansas

We are thrilled to announce that Brad Seifert has been voted in as the new regional minister for the Central Plains Region, taking over the role for Dan Heringer, who is currently serving in the capacity of interim Executive Director for the NAB before he plans to retire next July. A well-known pastor in the Central Plains Region, Brad is a welcome addition to the role of regional minister.

Brad spent his early life helping his father and grandfather on their farm in central Kansas and learned much during these formative years. He attended Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas, where he earned a degree in business and economics and met his wife,

Tami. They were married after Tami's graduation in June of 1984, with Brad's graduation following a year later. They moved to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in 1989 after Brad felt God calling him into the ministry. He enrolled at North American Baptist Seminary, graduating in 1992. Brad and Tami then moved to Stafford, Kansas, where they began their ministry at Calvary Baptist Church. Brad was ordained in 1994 at Calvary Baptist with the Southwest Association, the same year their son, Zach, was born. In 1998, the Seifert family moved to Junction City, Kansas, where Brad has served as the lead pastor of Highland Baptist Church ever since. Brad and Tami have enjoyed being part of the Junction City community. Brad has been active in coaching youth sports, including coaching the junior football program since 2001. He also enjoyed serving as a chaplain for the local police department, was active in the local ministerial association and various other community involvements. Tami teaches in the local school district and coaches volleyball.

In addition to ministry at Highland and in his community, over the last twenty-eight years Brad has served in various roles in the Southwestern Association of the NAB. He has also served for several years on the Regional Leadership Team of the Central Plains Region and was previously appointed as a representative of the Southwestern Association to the General Council of the NAB.

We are confident Brad will eminently serve the pastors and churches within the Central Plains Region for years to come.

His primary responsibility, in cooperation with the Great Plains, Southwestern, and Southern Associations of the North American Baptist Conference, is to provide systems and resources so that every church in his region will grow to consistently help people love God, love people so they become disciples who make disciples of Jesus Christ at home and abroad. He joins with twelve other Regional Ministers with leadership from Dan Herringer, Interim NAB

Executive Director, to develop and maintain church health in NAB churches. Together, they have many tools to offer pastors, leaders and congregations who are ready to take another step in becoming more like Jesus intended.

MISSIONARY UPDATES

AMANDA BENSON - PHILIPPINES



October 10, 2020

God Answered Our Prayers...

...Just Not How We Hoped

I sit here tonight in my room, my bags still unpacked and my flights cancelled. This is not the answer we hoped for. But this IS an answer. In order to be able to leave this coming Tuesday, all the paperwork had to go through for me to be able to get a visa and enter the Philippines by Friday. Friday rolled around, and still no word arrived saying that our paperwork was processed.

Monday and Tuesday were a strong battle in my heart and mind. Satan was throwing his darts at me constantly, trying to get me to question God's goodness. Why does it always seem that you have to wait on God? He never does what you ask when you want Him to. He doesn't really answer your prayers. Of course He won't do this for you. He isn't really good. He says He wants to glorify His Name, and yet He won't do this? Are you really a good missionary or Christian for thinking these thoughts?

And throughout these two days, His Truth also fought back. I have always been faithful and will be again; think of all of the things I've done in the past. I am not slow in keeping My promises. I hear your prayers. I am always working. My timing is always perfect. I work all things together for good. I love and care for you deeply and know your situation. My plan is the absolute best--just wait and see! Trust Me.

Tuesday night, I had to make the decision of whether to rebook my flights or wait until Friday. I talked with a fellow staff member and friend in the same situation as me (we booked our flights together), and we decided to wait. We decided to see if God still planned to bring through the paperwork by Friday. Talking with her and making that decision ended the battle. I was going to trust God. I was going to rely on His faithfulness, no matter the outcome. He could decide to bring through the paperwork last week, or He could decide not to. I would trust Him and His perfect plan and timing either way.

And in His infinite wisdom, He chose to not bring through the paperwork (yet). And I praise God for His answer to prayer. Sure, I'd love to be writing you an email saying my bags are packed, I have my visa, and I'm going back on Tuesday. But I know that He answered the deeper prayer of my heart - that His will would be done. And how often I think we forget to praise Him for NOT doing what we asked, since in His infinite wisdom, He chose a better way.

I don't know what you think about The Shack, but I watched it once with my brother, and one image from the movie stuck with me. The main character walked through a tall overgrown garden, and it was very rough and seemingly ugly. There were moments of beauty here and there, but he really couldn't make sense of what it was and struggled to walk through it. But as the scene ended, the camera pans out so you can see a birds-eye view of the garden, and you can see that this really was a beautiful garden with intricate designs. This image reminds me that what is right in front of me won't always (or often) make sense to me. Sometimes it's beautiful and sometimes it's ugly. But, I can be assured that it is a part of a bigger picture that only God can see. He is the omnipresent, omniscient God, meaning that He is currently in the past, the present, and the future all at the same time and that He knows all things. This blows my mind, but also comforts me in knowing that God knows every aspect of what is going on. Nothing is a surprise to Him. He knows what I need and when I need it. He knows where I need to be and why I need to be there.

And He will glorify His Name.

He has heard our prayers and has answered. His answer was to continue to wait and to trust Him. And for this, I praise God! I still pray that the paperwork goes through in the next week or two so I can return to the Philippines soon. Most likely I'll leave within a week or so of it being processed, depending on how long it takes. But I rest tonight with peace in my heart knowing that God is still faithful. He is never late. And through this last week, I've learned more of how to fight my battles and have deepened my dependence and trust in Him. That, my friends, is worth it all. Those gifts are far more valuable than going back to the Philippines on Tuesday.

Please continue to pray with me that God will open the door in His perfect timing for me to return to the Philippines, and that myself and

others would trust Him completely as we wait.

Thank you for your faithful support, prayers, and encouragement during this time.

Amanda

RON & JEANNIE SECK - HUNGARY



Greetings from Ron and Jeannie.

In the last month we have asked you to please pray for emergency needs of CHE workers Marija (ZZ Serbia) and Sandi (MEK Hungary):

~We asked you to “PLEASE PRAY FOR Marija’s continued healing, for another surgery taking place this coming week, and for the remaining \$8,500 to be supplied.”

ANSWERS: Marija continues to heal well enough that she may be able to return to work in a limited way this coming week.

WE all thank the Lord, and thank you for praying... and for those of you whom God led to donate funds. Half of the needed \$15,000 has

been donated.

~And, we asked you to “PLEASE PRAY for Sandi and her 2 children:

- ~ for a house for them this week to be available for them to rent
- ~ for a place close enough to the children’s school so they won’t have to change schools
- ~ for funds to help with a downpayment for rental (or for purchasing if possible)”

ANSWERS: Sandi, Katrin and Józszika have found and moved into a small one-room rental flat in the village of the children’s school. The location is an answer to prayer.

WE all thank the Lord for the answers, and thank you for praying... and for those of you whom God led to donate funds. The cost of the local move was covered.

However, the need for a house is still a prayer request. It’s very difficult for three people to be living in one room.

PLEASE PRAY NOW FOR:

~The Lord to supply the remainder of the funds needed to cover Marija’s large medical costs by October 31, when the GoFundMe account will be closed.

~The Lord to provide a house for Sandi and the children to move into very soon.

Thank you for your care and your prayer!

Missionary Contact Info.

Amanda Benson:

Website: send.org/benson

Email: oboejo09@gmail.com

Address:

113 E. Leighton St., Brandon, SD 57005

Tax-deductible donations can be sent to: SEND International
PO BOX 513, Farmington, MI 48332, Missionary #169352

Brad Seifert:

Cell Phone: (785) 761-3953

Email: bseifertcpr@gmail.com

Address:

320 W Ash Street

Junction City, KS 66441-3818

Ron & Jeannie Seck:

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

Email: ronseck@gmail.com or jeanseck@gmail.com

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.

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PRESENTING A CHANGELESS CHRIST FOR A CHANGING WORLD**