

PRAY FOR EUROPE

BUDAPEST
EZSTERGOM
HUNGARY
STUROVO
SLOVAKIA
CSANTAVIR
BACKA TOPOLA
SUBOTICA
SERBIA



CALVARY CHAPEL HIGH SCHOOL MISSIONS ADVENTURE
DECEMBER 27, 2011 - JANUARY 6, 2012

WE WERE BOLD IN OUR GOD TO SPEAK TO YOU THE GOSPEL OF GOD..
1 THESSALONIANS 2:2

First Steps

WELCOME to the trip of a lifetime! We are looking forward to an incredible time of outreach and ministry in Eastern Europe. This tour guide will give you basic details about our trip, including our itinerary, important contact information, your daily devotions, and much more!

- Be flexible! Plans and itineraries will change.
- Be prepared! Each day, take time to review our activities and plan for the day. Have everything you need for morning through night.
- Be in prayer! Keep our team, the people of Eastern Europe, and our outreaches in prayer.
- Be pro-active! Ask the Lord to work through you, and take steps of faith to do His will.

And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations...Mark 13:10



*Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,
Philippians 1:27*

DAY 1



Tuesday, December 27

En Route to Hungary!

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God
for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first
and also to the Greek.*

Romans 1:16

Flying Details

Flight Reminders

- Keep your passport close and see an adult leader with any concerns about your travel documents.

- Do not leave your carry-on or personal luggage unattended at any time!

11 AM- Meet at the Charis Building to fly to Europe! Eat lunch before you come.

3:15 PM – Depart from LAX on LHR 457 to Frankfurt

Emergency Contact Information

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Hungary

All About the Money, Honey

The Hungarian currency is the forint - official exchange rate is 1 US Dollar to 235 forints. To make your life easy, take the forint amount and drop two zeros and cut it in half:

So, take 1000 forints

Drop two zeros to 10

Cut it in half to 5

1000 forints is approximately 5 dollars. Simple, right?

Good News

A 10 day devotional focused upon
the Gospel of Jesus

There is great importance in getting the gospel right. This seems like a no-brainer but if we don't know the good news of Jesus correctly and if we don't get it right then we have unintentionally distorted the image of Christ to those around us and to those we may be reaching with the gospel.

After all, there are many gospels being preached today. It is one thing to communicate a gospel and a whole other thing to communicate the gospel. The apostle Paul reprimands the believers in Corinth for accepting the teachings of people who have delivered to them a different gospel (2 Cor. 11:4). This same apostle also warns the believers in Galatia to not accept a gospel contrary to the one they received and he pronounces a curse upon the one preaching that false gospel! (Gal. 1:9)

It seems clear that the scriptures declare the importance of receiving and preaching the right gospel. This devotional is written that you might be confident in the gospel you have received and that you may boldly live the gospel and preach the gospel today and always.

May the Lord of glory open your eyes to the greatness of Christ and His gospel.

Day 1: Is the gospel really Good News?

-How the gospel is the best news ever delivered.

Day 2: Is the gospel really that important?

-How the gospel brings salvation to us through Jesus Christ.

Day 3: What is the gospel?

-How the gospel is both simple and complex

Day 4: The Divine Will

-How God chose to love and adopt us.

Day 5: The Incarnation

-How our God came to save us.

Day 6: The Life of Christ

-How Jesus lived and what that means for us.

Day 7: The Death of Christ

-How death can be good news.

Day 8: The Resurrection of Christ

-How new life only comes through Christ

Day 9: The Ascension of Christ (Part 1)

-Why did Jesus have to leave?

Day 10: The Ascension of Christ (Part 2)

-Where did Jesus go?

Random Facts

1. Who once saved their uncle's Weiner dog from drowning in a pool?
2. Who hates bananas?
3. Who has a fake tooth because one of their real teeth was broken by a penny?
4. Who broke their nose in 7th grade?
5. Who has never broken a bone?
6. Who enjoys playing tennis?
7. Who believes Rebecca Black is a government experiment?
8. Who loves Justin Bieber?
9. Who has never seen a scary movie?
10. Whose favorite animal is a giraffe?
11. Who really loves Scrabble?
12. Who can throw a pigskin a quarter mile?
13. Who has had three encounters with friendly sharks?
14. Who is obsessed with organization?
15. Who has been an American citizen for less than two weeks?
16. Who has a twin brother?
17. Who hates Sarah Yardley?
18. Which boy accidentally bought a girls' scarf for the trip?
19. Who is ridiculously good at hula hoop?
20. Which team members traveled through Europe in the last 12 months?
21. Who was an angel in a recent Christmas play?
22. Who hates feather hair extensions?
23. Who is a UFC fighter?
24. Whose passport said Female even though they are definitely a Male?

17. Eric Gomez
18. Daniel Beltran
19. Jason Baer
20. Sarah Yardley and Jason Baer
21. Annie James
22. Camille Baer
23. Ralene Merrill-Dumas
24. Daniel Paff

8. Camille Baer
9. Melanie Coyne
10. Cindi Flynn
11. Emma McKay
12. Greg Denham
13. Jaylee Robinson
14. Paige Losey
15. Kenny Wood
16. Britty Steinhans

1. Austin Lack
2. Paige Losey
3. Eric Pfautz
4. Daniel Paff
5. Paige Losey, Sarah Yardley, and probably a few others
6. Daniel James
7. Jon Pollock

DAY 2



Wednesday, December 28

Transit to Ezstergom

But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.

1 Thessalonians 2:4

Wednesday Details

11:10 AM – Land in Frankfurt and connect to LH1338

12:45 PM – Depart from Frankfurt on LH1338 to Budapest

2:20 PM - Land in Budapest, transit through security

4 PM – Meet Eva and Adam at the airport, meet the bus and transfer to Ezstergom

The team has a 49 passenger bus which is coordinated by Dia Drenyovszki at CCBCE in Vajta, Hungary <Visas@ccbce.com> / +36 70 431 5845. The bus usually parks near the airport at the Shell Gas Station waiting for our arrival. Once the team lands and begins coming through with luggage Adam will call the bus and ask them to come to the airport's pick up area. When the plane lands please go UPSTAIRS at the airport. The upper floor is the only area buses are allowed to drive. There is an elevator to make it easier for luggage.

7 PM - Meet with Laci for dinner and transfer to Rugby Club Hotel
<http://www.rugbyclubhotel.hu/>

9 PM - Check into Rugby Club Hotel, go to bed!





Daily Devos

Day 1: Is the gospel really Good News?

How the gospel is the best news ever delivered

As followers of Jesus or as church attendees we hear the word “gospel” thrown around with little reflection upon its meaning. As you may know the term “gospel” means the good news. But I would submit a change, if at all possible, so that gospel would be defined not as “good news” but as “the greatest news.” We all experience good news during our life time, anything from our parents receiving a new promotion at work to an acceptance letter to the college of our choice. Good news comes and goes in our lifetime and unfortunately can be overshadowed by bad news. This bad news can range from the destruction of your parents’ marriage to the loss of a loved one. One of the glorious truths about the good news, the gospel of Jesus Christ, is that it cannot be overshadowed by any of life’s bad news. The good news of Jesus conquers all of life’s situations and news that follows. This gospel, this good news sustains us in the present and causes us to look forward to our future that has already been secured by Christ.

But is the gospel really good news? Look at the statement given by the angel to the shepherds on the night of Christ’s birth. “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. (Luke 2:10) This gospel we preach in Christ is this good news of great joy. Even the title of angel simply means a messenger. You too are a messenger of God and have been entrusted with the same message that the angel delivered to the shepherd on that holy night in Bethlehem. This message is found in the next verse, “For unto to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” The gospel begins with a Savior being born to you, to me and to everyone we meet today. So, when we declare the gospel today by word and deed may we remember that it is good news of great joy because our God gave us a savior and he is Jesus. This is truly the greatest and most joyous news any person will ever hear. So go tell it today.

In one sentence, why is the gospel good news?

Esztergom

Esztergom is one of the oldest towns in Hungary. Esztergom, as it existed in the Middle Ages, now rests under today's town. The small town sitting on the Danube bank in Hungary played an important role in the establishment of the Hungarian state 1000 years ago. As a royal seat for two centuries and as a center for the Roman Catholic religion for 1000 years it abounds Esztergom historic and cultural sights. If you arrive on the Danube from the direction of the Danube bend the spectacular view of the domed Basilica perched on a hilltop reflects in the water



The Basilica

Hungary's largest church is the symbol of Esztergom. The building's

imposing sizes (Height: 100 m) make you feel a dwarf or gnome or elf.



Inside you'll find the world's largest altar-piece (size: 13 X 6,5 m) made by Grigoletto was painted on a single canvas picturing the ascension of Madonna. Organ and choir concerts attract many visitors inside the cool interior. They are only rarely trapped inside for hours without air.



The Bakócz chapel (Bakócz-kápolna) on the southern side of the basilica is the most precious relic of Hungarian Renaissance. Italian masters built the chapel from red marble for Tamás Bakócz archbishop in 1506-07. Its altar is made from Carrarre marble. The chapel used to stay more to the south was taken into 1600 pieces and rebuilt inside the Basilica in 1823.

Rugby Club Hotel

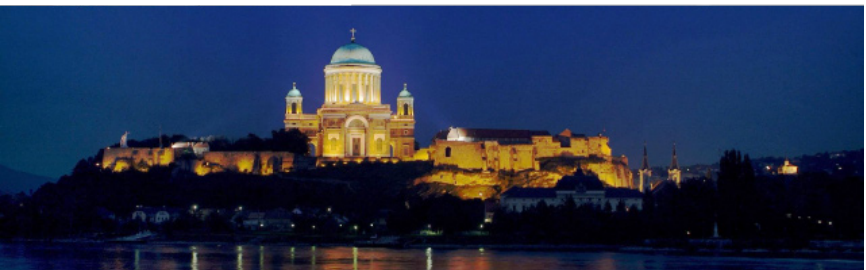
Esztergom, Nagy-Duna sétány 1



Special four star hotel in the bustling heart of the business and cultural center, yet quiet and peaceful environment for our guests. Thanks to its favorable location 5 minutes walk to the historic downtown, the cultural heritage, restaurants, pastry shops.

Esztergom's past history and scenic beauty in itself is an attractive destination and we now have a cheap but quality accommodation we offer in our town from couples, families, business travelers, groups, athletes, teams. It is true there are no stars, but there are winners Cup, which are the guarantee for quality. Rugby in the Olympic disciplines as a base is added to the building wall of the five Olympic rings, which is the world's number one brand logo, which guarantees the quality, both in sport and in the circumstances. In honor of Eric Pfautz, Austin Lack, and Joe Lak coming, the native Ezstergromians have challenged us to a traditional Hungarian football (soccer) death match.

The Rugby Club Hotel is not just a hotel, but community clubs, sports centers and recreation center!



Rugby Club Rooms

Floor 1

Room 1: 5 beds, shower and
bathroom down the hall
Greg Denham (the third)

Dylan Esqueda
Daniel James
Austin Lack
Eric Pfautz

Room 4: 4 beds, shower and
bathroom attached
Jason Debonair Baer

Joe Lak
Daniel Paff
Daniel Beltran

Floor 2

Room 1: 4 beds, shower and
bathroom attached

Sarah Yardley
Kylie Bradley
Melanie Coyne
Cindi "Bubbly" Flynn

Room 2: 4 beds, shower and
bathroom attached

Camille Baer
Melanie (the sea otter) Martinez
Emma McKay
Desiree Uht

Room 3: 4 beds, shower and
bathroom attached

Britty Steinhaus
Brooke Allen
Annie James
Paige Losey

Room 4: 4 beds, shower and
bathroom attached

Ashton McKeown
Ray Dumas
Rebecca Pena
Jaylee Robinett

Room 5: 2 beds, shower and
bathroom attached

Sherry Wilbur
Mariah Curran

Room 6: 2 beds, shower and
bathroom attached

Eric Gomez
Jon Pollock

Room 7: 2 beds, shower and
bathroom attached

Kenny Wood
Lazslo the Friendly Bus Driver

Room 8: 2 beds, shower and
bathroom attached

Adam and Eva (translators)

Remember

As Joel Lopez would say, no purple!
No boys in girls rooms or girls in
boys rooms EVER!

DAY 3



Thursday, December 29

VBS and Convalescent Home

For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.

1 Thessalonians 1:5

Thursday Details

8 AM - Breakfast

8:30 AM - Walk to the church (about 30 degrees F), about a 15-minute walk

9 AM - Laci will lead devotions with the team at the church

10 AM - VBS with 6-12 year olds, approximately 30 kids

12 Noon - Typical Hungarian lunch

2 PM - Convalescent home for convalescent ministry

Ministry/prayer teams, short time of worship, short teaching, skit presentation

5 PM - Church service

Our team will lead 3 English worship songs and teach at the study

8 PM - Dinner at the Rugby Club Hotel (pizza or Chinese)

9 PM - Spiritual care groups

Random Facts!

Calvary Chapels in Hungary are often called Golgota (a variation of Golgotha, the hill where Christ was crucified).

Think of this word, and try to measure what it means—Golgotha—with its cross and the five flowing wounds, and all the bitterness of the divine wrath, and the torment of death itself, for you. Men have been known to give away their lives cheerfully for some great military leader whose genius has commanded their admiration, but they were fools to throw their lives away, after all, for these men had done but little or nothing for them to make them their servants and slaves. But this Man, my brethren, if we had a thousand lives, and were to give them all, yet would deserve more of us, for he hath redeemed us from going down into the pit, saved us from flames that never shall be quenched, and from a pit that is darkness itself. By the eternal woe from which the blood of Christ hath uplifted us, let us, who believe that we have been redeemed from hell, consecrate ourselves for ever to follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth.

-Charles Spurgeon



Daily Devos

Is the gospel really that important?

How the gospel brings salvation to us through Jesus Christ

There are some popular preachers today who espouse a gospel that is not the gospel of Jesus Christ. Some of these TV preachers have enormous followings and very “positive” messages. Their messages are actually so “positive” that they avoid any use of words like sin, justice or wrath. If you listen to their sermons, if we can call them that, you would assume that the traditional gospel of the church is not that important. They are only preaching part of the gospel and sometimes a very small part. But can someone come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ if they have been told a gospel that does not deal with sin?

Even the message given by John the Baptist who prepared the way for Christ started with a “negative” word these preachers will not touch with a ten foot pole: repent! That word implies that someone is not where they should be. That place where they are is called sin and it is the ultimate taboo word for these preachers.

Though misled, many of these preachers are brothers in Christ who are unfortunately preaching part of the gospel but not all of it. They are trying to remove the offense of the gospel but what they are really doing is disarming it of its saving power. The gospel must include these unpopular words and concepts. When the gospel is preached rightly it will be joyfully accepted by some and offensive to most.

1 Corinthians 1:18 describes this perfectly:

“For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

Notice that the gospel is also called the word of the cross. Those preachers often ignore the wooden altar on which Christ died because the cross is where that unpopular truth, sin, is finally dealt with. This message proclaims the sinless life of Christ in contrast to our sinful life. It proclaims his death upon the cross for our sins. And it proclaims his resurrection from the dead in which he conquered sin and death...for us!



Daily Devos

This glorious gospel shows that these negative realities some choose to ignore are finally conquered in Christ. This gospel is not popular among the world system and never will be. But this gospel is the one preached by Christ and his apostles and is the very power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. May we be those who speak and preach the full gospel rightly that the power of God for salvation may be poured out to all those who hear it.

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

[Read 1 Corinthians 1:17-31]

In one sentence, why is the gospel important?

Ladislav Gyugyi



The Estonian Calvary Chapel Esztergom was the creation of God, in the early 1990s. Even a few years ago, South American missionaries worked in Hungary in the Calvary Chapel church, including street-by God, and other events, evangelizing. During one such occasion, Laci heard God is love, and there was forgiveness for his family. They began to pray and fast so that they may be used in similar ways for others to learn about God. In response to their prayers a small group came here

to serve. 1993 has seen the fruit of the prayers and services. God is still building and shaping His Church.

Over the years, God opened doors for Laci to lead the church in various services, such as retirement homes, wore on his heart to love the widows as the Lord Jesus would. We would like to have more children at a younger age to introduce the love of God. God led us to advocate for children in the orphanage. But Jesus, the street children are also very important, so we spend regular time with the young stragglers out there as well. We can see that God's kingdom has no borders, it is now Slovakia, also extends to our service. All of these examples seen in the Lord Jesus used his disciples and all who wanted to better know the things of God taught the Word of God. Our desire is that God's Word to the teachings of all faiths healthy disciples to do. All this Holy Spirit of God asking for help. The main part of work left to God and just watch what happens.

The Calvary Chapel is not an existing denomination broke off, but a spiritual awakening in the fruit of crossing denominational boundaries. Our mission is based on the Bible. Protestants believe ourselves to the extent that we are grateful to God for a house cleaning work carried out in history, but we know that other denominations, like us, we need continuous renewal. Every Christian is a spiritual community, we can house ourselves. With other Christian churches together we cry to God for revival.



Convalescent Home

1. It is the command of our King Jesus, to believe Him enough to reach out in love to those who are less fortunate and in need. *1 John 3:23 And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.*
2. The people in nursing homes are starving for Christian fellowship. *Psalms 38:11 My friends and companions avoid me because of my wounds; my neighbors stay far away.*
3. It allows us to show God's love to those in need. *James 2:8 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right.*
4. Nursing home ministry gives us the opportunity to touch the very heart of God. *Matthew 25:40 "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"*
5. Nursing-home ministry gives Christians who desire to serve God but believe they have little or nothing to offer, a chance to discover that they truly do have much to offer. *1 Corinthians 12:4-7 & 11 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.*
6. Nursing homes are great places to catch up on the latest soap operas.
7. Nursing home ministry gives the church an opportunity to be a witness of Christ's character in its own community. *John 13:35 By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*
8. If each church would faithfully and consistently reach out to just one nursing home, the people living there would not die of spiritual malnutrition! *James 1: 27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.*
9. Nursing home ministry can impact many people; yet it is one of the least expensive ministries to maintain. *Mark 4:31-32 It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade."*
10. It is wrong for us to know of people in our community that are in such desperate need and turn our backs on them. *James 4:17 Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.*
11. When a church's outreach program is rooted in the desire to increase its membership, it is giving to get something in return. Therefore, Christians who do not have selfless love motives as a priority are not only a poor testimony to the world; they do not and cannot know God, because God is love. *1John 4:7-8 & 16b Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 16bWhoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.*

Spiritual Care

greg denham

- Daniel Beltran
- Dylan Esqueda
- Eric Gomez
- Daniel Paff
- Jon Pollock

jason baer & kenny wood

- Daniel James
- Austin Lack
- Joe Lak
- Eric Pfautz

britty steinhaus

- Camille Baer
- Mariah Curran
- Annie James
- Ashton McKeown
- Desiree Uht

sherry wilbur

- Kylie Bradley
- Cindi Flynn
- Melanie Martinez
- Raliene-Merrill Dumas
- Rebecca Pena

sarah yardley

- Brooke Allen
- Melanie Coyne
- Paige Losey
- Emma McKay
- Jaylee Robinett

The purpose of spiritual care groups is for you and your team mates to spend time seeking Jesus together, reflecting on what He shows you during the trip, and growing in your relationship with Him.

Our prayer is...

For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

-Ephesians 3:14-21



Spiritual Care

Questions

- What was the most encouraging part of your day?

- What was the most challenging part of your day?

- If you had to choose one thing to do differently tomorrow, what would that be (i.e. pray more throughout the day, try to take a step of faith, get out of your comfort zone, talk to someone you don't know, look for opportunities to put others before yourself, etc.)?

Read a Psalm (27, 91, any your group chooses) together. Share how this Psalm reveals Jesus to you today!

DAY 4



Friday, December 30

VBS and Slovakia

*The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed.*

Luke 4:18

Friday Details

8 AM - Breakfast

8:30 AM - Walk to the church (about 30 degrees F), about a 15-minute walk

9 AM - Laci will lead devotions with the team at the church

10 AM - VBS with 6-12 year olds, approximately 30 kids

12 Noon - Typical Hungarian lunch

1:30 PM - See the Basilica, visit Sturovo, Slovakia, invite people to visit the local Calvary Chapel

4 PM - Youth Club (ages 12+), prepare for 30

Lead group games, skit presentation, lead worship, team member will teach the lesson

7 PM - Dinner with the youth group or at the hotel

8 PM - Spiritual Care Groups

Random Facts!

Hungarian history reaches WAY back – the country was founded in 896 and the national language, Magyar, was actually the language of the Huns – the only languages remotely similar are Finnish and Estonian. Daniel Beltran is fluent in Magyar, Finnish, and Estonian.

Rubik's Cube was invented by the Hungarian architect and sculptor Ernő Rubik in 1975, though he originally intended it to be a demonstration of how to independently move parts without destroying a whole. Only when he tried to restore the cube to its original arrangement did he realize its potential as a brain teaser.

The national drink of Hungary is Unicum, a more-bitter Jaegermeister with an aftertaste that makes you feel like you have smoke trapped in your throat – many people actually exhale as if they've taken a draw from a hookah after their first shot of Unicum. We will not be trying it during this trip, except for perhaps Lazslo the friendly bus driver.



Daily Devos

What is the gospel of Jesus Christ?

How the gospel is both simple and complex

If the gospel is the power of God for salvation then it would be important for each of us to know what the gospel is. Thankfully the apostle Paul breaks down the gospel for us in (1 Corinthians 15:1-7). Read it!

Notice the progression of the gospel: Christ died for our sins, he was buried and he rose from the dead three days later. That is the basic outline of the gospel and is very helpful to commit to memory. It is the bare-bones version but it is not the gospel inside and out. This description of the gospel is specifically given to focus upon the real resurrection of Christ and the reality of resurrection for believers. The reason this is the focus is because the Corinthians doubted that there even was a resurrection. So the way the gospel is described in these verses is not exhaustive. For example the gospel accounts don't start with Christ dying. The gospels according to Matthew & Luke begin with the birth of Christ. Mark's gospel begins with John the Baptist and Jesus' ministry and John's gospel begins before creation ever existed!

So what is the beginning of the gospel? Is it his death, his ministry, his birth or his divine love before creation? For the very beginning of the gospel read (Ephesians 1:1-14). (Read it!) We will discuss this in further detail tomorrow.

Keep in mind that the gospel is amazingly simple and yet profoundly complex. If you know the basic outline of the gospel as described in (1 Cor. 15:1-7) don't stop there. Don't be fooled into thinking that you have the gospel figured out. All of scripture is the gospel because all of it testifies of Jesus. Spend time exploring the depths of the gospel for in it is revealed the glory of Christ. If you do this you will never grow weary of loving and following Jesus.

In one sentence, what is the gospel?

Sturovo, Slovakia

Welcome to Štúrovo. Our city has a population of 11.100 inhabitants, and is situated on the left bank of the Dunaj / Danube river at the Slovak-Hungarian border. Štúrovo is the southern most city in Slovakia attracting a lot of visitors with its interesting countryside. The Bend of the Danube river starts here with a splendid view of the Basilica in Esztergom, Hungary. The river Hron flows into the Danube close to the city and offers excellent opportunities for adventure and exploration for nature lovers.

The town is surrounded by the Kováčovske Hills, the highest of which is the Burda with maximum height of 395 m above sea level.

During the Roman period this city was the site of the Anavum military garrison. At the beginning, the city was comprised possibly of the settlements of Nána and Kakath. Kakathvár was built as a summer residence by the son of the Magyar tribal chieftain Árpád, in the 10th century. Through the middle ages the settlement Kakath gradually grew in its significance, and had become a marketplace for merchants coming from southern and western Europe. During the tatár invasions the settlement was fortified. It was in this period that the city's new name "Párkány" was introduced.

In 1724 the settlement was promoted to town status with the rights to hold markets. King Charles IV awarded the town market rights and the most significant was the Simon – Juda market, held on the days of St. Simon and St. Jude (the favorite patron saints of Jon Pollock). This traditional market continues to be held annually even today. After the establishment of Czechoslovakia in 1918 the city of Párkány, formerly an in-land city of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, became a Czechoslovakian border city. The change of the name from Párkány to Štúrovo occurred in 1948.

The city is famous for its tolerance where throughout the centuries people of different nationalities and religions have lived together in peaceful harmony, like Sonny and Cher before the divorce, or Bill Clinton before the scandal. This diversity gives the city a special atmosphere and flavour.





Sharing Your Faith

Many people today reject moral absolutes, are deeply skeptical of religion, and know very little about the Bible. All of that makes evangelism in this new millennium more difficult than before. Often, people won't be willing to listen to the Gospel message until you've first engaged them in spiritual conversations that prepare their hearts and minds to hear it.

Here's how you can use conversations to help people get ready to respond to the Gospel:

View evangelism as a process rather than an event. Sharing your faith is a process that's best done gradually through a series of conversations with people, building trusting relationships with them over time. Evangelism is helping your non-believing friends take one step closer to Christ every day and in every way. Try to make the most of every encounter with your non-believing friends to help them take steps toward Christ.

Pray for more passion. Ask God to give you more passion for lost people so you'll be motivated every day to use your conversations strategically to help them find Christ.

Focus on availability rather than ability. Remember that it's the Holy Spirit who ultimately draws people to Christ. You shouldn't feel the pressure of being responsible for how people respond to the Gospel. Your job is simply to lead them to it and give them opportunities to respond. As you make yourself available to God every day, His Spirit will empower you to speak the truth to others in your conversations.

Be a musician. Listen carefully to what your non-believing friends have to say, and hear the sour notes – things that don't sound right – that they're singing to you. When you hear what people actually believe and detect discrepancies in their viewpoints, you'll know better how to reach them for Christ. So listen well, giving people your full attention when they speak. Eliminate distractions and focus on what they're saying rather than thinking of your response while they're still talking. Make eye contact with them. Reflect back what you think you've heard them say, paraphrasing it to clarify whether or not you truly understand them. Notice the different types of sour notes that people may be singing to you: discrepancies between their worldview and their heart longings, inconsistencies between what they say they believe and how they live, two or more beliefs that are mutually contradictory, and illogical beliefs. When you understand people's perspectives more clearly, you're more likely to engage them in meaningful dialogue.



Sharing Your Faith

Be an artist. Paint a picture using questions to help your non-believing friends see themselves in a true light. Rather than telling them what they should believe, tactfully ask probing questions in ways that allow them to surface the truth for themselves and evaluate the strength of their beliefs. When they see for themselves the inadequacies and inconsistencies of what they believe, they'll be curious to hear more about Christ. Phrase your questions in non-threatening ways to minimize people's defensiveness. Ask questions that clarify the meaning of unclear terms they're using (for example, if someone says, "I'm a pretty good person so I'm going to get into heaven," you could ask, "What do you mean by 'good'?"). Ask questions that surface uncertainty and expose false beliefs to help people see the cracks in the foundation of their worldview (for example, you could ask, "Do you think that all religious beliefs basically teach the same thing?" and then follow up by asking, "How is it possible for all religions to be the same when some of them contradict each other's key beliefs?"). To avoid overwhelming people with too many questions, pray for the wisdom to know which issues you should focus on.

Be an archaeologist. Dig up people's history to find the real barriers that are standing between them and Christ. People often have unspoken issues that are getting in the way of them coming to faith in Christ. They may have intellectual issues that are keeping them from understanding why Christianity is true; in that case, they need answers from apologetics. They may have emotional issues that are preventing them from considering the truth; in that case, they need you to listen to their concerns, demonstrate compassion, and pray for them. They may have volitional issues in which they simply don't want to consider Christianity because they'd rather run their own lives than let God guide them; in that case, they need love and prayer. Determine whether the questions people are asking are legitimate or a diversion designed to avoid the truth. Uncover the nature of their barriers and the concerns behind their questions. Find out what would motivate them to get answers to their questions about Christ.

Be a builder. Build bridges to the Gospel for people. Find the right balance in your approach between objective evidence (such as evidence for Christ's resurrection) and subjective experience (such as how people see God at work in your own life as a role model to them). Find common ground with the people you're trying to reach, and use those areas you have in common as the basis for meaningful dialogue. Earn the right to be heard. Then build a bridge from a point of shared beliefs toward the Gospel. Build "head bridges" by helping people come to understand the Christian faith better.



Sharing Your Faith

Build “heart bridges” by showing people how Jesus satisfies the longings of their hearts and helps them realize their hopes. Then look for opportunities to transition from preparing people’s minds and hearts to actually sharing the Gospel message with them.

Deal well with different worldviews. Get to know people’s varying worldviews well, and help them work through worldview issues on their own timetable, not yours. Don’t pressure them to make immediate decisions; that will turn them off. Be patient and keep encouraging them to question for themselves whether or not the foundation of their worldview is adequate. Use these two key questions as measuring sticks: “Is your belief system consistently affirmable?” and “Is your belief system in fact livable?”. Focus your questions on the issues that stand out the most, regularly asking the Holy Spirit for the wisdom to discern what questions to ask and when.

Answer the questions behind the questions. Aim to not only answer people’s stated questions, but also the questions behind the questions they ask you. For each question they ask, consider: “What are the possible questions (or issues) behind each question (or issue) that needs to be addressed?”, “What terms that they use need to be clarified?”, “What truth do I want them to grasp about the question or issue raised?”, and “What questions and illustrations can I use to help them grasp this truth?”. Then do your best to provide solid answers to their questions in ways that build bridges for them to cross to the Gospel. For example, if someone asks you, “Is it true that we’re all going to be judged after this life is over?” he or she may really be asking, “Is God really fair for sending some people to hell?” or “Should God be punishing me even when I do my very best?”. After answering the person’s stated question (“God is just because no person lives up to His standard of right and wrong,” you can add a statement that builds a bridge to the Gospel, such as: “But the good news is that God has provided an answer to our dilemma by sending Jesus ...”.

Always be ready. Be prepared to answer people’s spiritual questions at any time. But beyond that, constantly anticipate people’s questions or objections as well, and be ready to respond to them through your conversations. Use every encounter you have with your non-believing friends to help them take steps closer to Christ.



Spiritual Care

- What was the most encouraging part of your day?

- What was the most challenging part of your day?

- What have you seen so far that has surprised you about life in Eastern Europe?

Read Romans 10:15. How did today challenge you to bring the Gospel to people who would never hear it otherwise?

DAY 5



Saturday, December 31

Budapest and the New Year!

For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.

Mark 8:35

Saturday Details

8 AM - Depart for Budapest

8:30 AM – Devotions on the tour bus

11 AM – Arrive in Budapest, check into Agape Aparthotel,

<http://agapeguesthouse.eu/>

12 Noon – Walk to Calvary Chapel Budapest. Pizza lunch at the church.

1 PM – Phil Metzger will share about what God is doing in Hungary/at

Calvary Chapel Budapest

Afternoon – Set up for New Year’s Eve services and party

4:30 PM – Freshen up at Agape Aparthotel and get a snack.

6 PM – New Year’s Eve 1st Service.

Help with baby/kid’s ministry, greeting, or attend a service.

8:30 PM – New Year’s Eve 2nd Service. Help with baby/kid’s ministry,

greeting, or attend a service.

10 PM – New Year’s Dinner Celebration at CC Budapest!

Random Facts!

The first subway line of continental Europe was built in Budapest. It is called the Millennium Line as it was constructed for the Millennium Celebration of 1896, commemorating the Hungarian Conquest of 896.

Budapest used to be not two, but three cities before 1873: Buda, Pest, and Óbuda. These three settlements were united by the Habsburg rule.





Daily Devos

The Divine Will

How God chose to love and adopt us.

As described yesterday, the beginning of the gospel is God's choosing to love us and to adopt as sons through Jesus. Many people freak out over the theological controversy of (Eph. 1:3-14), specifically in reference to our being chosen and predestined. Every believer in Christ and his word believes in predestination. Shocking statement, I know. Let me explain: The concept of predestination and the word itself is used multiple times in scripture. Where believers divide is in how predestination is defined. One side takes the stance that predestination means to predetermine, to decide who would be chosen based on nothing in them or about them in the future. The other side teaches that predestination, God's choosing of us, is based on his foreknowing of our future faith and our choice of him. But whatever side of the predestination debate we find ourselves we must remember the purpose of this section in Eph. 1. The purpose is not to tell us how God's predestination works but that it exists. That his love in choosing us existed long before the world ever did. Even that is not the primary purpose of this section.

The primary purpose of (Eph. 1:3-14) is to show the Ephesians, who are believers, that God has given them every spiritual blessing in Christ.(v. 4) The first spiritual blessing give to us is his predestining covenantal love. This divine choice to love us and adopt us as his kids is the beginning of blessing and the beginning of the gospel. Have you ever stopped to think about the beginning of the gospel?

Read (Eph. 1:3-14) and write a list of all we have been given in Christ:
(These are the spiritual blessings)

In one sentence, what is the beginning of the gospel?

Take some time to pray and let the beginning of the gospel, God's choosing to give you all these blessings sink deep within your soul. Then take a moment to thank him in prayer.

Calvary in Hungary

How Calvary began in Hungary...

By the grace of God, there are now Calvary Chapels (Golgota's) in almost 20 cities throughout Hungary. God has called many people, Hungarians and missionaries, to the ministry in each of these cities, and yet we are constantly and prayerfully moving forward as the Lord continues to move.

In 1990, Pastor Brian Brodersen (then pastor of Calvary Chapel Vista, California) came over to Yugoslavia and Hungary to do outreach. Joining the outreach was a Hungarian pastor, who had ministered through the communist era and had even spent time in prison for the gospel. He was drawn to the simplicity of heart and the fruit of the ministry among the people who had come over to bring the message of God – that He had sent His Son into the world not to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. In 1990 this Hungarian pastor invited Calvary to come to Hungary to minister in the town of Baja in Southern Hungary, and that's where it all began.

In the beginning of 1991 Brian, ministering in Baja, had asked Greg Opean (then youth pastor of Calvary Chapel Redlands, California) to come over and help him. Rod Thompson, (who at the time was the plumber at the Calvary Chapel Conference center in Austria and who went on to direct the Castle and Conference Center ministry for many years), joined Greg. In order to serve the people around them and to learn Hungarian they started an English club in the Baptist Church in Baja.





Calvary in Hungary

As the fruit of their work a small group of Hungarians started to gather together in the School of Special Needs in Baja. We started an effective ministry towards children with special needs. In September 1991 our Church in Baja had officially started and we immediately started to serve people from Tompa who first started to come to our gatherings, but soon we had Bible studies in Tompa as well.

At the time there was very little western influence, especially in Southern Hungary (the last Russian military post which happened to have been in Baja had pulled out just one month before Greg and Rod arrived). Just being a foreigner in their land was something that drew the people to the missionaries. Every time any contact was made with anyone, the question came up, "What has brought you to our country?" and thus doors were constantly opening to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Soon there was a fellowship of people gathering, who had one by one given their lives to the Lord. They weren't satisfied with just one Bible study per gathering so at their request we started to have "back to back" bible studies on Monday night, Tuesday night, Wednesday night and then just one bible study on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. We were very happily busy in the will of God (we took Sundays off!)

Soon, the Lord began to open doors into other cities as people came and saw the simplicity and joy in the lives of those that were being saved. So we went into Szeged by invitation and the Lord began to move and the handful of believers soon multiplied greatly. As we were reaching out in the town center, a family from Northern Hungary who were vacationing in Szeged, came to the Lord along with their children. For the next several months we received letters from them every couple of weeks pleading with us to come up to their town of Esztergom on the Northern border of Hungary. "Please send us someone to teach us the Word and to lead us in Worship" was their request.

God in His provision had then prepared a group of guys to venture up into the Northern region of Hungary. To make a long story short, God has now opened the way for new churches in not only Baja, Szeged, and Esztergom, but also into Budapest, Debrecen, Kaposvár, Vác, Dunaújváros, Eger, Miskolc, Nyiregyháza, Pécs, Sárbogárd, Szombathely, Tatabánya, Tompa, and Vése. And we sense that a time of further church planting and sending out missionaries is upon us.

Calvary Budapest

In the spring of 1994, a group of university students in Budapest began traveling up to Esztergom every week to attend the Bible studies at the Calvary Chapel there. Greg Opean was the pastor at CC Esztergom at the time.

Soon Greg began traveling to Budapest every week to meet with these students. They began a Bible study on Monday nights. And this is how Calvary Budapest began. Since then, God has led us and blessed us as a church immeasurably... and we give Him all the glory. Many people have been touched by His message of love and grace.

And God's led us around the city – from YWAM offices, to the Vasas Művelődési Center, a summer on Margaret Island (it never rained once!) and then the Fáklya Club. In 2001 we moved into our current location, “the Mozi”, on Erzsébet krt. (For those who haven't been here, its an old theatre that is a well-known, historical building in Budapest.)

We have seen the growth of Home Fellowships, our Sunday School, a Gospel Choir, the sending out of missionaries to Africa and many more ministries. Over the years, one of our favorite guest speakers has been Phil Metzger. He is the Director of the Calvary Bible College in Vajta, and would regularly come up to Budapest to teach. (He also was serving with Greg back in the early days of the Esztergom church.) In September 2006, Greg asked Phil to oversee our new Sunday night service.

Then in the summer of 2007, Greg sensed the Lord was leading him and his family back to California. He asked Phil Metzger to become the new senior pastor of the church.

It's been an amazing journey, and we are excited about what God has next...



Agape Aparthotel

BUDAPEST 1073
AKÁCFA UTCA 12-14.
/Doorbell No. 05./

Phone: 0036-1-317-4833
0036-20-9227569

Agape Guesthouse offers accomodation in Budapest in a brand new building. All apartments are situated in a beautiful new built house in an easily accessible and central location.

Location: Agape Guesthouse is centrally located in the Pest side of Budapest. There is a metro station just around the corner and you find the main tramline (Tram No. 4 and No. 6) at the adjoining Blaha Lujza square.



Therefore the location is a convenient starting point for sightseeing tours. Among others Andrassy avenue, the Jewish Synagogue and the St. Stephen Basilica are within walking distance. The major international railway station (Keleti Palyaudvar) is only one metro stop away. The second biggest railway station

(Nyugati Palyaudvar) is four tram stops away. Within walking distance you will find lots of pubs, restaurants and shops especially on the Gran Boulevard, in Dohany street and at Liszt Ferenc square.

Phone/Internet Facilities
Wifi (free)
Wifi in bedroom
Wifi in lobby/public rooms

Room Facilities

- Bath
- Cots available
- Desk & chairs
- Family rooms
- Hairdryer
- Individual Heating
- King Size beds with plenty of space for snuggling with your roomies.
- Microwave
- Non-smoking rooms
- Soundproof windows
- Tea/Coffee making facilities
- TV - Satellite
- Windows may be opened
- Pet and lizard cages upon request



Agape Apt Rooms

Studio for 3

Adam and Eva the Newlyweds
Lazslo the Friendly Bus Driver

Studio for 3

Sherry Wilbur
Kylie Bradley
Raliene Merrill-Dumas

Apartment for 4

Greg Denham
Daniel James
Austin "in Jesus I have no" Lack
Joe Lak

Apartment for 4

Jason Baer
Dylan "Cool Glasses" Esqueda
Jon Pollock
Eric Gomez

Apartment for 4

Kenny Wood
Daniel Beltran
Eric Pfautz
Daniel Paff

Apartment for 5

Britty Steinhaus
Camille "Mermaid" Baer
Mariah Curran
Annie "the Angel" James
Ashton McKeown

Apartment for 5

Sarah Yardley
Melanie Martinez
Brooke Allen
Emma McKay
Jaylee Robinett

Apartment for 6

Paige Losey
Desiree Uht
Melanie Coyne
Cindi Flynn
Rebecca Pena

DAY 6



Sunday, January 1, 2012

Enjoying Budapest

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Romans 1:16

Sunday Details

3 AM – New Year’s Party ends!

Rest Day! Sleep in, see the city of Budapest, learn the history, spend time with people. We will see the walking street, major monuments, and the Christmas markets.

Random Facts!

The world’s largest panoramic image was taken in Budapest from the top of Gellért Hill. It has broken two world records, doubling the previous one.

The “biro” or ballpoint pen was invented by a Hungarian, Sir Biro László József, born in Budapest. His former home under 24 Nagymező Street now houses the Thália Theatre.

The world’s largest geothermic cave system can be found under Budapest. In addition, the largest underground lake of Europe, one of the largest in the world, has recently been discovered under Gellért Hill.

The Western Railway Station (Nyugati Pályaudvar) was built by the Eiffel Company.

The Dohány Synagogue of Budapest is Europe’s largest synagogue. It is also second largest in the world after New York’s Temple Emanu-El.

Robert Pattinson filmed Bel Ami, releasing in March 2012, in Budapest. Teenage girls around the world fainted.

The Hungarian currency is the Forint, which is divided into 100 filler - although fillers are no longer in circulation as their amounts have become insignificant when exchanged into other currencies such as the Euro.





Daily Devos

The Incarnation

How our God came to save us.

One of the most fundamental and memorable aspects to the gospel is the incarnation. Who could ever forget little baby Jesus lying in a manger with donkeys, sheep and other various livestock all around. Unfortunately many people in our culture forget about the Christ-child and if they don't forget about him they seek to take him out of the picture all together. An example of this is seen in the city I live in. At the center of the city is a historic plaza called the Orange Circle. Every year during Christmas they have a traditional nativity scene with baby Jesus and the whole cast. And every year somebody with a mischievous streak in them steals baby Jesus! They take him out of the whole display. This happens in the East Coast as well with daily headlines in the newspaper that read: "Baby Jesus was stolen, "Jesus is lost" or "where is Jesus?"

Interestingly enough, as discussed earlier, some people today would seek to preach the gospel and take Jesus out of the whole message. Others would like to pretend that Jesus never existed in the first place; that he was never here on earth. The doctrine of the incarnation proclaims that Jesus is here! He is not lost or missing but he is here and he has been given to us. But why was he given and why did he come?

The incarnation, which means 'in the flesh,' is the theological word to describe God becoming man. The Eastern Orthodox Church declares that God became man that he might make man like God. What a beautiful statement that sums up the purpose and goal of God's plan to redeem mankind. This doctrine is the first part of God's predestinating divine love being applied to man. This event in which the second person of the trinity, the Word, humbled himself and took the form of a servant reveals so much to us about the love of the Father.

The incarnation shows us that God comes to us and he comes after us. Think on that truth for a moment. Too often we picture the Father sitting on His throne indifferently waiting for us to try hard enough and come to him. But this doctrine shows God, emptied of His glory, coming to us on a rescue mission. This is why he is called the Savior and we call him our savior. Some of our forefathers in the faith have referred to God as the 'hound of heaven.'



Daily Devos

It is an interesting approach to view our God as a blood hound but just as a blood hound seeks out criminals so too our God seeks us out; criminals. But he does not pursue us that we might be punished but our Father pursues us to redeem us. He comes after us so that we might be His own possession and receive His Son. Jesus came to redeem all that we are that we might become all that he is.

Read John 1:1-18 (Classic text for the Incarnation)

Read John 3:16-21 (Take your time and focus on each truth)

How has Jesus come after you in your life?

In one sentence summarize the Incarnation:

DAY 7



Monday, January 2

Off to Backa Topola

*Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the
gospel should live from the gospel.*

1 Corinthians 9:14

Monday Details

7:30 AM – Team Devotions

8 AM – Leave Budapest for Backa Topola, Serbia

11 AM – Arrive in Backa Topola

Taiwo Onasoga will register the team with Serbian officials

12 Noon - Lunch in Backa Topola

2 PM – Outreach program with youth from Backa Topola

(20 kids, ages 6-13)

7 PM – Dinner in Backa Topola

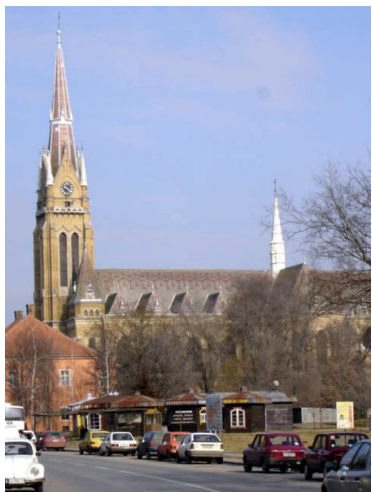
8 PM – Taiwo and Zuza Onasoga will share with the team

9 PM - Spiritual Care Groups

Random Facts!

The name of the town derived from the Serbian word topola (топола) (“poplar” in English). The first part of the name of the town was given to designate its location in the region of Bačka in the contrast to places with similar names, like Topola in Šumadija or Banatska Topola in Banat.

The town was mentioned first in 1462 under name Fibaych. This settlement



was destroyed in the 16th century and new smaller settlement was later built at its location. Name Topola was first recorded in 1543, while according to the Ottoman defters from 1580, 1582, and 1590, it was mentioned as a village, whose population numbered between 21 and 23 houses. In this time, the inhabitants of the settlement were Serbs. In 1704, Topola was destroyed by kuruc rebels. In 1731, Topola was mentioned as an uninhabited heath. In 1750, the new settlement was founded at this location and 200 Hungarian and Slovak families arrived here from Upper Hungary.



Daily Devos

The Life of Christ

How Jesus lived and what that means for us

After the birth of Christ we must go on to his life and ministry. This aspect of the gospel is often neglected when people communicate the good news to others. They may start with the incarnation and Jesus in a manger but then they jump ahead to his death on the cross. What about the time spent between his birth and death? It was his life that made the other more popular aspects of the gospel a reality. Without his life and ministry the incarnation, the cross and the resurrection would have been meaningless.

Jesus not only preached the good news but he lived it. What about us today? Are we Christians who are preaching the good news and living it or are we like the Pharisees? Those who knew the facts and information about God but they did not live it. How valuable is the gospel to a person who hears it and communicates it but is never transformed by it?

The gospel is meant to transform us so that the life of Christ might be seen in us. Jesus' sinless life of love and sacrifice accomplished two major things for us: He did what we could not do by fulfilling the law for us and He showed us what life in the Kingdom of God looks like.

His life is what our life is meant to be. Does your life look like the life Jesus lives? Are you practicing righteousness? Are you humbling yourself and serving others? Do you live a life of self-Sacrifice? Do you share in the sufferings of Christ? Do you love like Jesus loved? Simply put, do love live for the glory of God? Jesus lived his life for the glory of the Father and for the benefit of his people. We are meant to live that same life. Consider these passages:

-The Life of Jesus [2 Corinthians 4:8-12]

-Practicing Righteousness [1 John 3:7-11]



Daily Devos

-Humbling Yourself & Serving [Philippians 2:3-8]

-Modeling Self-Sacrifice [Romans 12:1-2]

-Sharing in the Sufferings of Christ [1 Peter 4:12-19]

-Loving as Jesus Loved [John 13:34/ 15:9,12]

Are you living like this? If not...pray and ask the Father to make the life of Christ be manifest in you.

In one sentence: Why is Jesus' life important?

CC Backa Topola

Our church began when one man, George Zshemberi, attended a Christian conference in Austria in 1989. There he met Pastor Brian Brodersen from the USA and invited him to visit his home church in the town of Bajsa, located in Serbia close to our town, Backa Topola. The pastor of the church in Bajsa first agreed about Brian Brodersen teaching there, but when they arrived he changed his mind. Then George, and another man from Topola, Romeo, made an arrangement with others in Subotica where Brian had the opportunity to teach at a Pentecostal church. After the Bible study Brian suggested to go out to the center of Subotica to play some music and evangelize. That day, a few young people received Jesus as Lord and Savior. Brian told Romeo to continue with witnessing on the streets and to teach Bible studies for the new believers. The studies were held in the center of the town at an outdoor location called the "Monkey place". Romeo asked Taiwo Onasoga; who attended and ministered in the Pentecostal church where Brian had taught, to help with teaching and work with the youth. After 2 months of work with the youth in Subotica, a team arrived from the US led by Mike Harris.

From that moment Mike, Romeo, Taiwo and another man, Tibor Varga, worked as a team. Their goal was to spread the Gospel in Serbia. Their mission fields were the towns of Subotica, Senta and Backa Topola. In 1990, Bible studies were being held in Backa Topola at Romeo's home, taught by Mike Harris and Tibor Varga.



Taiwo and Zuza

There were about 40 young people in the fellowship who came regularly to the studies, but many of them left because of the changes in the country as former Yugoslavia fell apart. About 15 of them stayed in the fellowship having a great need for a pastor.

In January of 1993, Paxton Knaap and Jeff Buxton came and led the church in Topola. After 2 years of ministry Jeff went back to USA and Paxton left for Romania to serve there. During their ministry, Taiwo taught on Tuesdays and continued doing so when they left. Tibor would also come time to time to teach. After Jeff's departure Arpad Sloboda taught on Sundays. The church didn't have a permanent gathering place during that time. Finally in 1994 the church gathered regularly in the homes of Arpad and Zsuzsa Csernai.

From 1994 Taiwo Onasoga took over the responsibilities of the church. Sam Esperanza came to Topola in 1995 to assist Taiwo in the ministry and then left to minister elsewhere. The fellowship grew in the knowledge of God's Word. In 1998 the church moved to a building where it is till this day. The Lord provided a place where we can come freely to worship Him, to listen to the Bible studies, and to have fellowship with one another. All praise and honor to our Lord for His deeds which He accomplished here, and for the people whom He used . Amen!



DAY 8



Tuesday, January 3

Family Visits and Ladies Tea

*For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!
1 Corinthians 9:16*

Tuesday Details

7:30 AM – Devotions

8 AM – Breakfast in Backa Topola

9 AM – Visit about 10 families in Backa Topola and visit new church plant in the next village

12 Noon – Lunch in Backa Topola

1 PM – Leave for Subotica

2 PM – See the city of Subotica

5 PM – Women’s Outreach Tea with about 20 women

7 PM – Burek for Dinner in Subotica

8 PM – Return to Backa Topola

9 PM – Spiritual Care Groups



Random Facts!

The official language of Serbia is Serbian. While the other recognized languages spoken are Hungarian, Slovak, Romanian, Croatian, Rusyn and Albanian. Joe Lak can do an excellent imitation of all accents listed above.

The Republic of Serbia was formed on June 6, 2006.

Serbia is the largest raspberry exporter, accounting for one third of all the raspberries in the world. Close to 95 percent of the world’s top quality raspberries come from Serbia.

The Miroslav Gospel, written in the twelfth century, is the oldest preserved Serbian manuscript.

As per UNHCR, Serbia has the highest number of refugees and internally displaced persons in Europe, a total of approximately 314,000.

The Roman Emperor, Constantine the Great, was born in Nis, Serbia, in 274 AD. Jon Pollock could give you a quick lesson on his historical significance.



Daily Devos

The Death of Christ

How death can be good news

Everybody loves a story or a movie that is full of twists and turns and ultimately ends in a way they least expect. Some of us may even have friends and family members that consider it their moral obligation to figure out where the movie is heading and announce it to everyone in the room. This persons attempt at guessing the ending or who the culprit is can be very frustrating if they are right or very humorous if they are wrong. In God's redemptive history of man there are many twists and turns in the story.

One of the biggest twists was God sending his own Son, in the likeness of human flesh, to live among us. Not only that, but he would be born miraculously from a virgin! I guarantee nobody saw that one coming. Then God throws in an even greater plot twist!

This Son of God grows up as any child does, lives a sinless life, performs miracles and preaches about how he came to set the captives free and establish the Kingdom of God. Then He throws in the twist. Jesus, the Son secures freedom for sinners and ushers in the Kingdom not by taking his place upon a throne but by taking his place upon a cross! No matter how committed the disciples were to figuring out the next event in the divine narrative they did not expect the Father's will was for the Son to die.

So, how could the Son of God's death be good news? *Read [Romans 5:6-21]*

This passage gives us the answer as to why Jesus died and why the news of his death for us is in fact good. Notice verses 6-9. This section tells us the truth that we are weak and unable to save ourselves so Christ comes and dies to save us from God's wrath. Without Jesus' death we are all under the wrath of God! Stop and think about God's righteous anger and wrath that he pours out upon all wickedness.



Daily Devos

How great is this news that proclaims to the sinner that God showed his love for them by sending His Son to die for them so that they would no longer be under His wrath but under His grace. This passage goes on in verses 10-14 to explain the need for Jesus' death. Simply put Jesus reversed all that Adam caused.

Adam brought sin and death and Jesus brought righteousness and life. In order to remove the sin of Adam Christ had to take the penalty and conquer it. That is exactly what he did and we who believe in the Son are the beneficiaries of that victory over sin and death and have received justification, righteousness and eternal life; to name a few. These gifts came through death and that is how death can truly be good news. [*Romans 5:15-21*]

In one sentence: Why is the death of Jesus good news?

Women's Tea

*Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.
Matthew 20:28*

- **Be willing**

- o You may be asked to clean, hold a baby, change a diaper, mop the floor, do the dishes, or set the tables. Come with a willing heart and loving attitude towards the women attending.

- **Be clean**

- o Keep your hair pulled back from your face, and wash your hands carefully after using the restroom!

- **Be friendly**

- o Remember, your smile and greeting may be the main way the ladies see the love of Christ! Let your words, your face, and your body language be shining reflections of Jesus.

- **Be alert**

- o Watch for ways to serve - refilling a cup, helping someone to a seat, or bringing a tray of food to a table. Don't wait to be asked!



CC Subotica

Kris and Oti have been a part of Calvary Chapel Subotica since its beginning in the 1990's. Kris is the Senior Pastor and has a heart to spread the Gospel, teach the Bible verse by verse, and see the church body be spiritually grounded and equipped for the ministry the Lord has for them. Oti works as an English teacher in a local school, oversees the Women's Ministry, and assists with church administration. In 2006 they started an outreach to Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, called the "Bible Workshop" which currently meets every Friday night for a Bible Study.

Find the church at:

Mirko Bogovic street 23, 24000 Subotica Serbia



On Facebook, Kris looks like this...



DAY 9



Wednesday, January 4

Gypsy Villages

The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

Matthew 11:5

Wednesday Details

7:30 AM – Devotions

8 AM – Breakfast in Backa Topola

9 AM – Leave for Csantavir

9:30 AM - Tibor Varga will share about the ministry in Csantavir, Serbia and we will minister to the gypsy families. Outreach to the gypsy village, children's day at the church with about 40 children.

12 Noon – Lunch in Csantavir

Afternoon – Visit the refugees in Csantavir

5 PM – Some team members return to Subotica for Wednesday night church service

6 PM – Return to Backa Topola

7 PM – Dinner in Backa Topola

8 PM – Spiritual Care Groups

9 PM – Pack and prepare for departure

Random Facts!

The Romani people, also referred to depending on the sub-group as Roma, Sinti, Kale, Romani or Gypsies, are an ethnic group who live primarily in Europe.

During World War II, the Nazis murdered 220,000 to 1,500,000 Romanies in an attempted genocide referred to as the Porajmos. Like the Jews, they were sentenced to forced labor and imprisonment in concentration camps. They were often killed on sight, especially by the Einsatzgruppen on the Eastern Front.

Gypsies are known as dancers, singers, and musicians. Gypsy choruses were extremely popular in the nineteenth century, and today many ensembles, which are usually built around a family, make a living playing at urban restaurants and for weddings. Some of these groups tour Europe. The Moscow Teatr "Romen" employs about seventy Gypsies full-time.



Daily Devos

The Resurrection of Christ

How new life only comes through Christ

If Jesus died and stayed in the grave then his death would not have been good news. The fact that our Lord rose from the dead is necessary for the gospel to be good news for us. Jesus could have become human flesh, lived a sinless life, died on the cross and remained in the grave and there would be no gospel to preach. The reason I draw this conclusion is because death would have won the victory. The Son of God would have been held captive in the earth's clutches; forever to be held under the power of sin and death.

The Apostle Paul confirms the necessity of the resurrection in *1Cr 15:17*. *"And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins."* Read the whole section of 1 Corinthians 15 for a deeper understanding of the resurrection's role in the gospel.

In one of his epistles, the Apostle Paul seeks to remind and instruct young Timothy in the gospel. Paul writes to him, 'Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel' (2 Timothy 2:8). Notice Paul uses the words 'my gospel.' This is in contrast to the other gospels preached during his day. Paul's gospel clearly teaches that Jesus died and was resurrected from the dead.

Other gospels of his day and ours preach a message without the cross and without the resurrection. The events that took place upon the cross and the subsequent resurrection itself is the climax of redemptive history. During the three days when Jesus was in the tomb Satan thought he had won. But as the Son of God emerged from the tomb, death was dethroned and Satan was finally stripped of his power over mankind. The gospel would now go forth to deliver people from darkness to light and safely bring them into the Kingdom of Heaven. (See Col. 1:13)

The resurrection is also a proclamation of the promise of God. Jesus said in John 11:25 "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live." Jesus coming forth from the tomb was a glorious portrayal of this promise to that those who believe in Jesus and die will surely live. Jesus conquering death and the grave for us means that we will share in his resurrection life presently and in the future.



Daily Devos

Presently we get to live and experience the New Birth. In the future the New Birth is fully realized during the resurrection of the dead at the second coming of Christ. At the resurrection our physically bodies will be reunited with our souls to live in his kingdom forever and never taste death again!

How could this not be good news? Death will have no power over those who believe in Jesus because death had no power over Him. All praise and honor belongs to the risen Lord!

In one sentence: Why is the resurrection important?

“As we remind ourselves that the resurrection is the only answer to the problem of death, we will appreciate its important place in the biblical message of hope to a helpless world. Jesus’ resurrection shouts of that THIS HOPE IS REAL, that we can FULLY TRUST GOD TO RESURRECT US.”

-Adrian Warnock, Raised with Christ p. 70.

Tibor and Family





Spiritual Care

- What was your most memorable part of today?

- How has God revealed Himself to you during this trip? What specific prayer requests have you seen answered?

- How have you been encouraged by our team?

Read Ephesians 3:14-21. What aspect of this prayer do you most want to see in your own life after this trip?

DAY 10



Thursday, January 5

Visiting Vajta

But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

Thursday Details

7 AM – Breakfast

7:30 AM – Leave for Vajta

8 AM – Team devotions

11 AM – Arrive in Vajta

12 Noon – Lunch in Vajta

1 PM – Tour of Vajta with Jeremy and Christi Foster

2 PM – Free Time

5 PM – Dinner

6 PM – Team debrief

Early to bed

Random Facts!

The Kastély was built in 1922 by the aristocratic Zichy family. In the early 1900's, they were one of the five richest families in Hungary. They owned 30 private residences. This particular mansion was only occupied for two months out of every year. During this time, they would stay here in order to oversee their property holdings of 1,483 acres in the surrounding area.

After World War II, the Zichy's fled to Sweden as the communists took over the facility. For seven years the communist leaders and families used it for a vacation home. After the Revolution of 1957, the Manor was converted into a camp for handicapped children. After the fall of the iron curtain in 1989, the new government did not have the funds to maintain the property

and as a result it was abandoned in 1994. It fell into a sad state of disrepair. In 2000, it was purchased by Calvary Chapel and underwent major renovations for the purpose of reaching out to Eastern and Western Europe with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.





Daily Devos

The Ascension of Christ

Why did Jesus have to leave?

The next stage of the gospel is an interesting one. Ascension is the term given to Christ's ascending, or going up into Heaven in Luke 24:36-52 & retold in Acts 1:6-11. (Read it!) When Jesus rose from the dead in triumphant victory He did not stay on the earth and continue his earthly ministry. Why? It would seem that the kingdom of God would have advanced much more rapidly if the resurrected Lord, who was publicly executed, now went about publicly proclaiming the gospel the way He had before. So why did Jesus leave and where did he go? Today we will look at why Jesus left.

The first time Jesus leaves His disciples is when He was crucified upon the cross and died a sinner's death. Imagine, for a moment, being one of the disciples who loved him and followed Him those three years and now the Messiah was gone. You watch His arrest and His crucifixion. After His public execution you are now left alone. I imagine that the Holy Spirit, desiring to bring you comfort and direction, would have brought back to your memory some of Jesus' words; like these in John 14:18:

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live."

Jesus gave these words of promise to His disciples; those whom He had chosen to follow Him. And it is these words that would bring comfort to those men who were reeling in confusion. But these are not just words to comfort and console their weary hearts. They are words of a promise that will be realized. The promise was given in John 14 and was fulfilled by Jesus' death upon the cross and his resurrection from the dead. The disciples were not left alone, Jesus did come to them and they did see Him in His resurrected glory. So, why in the world would Jesus end up leaving them again?

Jesus did in fact leave the disciples again but God did not. He did not leave them as orphans even though the ascension seems like He did. When Jesus went to be with the Father in Heaven He did in fact leave the disciples on earth but God would continue to remain with them in the person of the Holy Spirit. Jesus promises the coming of the Holy Spirit in John 14:25-26. (Read it!)



Daily Devos

This is the same chapter of John that Jesus foretold His departure (ascension). In this passage the Holy Spirit is referred to as the Helper whom the Father will send in Jesus' name. The Holy Spirit is the main reason Jesus ascended. The Ascension enabled the Father to send the Holy Spirit to the believers. Instead of God living with them through the earthly life of Jesus, now God would live in them through the gift of the Holy Spirit!

The promised new covenant spoken of in Ezekiel 36:25-27 was now fulfilled. (Read it!)

God first lived as man and now He came to live in man. Have you stopped to realize that the Holy Spirit, God himself now lives in you who believe?

In one sentence: Why did Jesus ascend?

Jeremy and Christi



JEREMY FOSTER teaches at the Bible College and oversees the conference ministry at the Kastély. Jeremy and his wife Christi are both from California and have four wonderful children (Ian, Leah, Kara, and Mikayla) and two (not quite so wonderful) dogs (Lola and Daisy).

Jeremy graduated from CCBCE in 1997, taught at CCBCE for a semester in 1998, and then spent a few years in the States working a retail job and serving at Calvary Chapel Vineland, New Jersey. There, both Jeremy and Christi served in various roles including Christi leading worship and Jeremy teaching at the CCBC extension campus at the church. The Foster's returned to the ministry in Europe in 2004.





Coming Home

1. What were the greatest lessons you learned during this mission trip?

2. What helped you learn these lessons? (Describe the experience, people, and so forth.)

3. What were the best parts of the overall experience?

4. Comment on the balance of time/emphasis given to work, fellowship, worship, and witnessing.

5. Which tasks were the most fulfilling for you?

6. What would you do differently if you could do this trip over?

7. How would you describe the effect this trip had on your personal:
 - a. Self image?

 - b. Spiritual life?

 - c. Interest in missions/God's overall plan for your life?.

8. Do you plan to maintain contact and pray for any of the people with whom you worked?

9. What application are you going to make as a result of your short-term mission assignment?

10. How has your relationship with Jesus changed because of this trip?

DAY 11



Friday, January 6

The Part Where We Go Home

*Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels,
but have not love,
I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.
1 Corinthians 13:12*



Friday Details

2:00 AM – Wake up!

2:30 AM – Depart for Budapest

4:55 AM – Arrive at Budapest airport

6:55 AM – Depart on Lufthansa 1343 from Budapest to LAX, connecting through Frankfurt

8:45 AM – Land in Frankfurt

10:15 AM – Depart on LH456 from Frankfurt to LAX

12:55 PM – Land at LAX

3:30 PM – Parents pick up students at Charis

Random Facts!

The fourteen unhappiest countries are all in Eastern Europe.

Regardless of where we live – here or overseas – our hearts should be consumed with making the glory of God known in all nations.

Of the **16,787** people groups in the world **6,947** are still considered unreached by the Gospel.

*Today, more than a billion people in the world live and die in desperate poverty. They attempt to survive on less than a dollar per day. Close to two billion others live on less than two dollars per day. More than twenty six thousand children **today** will breathe their last breath due to starvation or a preventable disease.*

Every saved person this side of **heaven** owes the gospel to every lost person this side of **hell**.

-Radical, David Platt



Daily Devos

The Ascension of Christ Part 2

Where did Jesus go?

In regards to the Ascension of Christ, the simple truth for the believer is, where Jesus goes...you go. This is not only true for our present reality but for our future reality as well. When our life is over Jesus will take us to be with Him. Our Lord's desire to gather us to Himself is the underlying motivation behind the Ascension and the gospel itself. Our God wants you to be where He is and the Ascension is a picture of how we will get there. (See 1 Thess 4:13-18)

We are caught up to be with Him. In other words, we ascend when Jesus descends at His coming. Jesus ascended to heaven for three reasons: to send the Holy Spirit, to prepare a place for us and to sit upon His throne. Yesterday we dealt with Jesus sending the Helper, the Holy Spirit, to those who believe. Today we will deal with the place we are going and how Christ is reigning.

We must remember that Jesus' resurrection gives us the clearest picture we have of what our resurrection will be like. Romans 6:1-11 declares that if we have died with Him then we will surely also live with Him. Those who believe share in the life of Christ presently through faith, baptism and communion but that life will be fully manifest at the resurrection of the just. At that time we will receive our glorified resurrected bodies and our glorified dwelling place. The gospel of Luke ends with Jesus ascending to prepare a place for us!

There is an old recording of a Christian musician named Keith Green in which he talks and sings about God working on (or preparing) Heaven for two thousand years. He goes on to make the statement that if it took God 6 days to create the earth and He has spent the last 2000 years preparing heaven, then our existence on earth is like living in a garbage can. This is a silly illustration and I don't agree with some of the theological implications but it does communicate to us the reality that Jesus went to prepare a place for you and me, and it will be far better than our existence here on earth. Don't worry... heaven is not you sitting on a cloud, in a diaper, playing a harp. For some, that would be the definition of hell... not heaven.



Daily Devos

The Ascension is the last stage of the gospel we will address because it shows us that our future is with Christ where He is seated upon His throne. We will live with Him in heaven and then He will create for us a new heaven and a new earth. This new creation is free of sin, death, Satan and all those who do evil. This is good news! Creation was subject to sin and its' reign of terror but the new creation is free of sin and is only subject to the reign of Christ.

When Jesus ascended He took His rightful place upon the throne. This is the same throne He willingly stepped down from to be born as the Christ-child. At the beginning of the gospel God chose us and then He sent His Son to redeem us. When Jesus was sent He humbled Himself and was emptied of all His divine power and glory. Now at the end of the gospel Christ receives that which He had laid down. He once again is shown in all His glory and now possesses all power and all authority. Our Lord reigns...eternally! The gospel ends with all those who have received the Son receiving eternal life in His name.

Gospel Reflection:

-What is the Gospel?

Look over the daily summaries you have written about the gospel.
In 2 - 4 sentences, what is the gospel?

How has your understanding of the gospel changed?

Acts 20:24: "But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."

RESOURCE



Don't Waste Your Life A Highlights Summary

*"You are not your own you are bought with a price.
So glorify God in your body."
1 Corinthians 6:19-20*

Don't Waste

Preface:

Important points:

1. "You are not your own you are bought with a price. So glorify God in your body." 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
 2. Christ made you. Christ has bought you. Christ has redeemed and restored you. Christ has given you life by purchasing you by His death. You belong entirely to God.
 3. So then because of this we are encouraged to "Glorify God in your body."
 4. The meaning of life, is to magnify and Glorify God, pursuing His glory.
 5. We are so naturally accustomed to think that pursuing God's glory by magnifying and worshiping Him with our lives is the "beginning of the end" of our joy here on earth. We buy into the illusion that living for God will rob us of Joy and pleasure in this life. Rather it is the opposite!
 6. Pursing, magnifying, and glorifying God with our bodies, is where true lasting Joy in this life begins!
 7. It can be a tendency to believe that our Joy will end when we give all of our lives to magnify Christ. Unfortunately so many waste there lives because they buy into the tendency, and live their lives in pursuit of Joy, by following "bursting bubbles" and the fleeting, temporal "highs of life."
 8. The beginning of the path of God exalted, God glorified, and joy fulfilled life WILL COST YOU YOUR OWN LIFE!
 9. Jesus said, "Whoever loses his life for my sake and the Gospel's will find it!"
- The essence of the Gospel is that God lived the live we could not live. He died the death we should have died. We fall short of the Glory of God, we fall short unable to obey the commands of God. The beauty is that God offers us resurrection. He offers us life and life more abundantly. He offers us His life by the Spirit. We cannot do it on our own. We cannot meet the requirements of a disciple unless we rely upon God's strength and by faith trust in His power alone!

It is by our own death that we access and realize the resurrection power of Jesus Christ living and working through us. He offers us His life and gives us access to His power by indwelling us by the Holy Spirit. He enables us, as we live by faith depending upon God's grace, to live a life of victory walking according to his desires for our life.



Your Life

1. Our death is our “Identification with Christ.” Our death is the realization of our condition being “Crucified with Christ.”
2. Galatians 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ it is no longer I who live but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live I live in the flesh I live by FAITH in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.”
 - Anyone who has given his whole life up for the Gospel never regrets it!
 - We need to realize that our power to “not waste our life” comes only in the strength and power of Christ living through us! It is vital we lose our lives!

I cannot truly live for God until I truly die to myself. Then, the life I receive is resurrected life. God through me!

Listen to what Paul says about dying so that Christ’s life and power may be realized in and through the believer...

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the LIFE ALSO OF JESUS might be made manifest in our body. For we who live are always DELIVERED UNTO DEATH for Jesus’ sake that the LIFE ALSO OF JESUS might be made manifest in OUR mortal flesh. So then death worketh in us, but life in you (II Corinthians 4:7-12).”

“I die daily (I Corinthians 15:31).”

Here are some great quotes that blessed me in my study...

“The answer to why there is so little power and genuine spiritual fruit in the lives of those who follow Jesus is a simple one: they desire the Life of the Lord, but not His Death. They want a daily pouring out of the Lord’s Life, but they shun the prospect of daily sharing in His Death.”

“He is no fool to give what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.” -Jim Elliot



Don't Waste

Cheap Grace: "is the grace we bestow upon ourselves without discipleship."

Costly Grace: "is the gospel which must be sought again and again. It is costly because costs a man his life and is grace because it gives a man the only true life."

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Questions:

1) What is the illusion so commonly bought into regarding the idea of finding Joy following Jesus? Why is it important that we have the right perspective when considering our pursuit of Glorifying and Magnifying Christ?

2) Why should we give our whole life to Jesus? Why should we lose it so that we can find it?

3) Why is it important that we must die in order to not "waste our life?"

4) Can we live the life God calls us to live as disciples in our own strength? If not why? What do we need to realize in order to be successful in discipleship? How does faith play into this?

5) What is the key to producing genuine "Spiritual fruit?"



Your Life

Chapters 1-2

1. There is either absolute truth, or we create our own reality and our own truth!
2. The Existentialism environment faced by Piper in his youth is similar to our current environment of postmodernism what you will face when you go to college.
3. The idea behind existentialism is that “existence precedes essence” in other words by existing and choosing your own “essence” you create your own reality and truth. You create your own “meaning or purpose” by the choices you make and create for yourself. If this idea were true then there is no objective, absolute standard, or moral code to life, its all relative. “You don’t find meaning you create it.”
4. Just like John Piper after feeling called to the ministry intently sought the Word of God, so should we as believers. You are called to “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the Word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15
5. Piper said, “If there is only one life to live in this word and if it is not to be wasted, nothing seemed more important to me than finding out what God really means in the Bible since he inspired men to write it.”
6. As Piper embarked to study the Word, he met opposition, which you face as well. Specifically, he faced the opposition that the Bible is subjective and relative. One cannot find true meaning in studying the text. This concept is dangerous because if it were true then it would mean that it is impossible to interpret the original meaning of the Bible, nor apply its truths personally.
7. If it was impossible to understand the “original meaning” of Biblical text then it would be impossible to know how to not waste your life, and it would be impossible to interpret the Bible correctly.
8. In response to this oppositional idea Piper said, “if there is no valid interpretation based upon real objective, unchanging, original meaning then my whole being said, “Let us eat drink and be merry.”
9. If everything is subjective and relative then there are no absolutes.
10. If everything is objective then there is absolute law and a moral code to life.
11. Our objective reality as believers needs to be centered upon the Word of God! God’s Word is absolute truth!
12. The good news is that God’s Word can be interpreted objectively. We can find the “original meaning” that the author under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit meant to convey. God’s word doesn’t change.

Don't Waste

God's word had an original meaning, and intention therefore we can interpret it objectively and treat it as absolute truth.

13. Each believer in conjunction with the Holy Spirit, and with proper Biblical interpretation principles CAN understand the objective meaning that the original writer of the Bible intended to convey.
14. Because God's word is objective absolute truth, we can understand and convey, what absolute truth, and absolute reality is. We hold the words of truth! No doctrine, world-view, religion or anything else supersedes the Bible's authority as absolute truth!
15. The Bible is objective absolute truth, therefore whatever it says, is truth and because we can interpret its meaning we should live our lives obeying and following its every command, because every word is given by the authority of God!
16. Piper said, "if there is only one life to live in this world, and if it is not to be wasted, nothing seemed more important to me that finding our what God really meant in the Bible since He inspired men to write it."
17. It is very important that we understand and interpret the Bible properly. One key aspect to remember is that "the Bible is like links on a chain. The writers developed unified patterns of thought. They reasoned. This mean that, in each paragraph of Scripture, when reading and interpreting meaning, one should ask how each part related to the other parts in order to say one coherent thing. Then the paragraphs should be related to each other in the same way. And the chapters, then the books, and so on until the unity of the Bible is found on its own terms."
18. Because the Bible can be interpreted, and it's meaning understood we should make our every effort to know, memorize and live by its every word! It is absolute truth. When piper understood the implications and the fact that the Bible can be interpreted he said, "I felt like my little brown path of life had entered an orchard, a vineyard, a garden with mind-blowing heart thrilling life-changing fruit to be picked everywhere. Never had I seen so much truth and so much beauty condensed in so small a sphere. The Bible seemed to me then, and it seems today, inexhaustible. This is what I had dreamed about in the health center with mono, when God called me to the ministry of the Word. Now the question; what is the Point, the Purpose, the Focus, the Essence of this beautiful glimpse of divine Truth?"
AS MINSTERS OF THE WORDS (everyone) OF ETERNAL LIFE WE NEED TO BE ACTIVELY CONSUMED WITH THE WORDS IN THE BIBLE.
19. "God's aim in History was to fully display His glory and that people would delight in him with all of their heart." Our passion in life should be to fully display His glory and to delight in him with all our heart!



Your Life

In whatever we do, whatever we say, wherever we go! IN school, on mission, at our jobs, in the grocery store,

20. It is wise for us as believers, if we are going to have a passion in life, to have a single soul satisfying passion. God's passion!

21. "God's purpose for our lives is that we have a passion for God's glory and that we have a passion for our joy in that Glory and that these two would be one passion!"

22. "We were made to see and savor God and in savoring Him, to be supremely satisfied and thus spread into all the world the worth of his presence. Not to show people the all-satisfying God is not to love them. To make them feel good about themselves when they were not made to feel good about themselves, when they were made to feel good about seeing God, is like taking someone to the Alps and locking them in a room full of mirrors."

23. In other words we were made to find our supreme satisfaction in God savoring Him and His goodness, in our fellowship with Him for eternity. Out of this savoring and supreme satisfaction we naturally want others to experience the goodness and supreme satisfaction in God. We are not truly loving others if do not show them the all-satisfying God. This is the burden that God gives to everyone who is intimately connected with God and who love Him will there heart soul mind and strength. This is our passion for you. That each and every one of you may know as Paul said, "what is the height, the width, the depth of God's love."

We were created for eternity to be loved by God and to love Him. We were created to magnify and glorify Him forever. Man rebelled against God's will bringing Spiritual death and separation. Our souls ache and are dry until that union is restored in true heartfelt fellowship and love for Him.

Our souls search and are restless until they find their peace and rest in restored fellowship with Christ. Jesus came because of His great love to give himself back to you, to rescue you because you are His beloved. He died and resurrected for us so that we may die to sin and be resurrected in the newness of life, in fellowship with God living life completely satisfied in Christ. When we die to all we are, live for Christ as Lord over all areas of our life, and seek God with all our heart, removing idols, barriers of sin, pursuing holiness before God utilizing His strength by Faith we demonstrate and display our love towards Him. When we love Him with everything we are, making sacrifices for Him, He promises to give us back so much more. We were made to be one with God and our soul will be restless until we give Him all we are so that He can reveal all that He intended for us to be.



Don't Waste

John 14:15 Jesus said, "If you love Me keep my commandments."

John 14:21 Jesus said, "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I WILL come and manifest Myself to him." (Emphasis added)

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said, "if anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him and We will come to him and make Our home with him."

John 14:10 "If you keep My commandments you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My fathers commandments and abide in His love."

John 14:12 "this is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you."

- The greatest gift of our salvation, and forgiveness is that it gave us God! It opened up communication and fellowship with the one who completes all we are! Because of this renewed fellowship Christ lives through us, as we submit to Him our will, and live by faith not by our own might but instead allowing Him to empower us by His Spirit to obey and fulfill his burden for the world. It's about relationship. John 17:3 "and this is eternal life that you may know God and his Son Jesus Christ." No thing can satisfy who you are. Nothing can quench your thirst and fill your hunger; your Soul (who you are). Not religion, ritual, nor any high this world has to offer. We were made to stand in awe of a person and to Know Him, and fellowship with Him, knowing His pleasures forevermore!
- The Gap that keeps us from experiencing and knowing God intimately in this life is sin and self-will. The Gap to experiencing God as a believer is the lack of discipleship. As Piper said, "God loves us by liberating us from the bondage of self so that we can enjoy knowing and admiring Him forever! We must be liberated from anything inhibits, real, genuine heartfelt desire to commune with the living God.
- A Christian songwriter sings these lyrics describing Christianity like this, "its more like falling in love than something to believe in, more like losing my heart than giving my allegiance." Fall in love with Jesus, pursue Him, seek Him earnestly, He promises to draw near to you and reveal Himself to you!
- There is a BIG difference between knowing and experiencing, and sadly very few enter into the rich blessing found in fellowship with God! "We are addicted to self, but we must be rescued from this and be brought into the presence of God." We can be rescued as we discipline ourselves to be a person entirely for God, and as we rely in faith, that God will empower us by His Sprit to walk according to all that he has asked us to do.



Your Life

- 1 Peter 3:18 “Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God.” Piper said, “Why did God send Jesus-that He might bring us to God- to Himself. God sent His son to die so that we could come home to the all-satisfying Father.

Overview of Concepts in Chapter 1 & 2

These terms are very important to understand. Piper in his book talked about existentialism. I believe some of it passed over your understanding it certainly did mine at first. Let me try to explain it to you. We live in a similar cultural era called “postmodernism.” There is a lot of cross over between the two. I believe it is important for you to understand these important concepts, as you will face them at some point in your life. You will face opposition to the gospel and the ideas it presents wherever you take it.

In college you will face direct opposition to Christianity and the Bible. When I went to college my understanding of these concepts was marginal at best and I wish that I had a better grasp and understanding of these terms. It would have undoubtedly strengthened my faith. Many of the harsh words and criticism towards the Bible is that Jesus claims to be the one only true God. Many do not like the idea of only one true God. They view the Christian mentality as prideful and narrow, minded. They view Christianity as one way to do life. Not the only way to do life. They just want us to coexist with their views and with other religions and be peaceful. However, there is no true peace apart from peace that God gives. And there will be no peace until everyone is in perfect harmony with absolute unchanging truth, Jesus Christ! Sin is what brings absence of peace. Sin is what brings separation from God. We have to have Jesus’ righteousness given and transferred onto our resume before we can be at peace with God. God is the “Prince of Peace.” These statements are absolute truth because they are rooted in absolute truth, the Bible.

Key Terms to Understand

Knowing these terms would be very beneficial in defending the Bible and also in solidifying your faith when you hear all the opposition towards the Gospel. A lot of the responses you will get when sharing your faith from people are responses like this “what’s good for you is good for you, I respect it but don’t push it on me. I respect your view but it’s not for me.” The problem is that they don’t understand the message of the Gospel and they don’t believe the Bible is absolute, objective truth.

Don't Waste

It's not relative truth. Ask them if there is such thing as absolute truth. If they say no they are ignorant. We wouldn't be able to communicate are words didn't convey absolute truth. Black means black no matter what it doesn't mean white. There are absolute laws that govern the universe that don't change based upon opinion. The Bible is absolute truth that doesn't change. It sets the standard. It's good and valid for everyone because it is absolute truth that is constant. The Bible is the infallible word of God that doesn't change. Man does not invent the Bible, it is revealed by God. The God who created the universe! It's His revealed will. Because it sets the standard and is absolute truth, it's not a "what's good for you is not good for me" type of mentality. Those to whom it is revealed are directly responsible with the truth and message of the Gospel.

Relativism, Relative/Subjective Truth, Absolute/ Objective Truth.

Each person and culture has developed their own definition of what right or wrong is. This theory of relativism is morally unacceptable because it implies an act can be right for someone even if it is cruel, hateful or harmful. Culture or one's personal preference does not dictate what is right or wrong.

Neither can religions, for each area may have its own religion that came down to them from previous generations. There must be a greater standard, one that is more correct and surer for us to live by. Otherwise we are left to invent our own opinions that will change in time because of our culture.

Relativism is "the doctrine that knowledge, truth and morality exist in relation to culture, society or historical context, and are not absolute"

The definition of relative/ subjective truth- Truth that is true at only one time and at one place. It's true to some people and not to others. It's true now but it may not have been true in the past and it may not be again in the future, it's always subject to change. It is also subject to perspective of people

The definition of absolute/ objective truth-Whatever is true at one time and at one place is true at all times and at all places. What is true for one person is true for all people. Truth is true whether we believe it or not. Truth is discovered or it is revealed, it is not invented by a culture or by religious men.

Example of objective truth: There is only one true God Jesus Christ!

Your Life

Example of relative truth: What about Buddha, what about Allah, there are many Gods and each one is a product of ones upbringing, culture and are not absolute truth for everyone, therefore it is not truth that there is only one true God.

Another example would be...

Objective truth: Rape is a sin and is evil.

Subjective truth: Rape is good or bad depending upon who you are, what you have been exposed to, and how you have been raised. So what is bad for you may be good for someone else. It's all relative.

God's Word is not relative/ subjective truth, it is Absolute truth!

Great Quotes from the Chapter:

“Only one life twill soon be past, only what is done for Christ will last.”

“God created me and you to live with a single, all-embracing, all-transforming passion- namely a passion to glorify God by enjoying and displaying his supreme excellence in all the spheres of life. Enjoying and displaying are both crucial. If we try to display the excellence of God without joy in it, we will display a shell of hypocrisy and create scorn or legalism. But if we claim to enjoy his excellence and do not display it for others to see and admire, we deceive ourselves, because the mark of God enthralled joy is to overflow an expand by extending itself into the hearts of others.”

Questions:

- 1) Can the Bible be trusted and it's meaning interpreted accurately why?
- 2) How can we do our best to show ourselves approved before God as a worker not ashamed rightly dividing the world of truth?
- 3) What is important when considering the meaning and interpretation of a scripture verse? How should we relate each part to the whole? And why is this method important?
- 4) What is your defense to someone who says, “what's good for you is not for me?”
- 5) What is absolute truth?
- 6) What is relative truth?

Don't Waste

- 7) Why is God's Word absolute truth?
- 8) In what ways were we made to relate to God?
- 9) Why should we not waste our lives and find our passion in magnifying and glorifying and finding our passion in God?
- 10) What is the greatest gift of our salvation?
- 11) Why does intimate, close, and real relational fellowship with God bring Joy?
- 12) How do we pass from knowing to experiencing fellowship, joy and intimacy with God?
- 13) What is God's purpose for our lives as believers?
- 14) What is holding you back from "entering into" the fullness of intimate relationship with Christ?
- 15) How can these walls of separation blocking you from intimate fellowship and joy in Christ be removed?

Chapter 3

"Boasting only in the Cross, The Blazing Center of the Glory of God."

Important Points:

- The opposite of wasting your life is living life by a single God exalting, soul satisfying passion.
- Why? God commands us to love Him with ALL of our heart. (Matt 22:37)
- Jesus reminds us that He spits lukewarm people out of His mouth (Revelation 3:16)
- "You don't have to know a lot of things for your life to make a lasting difference in the world. But you do have to know the few great things that matter, perhaps just one, and then be willing to LIVE for them and DIE for them! The people that make a durable difference in the world are not the people who have mastered many things, but who have been mastered by one great thing. If you want your life to count, if you want the ripple effect of the pebbles you drop to become waves that reach the ends of the earth and roll on into eternity, you don't need riches or come from a fine family or a fine school. Instead you have to know a few great, majestic, unchanging, obvious, simple, glorious things or one great all-embracing thing- and be set on fire by them."
- Set your passion of life, set on fire a passion to obey the "Greatest Commandment" which is to "Love God with all your heart soul mind and strength and love others as Christ has loved you."



Your Life

As you obey the Greatest Commandment, with a real genuine heart of love for the Lord and depend upon Him to work through You His power by His Spirit in faith in His strength through you to love others, God will accomplish mighty things through you! You will not live a wasted life. It will be a life of purpose and a life of blessing spiritually.

- **REMEMBER THIS TRUTH:** Our souls (mind, will, emotions, what lives forever, the part that is uniquely you) in this life are conditioned for physical fulfillment (treasures and highs other than Christ). However our Souls are made for, and are desires fulfilled only when they find unity with God in God glorifying passion with the Spirit of God. Jesus is the lover of our soul, He is our shepherd that leads us besides still waters, He is the only one restores our fallen and broken soul!
- “I will tell you what a tragedy is. I will show you how to waste your life. Consider a story from the February 1998 edition of Reader’s Digest, which tells about a couple who “took early retirement from their jobs in the Northeast five years ago when he was 59 and she was 51. Now they live in Punta Gorda, Florida, where they cruise on their 30 foot trawler, play softball, and collect shells. At first when I read this I thought this might be a joke. A spoof on the American Dream. But it wasn’t. Tragically this was the dream: Come to the end of your life your one and only precious God given life and let the last great work of your life before you give an account to your Creator be this: playing softball and collecting shells. Picture them before Christ at the great Day of Judgment: “look Lord. See my shells.” That is a tragedy. And people today are spending billions of dollars to persuade you to embrace that tragic dream. Over against that, I put my protest: Don’t buy it! Don’t waste your life!
- Isaiah 26:8 “Yes, Lord, walking in the way of your laws, we wait for you; your name and renown are the desire of our hearts.”
- Luis Giglio “because I was created by God and for His glory, I will magnify Him as I respond to His great love. My desire is to make knowing and enjoying God the passionate pursuit of my life.”
- Here is the motto that Piper has as well as his Church; this should be our goal as well as God supplies the strength. “We exist to spread a passion for the supremacy of God in all things for the joy of all peoples through Christ Jesus.”
- My friends, “whatever you do, wherever you are called, find the God-centered, Christ exalting, Bible-saturated passion of your life, and find you way to say it, and live for it and die for it!”

Don't Waste

- May your passion and mine be Jesus Christ, to love Him, honor Him, live for Him, worship Him, seek Him, know Him, experience Him through us, to love Him with all we are and from this Union love others with His eyes, His heart and His power! Wherever you are, whatever career you choose may this be your mission, your heart and your Passion in life!
- Paul said this, "Whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ" Philippians 3:7-8. My friends, this man knew Christ, fellowshiped with Christ and he counted all else loss compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus! It wasn't his personality or environment that made him like this. No. He experienced Christ! He felt the presence of God in and through Him. He lived life dying to self in all areas of life why? Because he tasted, he saw and he knew the Lord was Good! All else pails in comparison to living and knowing Christ intimately, personally and passionately!
- Christ died so we may have restored fellowship with God. He died to give us life. He died and gave us power to deny ourselves and die to our self. He resurrected and gave us the power to live our lives dead to sin but alive in the resurrected Power of Christ!
- When we die and take up our cross unto our death, we will face suffering and persecution. When we die to self we will truly live because the only way to live is to be dead to self but alive in God, thus able to live by His strength, not our own. Christ says we must die in order to live; we must first take up the Cross-before we are fit to follow Jesus. This is the call of the Cross. Jesus said, "If anyone desires to be my disciple he first must deny himself take up his cross and follow me."
- When Christ calls us He bids us to die. Whoever dies for Christ and realizes the splendor and majesty of His power and love, by that intimate fellowship with God when self is removed, is humbled immensely by the grace of God. They realize it is grace because it truly is the only life to live, as they experience the removal of self and the saturation of God's presence. There is no boasting, not bragging. Only because of what Jesus did on the cross we can fulfillment and gratitude in everything. Christ did it all. He accomplished everything for us by his mercy and grace we have life. All boasting needs to be directed to the epicenter of all true blessing the Cross- Christ's death and resurrection!
- Our passion in life should be to glorify and magnify God's purpose and His greatest gift of love from which we have hope. We need in humble reverent love magnify Jesus' greatest demonstration of power and love.



Your Life

His death, His separation from the father and His death on our behalf. Paul said this in Galatians 6:14 “Far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”

- “I pray for you the reader May the one thing that you cherish the only thing that you rejoice in and exult over, be the cross of Jesus Christ.”
- Let this be your all-encompassing passion in this life. To glorify Jesus in and through your life and to tell others what Jesus did. “All boasting needs to be directed to the epicenter of all true blessing the Cross, Christ’s death and resurrection!
- “Christ is the glory of God. His blood-soaked cross is the blazing center of that glory. By it he bought for us every blessing temporal and eternal. And we don’t deserve any. He bought them all. Because of Christ’s cross, man can come into a relationship and become sons of God. Because of His cross all guilt is removed and sins are forgiven and perfect righteousness is imputed to us, and the Spirit pours out the love of God in our hearts and we are being conformed to the image of Christ. Therefore the every enjoyment in this life and the next that is not idolatry is a tribute to the infinite value of the cross of Christ- the center burning center of the Glory of God. And thus a cross- centered, cross-exalting, cross-saturated life is a god Glorifying life- the only God glorifying life.

Questions

- 1) How can we live a life of passion for the Lord in all areas of life?

- 2) What is the Greatest Commandments and how can we practically work out that command? How big of a role does the Holy Spirit play in us loving others?



Don't Waste

- 3) Can God use you mightily if you don't possess wealth, popularity, status, intelligence etc? What is important in entering in to the strength He supplies if we lack these things and why?

- 4) What does it mean to strive to make Christ supreme in all areas of our life?

- 5) What are some ways we can spread a passion for the supremacy of God in all things for the joy of all peoples through Christ Jesus?

- 6) What does it mean to boast in the cross? Why is the cross so important for us as believers considering our death and resurrection with Christ?

RESOURCE



Simply Jesus and Kids Ministry Ideas

*But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them,
because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.
Matthew 9:36*

Simply Jesus

The Gospel = Jesus:

- Who He is.
- Where He came from.
- What He did.
- Why He did it.
- What do we do about it?

Motions for Jesus

Jesus is God (Son of God). He came from heaven to earth. Lived a perfect life, died on the cross to pay for our sin, then rose from the dead and is in heaven now offering us the free gift of eternal life (or preparing a place for us or and will one day come again).

In the beginning God... What is God like? People have some strange ideas about God. Some are true and some are not. Let's take a look.

Hat Skit

Policeman: Some people think that God is like a policeman. He always out looking for what you've done wrong so he can write you a ticket and throw you in jail. That's not what God is like.

Firehat: Some people think that God is like a fireman, you just call 911 and he'll put out the fires in your life and then go back to the station and leave you alone. That's not what God is like.

Boss: Some people think that God is like the "big Boss in the sky", and they must work, work, work, to get please him and get to heaven. God is not like that. We cannot work our way to heaven.

Simply Jesus

- 1) Jesús es el hijo de Dios
Jesus is the Son of God
- 2) Él vino del cielo a la tierra
He came from heaven to earth
- 3) Vivió una vida perfecta
Lived a perfect life
- 4) Murió en la cruz para pagar
por nuestros pecados
Died on the cross to pay for
our sins
- 5) Resucitó de la tumba tres
días después
Rose from the dead after
three days
- 6) Está en el cielo ahorita,
preparando un lugar para
nosotros
And is now in heaven,
preparing a place for us.



Simply Jesus

Fairy godfather: Some people think that God is like a fairy godfather. You just call on him when you want something and he'll wave his magic wand and then 'poof', he's gone.

A Fool: Some people think that God is like a fool because he is so slow to anger, patient and longsuffering.. But the Bible tells us that God is not a fool and He will not be mocked. The Bible says that the real fool is "the man who says in his heart that there is no God!"

Now here are some accurate descriptions of God that we find in the Bible.

Doctor: God is like a doctor. In fact, He is called "The Great Physician," and He is in the business of healing broken hearts and renewing your spirit.

Train engineer: God is like a train engineer. He wants to keep your life on track and bring you safely home to the station.

King: God is like a king, he is the "King of the Universe" and he wants to be the king of your heart.

Hen: God is like a mother hen, who longs to gather us under her wings and care for us.

Captain: God is like the captain of a ship who will guide through the storms of life.

Judge: God is like a judge. He will one day judge the universe and cast out those who have sinned and not been pardoned by the blood of His son. How will you do in that courtroom?

Love: God is love and he has loved us with an everlasting love.

God's Love Motions

- Even the very hairs on your head are numbered... Matt 10:29-31
- My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore... Ps. 139:17-18
- I knit you together in your mother's womb... Psalm 139:13
- I have loved you with an everlasting love...Jeremiah 31:3
- God showed his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8
- For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whoever believes in him will have everlasting life. John 3:16



Simply Jesus

Good King

A long time ago in a far off land there was a wise and just King. A king known far and wide for his love and justice. A famine came to the land, but because the King was wise they had stored food for a time such as this. One day his servant came to him and said, "Good King, someone has been stealing our food!" The King was outraged! How could someone do such a thing. He told the servant to go and tell the people, "Whoever is caught stealing food will be punished severely and given 40 lashes." So the servant went and told the people. Just a few weeks later they caught the thief and dragged the thief to the King. "Oh King, the good news is we have caught the thief! The bad news is that it is your mother!" Oh no. What would the King do? He had a problem. You see, he loved his mother very much and if he punished her she would surely die. But, on the other hand if he didn't punish her, he would no longer be seen as a fair and just leader of his people. What would he do? He had a problem.

He made a decision and called his servant. He said, "Get the whip, the punishment will take place." Just as the servant raised the whip, the King said, "But it is not my mother you will punish. He took off his robes and crown and shirt, and bent his back to the whip, and said, I will take the punishment."

And so love and justice were served that day. It reminds me of another story though. Can you think of another who came and took the punishment that we deserved? Jesus came from heaven and took the punishment for our sins. He paid the debt that we owed.

Coin Illustration:

This coin it reminds me of God. It's shaped like a circle, and a circle had no beginning and no end. God is from everlasting to everlasting, no beginning, no end. It is one coin, yet it has two sides, each side is very different. That's just like God, He is one God with two sides to his nature. One the one hand He loves us and doesn't want to punish us, on the other hand He is just and must punish sin. This coin also isn't worth very much. It reminds me of the good works I do. No matter how much I try, I can't pay the debt I owe because of sin. The price of sin is death and must be paid by a perfect sacrifice. God loved me so much He sent His Son Jesus to pay for my sin so I could be with Him in heaven one day. How do I receive the gift of eternal life God offers? Well, the answer is on the coin. In God we trust. We trust fully on the sacrifice God has provided for us and invite Jesus into our lives as Lord and Savior.



Simply Jesus

Black Fabric Activity (some ways the Bible describes sin)

The Bible describes sin for us many different ways.

This cloth reminds me of sin, its shiny on one side, it looks beautiful and enticing; but on the other side it is really dull and ugly.

- Sin separates us from God.
- Sin leaves us in darkness, the Bible says “men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil.”
- Sin blinds us.
- It stops up our ears.
- It keeps us from speaking words of life.
- It binds us.
- It makes slaves of us.
- It trips us up.

But, worst of all, it brings death. The Bible says, “the wages of sin are death but the gift of God is eternal life.” But God made a way. He sent His only Son Jesus to pay the price of our sins with His precious blood. The Bible says, “... the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” (I John 1:7)

So Jesus’ blood washes us “white as snow”, and now when God looks down from heaven he no longer sees our sin, but Christ’s righteousness.

So, let’s review.

- Our sins are washed white as snow
- By the blood of Jesus
- Who takes away our sin
- So we can be free

James 1:14,15 tempted and enticed

Isaiah 59:2 your sin has separated you from God

John 3:19 Men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil.

Proverbs 5:22 entrapped

Hebrews 12:11 entangled

James 4:14, 15 death, blind

Romans 6:23 wages of sin is death

Ephesians 2:1 you who were dead in your trespasses and sins

Hebrews 9:22 “... without shedding of blood there is no remission (payment for sin).”

I John 1:7 “...and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin.”

John 1:29 “Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.”

Indoor Games

A Few Ideas...

Balloon Tag
Capture the Flag
Charades
Concentration
Down by the Banks
Duck, Duck Goose
Fishbowl
Four Corners
Freeze Tag
Hangman
Heads Up 7 Up
Hide and Go Seek
Hot Potato
I Spy
Leap Frog Races
Mother, May I?
Murder in the Dark
Musical Chairs
Nation Ball
Ninja
Red Light, Green Light
Red Rover
Sharks and Minnows
Simon Says
Steal the Bacon
Tic Tac Toe
Twister

Team Favorites:

Action Costumes with Mel Coyne
Card Making with Daniel B. & J.
Do the Ashton Hair Whip
Invent Worship Songs with Jon
Spanish Lessons with Camille Baer
UFC Fighting with Ray Dumas

The Farmyard

One player is selected to become the leader. The leader tells everyone that they are going to whisper to each of them an animal they will imitate once they are given a signal. However, instead of giving every player a name of an animal they will whisper for them to be quiet once the signal is given, with the exception of one player. They will instead tell that one player to imitate the sound of a donkey once the signal is given.

Once the signal is given the only person to make a sound will be the donkey, the joke will be on them. This one seems kind of mean, but it was on the kid's website, so...

Blind Man's Wand

This is another way of playing Blind Man's Buff.

The player who is blindfolded stands in the center of the room, with a long object like a plastic baseball bat.

The other players gather around him in a circle. Someone starts the music, and the players walk around and around the blind man, until suddenly the music stops; the blind man then lowers his wand on one of the players in the circle, and that player grabs the wand.

RESOURCE

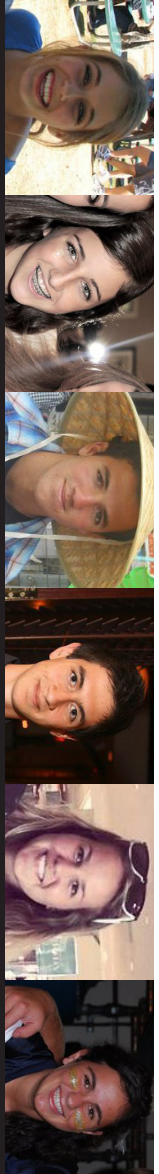


Notes

Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

Romans 16:25-27

Team Time



BROOKE ALLEN

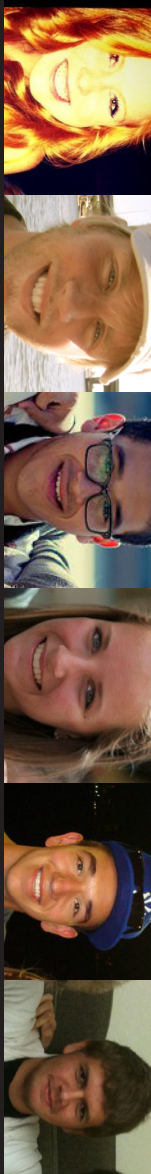
CAMILLE BAER

JASON BAER

DANIEL BELTRAN

KYLE BRADLEY

MELANIE COYNE



MARIAH CURRAN

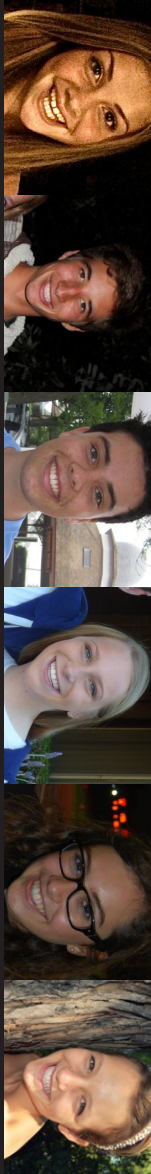
GREG DENHAM

DYLAN ESQUEDA

CINDI FLYNN

ERIC GOMEZ

DANIEL JAMIES



ANNIE JAMIES

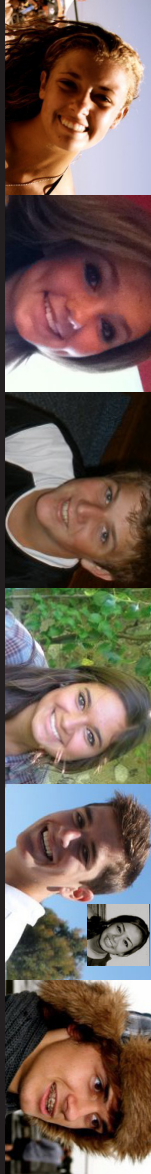
AUSTIN LACK

JOE LAK

PAIGE LOSEY

MELANIE MARTINEZ

EMMA MCKAY



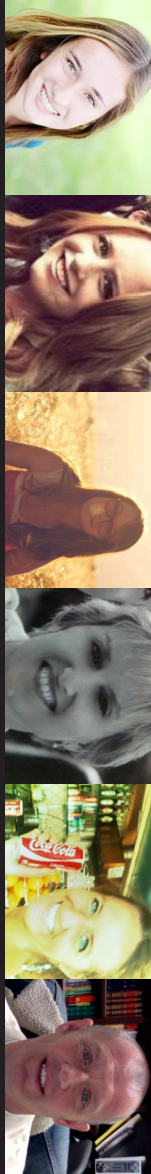
ASHTON MCKEOWN

DANIEL PAFE

REBECCA PENNA

ERIC PRAUTZ

JON POLLOCK



JAYLEE ROBINETT

BRITTY STEINHAUS

DESIREE UHT

SHERRY WILBUR

SARAH YARDLEY

KENNY WOOD

WE LOVE

BECAUSE

JESUS FIRST LOVED US!

