

# ***The Monthly Heartbeat***

## **The Hope in Christ Church Newsletter**

**March 2018 Issue**

### **Training the Next Generation for Spiritual Success**

**By Pastor Scott**

The Scriptures are full of stories of godly faith being passed from one generation to the next. Consider Paul's words to Timothy, "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well" (2Tim 1:5). Or the psalmist's cry, "One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts" (Ps 145:4). But there are also plenty of stories of the faith failing to be transferred to the coming generation. As I have been reading *The Story*, I am amazed at how often a godly father raises up an ungodly son (David-Absalom; Hezekiah-Manasseh) or how often the Scriptures record things like, "And the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great work that the Lord had done for Israel...And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel" (Judges 2:7, 10).

Recently, these words have served to warn my heart as I have been reflecting on what it means to train up my children in the ways of the Lord, not just so that they know the faith, but so that they are capable of training their children in the faith. My grandchildren, who aren't even born, could be the 'generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done.' As parents and grandparents, one of the great dangers we can succumb to is thinking that because our children know the right answers, that they know how to communicate those answers to others or that they even know why those answers are correct. It isn't enough that our children know the truth, they need to know why it is true. It isn't enough

that our children can give the correct Sunday school answers, they need to be able to show why the other answers are false. It isn't enough that they can use the right jargon, the right Christianese, if you will, they need to understand what those terms mean in every-day English.

Recently, this was struck home to me in a number of ways. Let me share two of these experiences. The first experience was when two of my daughters asked me what it means to be reformed. They knew that our family was reformed, and that their dad was a reformed minister of the gospel, but they didn't know how to define reformed or what made reformed different from other Christian churches. The second experience was when I asked one of my sons what righteousness meant. He was using the term to describe God, even quoting passages of Scripture like 'unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven' (Mt 5:20). But he couldn't describe the term in a sufficient manner. He wasn't sure what kind of all-surpassing righteousness he needed. (That doesn't mean he didn't know the gospel. He was very aware that people need Jesus to be saved. But he didn't have a more robust understanding of the faith-works division.)

With both of these interactions, I recognized a great hole in my parenting and training of the next generation – if they don't understand the faith and its language and can't talk intelligently about it, the most likely scenario is that their children, my grandchildren, will be the generation who quits walking with God. So, what steps are we taking in order to fill in the gaps and prepare our children to train up their children?

First, we are going back to the basics. For every religious word that our children use, we are making them define it in simple, common English. If they are unable to define it simply, we are taking them to a concordance and showing them how to look up the words in their Bible and study the passages in order to come to a definition that they be- (Continued on next page.)

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lieve fits with the meaning of the Bible. When it comes to understanding God, our boys are writing a paper every 2-3 weeks answering questions such as: Who is God? What does God do? How does God relate to the world?, etc. We are asking them to search the Word and articulate Biblical doctrine at an age-appropriate level.

Second, we are committed to learning theology as a family. To do this we have reinstated a family Bible study time where we dissect a single passage of scripture or a story and help our kids to learn the inductive method of studying the bible – asking the who, what, where, why, and how questions of every passage. Additionally, we purchased a copy of John Frame's Systematic Theology for each of our older children and are planning to read a section each week and discuss it with them after (I like Frame's theological style, and he has discussion questions at the end of each chapter) they have written out answers to the chapter questions.

Third, and most important, we are asking our kids why these teachings and practices are important. But we aren't stopping there. Throughout the day, Jen or I ask them why we do this or that thing. It may be: Why do I make bread this way? Why do we read the Bible after meals? Why do I fix broken things in the house right away? Why do we ...? You get the picture. Far too much of what we do hasn't ever been adequately explained to our children and so they are in danger of rote repetition without understanding the deeper motivations for why we homeschool, have family devotions, go to church, read our bibles each day, flirt with our spouses, ask our kids to learn hard things in school, believe that people are sinful and separated from God, etc.

So, whether you are currently parenting children in your home, grandparenting, or even if you have grown children, never stop training the next generation. Depending on your situation, all three of these tools might not be available, but use the ones you can and never stop training the next generation for spiritual success.

## Seafarers Mission: Winter/ Spring 2018

By Pastor John Van Hemert

Prayer Partners in the Lord's mission on land and sea,  
To you all a blessed new year of our Lord 2018!  
Our God says:

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he/she is a new  
creation, the old has gone, the new has come!*

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors. He has committed to us the message of reconciliation, 2 Corinthians 5:17-20. How blessed and challenged we are!

Palm Beach Florida

God has opened doors beyond our dreams. With His help and volunteers, we were able to place over 300 Christmas packages, with the good news of great joy, onboard the ships. On several ships we were able to bring services of the Word, "to you is born the Savior, Jesus, Who will save His people from their sin."

We, My Wife Jean and I,  
Have Christmas on a Cruise Ship

One highlight was the sailing on the cruise ship, the Grand Celebration, two days and nights to Freeport, Bahamas, for the purpose of providing Christmas Eve services for the passengers and midnight for the crew. What was so special this time was the director, for the first time, gave us the theater and he announced the event over the intercom. As a result, there were many who responded to the message. We usually eat with the crew downstairs and there were GOOD opportunities to explain the gospel. Our God be praised for opening doors and hearts.

Ferndale and Cherry Point, Washington

Right after Christmas, we came back to the West to family and the seaports. One of the most interesting visits was on a tanker with aluminum ore from Australia and with 22 Chinese. They had been on the high seas for a month and now to America where no one was allowed off the ship, detained for security reasons. I had a warm welcome with sailors bowing to me in the cold winds with dust from the ore. Not being informed of nationality, I had nothing Chinese in my bag. The solution? I was asked to come back and bring some Chinese the next day.

A Suitcase Full and Christmas Hymns?

Quite a circle of curious men came around the red suitcase. The first man, the captain, picked up the first complete Bible, Eng./Chinese side by side, 2,000 pages. Suddenly, there were Christmas hymns. One of the men saw a CD between the Bibles and put it on the machine. It really still was Christmas! Several began to read right away and for the next three hours I was asked a lot of questions and they let me share the Gospel "in China!" The second officer said that he was beginning to be a Christian, the only one in the crew. He would help others, he said.

Please pray for these  
"strangers in our gates and their families,"  
that they may come to Christ for glorious salvation!

Thank you all for your prayers, love, and help.

Sincerely in Christ Always,  
Jean and John Van Hemert  
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PO Box 398  
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## Preaching Series

- 3/4 Faith of a Foreign Woman  
*The Story*, Chapter 9 (Ruth)
- 3/11 We Need a Real King!  
*The Story*, Chapter 10 (1 Samuel)
- 3/18 The Heart Matters  
*The Story*, Chapter 11 (1 Samuel)
- 3/25 Even Good Kings Struggle  
*The Story*, Chapter 12 (2 Sam., 1 Chr., Ps)

## Greeters Schedule

- 3/4 Del & Pat Bosman
- 3/11 Deloris Perry, Denise Doezema
- 3/18 Lou & Ev Kooistra
- 3/25 Lanny & Christine Speyer

## Cookie Schedule

- 3/4 Alice Brakke, Tricia Bravener
- 3/11 Lorraine Brouwer, Lisa DeSalvo
- 3/18 Faye Hop, Marilyn Kaiser
- 3/25 Connie Knutson, Melissa Koning

## Serving Assistants

- 3/4 Brenna, Amber, Clara
- 3/11 Michal, Ana Maria, Grace
- 3/18 Caleb, Kylie, Chantel
- 3/25 Micah, Amariah, Zeke

## Prayer Room

- 3/4 Herm Laninga
- 3/11 Terry Vander Woude
- 3/18 Jay Kaemingk
- 3/25 Ev Kooistra

## Giving in January 2018

	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Designated Fund Offerings:	\$ 3,518	\$ 6,440
General Fund Offerings	\$21,048	\$ 43,008
Rent / Utilities Income	<u>2,735</u>	<u>5,297</u>
Total Undesignated Income	23,783	48,305
General Fund Expenses	(18,172)	(36,007)
Income Over(Under) Expenses	<u>\$ 5,611</u>	<u>\$ 12,298</u>
Total 2018 budget, including ministry quotas		\$ 224,758
Year-to-Date Budget for 2 months		\$ 37,460
Total Undesignated Income		<u>48,305</u>
Income Over (Under) Budget		<u>\$ 10,845</u>

### Loan Balances:

Classis: \$ 17,500

## Offering Schedule

- 3/4 General Fund
- 3/11 General Fund
- 3/18 Outreach Fund
- 3/25 General Fund

## Ushering Schedule

- 3/4 Don Knutson, Len Vander Woude
- 3/11 Lou Kooistra, Joe Pruitt
- 3/18 Helen Bowman, Bud Brouwer
- 3/25 Deloris Perry, Elaine Snapper

## Children & Worship

- 3/4 Marjie Herold, Mairi
- 3/11 Diane Button, Amber
- 3/18 Bekah Roberts, Ali Laninga
- 3/25 Dan Obbink, Mairi

## Sunday School Schedule

- 3/4 Diane Button, Darlys Recker
- 3/11 Michael Boer, Brian Koning
- 3/18 Michael Boer, Brian Koning
- 3/25 Michael Boer, Brian Koning

## Items of Interest from February's Council Meeting

By Joe Pruitt

Members Present: Pastor Scott Roberts, Dan Obbink, Joe Pruitt, Rockelle Ruiter, Avis Kaemingk, Michael Boer, Terry Vander Woude, Don Recker, Lou Kooistra, Lisa DeSalvo, Jerry Hop

1. The Story Bible Study: testimonies have been scheduled; children should remain in the sanctuary during snack time; keep encouraging district participation
2. Family Promise of Whatcom County: Potential dates May 27, Aug 12, Oct 28, Dec 2
3. Elder classis delegates: Pastor Scott, Lou (Thursday)  
Deacon classis delegates: Dan Obbink (Thursday), other deacon delegate to be determined.
4. Discussion of Elder/Deacon candidates.
5. Classical Church Visit

# March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30 AM Men's Group 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study, Praise Team	2	3
4 9:30 Worship & Communion 11:00 Sunday School 6:00 PM TAG	5 6:00 PM GEMS	6 6:00 PM Richards Group	7 9:45 Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Elders Deacons	8 6:30 AM Men's Group 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study, Praise Team	9	10
11 9:30 Worship 11:00 Sunday School 4:30 PM Jesus Gathering 4:30 PM Roberts Group	12 7:00 PM Friendship Class	13 6:30 PM Boer's Bible Study	14 9:45 Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Council	15 6:30 AM Men's Group 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study, Praise Team	16	17
18 9:30 Worship 11:00 Sunday School 6:00 PM Hymn Sing	19 6:00 PM GEMS	20 6:00 PM Richards Group	21 9:45 Women's Bible Study Heartbeat Newsletter Deadline	22 6:30 AM Men's Group 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study, Praise Team	23 6:00 PM GEMS Dinner	24
25 9:30 Worship 11:00 Sunday School 4:30 PM Roberts Group	26 7:00 PM Friendship Class	27 6:30 PM Boer's Bible Study	28 9:45 Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Worship Planning Team	29 6:30 AM Men's Group 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study, Praise Team	30	31

Happy  
Birthday!

02 John Koning  
03 Bruce Cook  
10 Ruth Stadt

16 Connie Knutson  
19 Caleb Roberts  
19 Ken Anderson

22 Esther Vanden Bos  
25 Miriam Speyer  
26 Terry VanderWoude  
29 Alice Skovron