

The Words of Grace

Volume 3, Issue 16

Come Grow with Us!

August 16, 2010

File It Away

By Linda Bewley
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Webster says “captive” means “taken and held as or as if a prisoner of war . . . kept within bounds . . . held under control of another” (*Merriam-Webster Online*).

God says we should “take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5 NIV).

Filing is an inevitable part of my job. It’s something that, if ignored, can cause lots of wasted time. When things are filed where they belong, work is much easier. I am always looking for new, creative ways to maintain a client’s file so that it is easy find and retrieve needed documents. Given the nature of the files we handle at work, this is not always easy, as many of them grow to a size which could consume an entire file cabinet.

I was recently listening to a recorded book
continued on page 2



What a powerful worship service we had yesterday! I had a number of God moments during the service but yesterday I was especially struck but the fact that no matter what I do to a worship service, God brings it all together into a powerful moment.

As a parent, I am not sure I am (okay, I am sure I am not ready) to see my daughter head off to college and I am glad I have a few years to wait before that happens! I can’t say that I understand what the parents were feeling but I do understand what the college kids are feeling. This past week marked the start of our 6th year in Nashville. I can remember back to the summer of 2005 when we moved to Nashville. It was hot and humid and miserably sunny that day. We were excited to move and excited for the new opportunities God was leading us towards (sometime when you have a few minutes, I will share the crazy journey with you). Lisa and I were excited for the move until the time came for my parents to leave to head back to Pennsylvania. It was not easy to say bye to them because at that moment, I realized that for the first time, my parents were not a short drive away. There would be no more quick visits to see them because it was now an 11 hour drive to see them. It was not an easy moment and I imagine this is the feeling that our college kids are experiencing this week.

There is a lesson in this time for all of us. As Christians, we know that we never journey

continued on page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 File It Away
- 2
- 3 Calendar of Events
- 4 Prayer Requests & Concerns
- 4 Daily Bible Readings
- 4 Church Leadership

written and narrated by a popular Christian personality. He was talking about how we file things away in our minds. Take a sadness or tragedy for example. If we are able to see the cause, we are able to bring ourselves to know that, however painful, the consequence was inevitable and therefore we are able to file that away in our minds. But, he said, there are things in life which just don't fit in any box, no matter how hard we try. They are seemingly inexplicable. Those are the issues he puts in his "I Don't Understand" file. It's a file that allows him to know that he doesn't need to understand all things, because God alone knows everything.

Wow! That gave me an idea. Wouldn't it be great to file things away in my mind so that I would have less clutter floating around? With that in mind, here are some mental files that might help to keep my mind organized.

- First there's a file called "I Can't Do Everything." Utilizing this file would cause me to order my priorities and then re-order them as often as necessary. In so doing, I would be reminded that I should strive to accomplish my tasks with God's kingdom as my top priority knowing that everything else will fall into place.

- Next up, I think I need a file called "I Don't Know What To Do." Using this file would allow me rest. I don't have the answers to all of life's issues, but God does. God is in control, not me. He alone knows the end from the beginning. This file would cause me to remember God's promise that "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him" (James 1:5).

- Then I have the file entitled "I Don't Have To Worry File." Wow, this is an especially tough one for me, because if there is anything I am good at, it is worrying. I really dislike admitting to that, but it's true. That's why I need to deliberately take a thought and put it in this file. In so doing, I would be choosing to trust the Lord and his many promises not the least of which is "your Father knows what you need before you ask him" (Matthew 6:8).

- Finally, I'm thinking I need a file called "It's Not Your Battle." Using this file enables me to acknowledge weakness. It causes me to assess the true condition of my human, sinful nature, realizing that I am a leopard who can't change my own spots. I can't save myself and, praise God, I don't have to! I can choose, like the Apostle Paul, to say, "when I am weak, then I am strong," knowing that the Bible says God's "grace is sufficient. . . for [His] power is made perfect in weakness" (see 2 Corinthians, Chapter 12).

Okay, so there you have some new mental files I'm going to do my best to utilize. Some of them seem to overlap, but I think that's okay. How about you? I bet, without too much thinking, you might easily come up with some new files of your own.

For the Future...

Old we may be, but young we all have been,
So, old in part but young in heart we are,
And, though we walk with care on creaky legs,
Those legs once danced for hours like butterflies.
How lovely to remember all that joy!
And to grow old, and smile, remembering.

**God, although I cannot see the future You
have planned, And though the path is
sometimes dark and hard to understand,
Yet give me faith, through joy and pain to
trace Your loving hand.**

**When I recall that in the past your
promises have stood; Through each
perplexing circumstance and every
changing mood, I rest content that all
things work together for my good.**

**Whatever, then, the future brings of good
or seeming ill, I ask for strength to follow
You and grace to trust You still; And I
would look for no reward, except to do
Your will. Amen**

Calendar of Events

Monday, August 16

- 8:00-12:00 Office Open

Wednesday, August 18

- 5:45 Choir Practice

Friday, August 20

- 8:00-12:00 Office Open
- 9:00 Friday Morning Bible Study

Sunday, August 22

- 10:00 Worship
- 11:15 Sunday School (all ages)

Monday, August 23

- 8:00-12:00 Office Open

Friday, August, 27

- 8:00-12:00 Office Open
- 9:00 Friday Morning Bible Study
- CPWM Retreat (though August 28)

Sunday, August 29

- 10:00 Worship
- 11:15 Sunday School (all ages)

Monday, August 30

- 8:00-12:00 Office Open

Wednesday, September 1

- 5:45 Choir Practice

Friday, September 3

- 8:00-12:00 Office Open
- 9:00 Bible Study

Sunday, September 5

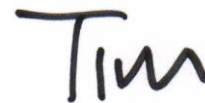
- 10:00 Worship with Communion
- *Bring canned goods***
- 11:15 Sunday School (all ages)

*September 8: Community Education Series begins with "The Gospel According to Chubby"

alone. As Christians, we know that God goes before us in all things. I can think of two specific examples in the Bible (and of course there are so many more). First, Exodus 13:21-22 tells us "21 By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. 22 Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people." God traveled before God's people and all they had to do was follow (of course that is part of the lesson). The second example comes from the Gospel of Matthew and Jesus tells us, "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (28:20).

So now that I have rambled a bit what is the lesson? Change is inevitable in this world. Children grow and leave. People grow apart. New friends are made while old friends move away. But through all the changes, one thing is constant and unchanging – God. God is with us always to the end of the age and beyond. In fact, I think Buzz Lightyear puts it best when he says his key phrase. So if you will forgive me, I will adjust Buzz's words to say that God is with us "to infinity and beyond!"

I look forward to seeing you at Grace.



P.S. We are compiling a list of addresses for our college students. It should be available in the next few days. I encourage you to take a few minutes once in awhile and drop a note of encouragement to our college kids. Let them know that their church family is thinking and praying for them.

Help Wanted!

We need volunteers to lead Children's Church each Sunday morning. A schedule will be created so you will be prepared for your Sunday. All materials and lessons will be provided for you. Please help us continue this great ministry of our church!

Prayer Concerns

Lavelle & Bailey Leopard Mike Eckhart & family
Jeff Lunsford Betty & Ed Spicer
Betty Stumbaugh John Longaberger
Barbara Herndon Aaron Zimmerman
Vinny Ramirez College Students
MTS Grace CP Church
The people of the Gulf Coast
The people affected by the Pakistani floods

Those in Military Service

Christopher Morey (Navy) Daniel Sweitzer (Navy)
Shelby Simmons (Marines)
Military chaplains

Prayer requests can be sent to gracecpchurch@att.net or you can call Tim at 440-3499.

Church Leadership & Staff:

Ministerial Team: Terry Kinnaman & Timothy Baranoski

Elders (Session): Lee Bagby, Michael Jagers, Jim Saleem, Beverly Sweitzer, Jeff Davis

Treasurer: Brent Swick

Music/Choir Director: Jamey Green

Cleaning Crew: Woody Hastings

Grounds Crew: Bruce Waterman

Daily Bible Readings

Monday (8/16): Psalm 106:19-48; Judges 17:1-13; Acts 7:44-8:1a; John 5:19-29

Tuesday (8/17): Psalm 124; Judges 18:1-15; Acts 8:1-13; John 5:30-47

Wednesday (8/18): Psalm 128, 129, 130; Judges 18:16-31; Acts 8:14-25; John 6:1-15

Thursday (8/19): Psalm 134, 135; Job 1:1-22; Acts 8:26-40; John 6:16-27

Friday (8/20): Psalm 141, 143:1-11(12); Job 2:1-13; Acts 9:1-9; John 6:27-40

Saturday (8/21): Psalm 104; Job 3:1-26; Acts 9:10-19a; John 6:41-51

Monday (8/23): Psalm 4; Job 4:1,5:1-11,17-21,26-27; Acts 9:19b-31; John 6:52-59

Tuesday (8/24): Psalm 10, 11; Job 6:1-4,8-15,21; Acts 9:32-43; John 6:60-71

Wednesday (8/25): Psalm 12, 13, 14; Job 6:1,7:1-21; Acts 10:1-16; John 7:1-13

Thursday (8/26): Psalm 18:21-50; Job 8:1-10, 20-22; Acts 10:17-33; John 7:14-36

Friday (8/27): Psalm 22; Job 9:1-15,32-35; Acts 10:34-48; John 7:37-52

Saturday (8/28): Psalm 110:1-5(6-7); Job 9:1,10:1-9,16-22; Acts 11:1-18; John 8:12-20

Community Education Series

September 8
The Gospel According to Chubby
Begins at 6 p.m.

Grace Cumberland Presbyterian Church

1153 Lewisburg Pike
Franklin, Tennessee 37064

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED