

# BETHEL MATTERS

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## In This Issue

GUATEMALA  
MISSION TRIP

CHILDREN'S  
MINISTRY  
VOLUNTEERS

EVENTS

LIBRARY  
ADDITIONS

MAILBOX

BIRTHDAYS &  
ANNIVERSARIES



## THE LAW OF THE PENDULUM

PASTOR RICK

What is saving Faith? Is it a mere intellectual ascent to a set of facts? Is it signing on to a creed or a doctrinal statement? Or is it something more? Surely we are saved by faith and not by works (Ephesians 2:8-9). But the scripture also says that we must believe in our hearts (Romans 10:9). So it is clearly more than intellectual ascent, a heart attitude is required. In my next few articles I am going to explore what saving faith really is. I am going to begin with a story from author Ken Davis. He writes,

In college I was asked to prepare a lesson to teach my speech class. We were to be graded on our creativity and ability to drive home a point in a memorable way. The title of my talk was, "The Law of the Pendulum." I spent 20 minutes carefully teaching the physical principle that governs a swinging pendulum. The law of the pendulum is: A pendulum can never return to a point higher than the point from which it was released. Because of friction and gravity,

when the pendulum returns, it will fall short of its original release point. Each time it swings it makes less and less of an arc, until finally it is at rest. This point of rest is called the state of equilibrium, where all forces acting on the pendulum are equal.

I attached a 3-foot string to a child's toy top and secured it to the top of the blackboard with a thumbtack. I pulled the top to one side and made a mark on the blackboard where I let it go. Each time it swung back I made a new mark. It took less than a minute for the top to complete its swinging and come to rest. When I finished the demonstration, the markings on the blackboard proved my thesis.

I then asked how many people in the room BELIEVED the law of the pendulum was true. All of my classmates raised their hands, so did the teacher. He started to walk to the front of the room thinking the class was over. In reality it had just begun. Hanging from

the steel ceiling beams in the middle of the room was a large, crude but functional pendulum (250 pounds of metal weights tied to four strands of 500-pound test parachute cord.). I invited the instructor to climb up on a table and sit in a chair with the back of his head against a cement wall. Then I brought the 250 pounds of metal up to his nose. Holding the huge pendulum just a fraction of an inch from his face, I once again explained the law of the pendulum he had applauded only moments before, "If the law of the pendulum is true, then when I release this mass of metal, it will swing across the room and return short of the release point. Your nose will be in no danger."

After that final restatement of this law, I looked him in the eye and asked, "Sir, do you believe this law is true?" There was a long pause. Huge beads of sweat formed on his upper lip and then weakly he nodded and whispered, "Yes." I released the pendulum. It made a swishing sound as it arced across the room. At the far end of its swing, it paused momentarily and started back. I never saw a man move so fast in my life. He literally dived from the table. Deftly stepping around the still-swinging pendulum, I asked the class, "Does he believe in the law of the pendulum?" The students unanimously answered, "NO!"

True belief must be from the heart.

# GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP

DAN NELSON

## Thanks

Thanks for all the people who supported us financially and also prayed for us. You are an encouragement to the team.

Through all the stomach problems, van that would not start, tiredness of team, the missionaries George and Tammy having to stay in the states, and crazy rides in vans and buses, we experienced God working in our lives and in those we came in contact with. We are eternally grateful.

## Helping hands to the kids, mothers, and Guatemalan missionaries.

The team was able to play games and do crafts with the kids. We were able to share with adults and kids the gospel and saw approximately 50 kids ask to receive Christ. Several of our team members were able to share their testimonies. The Guatemalan Pastor Guba and his wife Cynthia will now be able to follow up with these kids. The VBS program that the team put on in 3 separate communities for 4 days helped give encouragement to Pastor Guba and Cynthia as they continue to work with these families. Many of the Guatemalan people including the public school teachers where we ministered have asked our team when we are coming back.

## Answers to prayer.

Answers to prayer took place every day. An example of this was during our last day in Guatemala. There were several adults that were sick with stomach issues. Our doctor and team member, Erica, had only enough doses of an antibiotic that she had brought for one more adult. She counted the remaining pills left the night before and there was only one dose left. Then, in the morning, there were two adults that woke up with stomach issues. She came to one team member to give her the last dose and found that there was an additional dose. This is just one example of many how God provided.

## No one left unchanged.

The whole team was changed. It may be the perspective we now have on life. It may be our view of missions and how we can be a part of the God's plan to reach others in countries like Guatemala. For others it may be a new perspective on how we can reach our neighbors and friends with the good news of God's salvation. No matter what the change is, we all know that our lives will be never be the same again.

## Kids, kids, and more kids.

We could not help but share how many kids came to our VBS and how much their smiles and joy causes us to feel like we were making a difference. On average, we had around 100 kids come to the property where we were doing the VBS program. Many would walk from a long distance, some on the other side of a

mountain, to come to experience the program with us. Not only at the property, but we were also able to go to a public school while it was in session and share about God with them and the teachers. How cool is that! Another day we spent the morning up in a rural community sharing with the kids and mothers that came to check out what we were doing. A leader of the community was so happy we were coming that he offered for us to use his land to set up the VBS program. Another let us use his field for the game time. And the community asked us to come back again. What a blessing.

## Salvation.

The ultimate goal was to see many come to Christ. When we gave the invitation in one area, one little boy was not sure he was being seen when he raised his hand to come to Christ so he stood on his chair on his tip toes just so he was not missed. During another invitation after a testimony by one of our team members, two women came forward to accept Christ. The eternal impact of our trip was evident during these times and other times when people came forward.

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS

BECKY NELSON

The mission of Bethel's children's ministries is to partner with families in helping children to become Christ-followers who grow, connect, serve, and tell. Bethel can only do this through volunteers. Volunteers are people--men, women, and youth who are part of the church body who are willing to use their gifts and give their time to be used by God in partnering with families.

Each week there are 26 volunteers needed to staff our children's programs. Some volunteers serve every week and some of them serve on a rotation (once every 5-6 weeks). There are over 35 families who regularly attend Bethel with children between the ages of 0-5th grade. We provide ministries to almost 90 children! Our ministries teach children valuable truths about God, build positive relationships with them, and provide resources and support for their families as they grow physically and spiritually.

We have many amazing volunteers but there is always a need for more as our ministry grows and circumstances change for our current volunteers. If you've ever considered being part of an exciting ministry at Bethel or if you would like more information about how your time and gifts could be used. Please contact Becky at [beckynelson74@gmail.com](mailto:beckynelson74@gmail.com)



## PRIMETIMERS' POOL PARTY

AUGUST 4 AT 2 P

Swimmers welcome!  
Grill on at 5:00  
Hot dogs and drinks provided.  
Please bring a dish to pass.



## CHURCH PICNIC

AUGUST 14 AT 11:15A

The church picnic will be held on August 14th at the church. Plan now to attend this fun event. The Congregational Care Board will provide hot dogs, brats, chicken strips, buns, and beverages. Last names A-L bring a dessert to share. Last names M-Z bring a large salad. Please bring a lawn chair. In case of rain the picnic will be held in the gym.



## PRAYER GATHERING

AUGUST 14 AT 7 P

Join us for prayer at the church



## NIGHT OF WORSHIP

AUGUST 21 AT 6 P

Come and glorify our great God!  
Preschool through third graders can go to the Family Life Center for a special kids' worship time. Youth and adults of all ages will meet in the sanctuary for an extended time of worship through singing, prayer and reading of Scripture. Julie & Praise Team will lead a time of contemporary praise. Kurt & Shelley Janofski will lead a Hymn Sing. End the evening with a cookie social in the gym. Feel free to invite your friends.



# NEW TO THE LIBRARY

## FICTION

The Inheritance: "My First Book Written at 17" by Louisa May Alcott

Front Porch Tales: Stories of Family, Faith, Laughter and Love by Philip Gulley

When Calls the Heart by Janet Oke

Roses for Mama by Janette Oke

The Ultimate Legacy by Jim Stoval

Eighth Shepherd by Bodie & Brock Thoene

Ninth Witness by Bodie & Brock Thoene

## CHRISTIAN LIVING

Strong Through the Storm: How to be a Christian in the World Today by Jim Cymbal

As it is in Heaven: How Eternity Brings Focus to What Really Matters by Greg Laurie

No Fear: Real Stories of a Courageous New Generation

Standing for Truth by Tony Perkins

## GOD'S CHARACTER

My Jesus is ... Everything by Anne Graham Lotz

## PERSONAL GROWTH

Courageous Faith: A Lifelong Pursuit of Faith Over Fear by Debbye Turner Bell

## SMALL GROUP RESOURCES, BIBLE STUDIES

Romans, A Video DVD Study: 49 Lessons on History, Meaning, and Application by Douglas J. Moo

Family 101 DVD Coach Kit: God' Blueprint for Life by Dr. Gary and Barb Rosberg

Life and Ministry of the Messiah DVD & Discovery Guide:

Learning the Faith of Jesus (3) That the World May Know by Ray Vander Lann

Walking With God in the Desert: Experiencing Living Water

When Life is Tough by Ray Vander Laan

## WOMEN

The Unique World of Women ... in Bible Times and Now by Eugenia Price

## EVENTS

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August 4 Primetimers' Pool Party

August 14 Church Picnic & Joel White Preach

August 14 Prayer Gathering at church

August 21 Night of Worship

August 28 Christian Education Ministry Fair

# MAILBOX

Dear Bethel Church Family,

We were overwhelmed by the farewell service and the kindness to us, as well as your gracious gift to us. We are still processing all that we heard and felt. Bethel is a very special church. That's what enabled us to stay 18 years in God's goodness. We have so much to take with us into our future ministry.

Thank you deeply,  
Pastor Brian & Ellen (& Joy & Jay)

Dear Bethel Family,

Thank you for supporting me throughout my life & for the gift card, thanks also for letting me have my grad party here.

Much love & appreciation,  
Brianna Steede

To our Bethel Family,

Thank you very much for the plant in memory of Paul Kapper, my brother, after his sudden passing on July 10th. Thank you, as well for all of the cards and prayers in his memory. Your prayers have been felt as we go through this difficult time. He will be dearly missed.

- Abbie, Will, Lizzie & Matthew Tireman

I received the love gift from Bethel, and I am happy to report that with all of the gifts I have received from various people, I have enough to cover the funeral home bill, with extra left over. I am anticipating that the life insurance payout is going to cover the medical bills, so I am humbled and grateful that I am in a good position moving forward. Thank you and thank the many from Bethel who not just gave some money, but gave precious encouragement and emotional support, and especially the prayers that are holding me up through this incredibly difficult period. Yay God!

- Matt Vissering

Dear Friends at Bethel,

Thank you so much for your prayer and financial support! We truly cherish your friendship. God is working through you to help us serve local churches and camps! Praying for your church community.

Love,  
the Hulce family

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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- 1 Kathy Johnson, Bob Nelson, Abbie Tireman, Liam O'Connor
- 2 Jean & Spencer Johnson A
- 3 Jim Noe
- 4 Dan & Kathy Johnson A
- 5 Nicole & Troy Steppke A
- 6 Sally Lyford
- 7 Walt Anderson
- 8 Amy & Drew Quinn
- 9 Sue Goodwin, Kathy Morabito
- 10 Keith Beauchamp, Rory Fuller, Cliff & Eleanor Maier A, Jim & Laurel Perko A
- 11 Micah Mosher, Don & Susie VanRyn A
- 12 Gradon Haehnel
- 13 Wendy Haehnel, Jeff Millin, Caden Steede
- 14 Keith & Pam Beauchamp A, Elijah Miller
- 15 Gerald Hanninen, Ed & Marilyn Morrison A
- 16 Kendyl Dahlstrom, Julie Glover, Judy Larson, Bob & Natalie Martin A
- 17 Dan & Becky Nelson
- 18 Karen & Walley Helmila A, Tim Larson, Micah Mosher
- 19 Chris & Walt Anderson A, Carrie Brandt
- 20 Annette Brown, Seth Clark, Holly Glover
- 22 Levi Holsinger, Don & Karla Salo A
- 23 John Morabito
- 25 Hannah Holsinger, Brian Steede
- 27 Andy & Beth Larsen A
- 28 Adelin Deering, Millie Mecorkle
- 29 Kurt & Shelley Janofski A, Bob Leaf
- 30 John Conklin, Shelley Janofski, Karl Thomsen
- 31 Stacy Giroux, Jeff MacDonald