

REFLECTIONS

Grace OPC

AN UNEXPECTED KINDNESS

By Pastor Brian De Jong

In the days when King David’s power had reached its zenith and he had subdued his enemies all around, he asked a very revealing question. This one question shows how David was a man after God’s own heart – for this was a very God-like question.

What did David ask? He asked, “Is there yet anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan’s sake?” Here was the great King of Israel, searching for some remnant of the line of his predecessor and nemesis Saul.

He was not seeking Saul’s offspring in a mad quest to annihilate them. His purpose was entirely generous – David desired to show kindness.

This gracious initiative was “for Jonathan’s sake.” You’ll remember the covenant that David and Jonathan made before they parted. If one was killed, the survivor would take care of the offspring. David had bound himself to Jonathan in this covenant pledge, and now David is going about the task of fulfilling his previous promise to his dearest friend on earth.

It didn’t take long for Jonathan’s surviving son Mephibosheth to be found. The servant Ziba knew who he was and where he could be located. So David sent for Mephibosheth. Jonathan’s son came, though with fear and trepidation.

David detected the anxiety of Mephibosheth, and assured him, “Do not fear, for I will surely show kindness to you for the sake of your father Jonathan, and will

restore to you all the land of your grandfather Saul; and you shall eat at my table regularly.”

Imagine how Mephibosheth must have felt. He was summoned to the king’s palace and probably expected the worst – even death itself. What he received was a completely unexpected kindness. How his heart must have thrilled to realize what David was saying. Rather than being summarily executed, he was being treated with dignity. He instantly became a wealthy man and was privileged to eat regularly at the king’s table. WOW!

I indicated earlier that David was very God-like in this pursuit. Even more pointed, I would say that David was behaving as a type and shadow of our Lord Jesus Christ. Think about your own case. You deserved death – not for a mere biological association, but because you had been a rebel against heaven.

God, in His eternal wisdom and goodness, had decided to show you kindness. This is expressed in His covenant, and is in keeping with Christ’s willing sacrifice. God is showing you kindness for Jesus’ sake.

The kindness of God is not limited to earthly blessings and privileges – though we should never overlook the temporal advantages God places at our disposal. His kindness stretches to eternity – a kindness and goodness of which we now only have the slightest foretaste. What is still to come from our God will far eclipse even the best blessings we now enjoy...

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August 2012

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Mnemonics...

- *Missions Sunday, 12th*
- *Church Picnic, 16th*

Speak What He Teaches

by C. H. Spurgeon

*Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth,
and teach thee what thou shalt say.
(Exodus 4:12)*

Many a true servant of the Lord is slow of speech, and when called upon to plead for his Lord, he is in great confusion lest he should spoil a good cause by his bad advocacy. In such a case it is well to remember that the Lord made the tongue which is so slow, and we must take care that we do not blame our maker. It may be that a slow tongue is not so great an evil as a fast one, and fewness of words may be more of a blessing than floods of verbiage. It is also quite certain that real saving power does not lie in human rhetoric, with its tropes, and pretty phrases, and grand

displays. Lack of fluency is not so great a lack as it looks.

If God be with our mouth, and with our mind, we shall have something better than the sounding brass of eloquence or the tinkling cymbal of persuasion. God's teaching is wisdom; His presence is power. Pharaoh had more reason to be afraid of stammering Moses than of the most fluent talker in Egypt; for what he said had power in it; he spoke plagues and deaths. If the Lord be with us in our natural weakness we shall be girt with supernatural power. Therefore, let us speak for Jesus boldly, as we ought to speak.

*Taken from Faith's Checkbook by C. H. Spurgeon
"August 2."*

Church Campout

A church campout will be held on Friday, September 7- Saturday, September 8 at the Kohler-Andrea State Park in Sheboygan. For more details, please see Pastor Brian.

A "pitch-in" supper will be held the De Jong's campsite on that Friday evening and everyone is welcome to join in!



August Birthdays



Church Picnic

Everyone's invited to come to this year's church picnic, which will be held Thursday, August 16, 6:00 p.m. at church. Each family please bring your own plates, utensils, drinks and table cloth, napkins, and equipment for outdoor games. Also, please sign up if you are coming & indicate whether you'll be bringing either a salad or dessert.





Grace OPC

August 2012

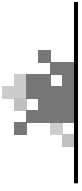
Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m. <i>Pine Haven Study, 1:30 p.m.</i>	7	8	9	10	11
12 Missions Sunday	13 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.	14	15	16 Church Picnic, 6 p.m	17	18
19	20 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.	21	22	23	24	25
26 Lord's Supper, (p.m.)	27 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m. <i>Pine Haven Study, 1:30 p.m.</i>	28	29	30	31	

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Concluded...

Comments on Finance

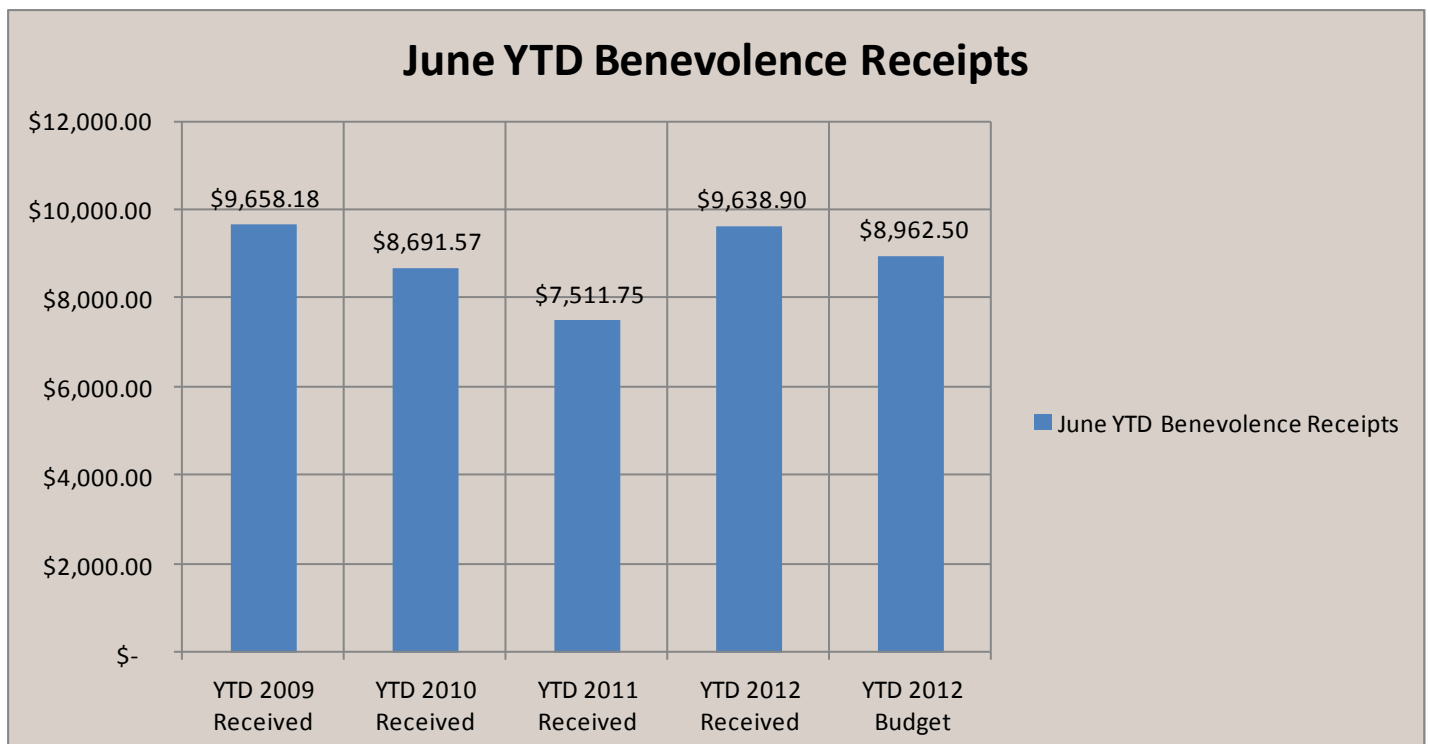
by Joel Moody

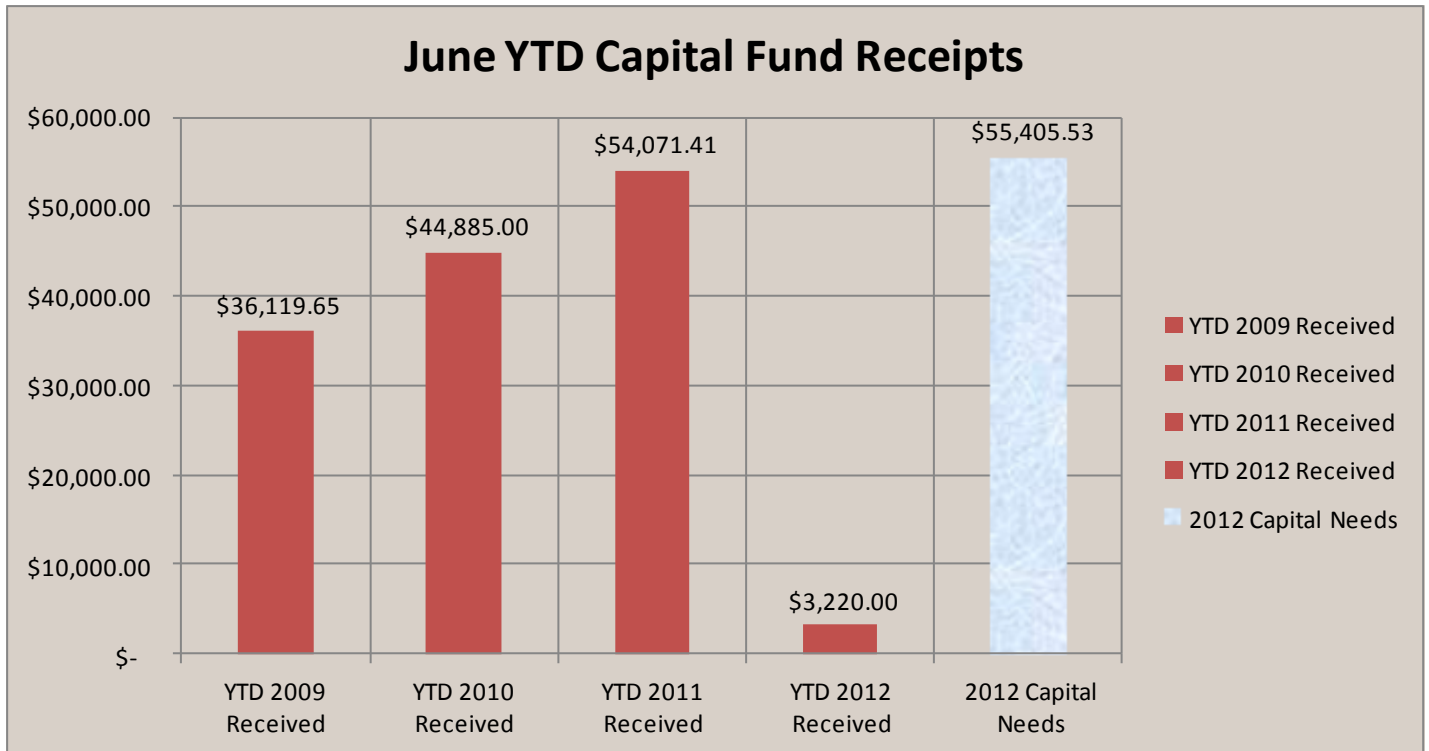
General Fund receipts for June totaled \$13,616.74 as compared to the budget of \$12,538.41, while General Fund disbursements for June totaled \$13,660.29. June year to date General Fund receipts totaled \$82,118.15 as compared to the budget of \$81,499.50 (an excess of \$618.65), while June year to date disbursements of \$76,925.65 were \$4,573.85 below budget. Through the end of June, the General Fund has increased by \$5,303.32. The increase in the General Fund was due to a shortfall in disbursements as compared to the budget. Year to date General Fund receipts for June were 11.6% above last year's total on an average Sunday while disbursements were 3.5% above the prior year.

Benevolence Fund Receipts for June totaled \$1,581.00 as compared to the budget of \$1,493.75 (an excess of \$87.25). Year to date Benevolence Fund Receipts through June totaled \$9,638.90 and exceeded budget by \$676.40. Please refer to the graph for a historical trend of benevolence receipts.

June Year to Date giving for the **Capital Fund** was \$3,220.00. The outstanding Promissory

Notes balance was \$59,000.00 as of the end of June 2012. During the current year, \$53,000.00 is scheduled to mature on these notes. How can you help to meet this outstanding need? Although there is not a scheduled offering for the Capital Fund, the need is still there to pay off the obligations that we have committed to as a local church body. Please refer to the Capital Fund Graph that shows the historical giving through June for the years indicated in the graph as well as the 2012 Total Capital Fund needs for the year in the last column. You may contribute to the Capital Fund by marking your gift for the Capital Fund and placing it in the offering plate. (Since there is not a scheduled offering for this need, you must mark your gift as Capital Fund in order for your gift to go towards this need.)





Attention Golfers

On Saturday, August 18, 2012 Oostburg Christian School and Sheboygan County Christian High School will host the 2nd Annual Christian Schools Golf Outing at Town and Country Golf Course. As in past years, all monies raised from this tournament will go to fund programs at both schools. Golfers of all skill levels are invited to participate in this day of fun and fellowship. The cost is \$100 per foursome plus green fees.



You're Invited...

To a corn roast at the Rodney Nyhof's!
Come enjoy fire-roasted corn, hamburgers, hot
-dogs, and much more! The open-house-style
event will start at 4 p.m. on Saturday, August
25th, with dinner being served at 6 pm. RSVP
to Samantha. We hope to see you there!



Ladies' Bible Study

The Ladies' Bible Study will begin a new
study of Paul's letter to the Galatians on September
17, 2012. Any ladies who wish to join the group
should contact Lynn Baatz for details. The group
meets at 6:30 a.m. on Mondays for one hour of Bible
study, followed by 30 minutes for prayer. All ladies
are welcome to join!



Hot Summer Ice Tea

(makes 1 gallon)

- ★ 9 Tea bags (green or black) (I use Bigelow Green Tea with Pomegranate)
- ★ Juice of 5 Limes OR 3 Lemons
- ★ 1/2 cup Sugar (use more if not using stevia)
- ★ 3 small scoops powdered Stevia* (Optional) (KAL stevia is exceptionally good in flavor)

In a small bowl, pour 1 1/2 cups boiling water over the tea bags. Steep for 3-5 minutes. Remove and squeeze liquid from bags.

In a 1 Gallon pitcher, pour tea concentrate, lime or lemon juice, sugar & stevia. Stir and let sugar dissolve.

Add water & ice to make 1 Gallon.

Enjoy while sitting in your favorite chair on the porch or patio!

Shary De Troye

**A note about Stevia...*

Stevia is a plant that is naturally sweet. The leaves have been safely used for many years to sweeten food & drink without calories.

Beware of the Truvia & PureVia chemically processed brands that are known to cause health problems.



“The eyes
of all look
to You,
And You
give them
their food in
due time.
You open
Your hand
And satisfy
the desire of
every living
thing.”



Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ

Grace OPC

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CHECK OUT THE AUDIO:

**SERMONAUDIO.COM/
GRACESHEBOYGAN**

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE:

GRACEOPCSHEBOYGAN.COM



Spurgeon Corner

*“Let me now go to the field,
and glean ears of corn.”
(Ruth 2:2)*

Downcast and troubled Christian, come and glean today in the broad field of promise. Here are abundance of precious promises, which exactly meet thy wants. Take this one:

“He will not break the bruised reed, nor quench the smoking flax.” Doth not that suit thy case? A reed, helpless, insignificant, and weak, a bruised reed, out of which no music can come; weaker than weakness itself; a reed, and that reed bruised, yet, he will not break thee; but on the contrary, will restore and strengthen thee. Thou art like the smoking flax: no light, no warmth, can come from thee; but he will not quench thee; he will blow with his sweet breath of mercy till he fans thee to a flame. Wouldst thou glean another ear? “Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” What soft words! Thy heart is tender, and the Master knows it, and therefore he speaketh so gently to thee. Wilt thou not obey him, and come to him even now? Take another ear of corn: “Fear not, thou worm Jacob, I will help thee, saith the Lord and thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.” How canst thou fear with such a wonderful assurance as this? Thou mayest gather ten thousand such golden ears as these! “I have blotted out thy sins like a cloud, and like a thick cloud thy transgressions.” Or this, “Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” Or this, “The Spirit and the Bride say, Come, and let him that is athirst come, and whosoever will let him take the water of life freely.” Our Master’s field is very rich; behold the handfuls. See, there they lie before thee, poor timid believer! Gather them up, make them thine own, for Jesus bids thee take them. Be not afraid, only believe! Grasp these sweet promises, thresh them out by meditation and feed on them with joy.



Morning, August 1, Morning & Evening, by C. H. Spurgeon

Front Page Concluded

...While Mephibosheth’s pleasant situation lasted for the rest of his days on earth, our privileges will go on forever and ever – there will be no end to the kindness of God in eternity future.

Have you stopped to consider how kind and good God has been to you – even lately? Have you remembered to express your gratitude with a simple “Thank you?”

