

REFLECTIONS

Grace OPC

THIRSTING FOR GOD

By Pastor Brian De Jong

During February we've been singing Psalm 42 as our Psalm of the Month. Included were words about our souls "thirsting for the living God." Have you ever considered that thought?

Thirst is a common experience in this world. Science tells us that a large percentage of our bodies are water. Yet the atmosphere around is us continually drying us out. Hence the living being needs to regularly rehydrate.

You know what I'm talking about, for you've felt the impulse to find something to "wet your whistle." The longer you go between drinking, the stronger the need grows. If left too long, thirst becomes the main interest of life until it is finally quenched.

Biologically speaking, thirst is involuntary. It is an automatic response of your body to its relative moisture levels. You don't have to make a conscious decision to be thirsty – it just happens. And when those internal triggers begin demanding a replenishment of liquid, then you become consciously aware of your body's need and you begin seeking some source of refreshment.

This physiological need is more acute in hot and dry climates, such as is found in the Middle East. When the hot winds blow and the blazing sun beats down, the body cries out for water. The danger rises of dehydration, sun stroke and related afflictions. The hotter and

drier you get, the more you pant for relief.

Using this common human experience, the Psalmist considers his own soul. The soul does not thirst for H₂O, but the soul thirsts for God. 'My soul thirsts for God, for the Living God,' he says. Thus God is 'the Living Water' that alone can satisfy the spiritual thirst of the believer.



"As the deer pants for the water brooks, So my soul pants for you, O God." Like the wild beast in the wilderness seeking for a stream, so the soul of the believer wanders through the world, seeking and searching for God.

There is a sense of desperation and longing – a yearning and panting after God until He is found.

Another experience common to men of all times and places is the satisfaction of taking a cold drink on a hot day. As that cool fluid enters the body, contentment immediately takes over. The desperation of thirst is displaced by the enjoyment of cold pure water.

So too, the believer knows the deep spiritual satisfaction of finding God and drinking deeply of Him. This is what Jesus offers when he says, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'"

Is your soul thirsty? Are you drinking from the Fountain of Living Water?

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Mnemonics...

- *Family Fellowship Dinner, 6th*
- *Daylight Saving's Time, 13th*

Thy Word is a Lamp

by C. H. Spurgeon

*“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet.”
Psalm 119:105*

We are walkers through the city of this world, and we are often called to go out into its darkness; let us never venture there without the light giving word, lest we slip with our feet. Each man should use the word of God personally, practically, and habitually, that he may see his way and see what lies in it. When darkness settles down upon all around me, the word of the Lord, like a flaming torch, reveals my way. Having no fixed lamps in eastern towns, in old time each passenger carried a lantern with him that he might not fall into the open sewer, or stumble over the heaps of ordure which defiled the road. This is a true picture of our path through this dark world: we should not know the way, or how to walk in it, if Scripture, like a blazing flambeau, did not reveal it. One of the most practical benefits of Holy Writ is guidance in the acts of daily life: it is not sent to astound us with its brilliance, but to guide us by its

instruction. It is true the head needs illumination, but even more the feet need direction, else head and feet may both fall into a ditch. Happy is the man who personally appropriates God’s word, and practically uses it as his comfort and counselor, -- a lamp to his own feet.

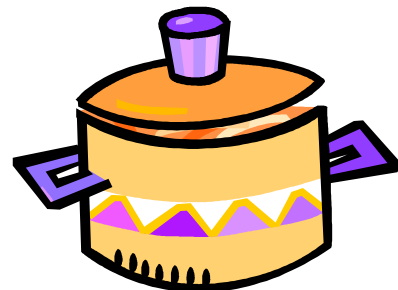


And a light unto my path. It is a lamp by night, a light by day, and a delight at all times. David guided his own steps by it, and also saw the difficulties of his road by its beams. He who walks in darkness is sure, sooner or later, to stumble; while he who walks by the light of day, or by the lamp of night, stumbleth not, but keeps his uprightness. Ignorance is painful upon practical subjects; it breeds indecision and suspense, and these are uncomfortable: the word of God, by imparting heavenly knowledge, leads to decision, and when that is followed by determined resolution, as in this case, it brings with it great restfulness of heart.

From The Treasury of David, by C. H. Spurgeon, Psalm 119, verse 105.

Family Fellowship Dinner

Everyone’s invited to stay for some delicious food & desserts after the morning service & Sunday School on March 6th for the Family Fellowship Dinner.



Dates to Help the Baatz's Move

The following are opportunities to assist with boxes and smaller items in the weeks leading up to 'moving day.'

Thursday, March 10th—afternoon only

Friday, March 11— *(contact either)*

March 14-18 anytime *(contact either)*

There's also a service project scheduled for the men & boys on Saturday, March 12th as Lynn & Sandy move the bigger items. If you can help, see Pastor Brian or the Baatz sisters.

Hospitality Sunday

On Sunday, April 17th we will have our first "Hospitality Sunday." The idea is simple: we want to promote hospitality between the members of the congregation. 1 Peter 4:9 says, "Be hospitable to one another without complaint."

So how will this work? In March we will post a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. If you want to participate, give us the information about who and how many. There will also be a space to mark if you are willing to be the host. We will collect all the names and then start making matches. We will notify everyone of where they're going and who the host (or guests) are going to be

by Sunday, April 10th.

Being a host means that it happens at your home and you coordinate the meal. If you want to ask your guests to bring something, that is up to you.

Questions? Talk with Pastor Brian for more info.



March Birthdays



New Phone Number

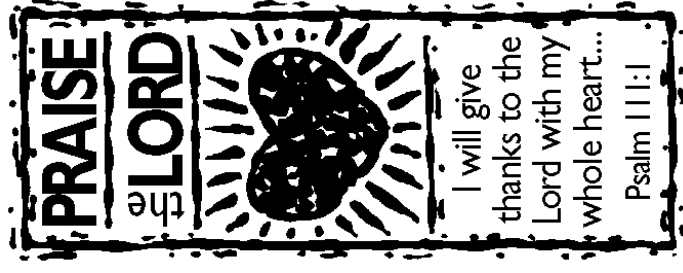




Grace OPC

March 2011

Showing forth the excellencies of Jesus Christ



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	3	4	5
6 Family Fellowship Dinner (Lunch)	7 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.	8	9 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	10	11	12
13 Missions Sunday	14 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m. <i>Pine Haven Study, 1:30 p.m.</i> Theology, 3:30 p.m.	15 Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	16 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	17	18	19
20	21 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.	22	23 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	24	25	26
27 Lord's Supper, (a.m.) <i>Meadowview Manor, 3 p.m.</i>	28 Women's Bible Study, 6:30 a.m. <i>Pine Haven Study, 1:30 p.m.</i> Theology, 3:30 p.m.	29	30 Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.	31		

Social Fellowship Activities 2011

April 1 ~ Taco Supper/ World View Movie

April 16 ~ Men's/Boys Activity

April 17 ~ Hospitality Sunday

April 30 ~ Baby Shower for Wendy Froh

May 15 (p.m.) ~ Fellowship Dinner

May 21 ~ Ladies Banquet

June 10 ~ Mini Golf

June 18 ~ Men & Boys Cookout/ Baseball game

July 15 ~ Ice Cream Social

August 18 ~ Church Picnic

September 23 ~ World View Movie Night

October 7 ~ Hayride/Bonfire at the Gartman's

October 16 ~ Hospitality Sunday

October 30 ~ Fellowship Dinner

November 13 ~ Harvest Home

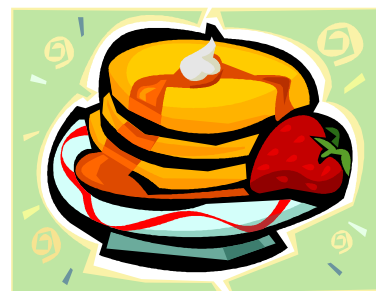
November 24 ~ Thanksgiving Football Game

December 28 ~ Bowling/Pizza with Pastor



Calvary OPC's Breakfast

The Calvary OPC Men's Society wishes to invite all men and boys to our breakfast at Cracked Shoe in Cedar Grove on March 12th at 8:00 a.m. Breakfast is \$7.75 (boys 10 & under \$5.49). Ripple Effect will present some skits & music after breakfast. Please reply to Verlan Snodgrass by **March 7th**. Come and enjoy some fellowship, good food, and entertainment.



Stuffed Shells

- ★ 1/2 box jumbo pasta shells
 - ★ 1 lb. turkey or pork sausage
 - ★ 1 container (15-oz.) ricotta cheese
 - ★ 2 cups mozzarella cheese
 - ★ 1 box (9-oz.) frozen spinach, thawed, squeeze to drain
 - ★ 1 tsp. garlic powder
 - ★ 1 tsp. dried basil leaves
 - ★ 1 jar Ragu pasta sauce, any variety
1. Heat oven to 350°. Spray a 9x13 glass baking pan with cooking spray. Cook & drain pasta as directed on package.
 2. In a skillet, crumble sausage & cook over medium heat, stirring frequently, until no longer pink. Drain.
 3. In a medium bowl, stir ricotta cheese, 1 1/2 cups mozzarella cheese, spinach, basil, garlic powder & sausage until well mixed.
 4. Spread 1/2 cup of the pasta sauce over the bottom of the dish. Spoon about 3 Tbsp. of the sausage mixture into each shell. Arrange shells filled side up on sauce in baking dish. Pour remaining sauce over shells. Spray a 15-inch piece of foil with cooking spray & cover the shells with the foil.
 5. Bake 40 minutes. Uncover; sprinkle with 1/2 cup or more of cheese. Bake uncovered 5 minutes longer, until cheese is melted.



“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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★ Did you know that this is Part 2 of a DYK on Bruce Hunt, OPC missionary to Korea?
★ Did you know Rev. Bruce Hunt was imprisoned by the Japanese in 1941 at the beginning of WW II?
★ Did you know that this happened because the Japanese at that time considered it disloyal not to participate in Shinto Shrine worship (false worship) and Hunt was outspoken against it?

★ Did you know that he was in prison 7 months and many other Korean Christians received a similar fate, some being martyred as well?

★ Did you know Rev. Hunt was repatriated the next year and was able to return to Korea in 1946?

★ That after his return, he worked at the Korean Theological Seminary that Korean brethren who had suffered during the war decided to construct?

★ That he was again interrupted in his work in 1950 because of declining health, but at the same time all the missionaries in Korea were evacuated so he ended up leaving several days before he had planned as the Korean War was beginning?

★ That he came back two years later even though his wife & children had to wait for another year, as foreign women & children were banned from entrance?

★ Did you know that his book *For A Testimony* relates the story of his imprisonment & those he suffered alongside?

★ That he retired in 1976 and came back to the states, even though he continued to preach until the Lord took his servant home in 1992 when he was 89 years old?

Information found on: <http://www.opc.org/nh.html?article-id=651>,
<http://www.wts.edu/resources/sarang/brucehunt.html>

Daylight Saving's Time

Don't forget to turn your clocks forward an hour— March 13th is Daylight Saving's Time!

