



The Lamplighter

Terrill Road Baptist Church
Pastor William C. Page

...doing the work He is doing in the world...

June 2011

Maturing Faith

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Pastor Page Lessons From the Kitchen

For several months now, I have had the opportunity to learn what I had mostly taken for granted during my 24 years of marriage to Bernadette. Number one – she was a GREAT cook. She prepared delicious meal after meal with little complaining and not nearly enough appreciation from me. Why? I did not know first-hand the never-ending demands of meal preparation. I sometimes think, “I put a lot of study into that sermon/lesson. Too bad I only get to preach or teach it once. Well, at least I can go back and read it or listen to it if I like. You can’t do the same thing with a meal! All that work, and it is gone forever. And don’t get too comfortable, because in a few hours it will be time to get started on the next meal! (Oh, and don’t forget to do the dishes).

Here are my first few lessons:

1. Understand terms – You have to know what the recipe is calling for. Minced onion is actually a spice. I learned that when I was purchasing some garlic salt. I had been mincing fresh onions in three previous recipes.
2. Use the right tool – I learned this in the garage, but it got lost in the kitchen. When it is time to pound chicken or beef, that steel mallet they sell in the kitchen gadget aisle *really does* work better than a 26 oz. framing hammer wrapped in cellophane!
3. Pay attention to details – I’m sure those 6 lbs. of pork ribs in the crock pot would have been delicious if I had actually made certain that the dial was turned to “low” and not “off”. Little things make a big difference. (Continued)

Pastor Page (continued)

Unlike some cooks, I derive no self-worth from a well-planned/executed meal. “If it’s good, I can’t take credit, I followed the recipe. If it’s bad, (or non-existent, see point 3 above). What did you expect? I’m not a cook.”

Thankfully, my sense of worth comes from knowing that Christ redeemed my soul and has a plan for my life. In Him, we can laugh at ourselves and learn a whole lot along the way.

I want to give a shout-out to our graduates. Congratulations! Much work has brought you to this point. Celebration is in order. You are about to enter a new phase of your life whereby you will find yourself being called upon to do things outside your comfort zone, your skill set. Don’t be afraid. Remember the three points above. And yes there will be failure. But *you* will not be a failure. Learn to laugh at yourself because, in Christ, we already know who we are.

Blessings,

Pastor Bill

BREAKING NEWS

TRBC Softball Win!

CRANFORD - On Thursday May 26th, the TRBC softball team defeated Cranford Presbyterian 12-4 at Unami Park, to capture its first win of the season. It was also the first win since TRBC resumed church league play a year and a half ago. Prior to that, TRBC had not fielded a team since the mid-1990’s. So, to put the May 26th game in perspective, it was the first softball win for TRBC in about 16 years!

TRBC Coach Steve Vorrius says, “We had good hitting, good fielding and David Jones had a great day pitching. I’m just really happy that we finally put it all together. Everybody’s been working very hard.” Steve encourages folks to come out and cheer the team on. “We play every Monday night at Warinanco and every Thursday night at Unami, 6:30 start.”

Congratulations and we wish you the best during the rest of the season!

Inspiration Point

Turbulence

by Jim Wilson

As I am writing this, Jan and I are on a plane to California. The turbulence started, I would guess, when we were somewhere over Kentucky. Thankfully, the pilot had warned us ahead of time that there was a line of bad weather about halfway across the country. He was sure right about that. This was worse than usual, because it lasted for a long time. It wasn't a rocking kind of turbulence. It was the banging type. In the cabin, we all kept our seat belts on, buckled up, riding it out, knowing it was a situation none of us controlled.

God, however, was in control. I kept picturing Jesus on the boat in the storm. As Luke 8:24 tells it, "He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm."

So much of our lives is just like that. We hit turbulence of some kind just about every day, usually without warning, and sometimes we just buckle up and hang on, hoping to ride it out. Some days are worse than others. There are plenty of "white-knuckle" flights for us on the ground, too.

God is with us in those times, also. In the times when we most realize how little control we have, it brings such comfort to realize the total control that He has. All we have to do is trust Him. He is faithful.

We will still have bumps, maybe even bruises in life. But, He will never leave us or forsake us, especially during the rough spots.

On Christ the solid Rock I stand. All other ground is turbulent sand.

Question of the Month for July:

With the 4th of July coming up, what does freedom mean to you?

And, to get you thinking ahead, Question of the Month for August: What plans do you have for this summer, or what has been the highlight of your summer so far?

Congratulations, Graduates!



We are so proud of this year's high school and college graduates at TRBC. May the Lord bless and watch over Matthew Manns, Jessica Staines, C.J. Karpel, Bill Thomas, Alexia Page, Kiara Thomas and Tim Salisbury, and may He guide their paths in the years ahead. Each one has worked hard. We congratulate them on all that they have accomplished and will continue to pray for them in the years to come.

Matthew Manns - Graduating from Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, Matthew says he is thankful for the people who helped him and pushed him, and is proud of himself for putting in the work. He feels that after putting in four years, he has accomplished a goal of his. He plans to attend Montclair State University and study either business management or hospitality management. Matthew says what stands out most in his memory about his senior year was time he spent with close friends and playing on the football team. Asked what he learned about himself during high school, Matthew says, "I learned that even though I may put in all the work and feel like I've done a great job, it doesn't mean there's not someone doing it better. I've learned how to separate myself from the competition."

Jessica Staines – Jessica is graduating from Arthur L. Johnson High School in Clark. She says, "It's kind of like a surreal feeling. I've always looked forward to graduating high school. Growing up, I just wanted to get out of high school and go to college. And, now that it's here, it went by so fast." One favorite high school memory: "My participation in all the plays and musicals. I really enjoyed that - just being on the stage and being able to be someone else for a little while and put on a performance. This year, we actually got a standing ovation all three nights for our musical (Cabaret). So, that was really great." What are Jessica's plans now? "I'm going to go to Union County College for one year. And, then I'm most likely going to transfer over to Rutgers and do a five-year masters program there to be a school psychologist." This past year, Jessica took a psychology course, "and it really sparked my interest and I knew that was the field I wanted to participate in." She hopes to be able to motivate and help children. Something she learned about herself in high school: "You need to really be yourself, be strong in who you are and do what you love. I want to follow my dreams. God will be there, helping me through it, showing me the way." (Continued)

Graduates (continued)



C.J. Karpel - Graduating from Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, C.J. says he is “anxious to move on to the next phase of my life.” He plans to attend Union County Vocational Tech’s building trades program. Something that stands out about his time in high school: “The friendships I have developed over the years that will continue after high school.” C.J. also says he learned an important lesson about himself. In all that he does, he says, “You get out of it what you put into it.”

Bill Thomas - Saying he feels his high school years flew by, William (Bill) Thomas is graduating from Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. He plans to attend Howard University in Washington, D.C. in the fall of 2011. Bill says what stands out for him during his high school years was practicing football in the freezing weather. He says he learned that if you want something badly enough, you have to work hard for it!

Alexia Page - Alexia has recently graduated from Union County College with an Associates in Arts degree in psychology. “I am excited about graduating”, she says, “relieved and happy.” What stands out for her about the last two years? “Being able to do better than I expected to do in the classes that I had. I really enjoyed being able to go to the library and spend three or four hours either writing a paper or studying. I’ve always enjoyed school. So, it’s been exciting to do well.” She plans to work this summer at Timothy Christian School, apply to North Carolina State University and hopefully transfer there in the spring of 2012. She and Andrew Passarotti are planning an October wedding. Something Alexia says she learned about herself in college: “I learned going into a secular environment after coming out of a small Christian school, that there’s a lot of good out there that can be learned from people even if they are not just like me.” Alexia adds, “I have been very blessed by the people at Terrill Road throughout these past few rough years. The people I have talked to, especially the women of the church and their stories of encouragement, have really been a huge blessing. And, I am so thankful for them.” (Continued)



Graduates (continued)

Kiara Thomas - On Sunday, May 8th, 2011, Kiara graduated from Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia, with a major in Business Management. “Prior to graduation”, she says, “I was both nervous and excited. But now, I’m relaxed and ready to begin a career. I would like to gain experience from a large firm over the next couple of years. One day I would like to own my own business.” What stands out most for her from the last four years of college? “The roommates and many people I’ve met both nationally and globally. I’ve made many friends and hope to stay in touch for life. During college, I’ve learned many things about myself, especially how to become more independent and get things done. I can’t believe it’s over. I had a good time.”

Tim Salisbury - Tim recently graduated from the University of Connecticut and says he is definitely excited about moving on to the next stage of his life. “At the same time”, he says, “I will miss spending time with all the friends I’ve made over the last four years, and all the exciting things college has exposed me to during my time there.” His plan is to apply to physician’s assistant school in the near future. What stands out most about his college years? “It’s difficult to put my finger on one single memory from college that stands out above the others, probably because there are so many. I enjoyed all the time spent with my friends, especially doing things off-campus in Hartford or Boston for example. I will say winning the National Championship for men’s basketball and the ensuing celebration were pretty awesome.” One thing that Tim says he learned about himself at a large university came from interacting with people from all walks of life. “I now understand the importance of being accepting and understanding of others because, in reality, people aren’t always going to agree with your opinions and beliefs, and vice versa. Patience has never been a strong suit of mine. But my experiences at college have definitely helped shape me into a more patient and understanding individual.”

CONGRATULATIONS!

Advice to Our Graduates

The Lamplighter Question of the Month for June was: What advice do you have for this year's TRBC high school and college graduates. Many thanks to all those who responded. May we all benefit from these words of wisdom and encouragement.

To the high school graduates: Be alert! There are countless opportunities in college to fail or succeed. Get plugged into a group, or find a church to connect with. Read God's Word, and pray ALL the time. Also, LISTEN. There are many crazy philosophies out there - be aware and willing to work hard to differentiate between God's ways and the world's lies.

There are no do-overs in life. When you make a decision, know the consequences because they will live with you for the rest of your life. College requires a lot of choices to be made. Don't make them alone though. Consult God in everything you do.

Realize that the world will pull you away from the Lord. Seek Him with all of your heart. You will never ever regret following Him, but you will (later) regret not following Him. - Sheryl Morales

It's been said that life is not made by the dreams that you dream, but by the decisions you make. Most of life is not made up of BIG decisions, but of small ones made daily. Whether you graduate and begin college or graduate and enter the workforce, you will be responsible in making those decisions, all the while being bombarded by a variety of value systems and the voices of many.

Remember that your parents love you and talking things over with them does not make you less independent. It's actually a mature and wise thing to do. They've lived life longer than you have!

Intentionally build into your day quiet time when you can pray; be willing to listen. When you are searching for truth, go to God's Word - it is true and highly life-applicable! This, of course, is one of those daily decisions you need to make. But this one decision is life-changing. -Janet Wilson

Pray and ask the Lord to reveal the Bible's relevance, even today. So much wisdom and comfort can be gleaned from the Word, which is God's love letter to you. Seek Him for help (Psalm 121), and don't forget to thank Him when He comes through for you (Ephesians 5:20). Praying the richest of God's blessings on your life, now as you graduate, and always! - Patty Buckridee (Continued)

Advice to Graduates (continued)

Always cling to the lessons you have learned here at TRBC. "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 22:6 - Julie Staines

Never forget you are representing Christ as you face new situations and challenges. Seek new friends who have your same values, and first of all are interested in earning an education. There are 24 hours in a day, and time is so valuable. Plan to use it wisely! - Juanita Sumner

Turn your eyes upon Jesus; Look full in His wonderful face. Then all the temptations you will face in your next phase of your life won't stand a chance as you follow Him alone. - Claire Heilmann

This is such an exciting time! We are moving on to new things and new stages in our lives. We should smile and look forward to what God has in store for us. - Jessica Staines

Do go to the research center when given an assignment, so you have your materials early. Do not procrastinate. Study daily so that you're not stressed when test taking time begins. Join a study group - it helps you to prepare.
-Theresa Kiesel

As you embark on this next phase of your life, remember that God is there with you every step of the way. Claim Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future". Graduation is not the end; it's the beginning - the beginning of a new life, new dreams, new hopes, new fears, new challenges. Embrace it as such. To quote Walt Disney, "All our dreams can come true ... if we have the courage to pursue them." Pursue them. Don't be afraid to try. There are things about tomorrow, you won't seem to understand. But YOU know who holds tomorrow ... and that same God WILL hold your hand. God Bless All of You! - Christy Caruso (Continued)

Advice to Graduates (continued)

If you get stressed about studying or tests just pray to God, asking for Him to help you and give you the knowledge to complete it, and you will not be stressed with the studying or tests you're taking. If you need help with your life, just pray to Jesus to bless you and have a good husband/wife, loving children and a wonderful household and praise God that He gives you all the wonders of your life. Also, read the Bible to learn about all the wonderful abundance God has packed in His awesome Word.

- Jesse Buckridee

Hold tightly to your dreams and passions and loosely to your plans. Life rarely turns out the way you thought it would. Let the Lord guide you on each piece of the journey. Trust that He will! By the way, something I have learned during almost twenty-five years as a Christian counselor: Everyone else does not have his or her act together! It is an illusion. Only God does! This includes your earthly heroes, your mentors, your role models and the ones you love. Be gentle on yourself and be "holy" (living your life for God), as He is holy! Congratulations! Peace and blessings to you all.

-Matie O'Brien-Cole

“What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave Him up for us all - how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?” Romans 8:31-32 (New International Version) -Trudi Karpel

Learn as much as you can about as many things as you can. Be teachable. Don't make the mistake of thinking you know it all - none of us knows it all. Be grounded in your faith, then stand your ground. Stand for something. Pray daily and know that we are praying for you. Always put God first. Remember who are, and whose you are. Know that God is with you. Guard your time and how you spend it. Guard your mind and how you fill it. Colossians 3:17 says, “Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” That is the best advice. Following it, you cannot fail. Soar to your dreams. Develop a passion to make a difference, then make it. With God all things are possible. We're proud of you. Go get 'em. -Jim Wilson

Milestones June Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

June 3 Juanita Sumner
June 7 Paul Rimondi
June 17 Alexia Page
June 19 Justin Guy
June 24 Jamie More
June 28 Steve Vorrius Sr.

Anniversaries

June 18 Jim & Janet Wilson
June 20 Antonio & Spring Casterlow
June 28 Gina & Steve Vorrius



If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, or if you choose for it not to be listed, please contact Jim Wilson. Thanks.

Just Run!

It's a Wrap

Young folks from TRBC presented the “Just Run!” musical during the evening of June 4th. You read comments from several of them in the last Lamplighter. Here is what the other up-and-coming actors had to say, prior to their performance of “Just Run!”

Samuel Farrell: “I hope people can believe in Jesus Christ through this show and that everyone would come and have fun.”

Liam Page: “I hope you like the show, because it’s funny and serious at the same time.”

Lucas Page: “It’s funny with a good message.”

Kevin Thai: “We’ve worked hard. Please come.”

Amy Tran: “For those who don’t know about salvation, this show talks about salvation and what it means.”

Jesse Buckridee: “The message from God’s Word tells about the story of salvation in a funny play.”

Danielle Dyer: “This play is about salvation and how people can accept Jesus into their heart.”

Church Calendar



June 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Family Night Supper GraceNotes Business Mtg Mission Friends, GA's, RA's Adult Choir 1	2	Dress Rehearsal Just Run! 3	Just Run! 4
Deacon's Meeting 5	6	VBS Meeting 7	GraceNotes Prayer Meeting Mission Friends, GA's, RA's Adult Choir 8	9	10	11
Lord's Supper Fanwood Street Fair 12	13	14	GraceNotes Prayer Meeting Mission Friends, GA's, RA's Adult Choir 15	16	17	18
Father's Day Dads & Grads 19	20	21	GraceNotes Prayer Meeting Mission Friends, GA's, RA's Last Adult Choir Practice 22	23	24	25
Ashbrook Ministry 26	27	28	GraceNotes Prayer Meeting Mission Friends, GA's, RA's 29	30		

Forgiveness Post-Script

by Pastor Bill

Recently we had a 4 week “sidebar” sermon series on the topic of forgiveness. I say sidebar because we are in the midst of a larger series on the *disciplines* of the Christian life. The subject of forgiveness does not generally show up on the list of Christian disciplines. You’ve seen the lists – they include Bible study, prayer, worship, meditation, etc. These are practices that over time will help us to become more like Christ in our daily lives. Nobody gets up in the morning and says, “I’m going to practice forgiveness today!” You don’t have to look for it so much as it finds you. When we are hurt by the action (or inaction) of another, it is natural to retaliate on some level. That is human. But when an occasion arises whereby it is clear that forgiving someone is the right thing before God to do, therein comes the rub. Let’s face it - forgiveness is every bit as hard as any of the disciplines we’ve talked about.

As a post-script to the sermon series, let me say that finding forgiveness will always be a challenge. The pain of someone’s offense can be so raw. The testimony of Corrie Ten Boom forgiving the Nazi guard does not provide encouragement, but even more guilt! After all, who thinks they are that spiritual? Jesus’ words in Matthew 6:15 can almost feel like a club to our souls – “But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” I’ve talked with folks who say, “Pastor, I want to forgive. I wish I were there. I would be a hypocrite if I mouthed the words, ‘I forgive you.’” Let me say that being a hypocrite has no virtue. Jesus made it clear in the parable of the two sons in Matthew 21.

28 " But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.' 29 "He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went. 30 "Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. 31 "Which of the two did the will of *his* father?" They said to Him, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. (Continued)

Forgiveness (continued)

Being honest with yourself before God is a good thing. Don't lose that. If you're not all the way to forgiveness yet, keep praying and leaning upon the Lord. I believe He will honor that. He knows your heart. Remember what we said forgiveness is NOT (see below). True forgiveness is a holy thing. It oftentimes requires the supernatural grace of God. Marvelous stories of forgiveness should not guilt us, but remind us of the incredible grace of God that He extends to His people.

Six Things forgiveness is NOT:

- Not excusing
- Not denying pain
- Not stopping hurting
- Not forgetting
- Not re-trusting
- Not being compensated for the wrongs done

Special case considerations concerning the general teaching of forgiveness:

Lewis Smedes stated that only people can be forgiven. It is intensely personal. Wrongs done by nature, circumstances, and unjust systems are somewhat in a different category. Here are a couple special case considerations in no particular order. Perhaps you could add to this list. I would not call them exceptions, because forgiveness can still very much be present. They are not cut and dry, nor are they always easy to know for sure. I encourage people to heed the words of Proverbs 11:14 "...in the multitude of counselors *there is safety.*"

Certain Legal matters –

Contract law is an agreement between two parties. While on a personal level, there may be no malice, a breach of contract is a legal matter that cannot always (nor should not always) be handled with an "I forgive you." It may have to be settled legally for extenuating reasons. (Continued)

Special Case Considerations (continued)

Injury suffered from certain neglect –

If a toy manufacturer's neglect causes harm, it might be irresponsible today to settle the issue between the two parties. Others could be harmed as a result. This is not being unforgiving. It is putting others' concern above your own.

Church discipline –

There are certain offenses that should not be quietly handled among the participating parties. A rebuke is in order. Sometimes by way of the person(s) position or influence, some level of discipline must follow. The purpose is not to demean or embarrass, but to correct and communicate God's holiness. This is not the absence of forgiveness.

Offended by God's Love:

Can this really happen? It does and it has! I'm reminded of two times in Scripture where someone was offended that God would forgive someone. The first in Jonah 4:2

“So he complained to the LORD about it: "Didn't I say before I left home that you would do this, LORD? That is why I ran away to Tarshish! I knew that you were a gracious and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. I knew how easily you could cancel your plans for destroying these people.”

Jonah really did not like the people of Nineveh and could not imagine why God would show compassion toward people whose actions were inexcusable.

The second is in Luke 15:28-32

28 "The older brother was angry and wouldn't go in. His father came out and begged him, 29 but he replied, 'All these years I've worked hard for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends. (Continued)

Offended by God's Love (continued)

30 Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the finest calf we have.' 31 "His father said to him, 'Look, dear son, you and I are very close, and everything I have is yours.

32 We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!"

Here the older brother of the prodigal son is angry that Dad chose to forgive.

I'm sure the prodigal was overwhelmed by the outpouring of love. He knew how bad his behavior was. Maybe the reason why some are never overwhelmed by the outpouring of God's love is because they are self-satisfied in their belief that their behavior is "not so bad". We can always compare ourselves favorably with someone. But how do we measure up in the sight of our Holy God? - Pastor Bill

News from a Former TRBC Member

Kent Smith , who was a member here at TRBC about a dozen years ago, has just graduated from Luther Rice Seminary in Lithonia, GA. We rejoice with Kent and his wife Stephanie on this milestone.

Thanks to Sheryl Morales for passing this along to the Lamplighter.



A key passage during "Just Run!" ...

"Train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. This is a trustworthy saying."

1 Timothy 4:7-9

How Well Do You Know God's Word?

“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.” Romans 15:4

Fill in the blanks, then check your NIV Bible to see how you did.

1 Samuel 3:9 So Eli told Samuel, “Go and lie down, and if He calls you, say ‘ _____, Lord, for your servant _____.’”

2 Samuel 5:2b And the Lord said to you (David), “You will _____ my people Israel, and you will become their _____.”

1 Kings 3:9 (So) give your servant a _____ heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong.

2 Kings 18:5-6 _____ trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among the kings of Judah, either before him or after him. He held fast to the Lord and did not cease to _____ Him; He kept the _____ the Lord had given Moses.

1 Chronicles 16:8-11 Give _____ to the Lord, call on His name; make known among the nations what He has done. Sing to Him, sing _____ to Him; tell of all His wonderful acts. Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those who _____ the Lord rejoice. Look to the Lord and His _____; seek His face always.

2 Chronicles 2:1 _____ gave orders to build a temple for the Name of the Lord and a royal palace for himself.

Spiritual Fitness:

The Warning Track

By Jim Wilson

One of the most important parts of a ballpark is not home plate, the bleachers or the pitcher's mound. It's the warning track, the part of the park deep in the outfield that is there to protect a player from crashing into the wall while trying to chase down a long fly ball. Many of us have seen outfielders run at full speed into the wall, paying so much attention to the ball that they lose sight of danger and go crashing into it. You may remember the opening sequence of Len Berman's "Spanning the World" on WNBC in which an outfielder goes right through the wall! The warning track is meant to tell players they are running out of room and they need to watch out. It marks the nearing boundary line and tells outfielders to look out.

We all have spiritual warning tracks, too. The Holy Spirit tells us when we are getting too close to the edge, too close to trouble, too close to sin and tells us to slow down and stop before it's too late. Sometimes other believers can help be our warning track, telling us to look out. Sometimes, we have "been there, done that" and don't want to go there again. Warning tracks provide the last bit of safety room in our lives, before we run into a brick wall.

That's also what margin can do in our lives. It provides a buffer before the boundary line. We had a study on margin a few years ago, based on a book by Dr. Richard Swenson. Back then, margin was defined as "the space between ourselves and our limits" or "the space between our load and our limit" (thank you to Pastor Bill, whose memory is better than mine). When we approach our limit, that's when the internal warning bells should go off.

Whenever we try to do too much, whenever we get an overriding Martha mentality (I'll call it the "Marty mentality" for guys), our built-in warning track needs to kick in and say "put on the brakes". We need breathing room. We cannot live our lives up against the wall, or worse, climbing the wall or crashing through it. When the wall gets close, we all need to be careful.

Yes, keep the ball in front of you and keep your eyes on it. But, spiritually speaking, be mindful of the warning track. It is the place where, if you are not careful, your margin runs out and your danger begins.

Wait Watchers

by Jim Wilson

None of us likes to wait for anything. Fast food is never fast enough. Ordering at a drive-thru window takes too long, and often the order is wrong. If a company says we have to wait a few days for delivery, we can't deal. Waiting for the results of a medical test, or a test at school, can be agonizing. Waiting to hear when you've applied to a college or applied for a job. The wait is awful. We want the answer NOW. Waiting to find the right life partner. Waiting to hold a new baby. Waiting at the airport. Waiting in line at Six Flags. Everywhere, we hurry up and wait .. then wait some more.

Sometimes, we wait on God. And I don't mean waiting like a servant, which is something we should do anyway, willingly and always. No, we wait for God to answer our prayers, to give us direction. Sometimes, we have to wait a long time, sometimes a lifetime. But, He will answer, even if His answer comes with His not answering.

God's word tells us something about that:

“They that wait upon the Lord will renew their strength,
they shall mount up on wings like eagles.

They shall run and not be weary.

They shall walk and not be faint.”

Isaiah 40:31

With God, it's always worth the wait.

Teach me, Lord, to wait.

Wait - Author Unknown

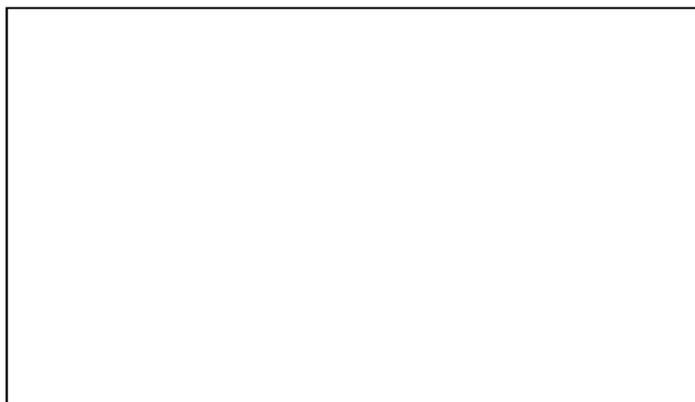
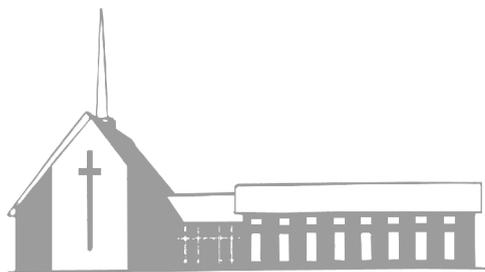
Desperately, helplessly, longingly I cried,
 Quietly, patiently, lovingly He replied.
 I pled and I wept for a clue to my fate.
 And the Master so gently said,
 "Child, you must wait."
 "Wait! You say wait!" my indignant reply,
 Lord, I need answers - I need to know why.
 Is Your hand shortened, or have You
 not heard?
 By faith I have asked, and I'm claiming
 Your word."
 My future and all to which I can relate,
 Hangs in the balance and You tell me 'wait'?
 I'm needing a 'yes'—a go ahead sign,
 Or at least a 'no' to which I can resign.
 "Lord, You promise that if we believe,
 We need but to ask and we shall receive.
 Lord I have been asking and this is my cry
 I am weary of asking! I need a reply!"
 Then quietly, softly I learned of my fate,
 As my Master replied, once again,
 "You must wait."
 So I slumped in my chair,
 defeated and taut.
 And I grumbled to God—"So I'm waiting,
 for what?"
 He seemed then to kneel and His eyes
 met with mine,
 And He tenderly said, "I could
 give you a sign."
 "I could shake the heavens, darken the sun,
 Raise up the dead, cause the
 mountain to run.
 All you seek, I could give
 and pleased you would be.

You would have what you want,
 but you wouldn't know Me."
 "You'd not know the depth of My love
 for each saint.
 You'd not know the power that I give
 to the faint.
 You'd not learn to see through clouds of despair.
 You'd not learn to trust just by knowing
 I'm there."
 "You'd not know the joy of resting in Me.
 When darkness and silence was all you could see.
 You'd never experience that fullness of love,
 As the peace of my Spirit descends like a dove."
 "You would know that I give and save for a start,
 But you'd not know the depth of
 the beat of My heart,
 The glow of My comfort, late in the night,
 The faith that I give when you
 walk without sight,
 "The depth that's beyond getting
 just what you ask,
 Of an infinite God that makes
 what you have last!
 You'd never know, should your pain quickly flee,
 What it means that, "My grace is sufficient
 for thee."
 Yes, your dreams for that loved one,
 One night would come true.
 But oh the loss if I lost what I'm doing in you.
 So be silent, my child, and in time you will see,
 That the greatest of gifts is to get to know Me.
 And though oft' may My answers
 seem terribly late,
 That My most precious answer of all
 is still 'wait'.

The Lamplighter

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Terrill Road Baptist Church is a Bible-believing Church where people connect with God, each other, and influence our world for Jesus Christ.



June Nursery Schedule

June 5 Robin Di Fiore and Katelyn Dyer
June 12 Jim and Christine Voorhees
June 19 Gina and Jenna Vorrius
June 26 Betty Williams and Cori Spies

Thanks to all of you!

My thanks to everyone who
contributed to this issue.
-Jim Wilson, Editor

Deadline for July Lamplighter:
Sunday, June 19