

The monthly newsletter of



July 2020

Asking God to transform us...So He can use us!

A Message from Pastor Tyler

Did you ever collect Baseball cards as a kid? There are many young people who pour countless hours examining the stats of players who have accomplished amazing feats. Young athletes aspire to be like their favorite player, copying their posture and mannerisms. A couple years ago, I got a box of theologian trading cards, highlighting great Christian minds who have shaped the church over the last 2000 years. As Christians, just like boys with their baseball cards, it is good for us to have Christian heroes; godly men and women we aspire to be like. In fact, Paul calls on the Philippians to imitate him (Phil 3:17). We aspire to be like our heroes of the faith because they help us to reflect Christ.

Just like Babe Ruth or Jackie Robinsons of Baseball fame, there are those Christian Heroes who wow us. Most of us will likely never preach a thousand times a year for thirty years like George Whitfield, or accomplish something as monumental as abolishing slave trade like William Wilberforce. Few of us will evangelize head hunters like Bruce "Bruchko" Olson, or write with the theological prowess of C.S. Lewis. Yet, I was challenged a few weeks back when asking the students in my youth group who their spiritual heroes are. Not one mentioned a puritan. No one said Billy Graham. No missionaries to foreign lands came up. Family members and caring adults in their lives were their heroes. This encouraged me.

I think of Acts 6 and 7. There was conflict between two cultural groups within the church, the Hellenists and Hebrews. Specifically, the conflict was between their widows. The Hellenist widows were being neglected in the distribution of food so that there was an unbalanced treatment between the Hellenists and Hebrews; creating division in the unity of the church. When the Apostles were made aware of the conflict, they wisely recognized that they'd be spread too thin if they were to pour their focus on such a task. They needed to devote their energies to preaching the word of God. So, they called for a team of men to be assembled who could take care of this task.

It is often those who are doing the visible tasks of preaching and teaching that get their proverbial theological trading card; those who wow us. We don't often think of those who serve tables as Spiritual heroes. Yet, look at the qualifications laid out by the apostles as they appointed men to this task. "Therefore brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty."—Acts 6:3

These men were recognized for their character, and it was evident that the Holy Spirit lived in them through the way they lived. One of these men was named Stephen. God used this table waiter of widows in wonderful ways! Not only was he used to bring unity among the body of Christ; through him God worked wonders and signs among the people.

While the Apostles were arrested, questioned, and beaten multiple times in those early days of the church, it wasn't one of these Christian super stars who first met his death through martyrdom. It was Stephen. The Apostles had counted it an honor to suffer for the sake of Christ, the one who had suffered for them (Acts 5:41). But the honor Stephen received surpassed their own. As he was being stoned to death, Jesus—the creator of the universe—gave him a standing ovation. The son of God stood to honor the one who was so heinously dishonored by man. 'And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.'"—Acts 7:55

I love that it was a man whose primary ministry was the unflashy work of serving widows who had the honor in history of becoming the first Christian martyr and receiving such a special honor; Christ standing on his behalf. We may question what we can do for the Kingdom of God, feeling insignificant, recognizing we aren't the type of people trading cards are made for. But like Stephen, each of us can be men and women of godly character. Each of us can feed the Spirit and let him work through our lives. Each of us can serve our neighbor with the love of Christ. Each of us can strive to reflect our Savior. There are young people in your life who look up to you. Would they call you their hero of the faith?

Announcements:



New Life Bible Camp

Overnight camps have been approved for the month of July! Here are the dates for camp at New Life Bible Camp:

- Senior Day Camp—July 16th
- Men and Boy's Retreat—July 17th - 19th
- Teen Camp—July 24th - 26th
- Soccer Camp—July 27th - 30th
- Family Camp—August 7th - 9th
- Women and Gals Retreat—August 14th - 16th

For more information and to register, log into newlifebiblecamp.org. If you have any further questions, please talk to Pete and Bev Anderson or Pastor Tyler.

CHURCH SURVEY



June 28th - July 12th, 2020

New Journey Church

Pastoral Search Online Survey

There is an online church survey that was sent to your emails on June 28th. Those going into 9th grade and older are encouraged to take this survey! You have until **July 12th** to complete the survey.

Nursery Volunteers Needed

NEW JOURNEY CHURCH



The church is in need of nursery volunteers! This ministry not only serves those in our own church body but also serves new families as they walk through the doors. It helps newcomers with young children experience our worship service on Sunday mornings and connect with our church family without the distraction of young children. Our church nursery is an intentional Christ centered ministry using *Truth:78* curriculum. While in the nursery young children will hear truths about God and be prayed over.

Ideally, we would like to get enough people involved to have a rotation scheduled out 8 to 12 weeks. Each week would consist of two volunteers with an option of a teen helper.

Please contact Steph Laposky if you feel called to serve in this ministry!
(njcfosston@gmail.com or 218-232-2134)

