

ChapelNEWS

MAY 2008 | CALVARY CHAPEL WARWICK, RI

✧ Pastor's Corner ✧ Keep On Keepin' On!

Keep on keepin' on. A simple phrase, easy to say, yet not always so easy to do. But what's the alternative? Give up? Quit? Don't you just feel that way sometimes? I do. At times I think I've had enough and I can't do it anymore. I want to quit. When I was younger, when anything got difficult, I'd just quit. But I've found that quitting is not a good option. When we quit, we never get anywhere, we never accomplish anything. But we can persevere, we can go forward, take another step, meet the next challenge, (or continue to face the old challenge), and press on...*no matter what!*

How? With God's strength! We can't do it on our own. We don't have the resources or the energy. We're weak, and it's just too much for us. The Lord told Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor. 12:9). *His grace is sufficient! It's enough! His power is made perfect or complete in our weakness!* Paul said, "When I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Cor. 12:10). God will give us the strength to go on. He has promised, and He is faithful. Over and over in my life I have seen this to be true.

The book of Hebrews tells us we've got witnesses watching, and I think, cheering us on! Hebrews chapter 12 verses 1 and 2 tell us to "throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and...*run with perseverance* the race marked out for us... (fixing) our eyes on Jesus..." Where we look, where we focus, where we find the strength to keep going is...Jesus! We sometimes get distracted and look in other directions, or focus on ourselves. We take our eyes off Jesus. The Bible says of Moses, "*he persevered* because he saw him who is invisible" (Heb 11:27). Moses knew about keepin' on... he knew where to look for the strength to keep going.



Song of Spring

by Beth Birkenfeld

"For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land."

– Song of Solomon 2:11-12

Have you looked outside today? No, no, not as in watching your feet get to the car without stumbling over something – I mean, have you looked outside today? Have you noticed that flowers are blooming, trees are budding, and the grass is turning green once again?

Continued on page 2

"As you know, we consider blessed those who have *persevered*. You have heard of Job's *perseverance* and have seen what the Lord finally brought about..." (James 5:11).

Let's keep on keepin' on, persevering with God's strength, one more step, one more day, one more challenge – and let's see what the Lord will bring about!

Together with you, in *His* strength,

Pastor Rich

Fatherhood & God's Provision

by **Danny Chapman**

The one question I have been asked repeatedly over the last nine months of impending fatherhood is “Are you ready?” My answer most of the time, with little variation, is “yeah... as ready as I’m going to be.” When it comes to fatherhood, I’m guessing there’s nothing like actual experience to actually become well, ready.

Shortly after the rush of excitement, adrenaline and pure disbelief of this news lessened a little, I had a host of questions and concerns for our growing family. Biggest of all the questions was, how would I be able to provide for my newly-enlarged family? Since we’ve been married, our household has relied on two incomes — what could I possibly do to make ends meet? We prayed, planned, saved as best we could, talked things over, and I’m ashamed to say, I stressed out.

Eventually, I grew more patient in waiting on God’s timing, even though I still didn’t see a solution. What happened was more than we could have dreamed — God blessed me with a generous and unexpected promotion the very week Ulana left her job! This was an amazing reminder of how God provides and blesses us,

if we only ask and wait on His timing. The blessing was certainly nothing of my own doing! I still don’t have it all figured out — far from it, but this timely blessing was a reminder to me that God is in control and that He will guide me and provide for my family.

Deuteronomy 11:13-15 really speaks to me as an example of this: “If you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today—to love the LORD your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul—then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and oil. I will provide grass in the fields for your cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied.”

So ready or not for fatherhood, what I am sure of, is how amazing God’s provision is, and has been for us both. God has provided for us in His season, with His perfect timing. We have been blessed more abundantly than we could have imagined with His provision, His love shown through our amazing church family, and through new life on the way! I am truly blessed.

Song of Spring, continued from page 1

Have you noticed the robins, skillfully and carefully building their homes for their soon-to-come babies?

I’m probably not alone in saying that spring is my favorite season. Spring is so hopeful, so encouraging. It reminds me, over and over again, that life is good. As the psalmist penned so beautifully in chapter 30, “weeping may endure for the night, but joy comes in the morning.” Spring is my morning.

If I were to pick my most favorite thing about spring, it would definitely be the birds. Do you notice how beautiful the singing of the birds is? They are most noticeable, the loudest and most active in their communication with each other, it seems, in the early morning, while I’m lying in bed. Could it be that they, too, sense the beauty of the world around them as each new day dawns?

I know that we are all so busy in our lives. I know it’s so hard to just stop and take things in for a few moments. But I’ve made it a habit to do just that, on as much of a regular basis as I can. I don’t want to miss the glory of



what God has put right here in my world. I encourage you to do the same. Start fresh this season. I know it’s hard. It may seem impossible. Do it anyway. Go outside, and take in the wonders of His creation. See the world around you come into full bloom. Feel the warmth of the sun as it feeds life into every living thing. Listen to the birds. Smell the flowers. Taste the goodness of the Lord, as you make time to be still.

Teach us, Lord, to number our days, that we might gain hearts of wisdom. May He put a song in each one of our hearts this day.

Nicaragua Youth Missions Trip '08

compiled by Lindsey Dowiot

Here's what the teens really had to say about their trip to Nueva Guinea, Nicaragua this past February.

What was your favorite Pastor Leon saying?

"Anyhoo..." – Ashley

"Back in LA..." – Molly & Crystal

"What is wrong with you?!?" & "My wife's fried chicken is the best fried chicken in the world"
– Ruben

What was your favorite food/meal?

Homemade pizza at the café after church
– Molly & Crystal

Authentic burritos – Sam

Tiff's fried chicken – Ashley

What was your favorite part of town?

The Mayor's giant purple house – Sam

Soda in a bag – Molly

Eskimo ice cream – Ruben

The first three-story house in Nueva Guinea – Nick



Has God been using the trip to teach you anything since you've been back?

Appreciate what you have, even if it doesn't seem like much – Ruben

Be careful how you act, because you never know who's watching – Molly

Would you consider going on a missions trip anywhere else?

Canada – Sam

Africa – Molly & Ruben

India – Crystal



Some of our most memorable moments...

Nick touched a dog!

Crystal's 'trip' down to the river

Splash fight at the river with the youth from Leon's church

Watching them dig

Mona Lisa the monkey getting "attached" to Ruben & Sam



Praise God for these great memories! Please pray that God would continue to use this trip to show each teen new lessons for their lives, and for new opportunities to show God's love. For more information about our trip, feel free to talk with any of the team members: Jake & Ashley Birkenfeld, Nick & Miranda Morse, Molly & Sam Bryan, Ruben & Crystal Ocasio.

-Sunday School Update

“Behold children are a heritage from the Lord...”
(Psalm 127:3a)

WOW! Here we are with more than half a year behind us since the introduction of our new curricula back in September. Where does the time go? We recently met together with all the teachers to get an overall feel of how things are progressing, and the conclusions were pretty much unanimous: things are moving ahead smoothly and teachers are very happy with the new materials they are using. Things are good, parents are happy, and we are thankful to God for His direction.

So, with all the positive feedback from teachers and parents, you might think it was time to set things on “cruise control” and continue forward with things just the way they are. BUT – we just happened to have a “Week of Prayer”, and some people just happened to pray for the Sunday School, and guess what – God listened! Just when I thought I could sit back and watch the Sunday School run itself, God nudged me in answer to the fellowship’s prayer. I began to feel something, and I couldn’t move away from it. I believe God has done, and wants to continue to do, a great work through those serving faithfully in our Sunday School program.

We are in the process of again re-evaluating our classes and all that we offer. One area that seems to be opening up to us is a teacher specifically dedicated to working with all the classes on memory verses. Taking time every other week to creatively challenge each child to read, understand and remember the Word of God so as

to make it an integrated part of their little hearts.

Having the Word stored in their memories will surely be a valuable spiritual tool they can use the rest of their lives.



Another area the Lord is having us take a closer look at is our Pre-K through Kindergarten class. At present this class is growing in leaps and bounds so we are prayerfully considering how we can adapt to the challenges of so many energetic toddlers in one area! Please pray for us as well. It really is exciting to see that God continually has His eyes upon this ministry. Our heart is always to empty ourselves so that He may reach out to your children and work in their lives as we move through our time together one Sunday at a time.

As I mentioned in the last update to you, I am distributing the Security & Procedural guidelines we have in place in our programs here at Calvary to the parents and have them available on the resource table for anyone else who is curious. Let me know if you have any questions in regards to anything you read in the guidelines.

Please remember, our Children’s Ministry is a ministry to you, our church families. It is a time during our adult church service set aside for the care and spiritual nurture of your children. Our intent is to support you, the parents, as the spiritual leaders in your homes by providing this service while you participate in our adult worship and study. The goal of serving one another and sharing in each others lives in this way creates a sense of an extended family; families growing together in their knowledge and in the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask!

In Christ,

Bob Dowiot

The One Year Chronological Bible

by Beth Birkenfeld

Yes, that's right, for my first "Recommended Reading," I am going to talk about the Bible! Actually, it feels like a great place to start, because the reality is, if you're only going to read one book, this should be it. After all, of His Word, God has promised that it is a "light for our path" (Ps. 119:105), that it "is Truth" (Jn. 17:17), and that in Jesus, we see the Word in the flesh. That's reason enough to say that God's Word is worth being intimately familiar with!

Okay, so what's special about the *One Year Chronological Bible*? The books in this edition are presented in the order in which each event actually occurs, unlike the Bibles that most of us are familiar with, which group together the books in canonical order. In canonical order, books of similar content are grouped together, such as the books of the Law (Genesis thru Deuteronomy), the books of the Prophets (Isaiah thru Malachi), the Gospels (Matthew thru John), the Pauline epistles (Romans thru Philemon), and so on. In a chronological Bible, the book of Genesis is followed by the book of Job. Why? Because "the account of Job is traditionally thought to have taken place around the time of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob...or shortly thereafter..." (*The One Year Chronological Bible*, pg. 66). The psalms that David wrote (those that were dated) are recorded intermittantly as you read about David's life

in 1st and 2nd Samuel, 1st Chronicles, and 1st Kings. What I really appreciate about this is that I am given the opportunity to read the Bible more like a running account of history than I ever have before!



Look at the title again, and you'll discover another reason that I'm so excited about reading this Bible. Did you catch it? *The One Year Chronological Bible!* This Bible has daily readings, starting with Genesis on January 1st, and finishing out the year on December 31st with the last 4 chapters of Revelation. Don't let that deter you, though, from starting at any point during the year! Each day's reading takes about 15 minutes, which is enough time to really get into what you are reading. Several weeks ago, I couldn't wait to get up and read the next day – and I was actually in the book of Deuteronomy, reading sections that are not normally considered very exciting!

So the next time you're at your local Christian bookstore (or even Wal-Mart!) look for *The One Year Chronological Bible*, published by Tyndale House, and see if it won't cause you to look at "His Story" in a whole new way!

Food for Thought Joe Silva

“If you seek to experience God you'll miss Him.

If you seek God, you'll experience Him.” ~ John Ferrer

“Among the things we know about the Trinity is that the Trinity was before the creation of everything else and that love existed between the persons of the Trinity before the foundation of the world. This being so, the existence of love as we know it in our makeup does not have an origin in chance, but from that which has always been.”

~ Francis Schaeffer, *The God Who is There*

“Is it about God's plan for my life, or my life for God's plan?”

~ Greg Koukl

Treasurer's Notes:

Norman LeBlanc, CPA

“As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you, but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children.”

1 Thessalonians 2:7

Moms are special people. They often do the bulk of the cleaning, cooking, shopping, laundering, bill paying, and child rearing (and some moms do all this on top of working at another job). Wow!

Surprisingly, even with this Herculean effort, many moms still feel inadequate or guilty (Fact: 53% do). Sometimes these feelings come from being torn between which obligation should have the highest priority; sometimes they come from a mother's natural instinct to sacrifice her own well-being to maximize the care of her family; and sometimes they just come from having extreme expectations, such as the notion that all things family must be perfect.

Regardless of the reasons, there are things that can be done to achieve better balance and lessen those feelings of inadequacy and guilt. Here are three money areas families can pay attention to, in order to help moms feel better:

Credit cards. They sure are convenient. Unfortunately they are also a convenient way to spend more money. Families that spend only cash tend to spend 30% less than families that use credit cards. At the end of a year imagine having 30% of your income left!

Gifts. You tend to notice how much you spend on a gift but you probably don't notice how many gifts you buy. Just for fun, add up the number of gifts you buy in one year. There are gifts for birthdays, graduations, weddings, showers, Christmas, Easter, Father's day, Mother's day, and many other days. Consider giving simple or homemade presents to bring down the total cost of all the gifts. A gift doesn't need to make a statement; it only needs to show that we care.

Savings. It's natural to only worry about today's problems and think that we can start saving some other time – you know; when life is easier. Unfortunately, life never gets easier, the troubles just change names. The longer you postpone saving the tougher it is to get your savings to add up to anything worthwhile.

Here are some other things we can do to help:

Share the financial responsibility. Spouses should talk about their spending goals, their savings goals, their retirement goals. This way, when a decision is made there are no hard feelings that it wasn't the right one. Both spouses should agree and understand the results of their actions and inactions.

Give Mom a paycheck. If Mom is a stay home mother devoted to home and family, she should get a salary for her efforts. It doesn't need to be huge, it just needs to be enough so Mom can get her nails done now and then, or a new outfit, or to buy her favorite movie to watch whenever she feels like. This small salary will go a long way in making Mom comfortable about giving herself a little reward once in a while.

Take Mom out. Maybe it's just some quality family time outside the house or maybe it's Mom and Dad enjoying being alone for a few hours.

Leave Mom alone. It's the opposite of taking her out. Dad can take the kids out and leave Mommy at home to unwind and relax. With all the commotion and wildness of her everyday routine, Mom will probably welcome the peace and quiet – as long as it doesn't last too long.

These are all simple things that we can easily do. Give some of them a try and help Mom do her thing.

The opinions stated in this publication do not necessarily express the stated position of Calvary Chapel. Send comments, concerns or questions for the editor to dchapman02@mac.com.

Thanks to everyone who contributed. ~Danny & Ulana Chapman, *Editors*.



Mommy & Me

Our "Mommy & Me" group meets the first and third Tuesday of every month at the church office in Warwick from 10:30 - 12:00. Moms share from their hearts and the kids play from theirs. They enjoy playing with each other and occasionally sharing in an activity.

Here is a picture of Ian & Micah Silva, Sophie Scott and Grace Chacon decorating cookies. They had a blast! You can imagine how much they enjoyed eating their creations. Come join our fun anytime. We would love to grow our group.

Questions: Call Gail Chacon 401-364-8937

Sewing Sisters Ministry

Ana LeBlanc invites the ladies of Calvary Chapel to join her in a "Sowing Sisters Ministry" that will meet one Saturday a month from 9:30 am to noon at the church office. The idea is to spend time together in fellowship and sew things to give to area shelters and orphanages. If you have a heart for the community, the gift to sew, cut or iron fabric, or to prep the work for creating, please come out and give freely! For more information, please contact Ana LeBlanc at 401-447-9182.

Site Seeing Joe Silva

Perhaps you have listened to Hank Hanegraaff on the *Bible Answer Man* radio program at one time or another, and you may be familiar with the Christian Research Institute's site at www.equip.org. The Christian Research Institute describes Hank this way: "Widely considered to be one of the world's leading Christian apologists, Hanegraaff is deeply committed to equipping Christians to be so familiar with truth that when counterfeits loom on the horizon they recognize them instantaneously."

What you may not know is that Hank also has a blog, which he started less than a year ago. On Hank's blog you will find his most current thoughts and careful reasoning on everything from defending the resurrection of Jesus, to information on cults and false teachers, to the latest spiritual movements and why they are dangerous and deceptive. You can also leave comments for Hank and other readers. Recent entries include *Eckhart Tolle's New Earth*, *The Age-Old New Age Movement*, *The Resurrection of Jesus Christ*, *Saint Patrick's Day*, and *The Teachings of John Hagee*.

You can find Hank's blog at: www.hankhanegraaff.blogspot.com



Calvary Softball Schedule

All home games are at Mapleroot Baptist on Harkney Hill Road in Coventry. Games start at 6:15PM. Updates, latest scores and more information can be found at www.christiansoftballassociation.org.



May 26

Calvary Chapel at Faith Tabernacle, Pierce field East Providence

June 1

Calvary Chapel vs Woonsocket (home)

June 9

Calvary Chapel at Praise Tabernacle, Western Hills Jr. High, Cranston

June 16

South Attleboro vs Calvary Chapel (home)

June 23

Calvary Chapel at Woonsocket, George West Elementary, Providence

June 30

Armenian vs Calvary Chapel (home)

July 7

Calvary Chapel at CCF, Western Hills Jr. High, Cranston

July 14

CCF vs Calvary Chapel (home)

July 21

Christian Hill vs Calvary Chapel (home)

July 28

Calvary Chapel at Christian Hill, Maisie Quinn School / Amby Smith, West Warwick

August 4

Praise Tabernacle vs Calvary Chapel (home)

Get Involved

Interested in getting involved with the newsletter? Got some great testimonies to share? Pictures? News? E-mail us at: dchapman02@mac.com or stop by one of our meetings after church on Sunday.