


NAMPA BIBLE CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 7 July, 2008 - www.nampabible.org/newsletter

In Dependence Day - By Josh Norris

When we think of July it's natural to think of Independence Day, the 4th of July, and while it's wonderful to be thankful for the freedom God has blessed us with in this country, there is also a case to be made for celebrating our "In Dependence Day". Dependence is often a word associated with weak and needy people and, ironically enough, that's what we are! God has designed us to need Him and to need each other in order to thrive in this world.

Whether we like it or not, and most of the time we don't, we are dependent people. We're dependent on God for our very existence. He gives us life to begin with, and He allows our lives to continue each day by giving us air, water, food and sunlight. We are dependent on God for His mercy and grace. He could easily wipe us out and start over, and be totally justified in doing so, but instead He graciously gives us a way out. Not only that, but through the 'way out', which He provides in Christ, He blesses us with eternal life. I think it's pretty self-evident to most of us that we are dependent on God. But there's another kind of dependence that is not so self-evident.

God has also designed us to be dependent on other people. We like to think we don't need others, but it's a foolish concept. The Bible gives us examples of how we're to be both dependent and supportive in our relationships or the "one anothers" as they're commonly known:

1 Corinthians 12:25 - so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same *care for one another*.

Galatians 6:2 - *Bear one another's burdens*, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

John 15:12 - "This is My commandment, that you *love one another*, just as I have loved you.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 - Therefore *encourage one another and build up one another*, just as you also are doing.

Galatians 5:13 - For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love *serve one another*.

Acts 2:44-45 - And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were *sharing them with all*, as anyone might have need.

These are just a few of the many verses throughout the Bible that teach us what God means by dependence and community. Specifically, it means that overwhelmed and exhausted moms can reach out to the body for help. It means that overly ambitious dads can ask for help on their house painting project. It means that when we're depressed we can ask for prayer without fear of condemnation. In addition to *asking* for help, it means that when we hear of someone struggling to pay their monthly bills that we drop a bit of cash in the mail wrapped in an encouraging card. It means that when we see someone missing from our home group we call and check on them to make sure they're all right.

We all need each other. Anyone who tries to live the Christian life on their own will quickly find much of the Bible to be meaningless and without application, because there's no way to practice the "one anothers" alone. The church is a network of relationships that is woven together like a root structure in a forest. We're all reliant on each other in order to remain standing. Let's all celebrate "In Dependence Day" and bring God glory by being a body that depends on its members.

Quote to live by

"I have a great need for Christ; I have a great Christ for my need."
- **Charles Spurgeon**

Current Calendar Events....

July 1st thru 6th

1st - Ladies Memorization and Fellowship

1st - Josh Norris' Home Group (Fellowship night)

3rd - Ladies Memorization and Fellowship (Janie)

July 7th thru 13th

8th - Ladies Memorization and Fellowship (Crystal)

8th - Josh Norris' Home Group (Study night)

10th - Ladies Memorization and Fellowship (Janie)

July 14th thru 20th

15th - Ladies Memorization and Fellowship (Crystal)

15th - Josh Norris' Home Group (Fellowship night)

17th - Ladies Memorization and Fellowship (Janie)

18th to 20th - Youth Group backpacking trip.

18th to 19th - YG Girls overnight party

July 21st thru 31st

22nd - Ladies Memorization and Fellowship (Crystal)

22nd - Josh Norris' Home Group (Study night)

24th - Ladies Memorization and Fellowship (Janie)

29th - Ladies Memorization and Fellowship (Crystal)

31st - Ladies Memorization and Fellowship (Janie)

Spotlight on Missions - By Clair Drake

This story is being presented with the hope that some of our young people (even adults) will be challenged with the prospect of serving the Lord as He would call them to serve Him in a mission's ministry of some kind. Caleb (Due to the sensitivity of ministering in limited access areas, Caleb is a pseudonym) continues his story. Summer of 1999 found Caleb in a Christian camp on the east coast.

"Way too hot for an Alaskan kid, a even though there were a lot of cute girls, I seriously wondered if it was worth the plane ticket. But God holds a finger here, marking this page in my journey (from just a normal American boy to serving the Lord on a mission field somewhere), and the memory stands out in vivid detail.

The next summer I signed up for a six-week ministry training course to learn how to serve and encourage the church. I threw away a whole summer's worth of basketball training and hanging out with my friends for this. Very sacrificial of me.

We learned skits, songs, puppet shows, and mimes to perform in parks, churches and amusement parks; we did door-to-door evangelism, children's programs, prayer walks and manual labor; learned to always be in a servants mindset, always about others, others, others.

But I was serving in my own strength. After a whole summer of that, I was burned out. You can't fabricate that kind of output for long. Sure, I'd shake hands and distribute tracks but I didn't care about those people one bit. It was about me reporting back to the group how many "God conversations" I had and how many souls I'd saved. It was all about me.

However, the Lord was bringing me to the end of myself to show that it must be His life produced in me. That experience convinced me I wanted to spend the rest of my life as

more than just a dentist or a disc jockey at the local radio station. But what? I didn't really want to do the pastor thing. Was there another option?

August 2001 saw another summer spent on missions. By this time I was sure my coach hated me and I hoped he wouldn't cut me from the team. But who could pass up a month-long mission trip to Brazil?

I love traveling, learning foreign languages, and I've been teased my whole life for being a geography geek. Was that enough though, to entice me to walk down that aisle at the speaker's beckoning and commit the rest of my life to being a missionary? No, what really did it was this cute girl who was heading to a mission's Bible Institute. I figured if I could be a missionary with her, it might be alright."

(We will discover what decisions Caleb makes in the next issue of the Newsletter. Will he make the right ones?)

Pray For...

- Ever growing unity and dependence among the body of Christ.
- Believers to have humility and willingness to ask for help.
- Believers to be generous and willing to help.

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