

---



# NAMPA BIBLE CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 6                      June, 2008 - [www.nampabible.org/newsletter](http://www.nampabible.org/newsletter)

---

## I'M RICH!!! - By Josh Norris

When we hear of someone who is wealthy I think most of us immediately imagine sprawling mansions, luxurious sports cars and exquisitely manicured hedges. But what if I told you I'm rich? Or better yet, what if I told you that you, in fact, are rich? Well...we are rich! But believing in these riches is not a pathetic attempt to convince ourselves that we "have it pretty good compared to some people" as we stand drooling over someone else's boat. The riches we have are not necessarily material, but they are non-taxable, unlimited and guaranteed to grow in the future.

Ever since the original sin, things have not been as God designed and it's very easy to dwell on the fall and the terrible condition of things thereafter. While this is true, and the curse upon the earth is great, God has still been gracious and generous enough to bestow His riches on all who call on Him (Romans 10:12). These come in many forms; both physical and spiritual.

Physically, God grants us not only life and breath, but he provides for our every basic need. His common grace is seen by *all* mankind in things like sunshine, rain, oxygen and sleep. In addition to these basic needs, most of us regularly receive other gifts like the beauty of a sunset, the fragrant aroma of a lilac, a warm house on a cold and rainy day, and the laughter of a child. We get great pleasure from good music, good food and good friendships. These are all things God does not have to give us and yet He still chooses to do so. Praise God, the giver of good things (James 1:17)!

But the gifts don't stop there. Not only does God

comfort us with physical pleasure which we don't deserve, and refrain from destroying us for our constant failures, but He also blesses us with something much more significant: the salvation of our souls. The fall did much more than simply wreck the earth, it also wrecked our relationship with God. But God, being **rich** in mercy, shared His riches with us and made us alive together with Christ (Eph 2:4)! God made a way for us to be right with Him and thus mended our broken relationship.

But it doesn't stop there.

God has also promised to share His riches with us in the future. Jesus promised to prepare a place for us and to return to gather us to Himself (John 14:3). That place is Heaven and we will spend eternity, yes ETERNITY, there with the God who loves us and who has made us rich! The heavenly throngs truly have it right when they say "Praise our God, all his servants, all who fear him, from the least to the greatest!" (Rev 19:5) Genuine outpourings of spontaneous and heartfelt worship should be the natural response to all riches from God. And so whether we're eating a delicious hamburger, chatting with our best friend or enjoying a well maintained flower garden our natural response should be "Praise God, the giver of good things!"

---

### Quote to live by

*"What a world this would be if we could forget our troubles as easily as we forget our blessings!"* - **Unknown author**

---

## Current Calendar Events....

### June 1st thru 7th

1st - Congregational meeting following the Worship Service.

1st - Youth Group

3rd - Josh Norris' Home Group (Fellowship night)

\* *Jim Rickwa and Gordon Goldsmith's Home Groups will be taking the summer off starting in*

### June 8th thru 14th

8th - Youth Group

10th - Josh Norris' Home Group (Study night)

11th - Ladies Summer Memorization and Fellowship

12th - Creative Homemaking: Perfect Salads and Dressings

14th - Men's Ministry Super Saturday Seminar

14th - Camp Shiloh work party

### June 15th thru 21st

15th - Youth Group

17th - Josh Norris' Home Group (Fellowship night)

18th - Ladies Summer Memorization and Fellowship

### June 22nd thru 30th

22nd - Youth Group

24th - Josh Norris' Home Group (Study night)

25th - Ladies Summer Memorization and Fellowship

26th - Creative Homemaking: BBQ Basics

27th-29th - Youth Group Summer Retreat

• For details on events visit [www.nampabible.org/calendar](http://www.nampabible.org/calendar)

## Spotlight on Missions - By Clair Drake

When we think of missions, our thoughts usually stray to the missionaries who have left their "comfort zones" of home, family and friends to travel to some remote part of the world; rather, than, thinking of missions as "my" calling as a believer in Christ, to go into "all the world and make disciples. . ." (Matthew 28:18-20). Some think of them as separate entities from "their calling and ministries." But are they? I believe not! Our Lord commissioned His apostles just before His ascension in Acts 1:3-8. He said, "But you shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (v. 8). This became the commission to the Church, about to be born at Pentecost (that's us).

In this and subsequent issues, I would like to share with you one's journey from "normal to missionary," a true story of one's struggle in learning what "missions" was really all about. This is with the hope that missions will be a present, on-going ministry of our church (Nampa Bible), that young people will be encouraged to seek God's leading in missions, and to encourage us all to pray faithfully for our missionaries already on a field of service, and to also recognize some of the struggles that become theirs away from the "comfort zones" of their "normal" lives at home. To pray for the struggles and the conflicts of those on the mission field (away from home), rather than simply the repetitive, mundane things, will be much more effective in the success of their ministries.

"Born in 1984 to a seminary student living out of his pocket, Caleb's first months were spent in a trailer park in Anytown, USA. Before he turned 1 year old, Caleb's family moved to pastor a church of 300 in the paved, McDonald's-infested wilds of Kernai, Alaska. And here is where we pick up his trail, following the steps God brought him along to morph him into a modern-day missionary.

Playing the church game was easy for me. If I said the right words and acted the right part all the cheek-pinchers and Sunday School teachers would adore me and tell me how wonderful I was.

I needed to play this game. If I could be the best student in the youth group, the best member of the ministry team, the best child in the family, I would feel accepted, secure and exceptional. Fulfillment came via verses memorized, solos sung; 30-hour famines attended, leadership teams led, weeds pulled and conversations with "losers" had. My performance determined my identity.

It's ironic that my "fake radar" easily detected plastic smiles and faux interest in others but could not recognize my own spiritual veneer. Guess I didn't really know any different. But even then something told me it wasn't quite right that my greatest ambition was merely to become elite in my own subculture." (Caleb's story will continue next issue in Spotlight on Missions.)

## Pray For...

- Praise God for the constant blessings He pours out on all of us.
- Wisdom and unity among the Body and among the elder team.
- Parents to love their children and to teach them diligently about the LORD.

## Nampa Bible Church

504 S. Diamond  
Nampa, ID 83686

Phone: 465-7687; Fax: 465-9065  
Website - [www.nampabible.org](http://www.nampabible.org)