

Is Your God Big Enough?

Have you ever had a word stick in your thoughts? You couldn't stop thinking about it. It just rolls around in your mind for days. Several months ago I had this happen to me. That word was "Preeminent." It means, "Surpassing all others, very distinguished, towering above." It originates from a two part Latin word meaning, "Before + Stand out." Jesus' name should be listed first in the dictionary's list of synonyms. Read what Colossians chapter one says about Jesus,

"15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,"

Jesus is before everything, above everything and He surpasses everything. Not only that, He made it all and sustains it all. He is the beginning and the end, the Alpha and Omega.

Jesus is preeminent!

Overwhelming.

I sat praying in my Jeep one day. I had gone to the park to work on my sermon for one of the Luke series messages. And as is often true, my thoughts wandered a bit. I got to thinking about what all Jesus IS. Not just what he has done, but what He is. There is a lengthy list of names for God in the Scriptures. He is our Provider, Redeemer, our Banner, our Healer and the list just keeps going. I have learned and taught about Jesus being our Prophet, Priest and King. These are offices that Jesus holds. But, I felt there was more. In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit came upon people at various times to do God's work. They were anointed for service. Mainly these were the prophets, priests and kings, but also the judges.

As we continue through this series of Sunday morning sermons, we focus on these 4 offices: Prophet, Priest, King, and Judge. I trust that we will see Jesus in a greater light, realizing just how preeminent He is. May He evoke worship, awe, respect, devotion, surrender of our lives, and confidence in who He is and all He does. Is your God big enough to worship with your whole being? Is He trustworthy enough to surrender your whole life to? Is He awesome enough to live for, die for? Is He bigger than your ambitions, emotions, fears and sins?

Pastor Todd



Son Quest Rainforest VBS, July 19-23, 6:00-9:00 p.m., Ages 4-13



For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16

Mark your calendars for five fun filled evenings at Son Quest Rainforest VBS. These five days of discovery will give your Son Quest Rainforest adventurers knowledge of God's Word. Each evening, Pastor Todd will be teaching your adventurers valuable lessons based on five parables told by Jesus that will inspire them in their everyday lives. Also your little adventurers will play games, enjoy working on a craft, eating a delicious snack, and learning a lively song. Boys ages 9-13 will be mentored by the men of the church who will help

each boy construct a derby car, which he can then race on VBS Sunday. So please round up all the kids you know ages 4-13. Son Quest Rainforest will take them beyond what they can explore with their senses to discover a living spiritual relationship with Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Sunday, July 25, will be the VBS picnic. There will be good food, games, derby car races and tons of fun for everyone. So please come out and have a ball.

VBS has been lead by Vicki Peterman for the past 15 years. Vicki had such good memories of VBS as a kid that when she was asked to lead, she already had a passion for it. Vicki has a real heart for kids whose only opportunity to encounter God's Word is through VBS once a year. Vicki remembers those first years leading VBS. They were a little disorganized, they painted scenery on sheets, not many people helped out, and they averaged about 30 kids for the week. Also, only a handful of people came to the VBS picnic. Through Vicki's leadership, VBS has grown into quite a big deal for the church. We average about 100 kids a night. Almost everyone in the church helps. Del Haigh, Vicki's indispensable right hand man, leads the constructing of whatever scenery is needed. And, about 200 people come for the VBS picnic. So, as you can see there are many opportunities for you to become involved at this time. There will be a sign up sheet in the bulletin each week that will show you what needs to be done. So please sign up to help and let's make this the best VBS yet.

By Diane Swank

On Mission . . .

by Tina Pugh

In the last issue, we shared with you our goals to more closely align the way our church functions with our stated vision. In this issue, we will review how the process is going.

Connecting to God: Sunday Morning Service Goals

We have accomplished some of our goals, like some updates to the style of the sanctuary, including a new pulpit welded by Brandon Rossi, stage backdrop painting, and light reflecting "sails." The worship band has added a bass player and continues to add new songs. The children's church program is organized and effective. The nursery has processes in place to accommodate more babies. Guests are intentionally made welcome. There is always room for improvement, but progress is being made.

One thing we want to do better is help new people become truly connected and integrated into the church family. This will take you and I stepping out of our comfort zones to initiate relationships, get to know new people, and include new people in our groups, ministry teams and activities. Statistically, people need seven relationships in a church family before they will become truly connected and committed. Also statistically, each time an attendee becomes committed enough to become a volunteer, the church will gain two new attendees. That is some motivation to be involved and recruit new helpers if you ask me. I am getting ahead of myself.



Connecting to Family: Our Goals for Growth Groups

Growth Groups are the means for connection and discipleship and are becoming more successful because of the hearts of the leaders and the participation of the KVAG family. The leaders are enthusiastic and positive about their groups. Ron and Cheryl are passionate about thorough Bible Study and the Spirit's work. Sheree and Jack love the combination of meaningful connection and applicable Truth. Bill and John are serious about the great value of men connecting and learning together. Trish wants the teens to have the knowledge and skills they need to make good choices for their futures. Darlene enjoys preparing fun and productive Sunday morning lessons for the children. Vicki wants to give the girls in her group the skills they need to navigate their school years with positive and true friendships. Jamie loves helping to equip the body with core Bible truths and heartfelt encouragement. Lisa and Bill are deeply concerned for marriage and convinced God can help yours. Tina is sure women can live more healthy and productive lives when we learn to walk in truth together. Pastor Todd

wants to see you thrive and knows groups will result in your growth and the building up of our church. These leaders and others who plan to lead groups soon are a blessing to KVAG, and we pray you'll take full advantage of the gifts and efforts they are willing to share with you. Growth groups are a success, and will be even more so as participation increases. Please invest in yourself and join a group.

Connecting to Family: Our Goals for Ministry Teams

Several Team leaders have been diligent to involve new people in the ministries they lead. Connection is the goal, so new volunteers are welcome and will bring benefit to themselves and the church. Keeping in mind "the only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love," new volunteers and efforts, as well as those who include new people in the ministry process, are greatly appreciated and are greatly improving KVAG.



Connecting to the World: Our Goals for Missions

Reaching out beyond ourselves and our church has always been an important aspect of our church. This helps us keep a proper perspective of God's purposes and our privilege to participate. The individual missions giving program is still in place. Additionally, this June, several from the KVAG church family will work with Chaplain Scott Bush at a motorcycle rally in Johnstown, PA. Training will be June 24, and the rally ministry will happen on June 25 & 26.

Connecting to the World: Our Goals for the Community

We are making progress toward our goal to become more involved in our community. Plans are underway to participate in Leechburg's "Christmas in July" festivities on Saturday, July 10th. We will take advantage of the training we receive for the Johnstown Motorcycle Rally and put it to use locally. VBS is an outreach to the community. The Deacon Board has decided to concentrate more missions' resources into the community.

Having said all of that, thanks to all of you who have worked with us toward these goals. If you have an idea you'd like to act on, or if you'd like to discuss your part in the overall mission of the church, email or call Tina, and we'll work together on equipping you to connect. tina@kiskivalleyag.org or 724-845-9405

Tina

A commentary on "Thirsty," A Ladies and Girls Victorian Tea and Vintage Fashion Show-----May 22, 2010

by Louise Steinhauser



We were truly blessed with a lovely Ladies Tea and Vintage Fashion Show as a result of the work and efforts of many folks from our church. Just ask anyone who attended if they had a good time and undoubtedly you'll hear a big "Yes!"

From the moment we arrived, we were welcomed to a festive "tea room" filled with pastel covered tables beautifully set with delicate teapots, cups and favors. The speaker's stage and violinist area were adorned with umbrellas containing an array of colorful flowers.

The nostalgic mood for the vintage fashion show was set as we gazed upon many pretty vintage dresses which were displayed along the walls. We exchanged comments such as "I remember having a dress like that one" and "I sure wish I could have worn a gown like that one to my prom." A relaxed mood was enhanced by beautiful melodies played by the talented violinist.

After a blessing for the wonderful food we were about to enjoy was said by Tina, we were served generous portions of delicious teatime delicacies by the men waiters from our church. Three tiered trays of freshly baked scones with lemon curd and jelly, petite sandwiches of ham, chicken and

cucumber salad and assorted homemade cookies were enjoyed as we sipped a variety of flavorful teas. Compliments to those who prepared the food for this three course Tea as everything was absolutely fantastic!

Following the delightful lunch, we were treated to an awesome vintage clothing fashion show presented by Mandy Steinhauser and modeled by the ladies and girls from our church. The ensembles, many of which were accessorized with hats, gloves, shoes and jewelry originated from time periods of the early 1900's through the 1970's. Mandy, who started this collection of fashions when she was in her teens, gave detailed descriptions of more than forty outfits as to their origin and authenticity using a power point presentation. We were amazed by the professional manner in which the models eloquently and proudly walked through the room to show their outfits.



Next, the focal point of the Tea, "Thirsty" was presented by Cora Zubal which conveyed the need every one of us has to satisfy our hunger for a relationship with God. The message emphasized that hope is here for all of us and that no one should despair. Cora talked about how our members believe in the importance of attending church, meeting in small groups and witnessing to others as it ties in with our churches' mission statement "connecting people with the life changing power of God." Cora did an excellent job of delivering the message which was a blessing to everyone in attendance.

After the second part of the fashion show ended, the afternoon concluded with a drawing of baskets filled with fun prizes. The entire afternoon was thoroughly enjoyable! Comments I heard about it were, "I can't wait until the next one," "The food was scrumptious," "I had so much fun," "Sure brought back memories." My Aunt Louise, whose actual dresses were a part of the fashion show said, "I am so happy to see my dresses being worn again."

A huge "Thank you" to all of you who helped in so many ways to make this occasion a great success. A great deal of work and time went into this project. The best part of a collective effort in doing something of this nature comes in knowing that God has given each and every one of us a talent to contribute. Also, it was a lot of fun and a great way to get to know each other better. Like all worthwhile projects, the goal cannot be accomplished without the help of many. We look forward to more community outreaches such as this "Tea" in the future.

Deut 5:33 . . . walk in all the ways which the Lord your God has commanded you . . . Oh, the wonders of life, that I might live.

My doctor and I were casually chatting; he ended it, saying he'd better get busy. He asked that I roll over on my left side that he could check my lungs and heart. I did. He said I fell back upon his arm, dead. Shocked he did CPR. A nurse heard the commotion, checked, and called code Blue. The doctor called for the "paddles" which they used to start my heart beating again. When I came to I remember asking "What's going on? What happened?" No one answered, but I saw my doctor turn quickly away and the nurses and staff leave. (They later said he had tears in his eyes and so did they.) My doctor then told me that had never happened in all his years of practice and told me all that had happened. I was gone for almost five minutes.

Thank God my doctor was there. I do. The Lord showed me that He had a purpose for His actions. There is much more to this but I have to wait to share. Praise God for life. What a wonderful God we have.

P.S. I had felt really well before all this. Other than tiring easily, I feel stronger most every day.

Bernice Wolfe



- June 24-26** Thunder in the Valley
- June 27** Parenting with Chaplain Scott & Sally Bush
- July 19-23** Son Quest Rainforest VBS
- July 25** VBS Family Picnic
- August 8** Growth Group Leaders Lunch (including new Group Leaders)
- August 22** Church picnic at Northmoreland Park, Pavilion #1.
- September 12** Fall Growth Groups Sign-up & Fellowship Lunch

*There will be **NO** Sunday Morning Growth groups on the following days:

July 4th July 25th September 5th

Weekly Schedule

Sunday:

- Sunday morning Growth Groups* 9:00 a.m.
- Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
- Nursery Provided
- Children’s Church ages 4 – 12
- Youth Service 7:00 p.m.
- Men’s Meeting – 1st Sunday 6:30 p.m.

Monday:

- Women of Purpose – 3rd Monday 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday:

- Adult Growth Group Cancelled for the summer.
- Faithgirlz See you in the fall!

Saturday:

- Men’s Meeting – 3rd Saturday 6:30 p.m.

2nd Sunday of Every Month (September – April):

- Fellowship Lunch
- Benevolence Offering – Used to help those within the church body or those referred.



219 Market Street
 Leechburg, PA 15656
 724-845-9405
 www.kiskivalleyag.org